

As we enter our third week at Stryker this Fall Season, I would like to begin a new weekly newsletter. We have seen the hot, the windy, the rainy, and the stormy so far this season. I am hoping to give a weekly update so that all of the officials are properly informed and know what is expected as the season progresses. Clearly our new ELC (Entry Level Class) officials are advancing and gaining experience. We have also seen many second season officials take to the whistle for the first time.

What is going well:

- Scorecards look great so far this year. Scores should be written in both locations and under the large box, please spell out the score. Ex: 2 (two) and 11 (eleven).
- Well over 95% of all roster cards are signed. When asking for roster cards, make sure to **FIRST** glance and check for a signature. If there is no signature, then hand it back to the coach and get it signed.
- Communication when someone is going to be late is going well. We have received many phone calls to the Ref HQ number (316-799-6342). The folks that call in and let us know that they are having a hard time parking keep their games.
- Pregames! I have seen some great pregame meetings being held in Ref HQ as well as at the fields. **PLEASE** keep this up. At a minimum, all three officials should understand the length of each half and whether heading is allowed.
- Enforcement of new LOTG (Laws of the Game). Great job on this team!
- Mentoring! There have been several mentors who have already been deployed. These mentors will watch and critique your games. Their input should be of great value to you. These reports are also shared with Alex and myself and in turn, we submit them to the state. **YES!** We are creating a mentoring program which will allow Wichita to feed officials to large events like State Cup or even Regionals. If you want to get mentored, please see Alex or myself.

What needs work:

- Roster cards must be completed. If a team does not have a roster card, they **MUST** go to the concession stand and buy one. We cannot take a copy of their roster as an official roster card.
- Roster cards must have numbers for **EVERY** player. This is for the officials benefit. When a card is issued (Caution or Ejection), we need to know **WHO** that player is. The number should have been collected when doing the check-in.
- We have some consistent officials being late. Even if you call in every time, the expectation is that you are in the Ref HQ **thirty minutes** prior to your first game. Some officials just call in every day to let us know they will be late. Going forward, we will start replacing these officials and/or assigning them less games.

Due to the higher number of teams this Fall, parking has been an issue. Stryker is asking that **ALL** officials park on the North side of Field 1 or in the Stadium parking lot. This is literally 100 yards away from the indoor building and is not a big ask.

In future weekly updates, I hope to highlight specific areas of improvement or emphasis so that each official gets the same communication. This should be a great resource for those of you who are looking to move up the ladder and get bigger games that pay better. With this higher pay, comes higher expectations.

For the love of the beautiful game,

Joshua Bartel, Director of Officials, WRSA