

## NEW GLASRA - USSF GRADE 9 REFEREES

**FROM:** Jim Sedick, GLASRA - USSF assigner  
Ph: 485-5609 e-mail : jim.sedick@gmail.com

**DATE:** 2011 Spring & Fall soccer seasons

**RE:** SCHEDULING & EXPECTATIONS

*Our new referee recruiting efforts were very successful this year. **Congratulations** – you are among an incoming group of more than 60 newly trained and certified USSF officials who have requested assignments for this year's seasons. GLASRA is proud of your accomplishment and is looking forward to working with you. We hope that you find soccer officiating an exciting and rewarding experience. Please feel free to contact me or any other board member with any questions or concerns as you continue to develop your skills and we will help you in any way we can.*

***Please read carefully & act!***

**In order to receive officiating assignments to USSF matches in the Lansing area you must meet the following criteria -**

- #1.** You **MUST** have completed the acceptance / sign-in instructions entitled “WELCOME” sent to you via e-mail by ArbiterSports.com, our association’s software program used for communications and scheduling.
- #2.** You **MUST** have begun listing dates in your Arbiter personal calendar that you CANNOT accept officiating assignments. **(This calendar needs to be updated regularly.)**

NOTE: To view a very helpful Power Point tutorial on “How to Block Dates & Times” as well as how to navigate through other basic features in our ArbiterSports software – (1) go to <http://thearbiter.net/groups/files/officials.pptx> (2) CLICK on Slide 1 – The Arbiter.net – League Administration software. “How to Block Dates” in Arbiter, for example is covered in slides #24 - #31.

- #3.** You **MUST** currently possess or have access to an entire USSF uniform and required equipment. At a minimum this includes: USSF approved YELLOW jersey with black stripes (an alternate RED &/or BLACK at this point is also highly recommended), solid black shorts, black referee socks with 3 white stripes or USSF logo, black (preferably solid) cleated or turf shoes, whistle, AR flags, coin, paper or card to record game information on, pencil/pen.

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS to the above uniform & equipment, **DELETE** any check mark from the “Ready to be assigned” box  **in the upper-right corner of your Arbiter main/home page** until you do. **BUT REMEMBER - you will not be able to receive assignments until you in/reinsert the “√” into the “Ready to be assigned” box. So be sure to in/reinsert the “√” when you do have access to the required equipment. If the “Ready” box is checked , you are indicating that you are properly equipped & ready for assignment.**

**UNTIL THE ABOVE CRITERIA HAVE BEEN MET –  
YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO OFFICIATE USSF GAMES IN THE LANSING AREA.**

## ***A TEMPORARY DOWNSIDE –***

During your first season, in particular, you may receive only a **few** scheduled referee assignments because –

1. GLASRA has a large group of first and second year referees and there are a limited number of entry level game positions available for Grade 9 referees (your present USSF grade) and/or -
2. You may indicate in your Arbiter personal calendar that you have a limited number of dates available to be considered for refereeing assignments. **Remember – the number of game assignments you receive also depends on your overall availability!**
3. As a Grade 9 USSF referee, you are eligible to officiate **ONLY** for the following USSF YOUTH division matches: As a center referee (CR) for U12 and below (CR must be at least 1 year older than the listed division age); as an assistant referee (AR) for U14 and below. **NOTE: If you receive an assignment to any USSF divisional match other than those listed above – DECLINE THE ASSIGNMENT ASAP AND CONTACT ME OR YOUR SCHEDULER TO REMIND HIM/HER OF YOUR GRADE 9 STATUS.**

## ***AN ENCOURAGING UPSIDE –***

Before and throughout each season, a number of referee assignments will be turned back for rescheduling. At that time I will try to schedule you for additional assignments. In his regard, it is important that you keep your Arbiter calendars updated regarding your availability and always feel free to inform me of any interest you may have in working additional games or different levels of games. Soccer is growing in our area and opportunities to referee will be abundant for those who remain available and responsible. As seasons progress, more games should become available to you because of your previous participation and increased experience.

1. As a Grade 9 referee you will be expected not only to just “show up” for each assignment but also to use each assignment as a learning experience for your next step. **Next year, if you recertify as a Grade 9 USSF official, you will be expected to be able to perform as a center official (1 referee only-system) for both boys & girls youth matches ages 9 & 10.** Please use this coming year well to prepare for these and other future assignments.
2. **INCREASED OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE ASSIGNMENTS.** Anyone age 14 or older who has worked as a Grade 9 referee for at least 1 Spring or Fall season is eligible to attend a BRIDGE class to advance to a Grade 8. Check <http://www.msvarsareferee.net> for the most current information regarding BRIDGE classes scheduled throughout the state. Dates, times & locations will be posted when set by the state referee committee. Becoming a Grade 8 referee allows an official to be assigned to a broader range of match type situations than Grade 9's and based on availability + performance, often results in an increased number of assignments.

***If, at any time in your refereeing career, you feel that you are capable of handling more challenging assignments than what you are being scheduled for - please notify me personally to discuss further options.***

## ***IN ADDITION, PLEASE REMEMBER –***

- Each assignment will teach you something different about the science and skills of refereeing soccer. Be patient, give yourself time to learn and never be afraid to ask for or receive suggestions and feedback from more senior referees. We never stop learning this game and improving our skills.
- As referees, we work together as a team at each match. Even the newest or least experienced referee is a *trained* referee and is an *important member* of that team! **It is important that you know the rules of the game. You are being paid to know them and apply them properly.**

- Come to each game prepared to handle any assignment on the field, if necessary. That means **you must arrive at the field at least 20 minutes early, be dressed in full and proper uniform, have all of the following with you: whistle, flags, watch, pencil/pen, coin, scorecard and red/yellow cards.**
- The center referee or another delegate may occasionally be asked to evaluate your performance on behalf of the Association. Remember, membership in GLASRA must be renewed each year and you will be invited to continue membership based on your assignment attendance record and performance on the field.

If you have any questions, please contact me by e-mail: [jim.sedick@gmail.com](mailto:jim.sedick@gmail.com) or by phone @ 485-5609.

***FOR MORE GLASRA INFORMATION, LINKS TO LEAGUE WEBSITES & OTHER SOCCER ITEMS OF INTEREST ----- SEE OUR WEBSITE AT: [www.glasra.org](http://www.glasra.org)***