

Insights from the DOO-

9/5/2019

We put an emphasis last week on a few items at the field. The top item was to make sure we get all roster cards SIGNED. We only had ONE roster card that was not signed and this was a first time center doing a U8 game (no help from AR's or anyone). I would label this result as a resounding SUCCESS. Each week, we will put an area of emphasis on the TV in Ref HQ and the expectation is that we build on prior week's items. Great work team!

I would like to address another item for many of you first season officials. We are getting complaints from you and your parents that you are not getting enough games. I tried to make it clear when I spoke to each of the ELC classes that it takes a while to get all of the new referees into the system. This is still a simple supply and demand equation. We only have a few entry level games each weekend where we can put entry level officials. Once everyone has a few games under their belt, then the number of games they are qualified to officiate grows. There were well over 80 new officials that took the class. I can't put 3 ELC officials on the same game. In theory, I can put 2 new officials on a game. If you get assigned on a day, you will get at least 2 games. Therefore, I need 80 entry level games to get all of the ELC officials their first set of games. Please be patient as there is a lot of effort that goes into assigning the right officials to the right games. You will see towards the end of the season that we will be begging for officials to take more games EVERY week. Next season, you will no longer be a beginner and you will be able to officiate more games.

I have debated whether having a shout out for major achievements is appropriate as I am concerned I might miss someone and hurt their feelings. At the risk of missing people, I feel that it is always a positive when we recognize major accomplishments for our fellow referees. I would like to recognize a couple youth officials who were able to overcome their fear and step onto the field for the first time with a whistle in their hand.

Dillon Busby did his first center on a U9 game. He had never officiated a U7/8 game before so he was not only learning how to use his whistle, but he was managing his AR's, the clock, the score, and the coaches for the first time. I was able to remain on the field with Dillon for the first half of his game and he learned quickly and showed great confidence. As with all first time center officials, the whistle was weak and he has committed to working on it at home. Dillon told me minutes before the game that he was ready for the game and he did a great job.

Bret Robison also did his first center this weekend. He centered 4 U7/8 games back to back. Managing the game, parents, and coaches in such tight quarters is no easy task. After some initial hesitation, Bret put the whistle in his mouth and did his job. I was unable to be there for Bret, but I know that we had a Field Marshal on the game. The Field Marshal reported that Bret did a great job. I was able to talk to Bret over text and over the phone later that night and he told me he was glad he did it and that it was FUN! Congratulations to both Bret and Dillon. I am sure there are many other "firsts" this weekend, but I wanted to highlight a couple that I was close to.

This coming weekend is a tournament (The Stryker Cup). We often times do not use ELC officials on a tournament weekend since the expectation is higher for tournament games and we should not be using tournaments for training. In addition, the tournament is fairly small (about 50 teams). I beg that you remain patient with the assigning process and that you put in your availability every week. When your number is called, it will open the door to some great opportunities.

For the love of the beautiful game,

Joshua Bartel, Director of Officials, WRSA