



Eastern Massachusetts Soccer Officials
Association
<http://www.emsoa.org>
July 1, 2022 Newsletter



Change in Policy

ALL EMSOA members **MUST** attend one of the sessions of the Rules Interpretation Meeting. This includes inactive members because all members need to keep up with the rules and points of emphasis.

Most of the meetings will be on Zoom. If you will be anywhere in the world with an internet connection, you will be able to attend. Meetings typically last 90 minutes. There are several sessions of the Meeting. It is expected that you will find one that fits your schedule.

Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meetings:

Zoom Meetings:

- South Chapter, Tuesday, August 16, starting at 7:00 pm
- West Chapter, Wednesday, August 17, starting at 7:00 pm
- North Chapter, Thursday, September 1, starting at 7:00 pm

Links to the Zoom meeting will be sent out by email from the EMSOA ArbiterSports.com list a few days before each meeting. You will need to register for the meeting after the link is sent out and before the meeting.

In-Person Meeting:

North Chapter, Sunday, August 28, Lakeside Inn, 595 North Ave, Wakefield, starting at 6:30 pm (no pre-registration is required). The entrance to the meeting room is at the northwest end of the building

You may attend any of these meetings. The only difference is the introduction by the Chapter President. There is no extra credit for attending more than one of the Rules Interpretation meetings.

Changes: Any change to the meeting schedule will be announced via email from Arbiter and will be posted on the EMSOA web site (<https://www.emsoa.org>) at least a few days before the meeting date.

Meetings at Other MA associations: You can attend the Rules Interpretation meeting of any high school soccer officials' association in New England to satisfy the attendance requirement. Check their web site for date, time and format. Make sure the Secretary/Treasurer of the other association sends a notice of your attendance to emsoa@emsoa.org. The web site for nearby associations are:

- Central Mass Soccer Officials' Association: <https://www.thecmso.org/>
- Cape Cod Soccer Officials' Association: <https://www.capecodsoa.org/>

- Whaling City Soccer Officials' Association: <https://weso.org/>

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Each chapter will hold two meetings during the Fall season to discuss game situations and other items related to working games. **All active referees are required to attend, at least, ONE chapter meeting.** You may attend a meeting at any chapter. Dates, times and location or Zoom link will be published later on the EMSOA web site and announced by email from Arbiter.

NEW PATCHES

All members will receive a new patch to be worn on the uniform shirt. The patches will include the year 2022 similar to the year on USSF patches. You will receive one patch in the mail after you have attended a Rules Interpretation meeting. All referees must wear the new patch during games. In future years, new patches with the year will be distributed each year to all active members.

TRASH TALK, TAUNTING AND HATE SPEECH

On the field, your training has included how to handle trash talk and taunting. In case you have forgotten, both are to be stopped as soon as you hear them. However, you may not have encountered hate speech on the field and if you did, perhaps you were unsure about how to handle the situation. If you don't think it can happen in Massachusetts, you are wrong. The MA Attorney General has put out guidance on what is expected of the schools and the game officials.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/ago-guidance-on-for-school-athletic-staff-on-hate-incidents/download>

MIAA REGISTRATION AND BACKGROUND CHECK

The MIAA web site for registering for the Fall 2022 season opens July 1. MIAA recommends that all Fall sports' officials register by August 1. Registration **MUST** be done at least a week before your first game. The web site is:

<https://miaa.arbitersports.com/front/110185/Site>

CONCUSSION AWARENESS TRAINING

All adults involved in high school sports are required by MA state law to complete concussion awareness training annually. The training is online and free. It takes less than 30 minutes to complete. The site for the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) is

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/concussion-in-sports-2>

At the top of the page, select MA as your state and click "Order Course" At the end of the course, print the completion certificate to paper and put the paper in the bag you take to the field.