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RE: Year End Report

Although 12 year olds have been refereeing in Indiana, and throughout the United States, for the past 40+ years, in 2012 we had to suspend the use of 12 year old referees from participating in the games as referees. In some states (Ohio), there are children as young as 9 years old who are referees.

How did it all start?

A parent inquired about the age when a child may be able to become a referee. When he received my response, he forwarded my e-mail to the Indiana Department of Labor (DOL). The State Referee Committee was then notified that we may not assign referees under age 14 to games since it would violate the Child Labor Laws. Although referees are not employed and are independent contractors, we elected not to use children under 14 years old after meeting with the DOL to avoid future issues.



Matthew Burkart, a 12 year old referee from Newburgh, Indiana was disappointed when he received my e-mail notification to all referees (approximately 281 referees) who were under the age of 14 advising them that they will not be able to referee in 2012 until they become 14 years old unless the legislators change the Child Labor Laws in Indiana.

Matthew wrote, and provided impeccable detailed research and supporting documentation, to Senator Vaneta Becker and Representative Suzanne Crouch seeking their help in changing the law so that referees who are 12 years old are able to referee again.

Thanks to Murry Clark, Indiana Soccer President, and Dave Guthrie, Indiana Soccer Executive Director; we were able to meet with the General Council and the Commissioner at the DOL and strategized our next step in allowing children under 14 to referee. Although it was a long process that started in March 2012, on January 16, 2013 Matthew received a call from Senator Becker informing him that the Chairman of the Pensions and Labor Committee has asked for him to attend the Committee's meeting to speak in support of the bill. Murry Clark, Dave Guthrie and I will be there to support Matthew. I invite all that are able to come to the hearing on Wednesday, January 23 at 9:00 in Room 233 and show your support for Matthew and the young children wishing to be referees at the age of 12.

The Cups

The Adult, Youth State Cup, the President's Cup, and the Challenge Cup continue to be very successful events. The tournament and Cup Committee spend hundreds of hours in preparation for these events. The need for the referees participation continue to increase since we are playing all the cup events at the same time to minimize the number of week-ends the referees has to be away from their families to help make these events successful.

There were approximately 350+ referees that participated in all these events. Of these referees, three we selected to the USASA Region II Championships, 15 were selected to the Youth Nationals, and 5 selected to the Presidents' Cup.

The Tournament of Champions – Again in Indiana

Indiana Soccer hosted the tournament for the fourth year in Fort Wayne. With the help of Dave Guthrie and Angel Hall, we have exceeded expectations of the Region II Administrators and the State Association Presidents. We have received outstanding reports of how Indiana's efforts in the preparation for the event, housing, food, beverage and the performance of the Indiana Referees. Indiana Soccer and the State Referee Committee jointly provided the financial support to ensure that every player, coach, administrator and referee were well fed and provided ample beverage to enjoy. There were five (5) referees and one (1) mentor from Indiana that were selected and participated in the TOC.

Name	Grade	City
Brian Di Piro	6	Indianapolis
Eduardo Nieto	6	Fort Wayne
Jonathan Bowen	8	Fort Wayne
Vlade Jovevski	5	Fort Wayne
Vinh Trinh	7	Fort Wayne
Samir Yasa	Mentor	Noblesville

Adult Regionals

In 2012, Indiana hosted the Region II Adult Regional in Fort Wayne, Indiana at the Fort Wayne Sports Club. Twelve (12) referees and one (1) assessor from Indiana were selected to be part of this top event.

Name	Grade	City
Andrew Bigelow	National	Auburn
Ron Harnage	National	Indianapolis
Brandon Rinkenberger	National	Bloomington
Shahid Rashid	5	Indianapolis
Joshua Kelley	5	Indianapolis
Ali Banane	6	Indianapolis
Matthew McIntyre	6	Evansville
Eduardo Nieto	6	Fort Wayne
Christine Spradlin	7	Logansport
Jim Bowen	7	Fort Wayne
Kyle Green	7	Fort Wayne
Vinh Trinh	7	Fort Wayne
Samir Yasa	5	Noblesville



US Youth Soccer President's Cup National Championship

The selection of referees to represent a state association at the National Championship is made by the Region II Youth Referee Administrator based on the performance exhibited. Below is a list of 4 referees from Indiana that were selected to referee at the President's Cup Nationals:

Indiana Referees - 2012 President's Cup Nationals		
Name	Grade	City
Joseph Brice	5	Goshen
Kristen O'Dell	7	Goshen
Kyle Costa	7	Lowell
Leonardo Mercado	7	South Bend



ODP Camp

There were four (4) referees selected to attend the 2012 ODP camps in Illinois.

Indiana Referees - 2012 ODP Camp		
Name	Grade	City
Kyle Costa	7	Lowell
Grant Reed	8	Muncie
Thomas Pieprzycki	8	Chesterton
Trevor Duncanson	8	Dyer

Numbers – Quality vs. Quantity

Category	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Total Referees	3730	3599	3145	3075	2,918
New Referees	1212	787	973	1188	1,909
Entry Level Clinics	44	37	41	50	29
Recert Referees	2518	2812	2172	1887	1,720
Recert Clinics	50	63	63	59	41
Percentage returning	67.50%	75.50%	69%	61%	65.7%
Assignors	92	98	87	80	76
Instructors	34	33	25	24	25
Assessors	26	23	21	17	12

Survey – Striving to Improve

Self-Assessment is critical in determining referee retention. The Indiana State Referee Committee was the first in the country to perform a formal survey to inquire from current and former referees to find out why referees are not returning, how training could be improved and what other tools are needed to improve refereeing. The survey was sent to 1,200+ referees. Below are the results of the top three reasons why referees are not returning:

1. What is the #1 reason that you did not recertify for 2012?

- 21.58% - Family/Social Commitments: My work/school schedule does not allow me time to referee
- 19.42% - I did not receive ANY or enough assignments to make it worth my investment
- 12.94% - I moved for work/college

2. What is the #2 reason that you did not recertify for 2012?

- 29.90% - Family/Social Commitments: My work/school schedule does not allow me time to referee
- 12.23% - I prefer to coach or play rather than referee
- 11.51% - I did not receive ANY or enough assignments to make it worth my investment

3. What is the #3 reason that you did not recertify for 2012?

- 25.18% - Other
- 11.51% - I did not receive ANY or enough assignments to make it worth my investment
- 10.07% - Family/Social Commitments: My work/school schedule does not allow me time to referee

Other questions on the survey:

4. Do you believe you were a good fit as a referee?

94% said yes, 6% said no

5. Do you feel you were adequately trained?

92% said yes, 8% said no

6. Were you paired with an experienced referee or mentor your first 3 months?

58% said yea, 42% said no

7. Did you feel your assignments were within your capabilities as a referee?

10% said low, 5% said too high and 85% agreed the assignments were appropriate

8. Was there a noticeable official onsite where you refereed that could assist you if you needed help?

51% said no, 49% said yes

9. Would you have benefited from additional training?

61% said yes, 39% said no

10. Does your local assignor work with you on getting assignments/games?

64 said yes, 36% said no

11. Was the cost of travel too expensive for the amount of pay you received?

82% said no, 18% said yes

12. Did you know you needed to recertify/licensed each year?

94% said yes, 6% said no

13. If an online recertification class was offered, would you be more likely to recertify?

107 said yes, 32 said no

14. Are you considering a return to refereeing in the future?

77% said yes, 23% said no

The Assessment Program

- Current assessor grades for 2012: 15
- Referee Assessors: 6
- State Assessors: 5
- Emeritus National Assessors: 1
- National Assessors: 2

Referee Assessments- Upgrade

- Total assigned assessments: 30, 180% more than the previous year
- From Referee grade 8 to grade 7: 14, 75% more than the previous year
- From Referee grade 7 to State grade 6: 15, 15 more referees than the previous year
- From State grade 6 to State grade 5: 1
- From State grade 5 to Provisional National Referee Candidate: 2

Pending Assessments

- From grade 8 to grade 7: 16, 25% more than the previous year
- From grade 6 to grade 6: 3
- From grade 6 to grade 5: 2

Referee Assessments- Maintenance

- Total Assessment assigned and recorded: 36, 18% less than the previous year. Those who fail to meet the requirements are downgraded, which is why the assessments were reduced in numbers

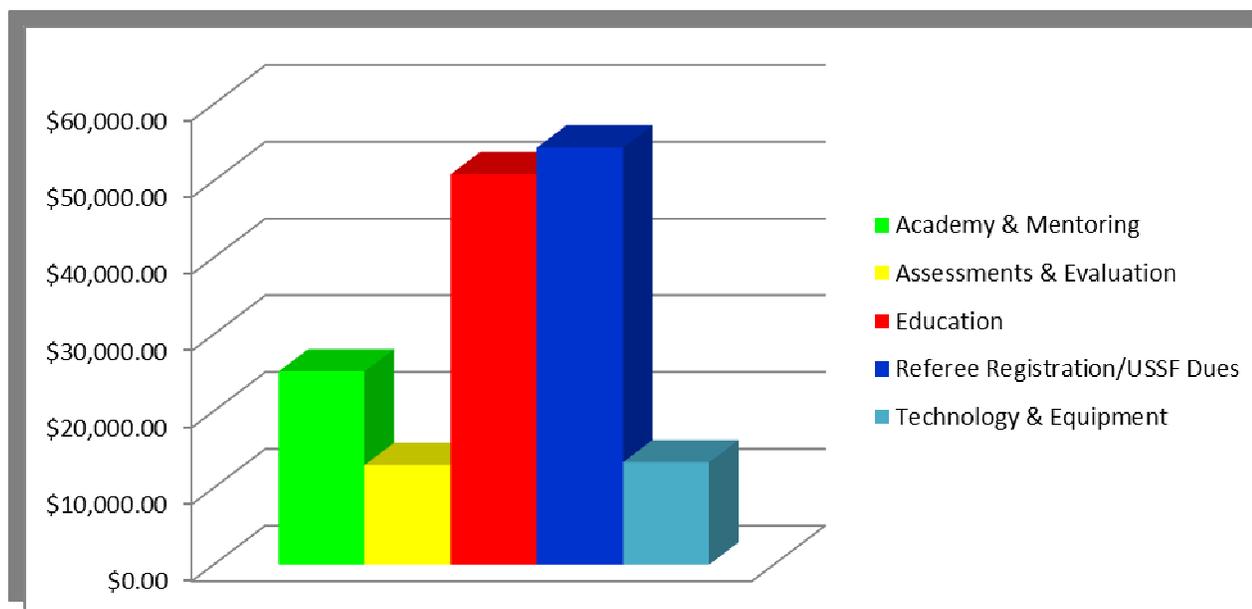
Accomplishments:

- Indiana Soccer State and Challenge Cup Preliminary Rounds had assessors at every site
- Indiana Soccer State Semi-Finals and Finals had 5 assessors in attendance
- Three assessors attended USYSA Region II tournament in Saginaw, MI in June.
- Two Assessors were invited to the USASA Region II tournament in Fort Wayne, IN in June
- One Assessor was invited to the Tournament of Champions in Fort Wayne, IN in June

The Instruction Program

- 27 active instructors in 2012
- Of these 27, 6 are grade 9
- 3 are grade 5
- 18 are grade 7

Financial Summary – Major Expenditures



Academy & Mentoring	\$25,153.26
Assessments & Evaluation	\$12,965.54
Education	\$50,863.41
Referee Registration/USSF Dues	\$54,327.50
Technology & Equipment	\$13,332.05

Thank You

Thanks to Murray Clark, Dave Guthrie and the staff at the soccer office, the League Presidents and Commissioners for their support of the referees and their partnership in improving the game to reach the goal of “Creating A Better Environment” for all kids and adults to enjoy the game.

Thanks to all the referees who participated in the league play, Preliminary Rounds, and the Finals of the Youth State Cup, Challenge Cup, Region II Championships, the Adults State Cup, the USASA Region II Championships, the TOC and the ODP.

Thanks to the assignors who spent hundreds of hours to ensure that all the games were covered by the most qualified and capable referees available.

Thank you to the assessors, mentors, instructors and District Referee Administrators who made the games and events in 2012 successful.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samir Yasa', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval border.

Samir Yasa
State Referee Administrator
State Youth Referee Administrator