



Eastern Massachusetts Soccer Officials
Association
<http://www.emsoa.org>
2014 Newsletter



Fall Meetings

Mandatory Rule Interpretation Meetings:

You must attend to one of these meetings.

- **North Chapter** - Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 7:00 pm at North Reading Library, 147 Park St, North Reading, MA
- **North Chapter - SUNDAY**, September 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m., Kitty's Restaurant, 123 Main Street, North Reading, MA
- **West Chapter** - Tuesday, September 2, 2014 at 7:00 pm at Marian High School, 273 Union Ave, Framingham, MA 01702
There is parking at Marian High School for only 60 cars. If the lot is full, **DO NOT PARK ON UNION ST.** Park opposite the building on any side street.
- **South Chapter** - Wednesday, September 3, 2014 at 7:30 pm at Hanover High School, 287 Cedar Street, Hanover, MA 02339
- **All Chapters** – Monday, Sept 8, 2014 at 7:00 pm at VFW Post 2498, 20 Junction St, Needham, MA

These dates and locations may change. Check for changes on the Calendar Page of the EMSOA web site. All changes will be posted at least a few days before the scheduled meeting.

You can meet your requirement by attending the Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting of any other Soccer Officials' Association. Meeting dates and locations of nearby SOA's will be posted on the Calendar Page of the EMSOA web site (http://www.emsoa.org/emsoa_calendar.html).

Regular Chapter Meetings:

You are required come to 2 of these meetings.

North Chapter - All meetings start at 7:00 pm. Kitty's Restaurant, 123 Main Street, North Reading, MA

- **Sunday**, September 21, 2014
- Thursday, October 9, 2014
- Thursday, October 30, 2014

West Chapter - All meetings start at 7:00 pm at Marian High School, 273 Union Ave, Framingham, MA

There is parking at Marian High School for only 60 cars. If the lot is full, **DO NOT PARK ON UNION ST.** Park opposite the building on any side street.

- Tuesday, September 16, 2014
- Tuesday, October 7, 2014
- Tuesday, October 21, 2014

South Chapter - All meetings start at 7:30 p.m. at Hanover High School, 287 Cedar Street, Hanover, MA

- Wednesday, September 17, 2014
- Wednesday, October 1, 2014
- Wednesday, October 15, 2014

The Coaches are Coming

In past years, MIAA held Rules Interpretations meetings for soccer coaches and Athletic Directors. This year MIAA will not hold a Rule Interpretation meeting. Instead, MIAA is asking coaches and AD's to attend a Rules Interpretation meeting conducted by EMSOA or another referee association in the state. That means the person next you at the Rules Interpretation meeting may be a coach. Be nice to them at the meeting. We want them to be nice to you on the field.

Membership Books

Last year a membership book was not printed and distributed. This year a membership book will be printed and distributed at the Rules Interpretation meeting.

- If you do NOT want your home address and telephone number published, send an e-mail (emsoa@emsoa.org) or a letter to the Secretary/Treasurer, 100 Powdermill Rd #240, Acton, MA 01720-5932 not later than July 15th.
- If your e-mail address, cell phone number or home address HAS CHANGED since last year, send the new information to the Secretary/Treasurer, 100 Powdermill Rd #240, Acton, MA 01720-5932 or emsoa@emsoa.org

ArbiterSports.com

The Arbiter web site (<https://www.arbitersports.com/>) is the way that the majority of EMSOA members receive their game assignments. However, the web site has other uses. It can be used as a method of communication with members about changes in meeting dates, rule interpretations and other things. It is not being used for that now because a significant number of members do not receive their assignments through the Arbiter web site and they ignore the web site. If you are one of those members, please do not ignore the web site. Log into the web site at the beginning of the season and check that all the information in your profile is up to date. If you are not willing to take assignments from other assignors besides the one who gives you most or all of your game assignment, remove the check mark on the box that say "Ready To Be Assigned." If you are willing to take an assignment on a day when you have no other assignment or other commitment, then make sure the box is checked and the days when you are not available to take an extra assignment are marked on the "Blocks" page.

Did you know that you can assign your own game? On the ArbiterSports.com, go to the “Schedule” page. There is a button labeled “Self Assign.” You will find games listed that need a referee. If you are interested in a listed game, you can assign yourself to the game.

Has Your E-Mail Address Changed? Have You Moved?

Communication is important. You need to keep both EMSOA and your assignor up-to-date with your contact information. When there is a change, send the new information both to EMSOA and to your assignor. Do not send the information to just one. EMSOA and assignor often pass information along but not always.

Concussion Awareness

Massachusetts state law requires all sports officials, who work high school games in the 2014-2015 season, to take one of the online concussion awareness courses after July 1, 2014 and before they start the season. When you take one of the online courses, have the completion certificate with you at the game site. Information about how to find a concussion awareness course can be found on the EMSOA (<http://www.emsoa.org/concussions.html>) or MIAA web site (<http://www.miaa.net/>). The NFHS web site (<http://www.nfhs.org/>) and the Center for Disease Control web site (<http://www.cdc.gov/>) offer the course. You are expected to know what to look for after a collision between two players or a player and an object such as the ground. Long gone are the days when an athlete needed to be knocked unconscious or close to unconscious before it was deemed a concussion.

Your Referee Uniform

How many uniform shirts, socks and shorts do you have? What condition are they in? How many do you bring to the field? How many games do you do with your uniform before it gets washed?

You should always wear a uniform which is in good condition. That means it should not have rips or stains; it should not be obviously faded; it should not smell. Your referee shirt should NOT be the same color as one of the team’s shirt color. A uniform in poor condition or a shirt that matches one of the team’s shirt color says to a team before the game starts that you really do not care to act in a professional manner. That is not a message that any referee should want to send. Get that uniform washed regularly. If the shirt, shorts or socks are in poor condition, throw them out and get new ones. The EMSOA policy is that every referee should have at least two shirts when he or she comes to the field: the yellow shirt with black strips is the primary shirt and the black shirt with white strips is the secondary shirt. It is recommended that every referee have at least five shirts – two short-sleeve yellow shirts, one long-sleeve yellow shirt, one short sleeve black shirt and one long-sleeve black shirt – two pairs of socks and two shorts. Most referees can afford to purchase that many uniform items when they begin refereeing. The first year, a referee has to buy one complete set. In following years, referee could buy one shirt a year until he had the ideal set of shirts and buy socks and shorts as necessary. Most referees collect enough in games fees to afford to purchase one shirt a year. By the sixth or seventh year, one of the yellow shirts will probably be getting in bad shape and should be replaced. A list on online suppliers of referee gear can be found on the Links page of the EMSOA web site. Also, at each of the mandatory interpretation meetings, EMSOA invites a uniform supplier to set-up a display and sell uniforms and accessories.

A New Way to Pay Dues

It will soon be possible to pay your dues with a credit or debit card or to transfer money directly from your checking account. There will be more information about this when the details have been finalized. Of course, you can still pay your dues with a check or with cash.

Things You Should Know

Many times new officials feel that the most pure, impartial way to approach a match is to NOT know anything about either team or coach. A lack of knowledge is recipe for un-biased officiating of the game! **Not true!**

The more that you know about certain aspects of the team, coaches, and field, the more likely you will be ready to call a fair, safe match.

Know the field. Are there spectator restraint issues? Can a rope be put in place? Are there overhanging branches? Agree on some rules. Is the field too small? Expect lots of contact. Are there notoriously wet corners? Can you and your partner avoid them by not switching sides at the half? Are there often sprinkler head issues at that field? Remedy them before the players or officials get hurt.

Know the players. Is there a singularly outstanding player on one or both teams? If so, might the other team use various players to “hack” away at that star player in an attempt to reduce his/her effectiveness? Don’t let a Mia Hamm 1999 World Cup vs. Nigeria incident occur. Is this a traditional team rivalry? Be ready, even if both teams have a losing record. This game means a lot to both teams. What are the “stakes” of the game? What happened last time they met? Are there players who have been known to be intimidatingly aggressive or have been known to take a “dive”?

Know the coaches. Does this coach love the “offside trap”? Be ready to run with it. Does the coach have a tendency to employ “special” plays on corner kicks or frequently wants a “quick kick” after a foul in the attacking zone? Be alert. Does the coach often have his strikers running laterally with the second to last defender, then sprint downfield on the “moment of the pass” to receive the ball well behind the defender? If so, you had better be right at that offside line to see it. I have known coaches that “lay-off” officials who are exhibiting hustle and “question everything” that officials do that are “off-the-play”. Good to know!

You may have none of the above. You might be assigned a game at a field you have never been to, with teams you know nothing about...alone! If that is the case, you’re left with what any good official has....anticipate, observe and react. Never use your knowledge from experience, from your assigner, or shared by your partner to prejudge. Instead, use it to give yourself a “leg up” on not being taken by surprise.

Rich Valle, EMSOA Interpreter