

We had our first busy weekend. We did many things well as a group, we still have some things to improve. This weekend will be almost as busy as the previous weekend and to ensure that all goes well, I would like to remind everyone of a few items.

Uniforms:

- At least for our yellow kits, please make sure you are not wearing the old uniform. After yellow, you should buy green, blue, red, and black in that order.
- Since WRSA is USSF sanctioned, you should be wearing the “new” 2-stripe sock. It can be purchased at officialsports.com.
- When we have our shirt on, we must be in full uniform. This means socks are up, shirt is tucked in, badge is on and centered, and we don't have earrings, bracelets, or necklaces. Earrings seem to be a problem for several officials this year. Please remove them.

Honor your commitments:

- We had several people show up late with the “I thought my game was at 8:30, not 8:00”. This doesn't fly very well with the league or the assignor (or any employer for that matter).
- If you have accepted games, please do everything you can to work those games. If you are pretty sure you are not going to make your games because you are sick, please inform us early so that we can look for a replacement. We had quite a few call in sick this weekend just a few hours before their first game. If you call in sick, don't post pictures on social media from the Kansas State Fair on the same day. We are preparing you for a future of employment, not just a soccer official.

There are too many firsts from this past weekend to start listing them. I saw many first time centers and first time ARs this weekend and overall we did a great job. If you are doing games that make you uncomfortable (first time center, first D1 game, etc), please let us know so we can have a presence at the field and help.

Lastly, if there is a question about the rules or a specific protocol. Do not leave for the day without asking. We had quite a few issues with the rules this weekend. If you are unclear, ASK. If our officials are not enforcing the LOTG (Laws of the Game) the same, then it makes us all look bad. I have never been upset by an official who asks questions. However, I do not have much sympathy for those that do not ask for help or clarity.

Many thanks to all of the officials that endured the heat this last weekend. I know that some of you worked all day with few breaks. I am very proud of the work we are doing at Stryker and I am excited to see so many new faces. I want to encourage each of you to be friendly with each other. It is perfectly acceptable to commend a fellow referee on a job well done.

For the love of the beautiful game,

Joshua Bartel, Director of Officials, WRSA