



Eastern Massachusetts Soccer Officials  
Association  
<http://www.emsoa.org>  
2015 Newsletter



## Fall Meetings

### Mandatory Rule Interpretation Meetings:

All active referees **must** attend to one of these meetings.

- **North Chapter** - Sunday, August 30, 7:00 - 8:30 pm at Kitty's Restaurant, 123 Main St, North Reading, MA 01864 (rear entrance)
- **North Chapter** Thursday, September 3, 7:00 - 8:30 pm at Kitty's Restaurant, 123 Main St, North Reading, MA 01864 (rear entrance)
- **West Chapter** - Tuesday, September 8, 7:30 - 9:00 pm at The Crown Plaza Hotel, 320 Washington St, Newton, MA 02458 (Park in the hotel garage. No fee for parking if you get your ticket validated during the meeting.)
- **South Chapter** - Wednesday, September 2, 7:30 - 9:00 pm at Hanover High School, 287 Cedar Street, Hanover, MA 02339
- **All Chapters** – Sunday, September 13, 5:00 - 6:30 pm at VFW Post 2498, 20 Junction St, Needham, MA 02492

These dates and locations may change. Check the Calendar Page of the EMSOA web site for changes. All changes will be posted at least a few days before the scheduled meeting. There is no extra credit for attending more than one of these meetings.

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](http://www.emsoa.org/emsoa_calendar.html)).

### Regular Chapter Meetings:

You are required come to 2 of these meetings.

**North Chapter** - All meetings at Kitty's Restaurant, 123 Main Street, North Reading, MA (rear entrance)

- Sunday, September 20, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Sunday, October 11, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Thursday, October 29, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

**West Chapter** – All meetings at The Crown Plaza Hotel, 320 Washington St, Newton, MA 02458

- Tuesday, September 22, 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 6, 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 20, 7:30 - 9:00 pm

**South Chapter** - All meetings at Hanover High School, 287 Cedar Street, Hanover, MA

- Wednesday, September 16, 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 7, 7:30 - 9:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 - 9:00 pm

## **MIAA Background Check**

MIAA has created a new requirement for all game officials (soccer, football, field hockey, etc.). **YOU MUST APPLY FOR A BACKGROUND CHECK BEFORE JULY 31 AND BE CLEARED BY MIAA BEFORE THE SEASON STARTS.** Details (as known to EMSOA) can be found on the EMSOA web site at [http://www.emsoa.org/background\\_checks.html](http://www.emsoa.org/background_checks.html) . The web page will be updated as soon as more information is available. Referees are required to pay a fee for the background check. The fee has displeased many members but the fee is unavoidable if you are going to be doing games this Fall.

## **ArbiterSports.com**

ArbiterSports.com is the web site used by most assignors in the EMSOA area to assign games. There have been some changes in how referees are listed. When you sign in, you may notice that you have a choice of two lists: “EMSOA” and “North Shore Soccer Officials” All EMSOA referees are listed on the “EMSOA” list. Referees who accept assignments from Roy Condon, Al Cosentino and/or Jim O’Connell are also listed on the “North Shore Soccer Officials” list.

If you have not signed into ArbiterSports.com since last Fall, sign-in **now**. Go to the Profile tab. Check your personal information. Add or update your address and phone number(s) as necessary. If your e-mail address has changed since last Fall, you may have to sign-in with your old e-mail address. After you sign-in, go to the Profile tab and replace your old e-mail address with your new one.

## **Concussion Awareness**

The concussion awareness requirement online training is the same as it has been in the past several years. Massachusetts state law requires all sports officials to take one of the online concussion awareness courses **after** July 1, 2015 and **before** they start the season. When you take one of the online courses, print the completion certificate to paper and have the paper with you at every game site. Information about how to find a concussion awareness course can be found on the EMSOA web site (<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. There are other web sites with similar online concussion awareness training.

## **Code of Ethics**

As a member of EMSOA, you are required to follow the Code of Ethics that is spelled out in the EMSOA ByLaws. One item in the Code is “Honor any and all assignments accepted.” That means, when you have accepted a game assignment from a league commissioner (assignor), you shall be at that game. There are some reasonable exceptions such as a change in the schedule at your regular job, **BUT NEVER** turn back a game using ArbiterSports.com when the game starts less than 72 hours before you decide to

be removed from the game assignment. If the game will be start within 72 hours, immediately notify your assignor by telephone (if possible) about the need to be removed from the assignment. If the assignor does not answer the phone, leave a voice-mail message AND send an e-mail message immediately. Also, NEVER turn back a game from one assignor so that you are free to accept a game assignment from another assignor unless both assignors have agreed to the change in advance. That includes turning back a high school game to take a college game. Failure to follow this Code of Ethics rule may result in assignors refusing to give you future games and may result in your being removed from EMSOA membership.

## Know the Rules: What should the referee do?

Player A2 performs a bicycle kick and his foot passes close to the face of his teammate A4 who was moving in to head the ball. A4 jumps back. The referee should: (choose as many actions as necessary)

- Do nothing. No infraction has occurred
- Award an indirect free kick to Team B. A2 has committed a foul.
- Caution A2 by showing him a yellow card
- Eject A2 by showing him a red card. His team will continue play with 10.
- Eject A2 by showing him a yellow and red card. His team will continue play with 11.
- Award a direct free kick to Team B. A2 has committed a foul.

(Answer is on the last page of this newsletter.)

## Advantage



Advantage is called when there is a foul but letting play continue is good game management. Calling "Advantage" with a strong signal given both verbally and physically is important. Swing both hands forward from your hips at waist level while distinctly declaring, "Play on!" or "Advantage !" There are several people who should hear you —

- your partner;
- the fouled player and
- the player who committed the foul;
- the player who winds up with the ball and who must decide to keep playing or wait for the whistle;
- the other players in the area;
- the coach of the player who was fouled so dissent is lessened by some small amount;
- the parents of the fouled player, for the same reason; and
- perhaps most important, the overly aggressive teammate of the fouled player, the "protector."

If the protector gets the message that you saw the action, you recognized it as a foul, you have some awareness of the fouling player's number and you have the situation in hand, then the protector does not feel the need to retaliate. Simply by loudly verbalizing a properly made decision, you improve your match control and prevent problems.

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Answer to Know the Rules:

(b) NFHS Rule 12-6: Dangerous play is play which could cause injury to self or another player (opponent or teammate). This is different than a “dangerous play” foul in USSF where an opposing player must be nearby and is disadvantaged by the dangerous play