



# Central Oregon Soccer Officials Association Newsletter November 8, 2018

Dear Awesome High School Soccer Referees,

Come Saturday, we'll finally be ALL DONE with High School Soccer for 2018 J. **Mike Prochaska** & **Nathaniel Collins** will be working the State Finals in Portland and after those games ... our High School Soccer Season will finally be in the books!

A couple of weeks after the finals, we should receive a check from OSAA for the playoff games we had and will then have the funds to send everybody their final check or Direct Deposit of the year, and close out what everybody is owed.

I hope everybody congratulates Central Oregon's own **Marko Alexander** for being selected the Oregon Athletic Officials Association Soccer Official of the year for 2018-2019. Here is a brief description of Marko's contributions to Central Oregon Soccer throughout the years:

*Marko Alexander has served the soccer community in Central Oregon for over 25 years. He has been the 'Work Horse' of our Association year after year. He accepts nearly 100% of the games he is assigned, regardless of how far away they are, the level of game assigned, or the last minute nature of the assignment. He has consistently put the needs of the kids and players ahead of his own schedule and rearranged his own schedule to make sure that the games are serviced and covered. Nobody in our Association has covered more soccer games in Central Oregon over the last 25 years than Marko Alexander!*

*Aside from his outstanding attitude and willingness to work and serve the soccer community; Marko has improved his skills and mechanics over the years and is capable and routinely handles many of our most challenging and difficult games. He has excellent rapport, a non-confrontational approach and personality and is able to get along wonderfully with the kids and adults that he officiates. Marko is an experienced and invaluable member of any officiating crew that he is assigned to and has that ability to work seamlessly with any crew that he is assigned to. He understands the importance of Team Work within an officiating crew. He has exhibited outstanding integrity, class and modesty throughout his years as a member of our soccer community.*

*Marko has been willing throughout all his years as an official in Central Oregon to work with our Youth Officials and mentor and help them as they learn the ropes of the trade. He has*

*been an Officer in our Association multiple times and has served and contributed to our Board for countless years. Aside from his involvement with High School and USSF soccer over the past 25 years, he has also served the High School Basketball and Softball/Baseball sports in Central Oregon.*

*Marko Alexander has faithfully served the High School athletes of Oregon for over 25 years and is deserving of some statewide recognition for his contributions.*

I also want to thank each of you individually and recognize all of your efforts for an amazing Fall Soccer Season. There wouldn't have been a High School Soccer season without each and every one of you. I hope we get all of you back next year and add a few more bodies to our group ... so we're not having to work so hard J!!! Please be on the lookout for new Referees. You can either send me their email addresses and I'll put them on our email list, or give them the [www.NewOfficials.org](http://www.NewOfficials.org) website address and have them get on the email list that way.

Here are a few notes and lessons learned from this past year for our association:

- We all need to finish that online High School Test and Registration process in July! Some of us waited and waited and put it off ... and then suddenly, by the time you were finished with the registration and test ... the season was 2/3 complete and there wasn't a lot of games left to assign you to. We really could have used everybody from the start the season and I'm going to nag everybody a lot more than I did this year to get folks registered and ready to roll next year.
- Take your time with the test and score 90 or better on the test or retake the test as soon as possible to get that higher score. There were several folks who deserved and should have gotten Playoff Assignments this year, but were not 'certified' by OSAA to do Playoff games, based on their test score.
- Awesome!!! That's how I would describe the caliber of Officiating in Central Oregon. We're not perfect and still have room to improve; but if you watch other Associations working games ... we are one of the finest and best in the State (regardless of what the parents, coaches and players from the losing team might think J). So many of our Officials took a giant step up this year with their Game Management skills and officiating mechanics. Our brand new referees were so good, receptive and responsive to feedback and matured so quickly. So many of our veteran and experienced Officials took the time to help out the ones coming up and share their experience and knowledge!!! So many of you worked through strains and health issues and refereed through the injuries and aching joints! Like I said ... the state of our Referee Association in Central Oregon is ... AWESOME!!! And that's a credit to the men and women of our Association. The caliber of soccer games went up with the new bigger and better 6A teams coming to town and our officials met the challenge and exceeded expectations.

Thank you and congratulations to our newly elected crop of COSOA Officers who will be guiding and leading us next year.

- President: **Keith Erickson**
- Vice President: **Mardy Madison**
- Secretary: **Mike Prochaska**
- Treasurer: **Nathaniel Collins**
- Area Rep.: **CJ Johnson**
- Area Rep.: **John Young**
- Youth Liaison: **Dean Wright**
- Mentors: **Pat Evoy & Keith Erickson**
- USSF Inst: **Pat Evoy**
- Commissioner: **Mehdi Salari**

We do have a winner for our **Gregory Scott Rivers Memorial Sportsmanship Award** for 2018. It was the closest vote we have ever had for the award ... as all four nominees garnered many votes, and it was not a runaway election with no one nominee garnering over half of the votes. In the end, it was Isaac Grusy from Ridgeview who had the most votes. Please do not announce or let anybody know about our winner for another week or so. We're presenting him with the Award at their team banquet next Friday (Nov. 16) and we like to keep it a surprise until the presentation ... so don't let the word out J.

Now that High School Soccer is over ... it's time to think about your **USSF Certification**.

- For those who are USSF Certified ... please go to [www.oregonreferee.com](http://www.oregonreferee.com) website and click on the "Returning Referees" tab on the page. Follow the directions and get re-registered for 2019. Remember that if your registration with USSF lapses ... that they make you take the 8-hour class all over again ... and it's much easier (and cheaper) to simply re-register from year to year.

- For those of you who are not USSF Certified ... it would be a good idea for you to look for an Entry Level USSF Training Course and get USSF Certified, so you can work soccer games in the Spring and Summer. We'll probably have a class in Central Oregon in March or April of 2019, or you can see the list of upcoming courses on [www.oregonreferee.com](http://www.oregonreferee.com).

That's all I had for everybody for now. If you have ideas or thoughts on how we could do things even better next year, please send me or one of the other Officers a note or email.

I'll look forward to seeing everybody around town and again in the Spring

**Mehdi**

Commissioner, Central Oregon Soccer Officials Association