



Eastern Massachusetts Soccer Officials  
Association  
<http://www.emsoa.org>  
Spring 2013 Newsletter



Fall Meetings

The dates and locations of the Rule Interpretation and regular Chapter Meetings have not been set yet. Another mailing will go out later with this information. You can also check the EMSOA web page, [http://www.emsoa.org/emsoa\\_calendar.html](http://www.emsoa.org/emsoa_calendar.html) after April 2013.

There has been a significant change in the rules regarding fouls that deny a goal scoring opportunity. This will be explained at the Rules Interpretation Meeting. As soon as the meeting schedule is released, mark your calendar so that nothing interferes with coming to the Rules Interpretation Meeting.

EMSOA Business Meeting

The minutes of the Business Meeting held on January 12, 2013 have been posted on the EMSOA web site. The most important item at the meeting was a set of changes to the EMSOA By-Laws. The revised By-Laws are also posted on the web site.

Changes to the By-Laws Which Affect You:

The changes that most effect members are the categories of membership and the dues to be paid by each category. The revised categories are: Active Member, Inactive Member, Active Life Member, Inactive Life Member, Retired Life Member. The chart below describes the definition and obligations of each category.

Category	Referee at least 1 game during the season	Dues	Must Attend Rule Interpretation Meeting	Must Attend 2 of the 3 Regular Chapter Meetings
Active	Yes	Varsity Fee	Yes	Yes
Inactive	No	½ Varsity Fee	Yes	Yes
Active Life Member	Yes	¼ Varsity Fee	Yes	Yes
Inactive Life Member	No	Exempt	Yes	No
Retired Life Member	No	Exempt	No	No

A member may declare himself/herself as Inactive any time before August 1 of the year of the high school soccer season. Starting with the 2014 season, if a member has paid his full dues prior to declaring himself/herself to be Inactive for the year, the Inactive member will receive a refund of half a varsity fee. An Inactive member cannot change his/her status to active after August 1 because he/she will not be registered with MIAA as an authorized referee and will not be covered by insurance. A member

who has been Inactive for 3 or more years must request permission to return to Active status. An Inactive Member is required to attend the Rules Interpretation Meeting to stay current with the rules.

Life Members will receive a letter later this year which will provide further explanation of the new categories of Life Membership and the reason for the change. An Active Life Member is a Life Member who still goes to games as a referee. All active Life Members will be pay dues of a ¼ varsity fee starting with the 2014 dues which should be paid in the Fall of 2013.

An Inactive Life Member is involved in the high school soccer program in ways that do not include stepping on the field to referee games. An Inactive Life Member is required to attend the Rules Interpretation Meeting to stay current with the rules.

Retired Life Members are welcome to come to any EMSOA meeting or activity, but are not required to do so.

### 2013 Fees

The MIAA recommended fees for schools to pay each soccer referee are \$78 for a varsity game and \$53 for a sub-varsity game if two referees are on the field. For a sub-varsity game with only one referee, the MIAA recommends a fee and a half which is \$79.50. Although most schools follow the recommendation, there are some schools that don't. If you know a particular school which pays less than the recommended amount, you have a right to refuse to accept assignments for that school. However, once you have accepted a game assignment, you have an obligation to do the game regardless of the pay.

### Where's My Check?

Several members have been concerned that certain schools do not send out their check until 6 or 8 weeks after the date of the game. While this is very irritating to the referee, the schools that send out check 6 to 8 weeks after the game are meeting the MIAA requirement. The MIAA Handbook states in Item 90.11 "It is recommended that member schools provide for payment of officials within a **90-day period** from the date of service."

In general, it is a good idea to contact the school athletic office 60 days after the game if you have not received your check and politely ask whether the check will be coming. Coaches have been known to lose the paperwork you signed on the field. If you still have not received your check after 90 days, contact your assignor and your EMSOA Chapter President for assistance.

### New Member Clinics

Two training sessions for new members have been scheduled. If you know of anyone interested in becoming an EMSOA member, pass this information along to them.

- Sunday March 24, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 pm at the Westwood Council on Aging, 60 Nahatan St, Westwood, MA. Point of Contact is Ed Rae (EdRae@massref.net, 209 Winter St, Westwood MA 02090).
- Thursday May 2 and 9 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm and Saturday May 11 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at the Unitarian-Universalist Church, 75 Great Rd, Bedford, MA. Point of Contact is Cal Perry, (Tel: 978-475-5924; e-mail: cgeeco@bigfoot.com) 25 Timothy Drive, Andover MA 01810.

From Bob Ringuette,

EMSOA's representative to the Massachusetts Interscholastic Soccer Officials Association (MISOA)

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Soccer Officials Association (MISOA) is the state board which represents EMSOA and all the other local boards to the MIAA. It continues to meet on a regular basis three times a year to discuss mutual and common concerns regarding interscholastic soccer officiating at MIAA member schools. Current items that are under discussion are:

1. Gather input from each local SOA board for updating the MISOA bylaws
2. Continue discussions regarding the development of a standard NHSF Soccer Rules course curriculum for new referees.
3. Adding members from local SOA boards to the MISOA Hall of Fame.
4. Providing input to the MIAA Soccer Committee, through the State Interpreter Cal Perry, for MIAA and NFHS rule changes, "Blue Book" rules clarifications and other topic as necessary.
5. Discussions about the use of ArbiterSports.com by local SOA boards and possible options offered by other "assignment programs."
6. Establishment of a state-wide primary uniform.
7. MIAA tournament Rules clarifications and interpretations

### Has Something Changed?

If you have changed your mailing address, your e-mail address, your cell phone number or your home phone number, remember to keep EMSOA informed. Send EMSOA the new information on a post card or in an e-mail message.

### Help Wanted: EMSOA Web Page

If you have skills as a web page designer, consider help refresh the EMSOA web page. Skill with PHP and javascript are especially desired. To volunteer your help, send a message to [emsoa@emsoa.org](mailto:emsoa@emsoa.org).

### Help Wanted: Help with EMSOA Activities

EMSOA runs on the efforts of many people who volunteer their services, but there are more activities to be done than volunteers presently available. For example, EMSOA needs more experienced referees to provide mentoring and assessment activities for less experienced referees. If you are interested and available, contact your Chapter President.

### e-mail, Facebook, Twitter, Link-In and more

After a game, do you go home and electronically send comments about the game to your friends? Be careful what you say. Emotional comments can be forwarded, re-Tweeted, etc. and be read by coaches, players, parents of the team and others you never thought would read your comments. Emotional comments sent into the electronic universe can end up in the newspaper or a law suit. Think before you send or post your comments.

From *Referee* Magazine: Something to Think About:  
An Effective Argument-ENDER

It is human nature to argue. When someone challenges your authority, your opinion or your knowledge, it's normal that your first reaction is to assume a defensive posture or attitude. How vociferously you defend your point of view usually depends on how sure you are or how strenuously the other person raises the question.

Officials aren't expected (some would say allowed) to argue. In all but the rarest cases, officials are supposed to turn a deaf ear to criticism and arguments, letting the comments bounce off them like bullets off Kevlar. It is one of the most difficult aspects of officiating, but also one of the most important.

In everyday disputes, it's satisfying to get in the last word or come up with a "zinger" that leaves the other person speechless. Take that habit onto the court or field and you'll soon develop a reputation as a smart aleck. Right or wrong, officials are instead expected to be above such pettiness. Absorbing a certain amount of verbal abuse from coaches and players is considered part of the job. It would be wonderful to know exactly how much to take, but that isn't possible. The best an official can do is end the argument as quickly as possible before things get completely out of control.

A phrase that will end many arguments regarding judgment calls is, "Coach, if it happened the way you say it did, I got it wrong." It works because the official is not admitting a mistake, putting up a defense or ignoring the coach completely. Only a coach who wants to argue for the fun of it or is trying to intimidate an official will continue an argument after hearing that phrase. Any coach with those motives deserves to be ignored.

That statement also works when the dispute involves a rule. If the coach doesn't volunteer his take on how the rule is interpreted, the official can ask for it. By eliciting information from the coach, the official turns the argument around and becomes the questioner, the person who actually controls the argument. Once the coach has offered his interpretation, the official can tell the coach that if his interpretation is correct, an error was made.

Whether the issue is a rule or a judgment call, the coach may ask you to get help from a partner or crewmate. Don't be bullied into such a discussion, but if you are unsure and believe another official can help, go for help. Be sure the conversation is brief and takes place out of the coach's earshot. When the discussion is over, explain to the coach why you're sticking to your guns or are changing your call. In the latter case, be sure to explain the ruling to the opposing coach.

Written by Jeffrey Stern, *Referee* Magazine associate editor  
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