

THE CENTER CIRCLE

DEC. 1, 2015

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- RBSRA Board using 2016 to evaluate Chapter viability.
- Referee improvement is a continuous process, with many ways to do it.
- Registration can be done without a late penalty through January 31st. All three background checks are required for all referees.

THE BALL ROLLS ON - a word from the President

Our RBSRA Chapter closed out another year on December 1st, with our annual dinner at Anthony's Trattoria. Those who attended enjoyed it and we missed those of you who were not there. I hope you will join us next year.

The Chapter has reached a cross-road. In the coming year, with your help, the Board will evaluate whether or not to continue or fold the Chapter. For instance, a recent email survey asking for your feedback had positive responses, but came from a fraction of our potential member base. If we are going to remain a viable organization, we will need to generate greater interest and excitement in the things we do to support you. The challenge for this year's Board is to begin to do that. The challenge for you, the member base, is to let us know what is working and where more support is needed. We need your regular input to know we are headed in the right direction.

Some exciting things are already brewing. For the first time in a long, long while, we have a High School student in our Youth Trustee position;

Mike DiGiacomo. He has a lot of good ideas and will help the Chapter better connect with our younger members. Last year, we initiated our quarterly newsletter, *The Center Circle*. It has a variety of useful information about our local referee community and ways to be a better referee. We are beginning to update our website, refreshing its look, adding content, and making it accessible on mobile devices; look for these changes over the next 6 months. A Facebook page is in the works and will be introduced soon. Finally, we are working to reinvigorate relationships or initiate new ones with the local soccer leagues, organizations, and assignors that our members interact with.

The Board is enthusiastic about the things we are doing and hope they serve to draw our member community closer together. We are listening for your feedback. Let us know how we are doing. Send us ideas on additional things you'd like to see the Chapter do to support you.

Carry on!
Bob Geyer



Help the Board evaluate the RBSRA Chapter's value to you. **Send us your feedback**, tell us how we support you and where we can improve. Contact info is on the last page.



STEP UP YOUR GAME *by Brad Brelje*

Now that the fall season is behind us, we should all be reviewing our performance and asking ourselves how we can improve. What do I need to work on and do to improve? Were there situations I did not handle well? Were there calls I made that I was unsure of?

Was there a game where you called a foul and someone then objected to your call? How did you handle it? Did you bark back at that person and use a sharp tone to tell them to be quiet? That probably didn't work so well. Treat that individual as you would have them treat you. Remain calm throughout the match and address situations as they occur. This will aid in keeping everyone calm. Sometimes we have to do more than just talk to a player, coach, or spectator. Even then, remain calm and use your personality to deal with the person. I recently read, "90% of officiating is being a people person". Managing the game through good communications with the players,

coaches, and even the spectators can greatly improve your game.

Did a game situation present itself where you were unsure of what to do? First, quickly evaluate it and make your decision. A prompt decision holds more credibility than a slow decision. After the game, evaluate your decision; were you correct, unsure of it, or incorrect? Research the issue; the internet is a great resource for answers. Contact a more experienced referee or an RBSRA Board member and discuss it. Get the correct answer, so you know and make the proper decision, next time.

Was your fitness proper for the level of games that you referee? Through the years, I have observed referees who seemed to struggle keeping up with play or staying in a good field position, due to lack of fitness. Trust me, this leads players, coaches, and spectators to more easily question the referee. Make sure you insert conditioning

activities into your busy lives; proper fitness is imperative to a quality referee performance.

I also want to touch on professionalism. Referees have a standard and level of performance that we all should strive to provide. It includes our on-field performance and actions as a sideline, spectator. Comments we make to or about other referees, while they are officiating, must not be negative. I have experienced receiving the occasional negative comment from a fellow official, who was at the game as a spectator. It did not help my performance or ability to manage the players, coaches, and spectators. Nor did it provide the support I needed from a fellow official. This kind of conduct is hurtful, unprofessional, and should not happen.

In summary; I have always felt that one of the best ways to learn is from your mistakes. We all make mistakes, so use the opportunity to improve your performance!



FIFA referee training

"I have always felt that one of the best ways to learn is from your mistakes. We all make mistakes, so use the opportunity to improve your performance!"

YOU MAKE THE CALL *by Hank Arbo*

There is a drop ball restart just outside the Red team's penalty area. As soon as the ball touches the ground, Red #10 kicks the ball toward her goal keeper. Instead, the ball

goes into the red team's goal without being touched. Goal? No goal? What is the restart?

Answer: A goal can't be scored on the initial touch of

a dropped ball. Thus, no goal. Since the ball went over red's goal line, last touched by red, without a goal being scored, the restart would be a corner kick for red's opponents.



HAND BALL...OR NOT? by Hank Arbo

"Hand Ball, ref!"
 "Didn't you see that?"
 "Where's the call?"

Have you ever heard this?

We all have! As soon as a ball touches a player's hand or arm, someone on the sidelines will be yelling, "Hand ball!". "Handball" is not even the correct name for the foul. The proper name is "Deliberately handling the ball", which means intentionally redirecting the ball.¹ It's up to the referee to determine if a foul has really occurred.

Handling the ball involves the deliberate act of a player making contact with the ball with his hand or arm. The referee must consider a few things to make a good decision:

- ◆ the movement of the hand towards the ball (not the ball towards the hand)
- ◆ the distance between the opponent and the ball (unexpected ball)
- ◆ the position of the hand does not necessarily mean that there is an infringement
- ◆ touching the ball with an object held in the hand (clothing, shinguard, etc.) counts as an infringement
- ◆ hitting the ball with a thrown object (boot, shin guard, etc.) counts as an infringement

The parts of the body subject

to the handling rule are both the hands and the arms, extending from the tips of the fingers to the articulation of the shoulder. The fact that the ball may contact the hands or the arms during the course of the game is not sufficient, in and of itself, for a penalty to be called. In order for a violation to have occurred, the Referee must have seen the contact and must have judged that the contact was intentional.

Unintentional contact between the ball and the player's hand or arm is not a violation and we must have the knowledge and courage not to call a foul when this occurs.

¹ Excerpted from an article by Doug Barnes



Handball...or not!

"Unintentional contact between the ball and the player's hand or arm is not a violation..."

INSTRUCTOR'S CORNER

SFP versus VC

Does it matter which of these we call? Absolutely!

Although both fouls are serious enough that the player would be sent off, it's important to correctly identify the misconduct.

Serious Foul Play occurs when a player is making an attempt for the ball and uses

excessive force or plays in a way that endangers the safety of his opponent. The action must occur on the field and while the ball is in play. The result is a sendoff and usually suspension from playing at least one league game.

Violent Conduct occurs when a player uses excessive force or brutality when not challenging for the ball. The ac-

tion may be directed toward an opponent, teammate, referee, spectator, or any other person. It can occur on or off the field, with the ball in play or not. It is usually treated more harshly by leagues and frequently results in a multiple game suspension.



We're on the web and mobile devices!

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



BE INVISIBLE...
UNTIL YOU'RE NEEDED

READING BERKS SOCCER REFEREE ASSOCIATION

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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.

A NOTE ON REGISTRATION *by Hank Arbo*

Several people had contacted me with difficulties or confusion about registering. The EPSA website at www.epsarc.org should take you step by step thru the registration process, including getting the three clearances you need. If you still have problems, contact Joanne Neal at office@epsarc.org or me at hankarbo@dejazzd.com. Joanne's the expert. I haven't found a problem she couldn't solve!

Several other people said they weren't re-registering, primarily due to the hassle of getting and submitting the clearances. I hope you don't let the clearances keep you from registering. Yes, it's a cost and takes time, but the clearances are good for five years. Don't let a minor inconvenience take you away from an activity you enjoy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ **Registration for 2016 is now open.** Registration deadline for 2017 EXTENDED until January 31st. Details are on www.epsarc.com.
- ◆ **Jan 30:** Re-certification Clinic at Twin Valley Middle School. Register at www.epsarc.com
- ◆ **Feb 22:** An Entry Level Grade 8 Referee Class is forming. Class dates are Feb 22, 23, 25, 29, and March 1st. For more information, contact Mark Yocum at racer1016@aol.com or 610-898-0980.
- ◆ **Feb 25:** RBJSL Coaches Meeting
- ◆ **Mar 9:** RBJSL Spring season begins
- ◆ **Apr 2:** PAGS and DELCO Spring season begins

PA CHILD ABUSE CHECK

PA STATE CHECK

FBI BACKGROUND CHECK

Three background clearances must be obtained and **mailed** to EPSARC before you can register.