

THE CENTER CIRCLE

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **RBSRA Board votes to discontinue most Chapter meetings.**
- **New referees should take advantage of working alongside experienced referees by asking questions.**
- **Experienced referees should contact Mark Yocum, if they want to be a Mentor.**

THE BALL ROLLS ON - a word from the President

"Ask questions - LEARN"

As you may or may not know; our board has decided to discontinue meetings due to poor turn out over the last years. This saddens me in many ways, as I always thought that our chapter meetings were a great opportunity to get together with fellow referees and discuss game situations. Many of these strange situations may happen once in your lifetime of refereeing, but I know there have been a few times where, maybe a year or two later, a similar situation happened in my game and I was able to make the correct call, because of the discussion at the meeting. My many thanks to Hank Arbo and John Perini for being instructor's and sharing their great wealth of knowledge.

For new referee's- Ask Questions - LEARN! Take advantage of asking questions of experienced referees that you may know or work a game with. Hopefully you all have gotten to be part of the New Referee Mentoring program. Don't be afraid to call or email the person who has mentored you. To anyone who I have mentored; if you want to call me 2 years from now to ask a question, do it. Learn!

I take great pride in a young man whom I have mentored twice this year. He did very well his first game; correct calls, proper signals, good positioning, good movement, and he followed it up with a even better second game. A fellow experi-

enced referee then happened to see this young man ref the following week; his first game by himself. This experienced referee then provided very positive feedback to RBSL assignor Mark Yocum and copied me. This gives Mark great information for assigning this young referee moving forward. By the way, it put a smile on my face as I read it.

Experienced referee's- stating it again; Ask questions - LEARN! Don't fool yourself and think you know everything about the game; you don't. Every game is an opportunity to learn something new. Now, having said that, most games are going to be the average type, but you never know.

Also, do your part to educate newer, less experienced referee's, for the good of the game. Think about contacting Mark Yocum next spring to be a mentor.

In closing, there are five other words that I love to hear when discussing soccer "*The Spirit of the Game*". Let's all do our part to promote these five simple words. We can do this best by LEARNing and teaching the game.

Brad Brelje
RBSRA President



Jerry Catagnus, RBSRA Trustee and referee, looks on as the ball is played.

THE NEW REFEREE MENTORING PROGRAM

by Mark Yocum

The New Referee Mentoring Program is a joint venture between the Reading Berks Junior Soccer League (RBJSL) and the Reading Berks Soccer Referees Association (RBSRA). The program is in its 7th year and spearheaded by Bob Shannon, a senior RBSRA referee. It is designed to help new referees develop their refereeing skills and is available for all new referees, of any age, who graduate from the referee class hosted by Mark Yocum and the RBJSL. This class is held in late February and early March, just before the start of the RBJSL spring season. The mentoring process provides key support to first time referees, helping to provide confidence, as well as tips on how to manage themselves and the game at whatever age level they are involved with.

New referees automatically enter the mentor program when they submit their availability to referee in the RBJSL Spring League. Availability is submitted to Mark Yocum, the RBJSL assignor. Mark pairs two new referees with a mentor and assigns them 2 or 3 games to be refereed in

a single weekend. Each new referee will have the opportunity to referee in the Center and Assistant Referee (AR) positions. The mentor will guide and advise the new referees on key aspects of the pre-game procedures and help them get them comfortable for their first match. Further guidance, advice, and corrections occur during a brief halftime and after the conclusion of the match. Mentors also help the new referee with the post-game procedures and the transition to preparation for the next match. Program participants receive an RBJSL developed package of reference material that helps the new referees review and prepare for their games.

Mentors also provide follow-up and feedback. They follow-up with their mentees, giving them their contact information and encouraging them to call or email, if they have questions about any part of the mentor session, about issues they encounter in future games, or about how a call should be made. They provide feedback to Mark Yocum, reporting on the mentee's progress and recommending a "graduation" date from the program. They

also recommend the age of the youth that the mentee should start refereeing after they graduate and are on their own. New referees must participate in the mentoring program to receive RBJSL game assignments.

New referees and mentors receive payment for their games. The RBJSL pays normal game fees for a Center assignment and a stipend for an AR assignment. The stipend is held until the new referee accepts an assigned Fall RBJSL league game.

The New Referee Mentoring Program is staffed and run by experienced referees that belong to the Reading Berks Soccer Referees Association. We want to acknowledge past and present mentors; Kurt Kohler, Bob Shannon, Brad Brelje, Joe Pinto, John Perini, Dan Allen, Al Cross, and most recently, Bob Karnes. These men give valuable time and pass up accepting their own assignments to play a part in this important program.



Experienced referees are paired with a new referee. They provide guidance, advice and critical

“The mentoring process provides key support to first time referees, helping to provide confidence, as well as tips on how to manage themselves and the game at whatever age level they are involved with.”

YOU MAKE THE CALL by Hank Arbo

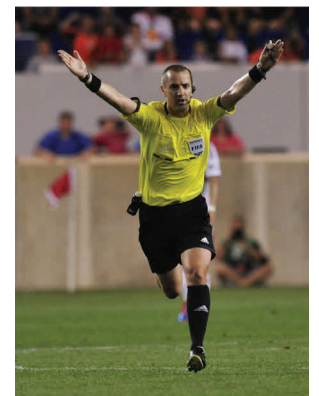
Foul or Advantage?

A player in the offensive end is fouled but maintains control. The referee calls and signals “Play on”, allowing advantage. The fouled player takes one dribble, then passes to a teammate. Unfortunately, the teammate is in an offside position and the AR raises his flag. What should

the referee do; call offside or bring the ball back to where the foul occurred, since the advantage didn't occur?

Answer: The purpose of advantage is to avoid penalizing the team that was fouled, by stopping play, if they can maintain control of the ball and continue their attack. In this case, advantage actually

did occur, as the fouled player was able to continue his play and pass to a teammate. But, passing to a teammate in an offside position was a poor decision. The fouled player gets either the foul or advantage, not both. In this case, offside should be called.



FIFA referee Mark Geiger gives the advantage signal.

MEET THE NEW REFEREES

BOYERTOWN CLASS

Caitlyn Behan
Jonathan Blaine
Colin Brisbois
Joshua Bryan
Mark Bryan
Chris Bunn
Amanda Byrd
Katie Byrd
Miya Carmichael
Christopher Decocinis
Edward DiPietro
Nicholas DiPietro
Kerrin Dunlap

Rebecca Fox
Danielle Fronheiser
Tristan Galligan
Abby Houck
Jordyn Jenkins
Zack Kovatch
Peter Manwiller
Ashley McGinley
Steven Meyers
Hannah Mutter
Noskie Onyemaobin
Morgan Shronk
Mikayla Sobjak
Kyle Stephens
Madison Velasco

Micheal Wanamaker
Jared Watson
READING CLASS
Said Amrani
Francesco Armensie
Vaniessa Baker
Christopher Bowers
Kevin Creamer
Gabriella Evans
Robert Evans
Devon Fessenden
James Fessenden
Alexander Freeman
Danielle Freeman

Daniel Gallagher
Shea Golden
James Haag
Robert Krotee
Edward Mayer
Katrina Mogel
Callista Paolino
Emma Peterson
Timothy Peterson
Mitchell Poet
Taylor Romberger
William Rudacille
Colby Stichter
Ahmed Tamedou



New referees are always in demand!

Photo courtesy of PA West's Peters Township Soccer Association.

CAUTIONS AND REMINDERS

Getting Assigned A Game

Our local assignors are Mark Yocum and Hank Arbo.

Mark assigns games for the Reading Berks Junior Soccer League, the EPASL over 40 Men's league, the Berks Women's Soccer league, and several local tournaments. He likes to ask for the dates that you *are not available* to take assignments. He uses email to communicate upcoming events that he will be

assigning and also games that need a referee. If you live near an RBJSL club team and would like to be on Mark's email distribution list, contact him at : racer1016@aol.com

Hank assigns games in the Delco, PAGS, Lanco, CPYSL, LVYSL, and LVSL leagues. He also assigns the Oley 7v7 Summer league, the Albright 7v7 leagues, and the winter indoor leagues at the Body Zone and Relevant Sports

complexes. He uses a spreadsheet to list all of the games that he has to assign. He posts the spreadsheet at hankarbo.com, for you to review and select games that you are interested in refing. He uses email to communicate that he has added new games to the spreadsheet and also games that need a referee. If you would like to be on Hank's email distribution list, contact him at : hankarbo@dejazzd.com



Hank Arbo
Assignor

"Our local assignors are Mark Yocum and Hank Arbo."

Used items: 1) referee tops in various colors and sleeve lengths, circa 1998-2010. 2) black shorts - mostly men's smalls and a couple of Xs. 3) one PIAA uniform in the same size ranges. Call Kathy Fromuth 610-781-3993

INSTRUCTOR'S CORNER by John Perini

In my personal experience, being an assistant referee is much more difficult than being the referee. An A/R must keep him/herself in the game at all times, go from standing to full speed, be involved in a ball out of play, call fouls and misconduct, and most importantly, make the decision when a player should be penalized for being off side. We all know the requirements that must be

met; that is, the attacker must be nearer to the goal than and the second to last defender, interfering with play or an opponent, or gaining an advantage by being in that position **when** the ball was **last played or touched** by a teammate. This being done all the while the defense is moving, of course.

Last year, USSF placed an emphasis on "last touched or

played", causing some confusion among A/R's. We now have another decision to make; was the ball that touched a defender played by that player? What determines the difference between a **deflection** that **does not negate** the off side, or a played ball, which does? A deflection occurs when the ball hits a defender (much like unintentional handling) from a hard pass, moving in

the normal course of play, or a pass not seen by a defender. If the defender makes an **intentional play** on the ball, i.e. attempting to block the ball with the legs, heading the ball, or kicking the ball, even if the "play" is unsuccessful, and the ball continues to the attacker, the attacker is not considered offside. Do not judge the play on the outcome but on the defender's attempt to play the ball.

We're on the web!

<http://www.rbsra.com/>

**READING BERKS SOCCER
REFEREE ASSOCIATION**

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Trustee:	Jerry Catagnus	610-944-6041	jercat2000@yahoo.com
Trustee:	Bob Geyer	484-941-1107	capnbg@aol.com



**B E I N V I S I B L E . . .
U N T I L Y O U ' R E N E E D E D**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **May 30-31:** Reading United CPDP Assignor: Mark Yocum

This tournament will be held at Governor Mifflin's Alvernia Park . Referee opportunities include 8v8 games using just a Center ref, and full side 11 v 11 games using 3 man crews, for older ages. This will be a new referee's last opportunity to work as an Assistant Referee (AR) to gain experience. Please contact Mark ASAP, if interested.

- ◆ **June 6:** Muhlenburg Grenko 8v8 Challenge Assignor: Mark Yocum
- ◆ **June 10:** Oley HS Girls 7v7 Summer League begins Assignor: Hank Arbo
- ◆ **June 13:** Tulpehocken 3v3 Assignor: Mark Yocum
- ◆ **June 20:** Dean Secord 3v3 Assignor: Hank Arbo
- ◆ **June 21:** RBSRA Chapter Meeting; 7:00pm at Exeter High School's Don Thomas Stadium, to watch the Reading United PDL game
- ◆ **August 15:** Oley Valley Youth League Tournament—Girls Assignor: Mark Yocum
- ◆ **August 16:** Oley Valley Youth League Tournament—Boys Assignor: Mark Yocum

Remember, you can email any chapter officer if you have any questions about laws of the game, registration, game reports, or any other situation you need assistance with.

The RBSRA mission is to increase the knowledge and performance level of all Association members through training, mentoring, and assessing. We seek to promote, foster, and perpetuate the game of soccer and its officiating. As we interact with members, coaches, players, and fans, we strive to instill a spirit of good sportsmanship, honesty, respect for authority, and fair play. We actively develop, teach, promote, and regulate soccer for individuals of all ages. Our members generally come from Berks County, but are not limited to living in that area.

The RBSRA is affiliated with the Reading-Berks Junior Soccer League (RBJSL), the Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association (EPYSA), the Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association Referee Committee (EPSARC), and the United States Soccer Federation.



**RBSRA Chapter Meeting
June 21 @ 7:00pm**

Reading United A.C.
vs
West Chester Flames

20th Anniversary Season