



March 2008 Newsletter

Tournament Schedule

Working soccer tournaments can be a great way to refine your craft, see new teams and work with different referees. It is a great opportunity to drive to a single location, and do a set of games. Below you will find the current list of tournaments. The list can also be found on the [GCSOA](http://GCSOA.com) web site.

TOURNAMENT	SITE	DATES	CONTACT(S)
U14-19 Northern Ohio Cup	Lodi	Apr 11 - 13	Wayne Wilson Brian Miller
U8-13 Northern Ohio Cup	Lodi	Apr 18 - 20	Wayne Wilson Brian Miller
OYSAN State Cup	Toledo	May 16 - 18	Terry Thompson
Westlake Invitational Tournament	Westlake	May 23 - 25	Wayne Wilson Jerry Bahnij
Circle City Classic	Tallmadge	May 23 - 26	Dusty Matthews
Euclid Memorial Classic	Euclid	May 24 - 25	Jim Elmore
OYSAN State Cup Finals	Akron	May 31 - June 1	TBA
Parker Memorial Tournament	Willoughby	June 6 - 8	Brian Miller
MIST	Medina	June 6 - 8	Jon Handwerk
Avon Lake Father's Day Tournament	Avon Lake	June 13 - 16	Brian Miller
Continental Cup	Willoughby	July 3 - 6	Wayne Wilson Brian Miller
NOSO Cup	North Olmsted	July 5 - 6	Wayne Wilson Jerry Bahnij
Adidas National HS Girls Showcase	Strongsville	July 18 - 20	Wayne Wilson Jerry Bahnij



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Total Soccer Preseason HS Boys Tourn.	Willoughby	July 18 - 20	Brian Miller
Adidas National HS Boys Showcase	Strongsville	July 25 - 27	Wayne Wilson Jerry Bahnij
Total Soccer Preseason HS Girls Tourn	Willoughby	July 25 - 27	Brian Miller
7 on 7 Tournament	Willoughby	Aug 23 - 24	Brian Miller
Bay Challenge Cup	Bay Village	Aug 30 - Sep 1	TBA
CASA Cup	Lodi	Sep 13 -14	Wayne Wilson Brian Miller
US Club Soccer State Cup	Lodi	Oct 11-12	Wayne Wilson Brian Miller
Bothwell Cup	Akron & Wadsworth	Oct 17 -19	Dusty Matthews
CASA Season Finale	Lodi	Oct 25 - 26	Wayne Wilson Brian Miller
Internationals Season Finale	North Canton	Oct 25 - 26	Wayne Wilson Brian Miller
Brunswick Fall Classic	Brunswick	Nov 8 - 9	Dave Griffiths
Madison Invitational Tournament	Madison	Nov 8 - 9	Don Tagliarina



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HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER REFEREE CLASS

Dates: July 15th, 16th, 17th, – 22nd, 23rd, 24th.

Week night classes from 6:30 PM to 9 PM.

Saturdays: July 19 and 26th – 9 to 5 PM. (The 26th is the Test Date)

Where: Cuyahoga Community College – West

11000 Pleasant Valley Rd – Parma (Look for room signs posted inside)

Cost: \$95.00; includes OHSAA Enrollment Fee

Venue: This course is the only one offered in the Greater Cleveland area and is sponsored by The Greater Cleveland Soccer Officials Association. It meets OHSAA requirements to become a Certified High School Soccer Official. You will be trained on the Rules and Mechanics from experienced officials.

Contact: John Kipp – OHSAA Certified Instructor
(216) 401-1333 or email to: kipster10@roadrunner.com for any additional information or if you have any questions about the course. Day contact can also be made at: 330-220-0558.



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How to get games – Advice to newer referees

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 assignors are frequently looking for additional referee and can be a good source for local games. These are great ways to get started and not travel too far. The downside is, you are typically working alone and have no one to ask questions or get advice from.

We strongly urge younger / newer referees to ref tournaments, tell the assignor you want to do lines for experienced referees and ask questions about everything (at the appropriate time).

While the new referee class prepares you to pass the test, many important techniques and skills are not covered in depth based on time commitments.

2. **Go to specific web sites**

www.gcsOA.com

www.aasloh.net

www.nogsl.com

www.oasl.us

All of these web sites will list contact information for assignors. 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.



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How to get games – Advice to newer referees - continued

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.

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 first step, getting the games assigned is your job.

Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game

During a recent referee continuing education seminar sponsored by Ohio North, our visiting instructor recommended a thorough review of the Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game. This 100-page paperback is available from www.ussoccer.com/referee. It is not a replacement for the Laws of the Game, nor is it a “how to” book on refereeing. It is an official State of Federation interpretations of the Law. I received my copy a week ago and have spent several hours with the book. I can recommend it to anyone serious about being current with the Federation’s advice on how the game should be managed.



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Futsal comes to Cleveland to stay

2007 saw the arrival of Futsal in a big way. The Cleveland Futsal league played games at the Ohio Nets facility in Parma from November 2007 thru March of 2008. Teams of boys and girls from age U9 thru high school competed.

League Director, Chris Dore paired with Otto Orf, and Frank Griffith made up the management team for this league. Jason Knarc is the local rules interpreter and taught several instructional classes this fall. Approximately twenty local referees attended the classes and have earned the right to wear the light blue USSF Futsal referee badge. Plans for 2008-2009 with the Cleveland Futsal League include expanded playing times, additional teams and additional locations. More certified local referees will be needed to meet this demand. Please watch this newsletter and www.gcsOA.com for announcements concerning USSF Futsal referee classes in October and November.

March Birthday List – partial

Below you will find a partial list of our members who had the good fortune to celebrate their birthday in February.

Ciraldo, Nick	Mertens, Wayne
Dodds, Mary	Prentice, Sarah
Gisser, Kyle	Rokas, Joe
Goellnitz, Mark	Rubin, Neil
Heglas, Michael	Strong, Jamie
Larson, Kirsten	Tarls, Jim
	Vickers, David

GCSOA Newsletter

The GCSOA newsletter will be sent via e-mail to all GCSOA members monthly.

Several days later, a PDF will be available on the [web site](#) for those members that e-mail systems will not accept this e-mail or those non-GCSOA referees that may care to read the newsletter. Your suggestions to improve the newsletter or the process are appreciated.



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Web Site Changes

Our web site continues to change and evolve. Recently we added two new sections. A page with historical copies of the newsletter has been added. By choosing the [Newsletter](#) link, you are taken to a web page that allows you to read the current past GCSOA newsletters. Our mission statement for the newsletter is to send it electronically to all GCSOA members that have provided a valid e-mail address. We have difficulty delivering the newsletter electronically to some members. A suggestion raised at the 2007 Annual Business Meeting was made to allow access from the web site. We have developed this page and will store historical copies for your reading pleasure.

Another common topic that we hear from referees is that they cannot find the form or document that they need. Every year we look for the documents that outlines the difference between USSF, NFHS and college rules. We have also added a [Forms](#) web page. It contains commonly used forms and links to commonly used documents. As your schedule allows, spend a few minutes on this page. If you have proposed additions of forms and or documents that you believe will help the majority of our referees, please send me an [e-mail](#) with the information and we will review its possible addition.

A few minor changes were made in the placement and order of the navigation buttons on the side. Early reports indicate the new structure is similar to the original version and easier for user.

As I spend time with the web site, I am struck by something. Since [Paul Noll](#) left, the amount of pictures that we display on the web site has dropped significantly. Paul is a great photographer and loved it, but we would like to see more pictures of this generation referee at work and play. Consider taking referee pictures and or sending along the pictures you already have so that others can enjoy.



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2008 Dates to remember

April	Outdoor soccer in Ohio
April 11-13	Northern Ohio Cup U 14 – U 19
April 18-20	Northern Ohio Cup U 8 – U 13
May 23-25	Westlake Invitational
May 24-25	Euclid Memorial
May	OYSAN State Cup
	North Coast League begins play
June 1 – 30	OHSAA Officiating permit renewal
June 13-16	Avon Lake Father's Day Tournament
July / August	OHSAA State Rules meeting
July 5-6	NOSO Cup
July 15 – 26	High School Soccer Referee class
July 18-20	Girls ADIDAS National Showcase
July 25-27	Boys ADIDAS National Showcase
July 28	OHSAA State Rules Interpretation meeting
August / September	OHSAA local rules meeting – 4 are required
October	OYSAN Bothwell Cup
November 8-9	Brunswick Fall Classic
	Madison Invitational
December	GCSOA Annual business meeting
December / Jan / Feb	USSF recertification process



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New Uniforms – questions asked and answered

[Official Sports](#) now has in stock the new referee uniforms. The new uniforms have sparked several questions. The following questions and answers are provided by www.ussoccer.com as of 1/31/08.

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.