

## CASRA General Membership Meeting Minutes – Aug 24, 2025

Meeting brought to order at 6:07pm by the CASRA President (John Kenney)

- John welcomed everyone and thanked them all for attending. New CASRA members and first-time meeting attendees introduced themselves to the membership and were welcomed by all.
- John addressed the fact that we haven't had a meeting in a while due to time commitments on several people's part but will work on having more regular General Membership Meetings in the future (shooting for at least every two months)

Kris Kenney was introduced as the new State Assignments Coordinator (SAC) for the South Carolina Referee Committee (SRC). Kris also addressed tournaments and expectations for making yourself ready to work and receive assignments.

Bucky Jones was introduced to everyone as the Area Referee Administrator for the Lowcountry. Bucky is sending out a registration email and was very happy with CASRA. Noted that we have the best & strongest soccer referee community here in the Charleston area.

Adam Kernan was introduced as the new Rules & Compliance Chair for SCYSA and will be directly involved in investigating and recommending sanctions for any ejections/dismissals of any person directly involved with incidents before, during or after a soccer match.

John continued and covered the following information:

1. Arbiter – Total Arbiter licenses are currently at 340 with 333 in use - 41 of those referees are marked as Not Ready due to various reasons. CASRA will purchase more if needed as new referees are added.
2. League information/updates:
  - a. Leagues have started - plan on all leagues in full gear after Labor Day.
    - i. What does that mean? **PLEASE UPDATE YOUR BLOCKS!** Highly recommended you keep your blocks updated for at least 2 weeks out.
    - ii. Have Arbiter Pay accounts setup and ready for tournaments and some leagues
    - iii. Contact me if you have questions about Arbiter setup and usages
  - b. Pay raises for OPEN/PMSL and NL leagues as well as ECNL & ECNL-RL
  - c. MLS Next will have some games in our area. Rick Rogers has sent an email to several referees with his intention on assigning them to these matches. Local assignors will not be handling these games. Any issues during these matches will be handled by Rick and/or Bucky.
  - d. CSL starts on Sep 2<sup>nd</sup> – first full Sunday for Men's games is Sep 7<sup>th</sup>. Men's 11v11 games will play on Sundays and some Tuesday nights. Women's 8v8 and Men's O35 8v8 will play Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
  - e. Mount Pleasant Coed begins 8/27 and runs Monday and Wednesday evenings.

- f. Area clubs are participating in several new leagues (Girls Academy, ECNL-RL, Pre-ECNL (U11/12), NPL, DPL, E64RL (now known as USYS Club Premier).
    - i. Please make sure to read and follow the rules for the league in which you're working.
    - ii. Keep in mind that there may be games from different leagues stacked together and the framework for each league may be different.
    - iii. If you do not follow the league guidelines, you setup your fellow referees for failure and frustrate players, coaches and spectators.
  - g. It is requested that everyone please put the scores in Arbiter after every game so there's a record in case the scores are reported incorrectly by a Team Manager, Coach or staff member. This can be accomplished by clicking on the symbol that look like a piece of paper next to the game number in your schedule tab. If you hover your mouse of the symbol, it was display "Create Report". Information that should be entered into the report:
    - i. Ensure the Game Status is correct. A game that was a forfeit is not "Normal" and should be changed to "Forfeit" so assignors are aware that you need to be paid by the league.
      1. Do not collect any money for a forfeit or no show as the team at fault is required to pay the entire amount and the league will send a check to you.
      2. Assignors have no way of tracking if/when you've been paid so it's your responsibility to let the assignor know before the season ends if you haven't been paid yet.
3. John discussed USSF Reports:
- a. USSF Referee and Supplemental Reports are required for any player, coach, spectator ejection whether it be a double caution or straight red card.
  - b. USSF Supplemental only, suffices for injury reporting
  - c. Use the proper Referee ranks – Grassroots, Regional, National, etc. Do not use Grade 8,7,6, etc.
  - d. Use the correct terminology when talking about the field (i.e. Penalty Area – not Box)
  - e. Make sure to use the standard caution/ejection codes (PO, DT, FRD, etc.)
  - f. State only facts – no opinion.
  - g. Reports should be written and submitted within 24 hours. It's recommended that you write the report the evening of the match, then save it and look at it again in the morning before sending. This will help avoid any opinion or emotions being stated in the report.
  - h. Luc Georget pointed out that mentors can assist with report writing. This is also true for assignors and other experienced referees. John pointed out that he's willing to review a USSF Report for you prior to it being submitted and make any recommendations for changes, if needed.
4. Tournament dates:
- a. Sep 12-14 – SC Surf Men's Charleston Select Shootout
  - b. Sep 19-21 – SC Surf Women's Charleston Select Shootout
  - c. Nov 21-23 – James Island Cup (tournament not confirmed by SCYSA yet but it's typically held the weekend before Thanksgiving).

Bob Correia provided instruction on the new changes to the laws of the game which included:

- Everyone needs to read the law changes and watch the videos. Ask questions if you don't understand. These changes can be found at <https://www.theifab.com/law-changes/latest/> and will be part of your certification/recertification for 2026.

- 
- Only the Captain law change is subject to implementation by the competition authority. None of the leagues in our area have reported if they intend on using this at the youth level yet.
- Handling
- Goalkeeper throws are considered possession and offside should be called. Same with Goalkeeper Punts. Goal Kicks are not possession and offside should not be called.
- Fouls and misconduct
- Most emphasis was put on the new 8 second change for Goalkeeper possession.
  - o Bob pointed out that everyone's opinion of when a GK is considered to be "ready to play" will be different.
  - o Once possession is established and 3 seconds have passed, the referee is required to raise their arm/hand above their head and count down the last 5 seconds. If the GK fails to release the ball, a Corner Kick will be awarded to the attacking team on the side nearest to where the GK was when the infraction was called.
  - o The 8 second change does not apply to Goal Kicks, only GK possession during active play.
  - o John reminded everyone to watch for GK's wasting time, laying on the ground with no pressure should receive a verbal prompt to get the GK moving. If they don't move, start the count.
  - o Bob also covered Handballs reminded everyone of the importance of knowing what it considered natural position and what is not to help determine when handballs should be called.

Kris noted that she is developing Game Day Procedures for each league she assigns.

Ray Newman talked about Offside and when it should be called

Luc Georget talked about the importance of being on your toes and moving to gain a better perspective rather than standing flat footed and leaning from side-to-side to try and see better.

Bucky Jones reiterated the importance of "What you permit, you promote". Do not bend the rules/laws...follow them so your fellow refs aren't being argued with by a player, coach or spectator that, "The last Ref didn't say anything" or "The last Ref let us do it."

Some special game scenarios were brought up and provided good discussion between referees

5. John wrapped the meeting up with the latest CASRA updates:
  - a. Registered mentor/referee coach pay is \$25 per game with a report on the refs they observe to the CASRA assignors.
  - b. We're always looking for places to meet. If you have any suggestions on meeting spaces at your work, school, etc. please let me know.
6. Questions or comments?

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm