



Referee Development Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the U.S. Soccer Referee Department Quarterly Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter, which will be sent out on a quarterly basis, is to keep our Referee Community informed on what we are working on here in the Referee Department at U.S. Soccer, new products and gear from OSI, and stories and interests from the referee world.

To start, see below for stories and headlines that have been happening in the Referee Community over the past several months.

Referee Community Storylines

Back in the Spring, FIFA Referee Ekaterina Koroleva was not officiating games. Instead, she was working on the frontlines fighting COVID-19 as a Physician Assistant. To learn more about Ekaterina's story, click [HERE](#) to listen as she was featured on our U.S. Soccer Podcast and click [HERE](#) for an interview she did with CONCACAF.



On August 11th, 2020, Katy Nesbitt, FIFA Assistant Referee, made history when she worked the “MLS is Back” Tournament Final. She was the first woman to ever work a final for a Men’s Competition.

On September 23rd, 2020, Tori Penso became the first woman in 20 years to referee an MLS match. To learn more about Tori and her story, click [HERE](#) for an interview she did with PRO.

On October 2nd, 2020, Nicole Green (pictured center) became the first woman to referee the N.I.S.A Final.



Click [HERE](#) to watch a story on one of our Regional Referees, Andrew Kirst. Andrew is deaf, but he has not let that stop him from pursuing his passion on the pitch. He has been a referee for several years and attended numerous U.S. Soccer Events.

If you have a story and want to share your experience(s) as a referee, please click [HERE](#). We would love to hear from you and might even feature you in one of our upcoming newsletters!

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a referee for the first time, click [HERE](#) to find out more!

Also, you might know, Veterans Day takes place on Wednesday, November 11th. We know the Referee Community is filled with Veterans who served in our armed forces and we just want to take this time to thank you for your sacrifice and service.

To get an inside look of what our department has been working on these past few months, check out below!

U.S. Soccer Referee Department News

We recently launched our third Referee Coach Course where 16 candidates are working towards becoming a Referee Coach to assist in further developing and educating referees. To learn more click [HERE](#) to see the Profile of a Referee Coach. If you are interested in applying for future courses, please connect with your State Association and be on the lookout for future course applications from us.

We also recently completed our first Continuing Education Webinar Series where the referee community, including those who currently hold licenses as Grassroots Instructors, Assessors and Referee

along with Regional Instructors, Assessors and Referees engaged in conversation relating to Handling the Ball. The groups broke down different video clips and engaged in different video polls and questionnaires throughout each webinar.

In the next section, you will see one of the major talking points and constant themes of each webinar, FIFA's Handball Considerations.

Handling the Ball

As we all know, this is one of the most controversial topics in today's game. If you want to learn more about Handling the Ball and FIFA's Considerations, click on the graphic below for a summary on the topic based on IFAB's Laws of the Game.

Also, be sure to download the IFAB App, which is available for free on all devices!



When it comes to your registration, we want to make sure everything is taken care of and up to date so see below for some important updates.

Referee Registration

As we continue through our 2021 Registration year, which ends on June 30th 2021, be sure to connect with your State Association by clicking [HERE](#) if you have any questions regarding upcoming courses, certification or recertification.

Reminder if you currently hold a 2020 license, it will expire on December 31st, 2020.

If you have general questions regarding your license, feel free to check out our FAQ page by clicking [HERE](#).



To ensure you always have the right gear on and off the pitch, see below a message from our partner, OSI.

OSI

Annual Holiday Sale Now Live!

Now is the best time of the year to buy the OFFICIAL U.S. Soccer referee uniform! Buy 2 or more jerseys & save! Mix Pro & Economy Styles. The Official U.S. Soccer Referee shorts & socks are also on sale!

Shop Holiday Sale: <https://officialsports.com/holiday-sale/>

New: Mix & Match our most popular training items & Save! Choose t-shirts, shorts or pants, ¼ Zips or Jacket. Pick 3 items and save 20%! Shop Now: <https://officialsports.com/holiday-sale/referee-apparel/training-items-specials/>

Holiday Sale Catalogs are in the mail! Quantities are limited on sale items, shop early to save!

