

Referees,

I'd like to share some notes & updates from the Fall meeting of the OVR Board of Directors last Sunday, Oct. 18.

#1 - Most importantly, the Board has decided to NOT reduce officiating fees for this season! As you may recall, in the summer we discussed the possibility that due to the financial impact of COVID, particularly on tournament directors who will have additional expenses for sanitizing, etc, we would consider reverting to match fees from two seasons ago, for this season only (a \$2.50/match reduction). The Board no longer feels that is necessary, and the motion was withdrawn.

#2 - Background screening. USAV's background screen "disqualifiers" have been expanded. You can review USAV's policy here:
https://www.ovr.org/background/Background_Screening_Policy.pdf

#3 - Tournament sanctions. Many tournaments have been sanctioned at this point, but remember, NO TEAMS have registered yet! (Tournament listing: <https://www.ovr.org/juniors/tournaments.php>) Clubs can't form teams until after state high school championships, mid-November. At this point, we're moving forward with the expectation that tournament formats will be reasonably "normal," i.e., 4-team pools or 3-team pools. HOWEVER, state & local regulations may result in alternate tournament formats to accommodate participant and/or spectator restrictions.

#4 - Assigning. You should expect that TDs and assignors may not begin the hiring process yet, OR they may initially hire a minimal number of referees and add more later. Keep in mind, if a tournament doesn't fill, you may be released from an assignment. **We absolutely MUST be flexible, patient and understanding with this process. It's not the TD's fault if they must release referees after hiring them.**

#5 - Pre-season clinics. Clinics WILL be virtual (online) this season, including our new referee program. We are developing clinic content and determining the best delivery platform as we speak. The plan is to begin clinics in November with weeknight AND weekend options. More information will be sent when it's available.

#6 - New OVR staff positions. The BOD has expanded OVR staff positions to include an Assistant Commissioner and a Treasurer; Steve Donahue is currently filling the Treasurer position on an interim basis. A sub-committee is working on criteria & job descriptions. Neither are elected positions; both will be APPOINTED by the BOD.

If you have any questions about these topics, please feel free to reach out to me or any other Board member. Again, clinic details are being developed, so hang on to those questions for now.

Take care - wear your mask - wash your hands - be kind out there!

Brian Hemelgarn
OVR Referees' Chair