



July 2008 Newsletter

GCSOA.com changes

In an effort to make better use of your time off the field, changes have been made to www.gcosa.com. We have recently added the following features:

1. **Calendar – USSF – OHSAA – NOCSA dates added**
2. **Survey – A chance to poll our members on topics of interest**
3. **Bulletin Board – a convenient place for the topics you choose.**

As your schedule allows, please review these additions. Your input and feedback are always welcome. We will post the survey results in the monthly newsletter.

Save money on referee equipment

GCSOA is please to announce that the **Soccer Center** is the preferred equipment provider for **GCSOA**.

The **Soccer Center** will provide GCSOA members a **15 %** discount on all Official Sports equipment. In addition to discounts on Official Sports equipment, the Soccer Center will provide GCSOA members the same 15 % discount for all other non sale items in stock or by special order.

Please watch for additional information in the newsletter and on the web site.

The Soccer Center can be found online at www.soccercenterohio.com.



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Upcoming meetings of interest

USSF Upgrade Clinic (Grade 8 to 7)

Saturday, August 9th and Sunday, August 10th

Tri-C West, Parma, OH

Fitness Test - 10:00 am (Saturday), track on York Road side of the building.

Classroom portion to follow on Saturday and all day Sunday.

Please contact [Tom Lewis \(ASRA - Cleveland District\)](#) for additional information

2009 State Referee Recertification Clinic

Saturday, August 9th

Tri-C West, Parma, OH

Fitness Test - 10:00 am, track on York Road side of the building.

Written Test - 11:30 am, Room A-223

NOCSSOA events

August 2 (Sat) Physical Run & Rules Clinic

Written Refresher Test Tri C West 9:00 AM

Run 11:00 AM Clinic & Test



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New Soccer Referee Class

Greater Cleveland Soccer Officials Association (GCSOA) will be sponsoring a **new soccer referee class** on **August 2nd** (Saturday) and **Aug 3rd** (Sunday) at the **Tri C West campus in Parma.**

These classes are designed for new referees of any age. It provides the student with all the information necessary to pass the USSF tests and begin to referee soccer matched at any level (recreational, travel and premier).

The class will run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm both days in Room A-227. Student fees for the course are \$50.00 per student.

At the end of the first day, the Grade 9 (recreational test) will be given. The second day is the bridge class from Grade 9 to Grade 8.

Our local USSF chapter will administer both tests and collect all necessary USSF fees.

To register, please go to www.gcsOA.com/forms and fill out the [2008 GCSOA Membership form](#) and send the completed form and a check for \$ 50.00 to Al Wesolowski (address on the form).

Students over 18 must complete the [risk management process](#). Information on this process can be found at www.oysan.org

For additional information, please e-mail Steve Sheehy at ssheehy@gcsOA.com or call (440) 670-7370



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2008 High School Meeting dates

Monday – July 28	State Rules meeting	CCC East	7:00 PM – 8:15 PM
Monday – July 28	local rules meeting	CCC East	8:30 PM – 9:45 PM
Sunday – August 3	local rules meeting	CCC West	7:00 PM – 8:15 PM
Sunday – August 10	local rules meeting	CCC West	7:00 PM – 8:15 PM
Sunday – August 17	local rules meeting	CCC West	7:00 PM – 8:15 PM
Sunday – August 24	local rules meeting	CCC West	7:00 PM – 8:15 PM
Sunday – September 7	local rules meeting	CCC West	7:00 PM – 8:15 PM
Sunday – September 14	local rules meeting	CCC West	7:00 PM – 8:15 PM
Sunday – October 5	local rules meeting	CCC West	7:00 PM - 8:15 Pm

CCC East address is 4250 Richmond Road, Highland Hills Village, Ohio 44122-6195
 CCC West address is 11000 Pleasant Valley Road, Parma, Ohio 44130-5199

The 2008 High School assigning fees are \$30.
 Adult GCSOA membership dues for 2008 are \$30

If you have fees due, please make the check payable to GCSOA.
 Al Wesolowski will collect fees at the July 28th meeting

Note: OHSAA requires referees to attend one state rules meeting and four local rules meeting each year.

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How to get games

I get two or three calls / e-mails per week from young referees or mothers of young referees. One question is consistent. My son/daughter just got his/her license, how does he/she get games. While not the only way, here is the advice I give them.

1. Call the local parks and recreation department.

Ask the local parks and recreation department who assigns the local recreational games in your community or a surrounding community that you are willing to commute to. These recreational assigners are frequently looking for additional referee and can be a good source for local games.

2. Go to specific web sites

www.gcsOA.com
www.aasl.com
www.nogsl.com
www.oasl.com

All of these web sites will list contact information for assigners. Many will divide the assigning into suburbs. Call the assigners in your area and let them know of your interest. Be prepared to talk about what kinds of experience you have. Follow up the call with an e-mail and check your e-mail regularly. Make it easy for the assigner to contact you and assign you games. GCSOA will post a link to send an e-mail to the assigners the week of many upcoming tournaments.

3. Develop a relationship with an assigner.

Make consistent contact with an assigner that you like to work with. Get to your games on time, and do the best job possible. Assigners are likely to continue to give you assignments if you make their job easier. Let the assigners know of issues or problems.



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How to get games – continued

4. Be proactive

Assigning is a tough job and many do not have the time to return every call. Always leave your phone number on the message. Check your e-mail daily and return calls and e-mails from assigners. Getting the license was the 1st step, getting the games assigned to you is also your job.



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2008 Dates to remember

July 25-27	Boys ADIDAS National Showcase
July 28	OHSAA State Rules Interpretation meeting
Aug 2/3	New Referee class – TRI C West
August / September	OHSAA local rules meeting – 4 are required
October	OYSAN Bothwell Cup
November 8-9	Brunswick Fall Classic Madison Invitational
December 14 th	GCSOA Annual business meeting
December / Jan / Feb	USSF recertification process



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New Uniforms – questions asked and answered

Do I have to throw out all of my referee jerseys and buy new ones?

No. The previous jersey design is perfectly acceptable. You should not feel obligated to discard these still-approved referee jerseys in order to purchase the new design. Purchases of the new uniform may be made when you need a new jersey or you want to add an additional color. This is also true for the socks.

What if I show up to a game and I have a referee jersey that is the previous design and the referee, or referees, I am working with has a referee jersey that is the new design?

You may all work the game in the jerseys you have. It is acceptable if one or two referees have the previous design and the others have the new design. It is more important that they be the same color. A referee assessor may not deduct points for a crew that has mismatched uniform designs, provided that the uniforms feature approved designs and are the same color.

Will there come a time when the new jersey design will be the only design that will be recognized by U.S. Soccer?

There is no date set, and no plans to set a date, by which the old jerseys will be “phased out.” To be clear, both the old and new designs comply with the “Standards of Dress and Appearance” listed in the referee administrative handbook – the only differences are aesthetic. For the old jerseys to be phased out, it would require a change to these Standards, and U.S. Soccer would not make such a change without providing a fair amount of lead time to the entire referee community. It should be noted, however, that OSI has ceased manufacturing the previous design.