



Falling for Soccer

A New Season Begins

Alabama Soccer is in full swing! Even though we aren't experiencing those crisp days and cool evenings yet, our Fall season has commenced with a loaded schedule of games from youth to adults. Additionally, at this time of year, we have numerous college competitions throughout our state. We need all the help we can get!

The State has already hosted seven entry level classes and four recertification classes . Three of those recertification classes were part of the Alabama Road Show. The Road Show was conducted in the northern part of the state this year with locations in Huntsville, Gadsden and Birmingham. Our Lead Instructor for this event was Chuck Locke, National Instructor/National Referee Coach, from Colorado. Chuck provided instruction on becoming a highly effective referee. These events are a result of the commitment to providing higher level instructional events available to our referees. Additionally, there is no charge for any of these events.

We had a very eventful summer! We selected referees to attend Regional President's Cup and Region South United States Youth Soccer Championships. These attendees are identified as high performers in our state. The President's Cup was conducted in Greenville, SC, and was attended by Nelson Walner, Jamey Ward, Skye Svelhak, Guilia Colpo and John Dupree. Guilia Colpo was identified as a top performer in this tournament (Guilia was our 2017 Paul Stanton Female Youth Referee of the Year).

Regional Championships were held in Greensboro, NC. We had 14 referees in attendance: Tim Barron, Tim Holt, Tyler Der (2018 Paul Stanton Male Youth Referee of the Year), David Killian, Daniel Miranda, Kris Rose, Celeste Roberts, Jason Kuehl, Kendall McCardell, Pete Gonzalez, Travis Bell, John Rich, Alex Garcia, Diego Chulan. Unfortunately due to work requirements, the 2018 Paul Stanton Female Youth Referee of the Year, Kaitlyn Willis, was unable to attend. We had four referees that followed up this tournament with attendance a USYS Nationals in Frisco, TX; Jason Kuehl, Kendall McCardell and Celeste Roberts were identified as high performers with Jonathan Sauers earning a return trip because of his performance from last year!

This has been a great start to our season this year and we are looking forward to bigger and better things to come! Keep working hard and let's make Alabama a premier soccer referee location in the South Region!

Always Changing...Meet the New!

The Alabama State Referee Committee gained two new board members due to resignations. Unfortunately, Ohannes Younanian has stepped down as SYRA. We wish to thank him for his exceptional service to the committee in this capacity and as the State Assignor Coordinator but understand his desire to spend more time with family! He has graciously consented to assist the Instructional Program. Additionally, our Assignor Coordinator, Coral Gubler, resigned due to a job transfer to Utah. We sincerely appreciate her efforts across our state and wish her well. With that, we want to introduce you to our new members;

SYRA: Kris Rose and SAC: Michael Montgomery.

See the Inside Stories on these two Alabama referees!

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Introducing Kris Rose, SYRA

My referee career started in 1999 when my boys were just starting to play competitive soccer and I was conscripted into service as a Club Linemen for most of our home games. We played for a small club that had only two competitive teams so often times our home games had only one game and getting three referees was tough. At about the same time, the referee community in Birmingham was going through changes as the recreational league decided to create their own association to help recruit new referees to ensure all games could be covered. I became certified in 2000 (with a 2001 patch) and started working games for the newly formed Mid-State Referee Association. I attended the 3 day entry level clinic (Friday evening, all day Saturday and again all day Sunday) and managed to pass my test after spending the 3 days with Otto Mueller (what a great instructor!).

I never really intended to referee, my thought was that since Mid-State Referee Association was new, more games would go uncovered and I just wanted to be a better club linesman for my boys games. That was until Donna Holmes called and asked if I could cover a couple of U10 games that coming weekend. I explained that I was not really planning on refereeing and that I had no gear. She said that she really needed the help and that I could acquire the referee equipment over time. So I went out to Alabaster fields and did a couple of U10 games and have been working games ever since. As I sit here writing this, I am still working games for Donna (now Donna Mehlferber) after just accepting a U19 Boys game (again in Alabaster) -- some things just never change.

I eventually started working State Games for GBSOA (the other association in the Birmingham area), then moving on to Region III and adult matches. I became a high school official in 2002 and I enjoy working both USSF and AHSAA matches and I am an advocate for both arenas.

Just like the start of my referee career, I never really intended to get involved in the administration aspect of referees. But I was attending AHSAA State Camp one year and was discussing the status of refereeing with Justin Brown and he called me out and said to either get engaged to change what you don't like or live with it (I am paraphrasing slightly). After further reflection, I decided he was right and I got involved with GBSOA by assisting with Workshop Day, involved with a couple sub committees and eventually I became the Vice-President and then the President. I served on the GBSOA board for 5 years before stepping down this past May.

I became the Area Referee Administrator for Central Alabama in 2015 at the request of Pat Miller. Eric Zimmer decided to step down after holding this position for a number of years and Pat was looking for a replacement. I also became an instructor in 2015 and realize this is one of the best things I have ever done in soccer. I really enjoy the entry level classes and have even more respect for Otto and his three days of training - the one day program we follow today makes for a very long day, I can't even imagine having to go back on Sunday for another whole day.

When not working games my hobbies include watching games (Go Gunners!), scuba diving (just finished by PADI Mas-

ter Scuba Diver certification), reading (kindle!) and traveling to warm places. I have been married to my high school sweetheart, Jean for over 30 years now and our 3 children are grown and on their own. Matthew is local, Kevin is in Nashville and Emily is moving to Chicago soon.



Message from your State Director of Assessment

Those of you who need Maintenance Assessments need to get them scheduled now. Don't wait until the end of the season to get them done when only a few assessors are available.

Assessment Fees are Listed in the Alabama Soccer Manual -

The fee for all maintenance assessments is:

- \$70 plus mileage if completed before September 30
- \$90 plus mileage if completed between Oct 1 and Oct 31
- \$125 plus mileage if completed between Nov 1 and Dec 31

All Out of State Assessments must be coordinated through the SDA for approval. If you do not coordinate, you may be in jeopardy of not having the assessment accepted.

Klaus Staefe
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Registration Information

Referees will have to send registration fees to Pat Miller, AL SRA via mail. Checks made out to AL SRC. The address is below. Costs are as follows:

Referees:

\$60 - Grade 8

This includes Entry level referees that have only paid \$40 for the Entry Clinic.

\$65 – Grade 7

\$95 – Grade 6

\$120 – Grade 5

\$95 – Grade 15

\$95 - Grade 16

Assessor:

\$65 – Grade 7

\$95 – Grade 5

Instructors:

\$65 – Grade 7

\$95 - Grade 5

Assignor:

\$30

Registration monies should be sent and all requirements for your position and grade must be met to finalize your 2019 registration.

All checks should be made payable to

AL SRC

Send to: Patrick Miller

217 Duchess Drive

Madison, AL 35758

Badges should be sent within four weeks of registration. If you have not received your badge, contact Pat Miller or Kris Bailey (catloverbailey@yahoo.com).

Thank you for observing this for the 2019 registration as we transition all referee files to Game Officials this year. A new registration process may be in place for 2020 so check for information in the coming year!

Save the DATES

Fall 2018: State Cup Ages 15U & Up for Boys & Girls will be held November 3-4, 2018 in Foley, AL. We NEED qualified, dedicated referees to ensure that these players get the best games to send them on to their next level of competition.

You will receive an invitation shortly to apply to officiate in this tournament. In addition to this being Alabama's highest quality tournament, this is one of the "identifier" events that will help us select

those referees that will be sent to the South Region President's Cup and the USYS South Region Championships.

We begin this selection process at this time and continue to review qualifications through the Spring season so we send our highest level referees to these tournaments.

This event also allows us to view those items that require additional training/

resources to serve our referee community better.

Referee training will be restructured and redesigned in the coming year so this becomes an especially critical fact-gathering event.

PLEASE CONSIDER APPLYING SO YOU COULD POSSIBLY BE THE REFEREE REPRESENTING OUR STATE!

Michael Montgomery, State Assignor Coordinator

Michael is a life-long native of Alabama. He was born and raised in Huntsville before attending Auburn University. After earning his degree in Journalism from Auburn, he went on to earn his law degree from the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham. Following graduation from law school, he relocated his family to Mobile, his current residence. While in Mobile, he has been very active in the soccer community: first as a youth coach

at the recreational and club level, as well as an amateur adult player. He later began refereeing at the recreational level, and then high school, before becoming certified by USSF as a referee. He has been active in the leadership of the local referee associations for many years and as an assignor, has assigned and assisted with numerous tournaments and leagues throughout southwest Alabama.



ALABAMA STATE REFEREE COMMITTEE

Pat Miller, State Referee Administrator
Kris Rose, State Youth Referee Administrator
Klaus Staefe, State Director of Assessment
Kris Bailey, State Director of Instruction
Michael Montgomery, State Assignor Coordinator

Cedric Thomas, Area 1 Administrator
VACANT, Area 2 Administrator
Jonathan Sauers, Area 3 Administrator
Pete Gonzalez, Area 4 Administrator

The Alabama Referee Development Program serves the Alabama Soccer Association (ASA) formed as per USSF policy. The Program offers an opportunity for every referee, instructor, assessor and assignor candidate to receive instruction and training as well as a plan for growth and development.

Administration, testing, instruction, assessment and development shall follow the criteria suggested by the USSF National Referee Committee as described in the current USSF Bylaws, USSF Procedures, Guide to Procedures and USSF memorandums updating policy and procedures. The Alabama SRC may require additional criteria, as specified by USSF procedures, for upgrade and re-certification.

The State is subdivided into four areas for the purpose of administration, instruction and assessment

Area 1: Anniston, Gadsden, Huntsville, Decatur, and Florence

Area 2: Cullman, Birmingham and Tuscaloosa

Area 3: Dothan, Enterprise, Fairhope, Mobile, and Daphne

Area 4: Alexander City, Auburn, Phenix City, Montgomery

We're on the web
Alasoccerref.com

Referee Recruiting

Who is responsible to get more referees?

As the 2018 Fall Season progresses, there are more complaints that games aren't being covered and some are even having to be cancelled because we don't have enough referees! So, how do we solve this problem?

One of the Birmingham instructors became creative and conducted a class at a local high school to bulk up the number of referees but it still isn't enough. We need more. With new teams popping up every week and tournaments using our resources, we just do not have enough people. Everyone that is already a referee knows that it isn't easy to get new ones. This is hard and initially expensive work!

We need your ideas! How can we recruit more folks to help us out? Please provide any ideas to members of the SRC NOW! Let's get more to help us out!



Happy Fall Y'All!