

CASRA Members – thank you for another outstanding year of hard work and tireless commitment to our organization!! Your efforts combined made it possible for assignors to provide full coverage on over 8000 games this year...a truly amazing feat! Please continue the trend as we head into 2020 and begin games as early as mid-January.

Our end of year party was a great success! Special thanks go out to Terry Conway for organizing the event, food and drinks. Thank you to Mark Rowell for coordinating a room at the Carolina Ice Palace for us to use. And a HUGE thank you goes out to SCORE Sports for donating several items for us to raffle off to our members, The Referee Store for the coins we used as gifts for everyone. Also, thank you to Bucky Jones and Kris Kenney for sponsoring the event through their own contributions. We had 75 members and guests committee to the event and ~50 showed up. Keep in mind that CASRA pays for the food/drinks based on members who say they're going to attend. You can help in the future by notifying me of any changes in your availability up to and including the day of the event. For those that weren't able to attend, I hope to see you all next year! Below are some of the highlights from the meeting:

Election results:

Vice President – Nick Michael
Treasurer – Mark Rowell
Mentor Chair – Jim Klein

Join me in congratulating our new and returning board members!! Thank you to Sam Hosig for his time as Vice President over the past 4 years. His efforts, feedback and suggestions were a huge part of what makes our organization so successful.

Arbiter SYSTEM CLEAN UP:

If you do not plan on refereeing in 2020 or have moved out of the area and will not be returning, please let me know so I can remove you from the system.

All games will be removed from the system on Jan 18th. This gives you plenty of time to download your games for tracking game count towards upgrade. To download:

1. Login to Arbiter and click on Schedule
2. Under REPORTS on the left side, click Schedule
3. Enter the From/To dates and select the format you want your games exported in
4. Click Print Preview and save the form to your computer.
5. GAMES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AFTER I REMOVE THEM

CSL Pay Raise:

1. Charleston Soccer League Adult Amateur referees will receive a pay raise for working CSL games beginning with the 2020 season. Men's 11v11 will now pay \$70/\$45/\$45 and Coed will pay \$60/\$40/\$40. This is an increase for both 11v11 leagues. Short sided games will continue to pay \$30 each.

2. Pay raises were focused primarily on center referee pay in an effort to increase desire to work middles on Adult games.

“What do I need to do in order to get higher paying games?”

A discussion was held during the meeting to discuss this topic. Several referees and parents of youth referees ask how they can receive assignments other than AR's on U11/12 games. The answer is simple – BECOME A CENTER REFEREE!

1. We have too many referees who want to work as AR's only and never show an interest in centering a match. We all understand being nervous about having the responsibility as the center official during the match, we all started there. But you cannot learn how to do it if you never try. Practice only makes you better!! Mistakes are expected and you learn from them each time.
2. Each year, 100+ new referees sign up and need a place to start as AR's. If you are unwilling to work centers, you greatly limit the number of assignments available to you.

3. Higher level games require more of a team effort and cannot be left to the center referee alone to call the game and need AR's who can identify and are willing to call fouls.
4. Contact your assignor if you are interested in stepping up and working centers.
5. Coastal PDL is a great opportunity for us to get inexperienced referees a chance to become comfortable working centers on lower level games. The 1st and 2nd periods of these games are non-competitive and **yelling at the referees from coaches and parents is strictly forbidden** and will be handled immediately upon notifying the club. Contact the Coastal PDL assignor (Kris Kenney) if you have any spectator or coach issues during the match.
6. These games are for learning/training purposes. AR1 should be centering the 1st period and AR2 centering the 2nd period for experience and exposure as a center referee. The 3rd period is competitive and should be centered by the person listed as Referee in Arbiter.
7. Make sure you do a self-evaluation after every match and ask questions of the referee crew so you can learn. Refs don't learn if they don't receive feedback.

CASRA Dues:

1. We are operating under the new CASRA Dues system now. No dues required until June 1st, 2020.
2. Other than brand new, 1st year USSF registered referees, ALL RETURNING MEMBERS PAY \$20. There is no longer a student/non-student dues structure. Those returning to CASRA after a break in membership or moving to the area as a certified USSF referee will have to pay the membership fee upon joining.

Meeting Location Needed:

With the closure of MUSC Health Stadium, CASRA has lost the use of the 3 Lions Pub to hold our training classes and General Membership meetings. If anyone has access to a room that can accommodate 50-60 people (audio/visual equipment is a plus), please let me know. The organization cannot afford to pay much for access to space, but we will entertain any and all suggestions.

Thank you again for an outstanding year!! I wish you all the safest of holidays and hope you get to spend quality time with family and/or friends. I'll see you on the pitch next year!!

Happy Holidays,
John Kenney
CASRA President