



Central Oregon Soccer Officials Association Newsletter November 23, 2019

Dear Awesome High School Soccer Referees,

I wanted to send out an End of the Season email and **THANK ALL OF YOU** for your hard work and help this past High School Soccer Season. The season was a success, thanks to each and every one of you. We're wrapping up the final touches on the season (payroll ...) and hope to close out the year in the next week or two. This was one of the best group of guys/gals/referees to work with this past season!

Here are a whole bunch of End-of-Season notes ... *in no particular order*:

- Congratulations to **Shyanna Ashworth** and **Nathaniel Collins** for doing a fantastic job of representing COSOA at the OSAA State Soccer Finals in Portland.
 - Shyanna ran the Center on the 3A Girls Final.
 - Nathaniel did AR1 on the 5A Girls Final.

- Congratulations to **Matt Shirley**, Mt. View Boys Soccer Team Captain and winner of our 2019 Gregory Scott Rivers Sportsmanship Award. Steve Kurzer and I went to the Mt. View Team Soccer Banquet and presented Matt with the award. It is one of the highlights of the High School Soccer season to recognize and award good sportsmanship, integrity, class and leadership on the pitch and Matt is a deserving winner. Not only is Matt a great sport when he's competing, but he's also an outstanding young Referee.

- Congratulations to everybody who volunteered and got elected to be an Officer for next season:
 - President: **Keith Erickson**
 - Vice President: **Del Abbott**
 - Secretary: **John Proud**
 - Treasurer: **Nathaniel Collins**
 - Area Reps: **John Young & Christine Johnson**
 - USSF Instructor: **Pat Evoy**

- Youth Liaison: **Dean Wright**
- Commissioner (3 yr. term): **Mehdi Salari**

· Congratulations to our 'rookies' or 1st year High School Referees for being awesome, taking a bunch of games and doing a great job on their first year assignments:

- **Perry Chesebro** – Perry had prior refereeing experience and knew what he was doing from day one! It's great having a young, fast, fit referee!
- **Andy Emerson** – Andy also had some prior refereeing experience and was great to work with all season. He earned the nickname 'Cutie' in his first year ... based on what some of the teams he officiated thought of him!
- **Mike Verbitsky** – Mike has his act together, knows what he's doing and his going to be a great asset for years to come.
- **Kirsten Loewer-Smith** – Kirsten had lots of playing experience and is going to be a great addition to our group in the coming years.
- **Ethan Guio** – Ethan had refereed before as well and didn't need much help getting going this season.
- **Bill Ormsby** – Bill's availability was limited due to work, but he too helped out when his schedule allowed.

· Thank you to all of you guys ... who have so many other things going on ... and are really too busy to referee ... but still made some time ... Some of you were away for work and had really limited availability, but you were still a part of the team and we wouldn't have been able to make it through the season without your collective efforts:

- **Shyanna Ashworth** – starting her own practice and business, which didn't leave her a lot of spare time, but she came through when we needed her.
- **Neil Carlson** – was not available for a good chunk of the season, but covered some tough matches when he was available and did a great job.
- **Jordan Hunt** – had to rearrange his entire work schedule to make himself available a couple of nights a week. Does such a nice, professional job when he's out there!
- **Christine Johnson** – Teaches and gets out late, but still managed to make time for some High School soccer in between all her other commitments.
- **James McHugh-Bodylski** – he lives in Eugene, but made himself available when his work brought him to Central Oregon and was a huge help.
- **David Omori** – a huge help whenever he was available. So kind to everybody and so easy to work with.
- **Mike Paul** – covered a bunch of games once he got certified and one of our veterans.
- **John Proud** – such a good example for newer referees, helps out wherever he's needed and does a great job.
- **Mike Sipila** – was only able to do one day a week, but he helped out on our busiest day of each week.
- **Sarah Stacy** – a few little injuries slowed her down, but she still covered a ton of games.
- **Leona Steele** – confident, fit, keeps up with play and keeps getting better and better each season.
- **Lisa Young** – tough work schedule, but helped us out whenever her schedule allowed.
- This list go on and on ...

· Thank you to the “Work Horses” and the Referees who were in the trenches just about every day of the week! These folks covered so many games and were irreplaceable this past season:

- **Del Abbott** – reliable, dependable, firm and consistent. Del covered a ton of games and miles this year.
- **Marko Alexander** – the ‘Soccer Official of the Year’ proved to everybody why he earned that award last year. Nobody covers more games, nobody went to Paisley more, he doesn’t reject any assignments, he worked a ton of games and did a great job on each one.
- **Cesario Alonso** – what would be do in Madras if we didn’t have Cesario? He covered a ton of games, even though he was whining at the start of the season about his knees and body.
- **Nathaniel Collins** – works three jobs, had a new baby, doesn’t get much sleep, makes sure all the games get covered and time after time ... put himself on the games and assignments that nobody else was able to cover. We are so lucky to have a guy like Nathaniel. He is irreplaceable!
- **Alberto De Anda** – covers some of the toughest matches and put in a ton of miles and hours this season ... and still made time to catch a bunch of his daughters soccer games.
- **Bob McKay** – covered so many La Pine and out of town games. Huge help!
- **Taylor Willman** – in the month that he was here before leaving for College ... Taylor did a ton of games for the Association and did a great job!
- **Dean Wright** – class, consistent, great mechanics, poise, easy to work with ... always does a great job.
- **John Young** – experienced, fair, team player, reliable ... always willing to help.

· Thank you to all the folks who did so much more than Referee:

- **Nathaniel Collins** – already mentioned how busy this guy is and how many games he covers that nobody else was able to cover. He made sure we all got paid in a timely manner and kept our Oregon Soccer Central website current and updated.
- **Keith Erickson** – he oversees the Sportsmanship Award Scholarship with the State (nightmare job!), mentored and drove out to so many of our games to give pointers, advice and make sure we’re putting forth a consistent product for our schools. Rugby messed up his legs, but he still helps out with his eyes and mind. One of the longest serving Soccer Officials in the history of the State as he’s at the 50 year mark as an Official.
- **Pat Evoy** – put together presentations & trainings for all of us to benefit from. Teaches all the youth courses. Drove out and mentored all of our newer, younger and experienced Referees. Gives a ton back to the sport. He does so much for this Association behind the scenes!
- **Steve Kurzer** – new responsibilities at work limited his availability ... but a huge mentor and Referee when he was available. Helps teach classes and has come through whenever the Association has needed things taken care of and handled.
- **Mike Prochaska** – his work on our website, recording of our Minutes is ever-lasting. He mentors younger/newer Referees ... and did a great job on some of our tougher matches. None of us are happy that Mike is moving to Washington. He leaves behind some big shoes to fill.

· The following guys and gals were not able to join us for all the fun this year ... either work, injuries, crappy schedule ... but we expect you back next year and still need your help:

- **Taylor Bernhardt** – went back to school and his schedule got really tight ... but we'd love to have him back next season.
- **Lisa Brooks** – wasn't able to ref this season, but promised she would be back!
- **Kitt Hawkins** – great referee, but always busy and wasn't able to make it work out this year.
- **Sinclair Kamanya** – just couldn't squeeze in High School soccer this year into his schedule, but is a great upcoming Official.
- **Mardy Madison** – was working out of state most of the soccer season ... we all missed having Mardy around this year.
- **Greg Mikkelson** – had a fantastic first year last year, but had a bad injury right before this soccer season. He should be back next year.
- **Rich Willman** – work schedule has been tough ... but a great Referee when his time allows!

· I hope we didn't forget anybody! What I'm trying to say is that it takes a whole bunch of folks to make the High School Athletes have a good soccer season and if it wasn't for each and every one of you ... many games would have not been covered. To the kids playing in the JV & JV2 games ... those games are the center of their universe and all of you made sure each and every one of those games got covered this year.

· If you don't have the new Referee Jerseys and are still using the old Referee Jerseys ... you might want to hint your loved ones that you'll be needing those for your Holiday Wish List. This was supposed to be the last year that the old Referee Jerseys were to be used. For our Association, the Yellow and Green jerseys are our primary colors and the Red can be a third color if you really want more gear.

· If you have your USSF Certification, please renew it before the end of this month, so that you're ready to go for next Spring. If you don't have the USSF Certification, Pat will be putting on a class in March or April ... I'll email that info. when everything gets confirmed.

· Be on the lookout for more Soccer Referees in the off-season. You can always have them email me ... or send them to the following website: www.NewOfficials.org .

***Have a Great Thanksgiving and off-season.
See you guys in the Spring.***

Mehdi Salari
Commissioner, Central Oregon Soccer Officials Association