

# THE CENTER CIRCLE

SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<b>THE BALL ROLLS ON</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>REFEERING AWAY AT COLLEGE AND OTHER NON-USSF OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>WHAT'S IN YOUR BAG?</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>YOU BE THE JUDGE</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>THE COLLEGE EXEMPTION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>CAUTIONS AND REMINDERS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>LAW 15: THE THROW IN</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>	<b>4</b>

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **EPSARC and your assignor can help college students find assignors local to their campus.**
- **College student referees can use the "College Exemption" when they register; training requirements are waived and the test is done on-line.**
- **Mark Yocum requests that referees send him their availability for RBJSJL games.**

## THE BALL ROLLS ON - a word from the President

### Enjoy the Game

A few nights ago I drove by a local soccer field and saw the Exeter Youth Soccer Assn. Under 8 program in full swing at Lorane Elementary. There appeared to be over 100 players, dozens of parents, and many coaches out on the field. As I drove by, a HUGE smile was on my face. It was such a beautiful sight to see. I could not see, but I am sure there were over 100 faces out there smiling also.

As referees, we need to enjoy what we are doing as much as these young players. Enjoying the game helps us to be a good referee. When we are enjoying ourselves we are calmer and present a much better "picture" to those watching us. If a player, coach, or spectator, observes a referee enjoying themselves, they will remain calmer when you make that difficult or unpopular call. When we enjoy ourselves we are also more apt to get into the game, move more, and have better positioning.

I remember a few years ago, refereeing an Adult Men's Indoor League. I was behind a very talented player who took a great shot on goal by bending the ball around a defender and scoring in the upper 90. I smiled and told the player; that's why I ref and that, at times, I have the best seat in

the house. He smiled back at me and responded that he never thought of it that way.

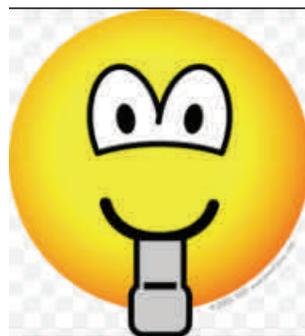
Now, sometimes, it may be a bit difficult to enjoy the game when someone does not agree with our decisions on the field; however, remain calm and professional. This will gain you a lot more than over-reacting and giving a poor response.

The two most important aspects of being a good referee, to me (and we must have both), are:

- Know and Interpret the Laws of the Game correctly.
- Manage the Game. Enjoying the beautiful game of soccer will help you do that.

In closing, probably my favorite t-shirt ever had an Umbro logo on front, and the words, "Soccer is Life". It is long gone, but those three words, along with those 100 youth soccer players the other night; keep me smiling!

Brad Brelje  
RBSRA President



Ref with a smile on your face!



Megan Horan, Roger Broome and Rich Geedey are enjoying their Spirit Kick-off Classic tournament experience

**REFFING AWAY AT COLLEGE and OTHER NON-USSF OPPORTUNITIES** by *Eric Balash*

If you attend college outside of Berks County how do you locate other assignors in your area? There really is no set way on how to do this, but I will share with you what I did. I attend Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, so I'm a good 4 hours out of Berks County. I emailed Hank Arbo with my inquiry for other assignors, and he put me in contact with Robert Ong, the State Director of Assessments ([sda@epsarc.org](mailto:sda@epsarc.org)). Another good person to contact would be Stan Nagle, the State Youth Referee Administrator ([syra@epsarc.org](mailto:syra@epsarc.org)). Simply email them and explain your situation. They provided me

with the contact information for several assignors in the Pittsburgh area. Since then, I have been working for three assignors over the course of the school year, reffing youth games, indoor games, and adult games. For me, it has been a great way to stay in the game and make some extra cash for spending and paying for college. I've also explored other non-USSF opportunities while away at college. I recently passed my PIAA officials exam and joined a chapter in Pittsburgh. With college classes ending in the afternoon, this makes me available for early Junior High

and High School games. You can also look into getting your coaching license and joining a local soccer club. I took a three day E-License class while at school and was an assistant coach for a U17 girl's team for Beadling SC, in Pittsburgh, this past year. The options are definitely there and I would love to help you explore different possibilities in your area. If you're more interested in the numbers, I would say that you could bring in an extra \$3,000 while at school, if you consider all of the above options. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Cell: 484-599-1067

**"For me, it has been a great way to stay in the game and make some extra cash for spending and paying for college."**

**WHAT'S IN YOUR BAG?**

What are the essential items that a referee should bring to a game?

- Knowledge: know the Laws; bring the Law Book just in case
- USSF badge
- Two whistles on same wrist lanyard
- Two watches with a countdown mode – wear both. Consider a vibrating watch.
- Flipping coin
- Pad/ pen for recording info
- Red/ yellow cards- hopefully not ever needed
- Flags for ARs
- Air gauge/ pump for inflating balls
- Twine for repairing nets
- Alternate shirts to avoid color conflicts
- Sunscreen, water, and snacks
- Trash bag to put your gear in if raining



**YOU BE THE JUDGE** by *Hank Arbo*

Red #10 rushes the goal on an attack and ends up inside the opponent's goal, i.e. off

the field. He tries to distract the goalkeeper by jumping up and down and screaming.

You stop the game and caution him for unsporting behavior. What is the restart?

**Answer is on page 4**



Samuel Eto'o of Everton stands in the Burnley goal

## THE COLLEGE EXEMPTION *by Eric Balash*

Starting out as a youth referee in high school has proven to be a great job! You only work a few hours a week and can walk away with a pretty decent “paycheck.” What most high school referees don’t realize is that reffing **does not** end with HS graduation! For those who want to continue reffing in college and making extra money (which is always a need for college students), there is an option for you! It is called the College Exemption. Here’s

what you have to do... If you are enrolled in college as of **January 1<sup>st</sup>**, simply email [office@epsarc.org](mailto:office@epsarc.org) and state that you are a college student looking to recertify through the college exemption. You will then have to show proof of enrolment by providing an unofficial transcript or copy of a tuition bill. After qualifying for the college exemption you will be exempt from the 5 hours of training, but you will have to pass an online test. The EPSARC Office will even-

tually send you a link to the test. You will have 3 chances to pass with an 80% or higher. After passing the online test, you must still register with USSF. The process is very simple and provides college students with some extra spending money and keeps them around the game! If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Cell: 484-599-1067  
Email: [embalash@gmail.com](mailto:embalash@gmail.com)



The EPSARC website has a “College Exemption” link that takes you to the FAQ page and provides details on college student registration requirements.

## CAUTIONS AND REMINDERS

### Oops!

Ever get home only to discover that you have a team’s player passes? What a hassle! Particularly, if it’s the visiting team’s passes!

The passes have to be returned quickly since the team needs them to play the following weekend.

The worst thing is to put the

passes in your pocket when inspecting the players. It’s easy to do that if you’re wearing a jacket or warm-up suit in cool weather. It’s so easy to forget you have them: they are out of sight, out of mind!

A better option is to keep them in your hand. When you get back to your bag, put the passes in a visible spot. Put them next to the bag, on

top of the bag, or next to your car keys. Putting them inside your bag is inviting trouble.

If you get home and realize you have a team’s passes, contact your assignor quickly. He’ll send you a telephone number or an e-mail address, so you can arrange for a way to return them.

**“The worst thing is to put the passes in your pocket when inspecting the players.”**

## LAW 15: THE THROW IN *by John Perini*

For most referees, Law 15, the throw-in causes little confusion or problems. The throw-in is simply a means of restarting play after the ball has wholly crossed the touch line. Procedurally it is easy to understand and enforce; taken from where the ball crossed the touch line with the thrower facing the field, both feet on the ground either behind or on the touch-line. Then the thrower must use both hands (unless a physical impairment prevents this) and deliver the ball from behind and over the head. There may be a spin on the ball as long as the throwing motion is not from the side of the head.

At the upper levels of play,

most throw-ins conform to the law – however, at the youth level the referee must be aware of two potential problems. First, due to limited strength, many young players “over throw” in an attempt to get more distance on the throw. This can cause a foot to leave the ground before the throw in has been completed and/or throwing the ball from the side of the head. The second problem is trying to enforce the spot from where the throw is to be taken, and USSF advice to referees advises a one yard variance from that spot. Youth players violate that for two reasons – one, the ball leaves the field but is retrieved a number of yards

farther down the field, and secondly, by the thrower being unsure of when to throw the ball in, causing him/her to walk up the field.

The first problem is procedurally incorrect and can be dealt with. In dealing with the second problem, some common sense can be applied and small distance variances might be allowed if the team throwing in doesn’t gain an advantage. However, the referee is well within his/her authority to instruct the player to “back-up” to the spot (before the ball is thrown in), in a consistent manner to both teams, and to deal with continued violations as required.



We're on the web!

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



BE INVISIBLE...  
UNTIL YOU'RE NEEDED

## READING BERKS SOCCER REFEREE ASSOCIATION

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Trustee:	Open		

### YOU BE THE JUDGE Answer (Quiz on page 2)

The misconduct is unsporting behavior while off the field. If the ball was in play when you blew the whistle, issue the caution and restart with a dropped ball where the ball was when you halted play. If play had already stopped, issue the caution, then restart based on the reason for the stoppage

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **Registration for 2016 is now open. Details are on [www.epsarc.com](http://www.epsarc.com)**
- ◆ **Sep 9:** Kutztown University club soccer begins. Assignor: Hank Arbo
- ◆ **Sep 12:** PAGS, Delco, LANCO, and Lehigh Valley leagues begin. Assignor: Hank Arbo
- ◆ **Sep 12:** Reading Berks Junior Soccer League begins. Assignor: Mark Yocum
- ◆ **Sep 13:** Adults Men's Over 40 EPASL League begins. Assignor: Mark Yocum
- ◆ **Sep 13:** Berks's Women's League begins. Assignor: Mark Yocum
- ◆ **Oct 9-11:** Wilson Fall Classic on Columbus Day. Assignor: Mark Yocum
- ◆ **Oct 31:** Training Clinic @ Geisinger Medical Center, Danbury PA
- ◆ **Nov 1:** Training Clinic @ Keystone Job Center, Drums PA
- ◆ **Nov 22:** Reading Berks Junior Soccer League ends
- ◆ **Dec 1:** **RBSRA Chapter Meeting and Banquet at Anthony's Trattoria, @ 6:30pm**  
\*\*\*\*\*Keep an eye out for a reminder announcement from Hank\*\*\*\*\*

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  
December 1st @ 6:30pm**  
Anthony's Trattoria  
900 Byram St.  
Reading, PA 19606