



Eastern Massachusetts Soccer Officials
Association
<http://www.emsoa.org>
2018 Newsletter



Fall Meetings

Mandatory Rule Interpretation Meetings:

All active referees **MUST** attend one of these meetings **OR** send a message **BEFORE** Sept 11, 2018 to emsoa@emsoa.org asking to be excused and briefly explaining why you cannot attend.

North Chapter - meetings at Loyal Order of Moose, 140 North St, North Reading, MA 01864.

- Sunday, August 26th, 2018, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
- Saturday September 8th, 2018, 9:30 am to 11:30 am

West Chapter meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 320 Washington St., Newton, MA.

- Tuesday, September 4th, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

South Chapter meeting at Hanover High School, 287 Cedar St., Hanover, MA.

- Tuesday, August 28th, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Dates and locations may change. Check this Calendar Page for changes.

All changes will be posted no later than a few days before the scheduled meeting. There is no extra credit for attending more than one of these meetings.

You can also meet your requirement by attending the Mandatory Rules Interpretation Meeting at another Massachusetts Soccer Officials Association. Make sure the Secretary/Treasurer of the other Association knows that you are from EMSOA. The nearby associations are:

Cape Cod Soccer Officials Association (www.capecodsoa.org/) at Yarmouth Police Dept., 340 Higgins Crowell Rd, Yarmouth, MA 02673

- Monday, August 27, 7:00 pm.

Central Massachusetts Soccer Officials Association (www.thecmsa.com) at St. John's High School, 378 Main St, Shrewsbury, MA.

- Date and time are TBD

Whaling City Soccer Officials Association (www.wcsoa.org/wcsoa/Home.html) at Our Lady of Angels Band Center, 1446 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, MA 02746,

- Wednesday, August 26, 6:30 pm.

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 should attend** at least one chapter meetings. You may attend a meeting at any chapter.

North Chapter - meetings at Loyal Order of Moose, 140 North St, North Reading, MA 01864.

- Thursday September 27th, 2018 @ 7:00pm to 9:00 pm
- Thursday November 1st 2018 @ 7:00pm to 9:00 pm (tournament rules review)

West Chapter meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 320 Washington St., Newton, MA.

- Tuesday. September 25, 7:00 to 9:00 pm
- Tuesday. October 30, 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

South Chapter meeting at Hanover High School, 287 Cedar St., Hanover, MA.

- Tuesday, September 18th, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
- Tuesday, October 23rd, 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm

Dates and locations may change. Check this Calendar Page for changes.

MIAA Registration and Background Check

MIAA background checks are good for 3 years. That means that most members need to register for a background check while registering with MIAA for the 2018 soccer season. It has been 3 years since the background checks were first required. Registration and the background check (if necessary), go to the MIAA list on ArbiterSport.com. The address is:

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

The cost is \$10 to register for the soccer season plus \$35 for the background check. Payment is by credit/debit card only. The MIAA registration web site opens on July 1, 2018. Registration and the background check must be completed no later than the start of the Fall soccer season.

Concussion Training

Again this year, state law requires that you take an online concussion awareness training course. You need to pay attention to the material in the course even though you took the course last year and the year before. If an incident occurs, you need to know what to do immediately. Information about the required online training can be found on the EMSOA web site at:

<http://www.emsoa.org/concussions.html>

Shirt Policy for the 2018 Fall Season

The first choice for EMSOA referee should be to wear the new USSF style yellow shirt whenever possible during the regular season. If one of the teams is wearing a jersey which is mostly yellow, the referees should wear an alternate color shirt.

- Can the referees wear the old style USSF shirt?
YES, but both referees must wear the SAME STYLE and COLOR shirt
- If I get a new USSF shirt, do I have to buy it from OfficialSports.com.
NO, there are other suppliers who now sell the same style shirt at a lower price. For example, a member recently bought an identical shirt from Law Five for 20% less.

- Can the referees wear the old or new style NISOA shirt?
YES, but both referees must wear the SAME STYLE and COLOR shirt
- How will I know if the other EMSOA member will come to the game with the same shirt style and color that I will be wearing?
CALL, TEXT or E-MAIL your partner a day or two before the game and ask what shirt he/she plans to wear.
- How will I find my partner's cell phone number or e-mail address?
LOOK on ArbiterSports.com. All referees should list their cell phone number and e-mail address on the PROFILE tab of Arbiter and check the PUBLIC box. Checking the box makes the information available to others on the EMSOA list, but not to the World.
- What color should be used as the alternate color?
The Executive Board recommends black, but any color that is not the same as the color of one of the teams is acceptable. The important point is that both referees wear the SAME STYLE and COLOR shirt.

EMSOA referee assessment program

One of the benefits of being an EMSOA member is professional development through the EMSOA assessment program. It consists of having a referee assessor.

- observe one of your assigned HS games which utilizes the dual system
- take notes on the officiating team's performance
- conduct a post-game discussion
- file a written, formal report to you and only to you which you may use to help as a guide during your future assignments

Things for you to consider when deciding if this program could be helpful to you:

- There is no charge to you for this service. It is covered by your annual membership dues.
- The assessment report itself is confidential. It is distributed only to you.
- A summary of the report is submitted to the chapter assessor director for payment purposes only.

Your report belongs to you. If you believe that the assessment report reflects favorably on your performance and potential, you may choose to share some or all of the report with any league commissioner (assignor).

The priorities for scheduling an EMSOA assessment are

- Referees in their second or third season who have not been assessed previously
- Referees in the latter half of their first season
- Referees who have adequate experience at their current level and who wish to be considered for varsity, or for higher competitive varsity, assignments.

You can schedule an assessment by

- Contacting the most appropriate chapter assessment director concerning your interest to be a participant in the EMSOA assessment program for Fall 2018 regular season games.
- Since HS soccer league boundaries are not the same as the EMSOA chapter areas, you may contact any chapter assessment director with a request to be assessed. Your request may be re-directed among the three chapter directors of assessment.

The chapter directors of assessment are:

- (South) Walter Mortimer waltedmortimer@comcast.net
- (North) Michael Pelletier mpelletier@nii.net
- (West) Jim Livingston jim.livingston2@gmail.com

You Are Being Sued – Now What?

(adapted from NASO Association Newsletter Dec 2017)

You are being sued. You officiated a game and someone got injured or some nasty incident occurred. Maybe the legal notice you just received is about a game you did three years ago and you do not remember what happened. Now, you're about to spend some time in the legal system and you're wondering what to do. If you waited to take action until you found out that you are being sued, you're already too late. An official can't afford to wait for the lawsuit. You have to spend your entire career preparing for the lawsuit — but hoping it never comes. Here are some simple steps you can take prior to game day, on game day, and once the lawsuit is filed.

Before Game Day

Insurance

For the past several years, EMSOA carries liability insurance for referees who are working games at local high schools assigned by assignors recognized by EMSOA. If you are also working youth soccer games, games at private school assigned by an assignor not recognized by EMSOA or officiating other sports, you are not covered by the EMSOA insurance. You should consider obtaining additional liability insurance for those other games. The liability coverage from your homeowner's insurance often will not cover you for something that happened during a game you officiated.

Certification

If you are an EMSOA member, you are certified to work high school soccer games. Is your certification up to date? Have you have been skipping the Rules Interpretation meetings and Chapter meetings? Do you still have a copy of the NFHS rules book in your bag? Have you opened the book in the past year? If not, a lawyer could say that your knowledge of the rules has faded.

Concussion Training

Did you take the online concussion training before the season started? Do you have a copy of the completion certificate showing that you completed the course this year? The online training might seem

redundant because it changes little from year to year, but if you have not done the training this year, a lawyer can say that you are not fully aware of the signs of concussion and of your responsibilities when the injury happened.

Develop a good reputation

Coaches and parents complain often. Have you given them good cause for their complaints? A referee needs to show up on time with a professional looking uniform, act in a professional manner with the coaches, players and spectators, and handle the paperwork properly. People will remember whether the referee performed in a professional manner or was just doing the minimal possible.

On Game Day

Field Inspection and Players' Equipment

Did you and your partner walk the field before the game? Did you check the goals? Did you ask the coaches of both teams if they will take responsibility for their players being properly equipped? (No jewelry etc.) There may be hazards that you cannot see hazard standing on the touch line near the home team's bench area.

Reports and Notes

If you are doing a varsity game, did you sign the roster and write a note about any significant injury or other incident during the game? If there are any significant events during the game, you should notify your assignor of the event and make a written record of the event for yourself as soon as you get home. You should also ask your partner to send you a copy of his/her notes. Keep those notes until the youngest player on the field on game day turns 21.

Once the Lawsuit Is Filed

As soon as you have been notified that a lawsuit has been filed, contact the insurance company. For games you have done as an EMSOA referee, the EMSOA Secretary/Treasurer can help you get in touch with the insurance company. The insurer can advise the official and refer him/her to legal counsel. At this point, the referee is in the hands of his attorney. However, the attorney's hand will be stronger if the referee did the right things prior to being sued.

Have You Moved?

If your mailing address has change in the past year, you need to (1) send a message to emsoa@emsoa.org, (2) post the new address on the Profile page of ArbiterSports.com, and (3) tell your assignor. You must to do all three of these actions. Do not assume that by taking one action, the information will be get to the other people or places.