

OVR Officiating Memo: OVR Mentor Program & Mentoring New Referees January 15, 2015

OVR referees,

Especially for our veteran Regional, Junior National and National referees, I'd like to encourage you to mentor our newly certified referees this season. I have reached out to them and have encouraged them to find a mentor. I'll help point them toward one of you if they ask for assistance.

In an ideal world, each of our new referees would have a mentor to get them started this season (and beyond). I have suggested that they might want to attend a tournament with their mentor to learn how things run. Most of them won't have a tournament assignment for at least a month from now, so if they could go to a tournament when you're assigned and "shadow" you for a few hours, that would be really helpful for them. They might work as your second referee for a match or two as well.

Basically, I want to help these folks get started on the right foot. As a mentor, your job is show them the ropes:

- *Make sure their uniform is appropriate (shirt, pants and shoes).
- *Teach them about the referee rotation scheme (work two, off one...)
- *Let them listen to your pre-match instructions with junior work teams.
- *Allow them to ask questions about match situations that YOU encountered, including ball handling decisions, any sanctions, etc.
- *Discuss rules and interpretations, USAV techniques and procedures.

You get the idea, what we're trying to accomplish. We're a large region, and it's easy for new folks to get lost in the shuffle. Let's help them out. This means you'll need to be up to snuff so that you're setting the best example.

Be ready if I or an OVR staff member, or a new referee, reach out to you to do some mentoring.

Thanks in advance!

Brian Hemelgarn
OVR Referees' Chair