



KELOWNAREF.COM

---

# 2017 Year End Report

KelownaRef.com scheduled about 2150 games this year covering all the local leagues (except O55 Men). It was a challenging year with smoke cancellations and reschedules in the summer and snow cancellations in the fall. Overall I think we were successful in having nearly all games with a full compliment of referees. As usual the challenges were filling spots left open due to late cancellations and we had a slight increase in no shows/late cancellations this year over past years.

I heard fewer complaints about referees this year, which is good. Most issues were disputing specific calls or a lack of understanding of the new rules. Teams were generally pretty understanding about these issues once they were explained.

Looking forward the biggest concern I have is in developing and retaining the teenage – young 20's referees. We tend to lose the younger referees at 17/18 (grade 12) due to school and getting other part time jobs. We also lose the early 20's officials as they embark on careers or move away. This has caused us to have an aging referee group.

The up side is the older officials are more reliable and are eager to do more games. The problem is we have no one to replace them when they go on vacation or are injured and can't do games. The trick is to develop the younger officials while keeping our mature officials engaged. Everyone wants competitive games and some do not recognize their ability to do the highest level is on the decline. I am using some of these officials as mentors as they have the knowledge to assist the newer officials to improve.

Mentoring – There was an increase in the number of mentoring sessions performed. The sessions typically utilized communication headsets to allow the mentor to give immediate feedback to the officials. This is the best way to give this feedback to correct things as well as reinforce good performance. At this time KMSL and COYSA have purchased communication devices and utilize them.

For this year we had 266 registered referees. They break down to:

125 Small sided

8 Youth

128 District

4 Regional

1 Provincial

These numbers tell us that we are losing the small sided referees at a drastic rate. Kids can take the small sided course at 12 years of age and the Youth/Entry course at 14. At 16 they automatically become District level.

Availability Submitted by month

April – 135

May – 134

June – 131

July – 102



KELOWNAREF.COM

---

August – 91

September – 92

October – 68

As you can see, availability of referees also declined as the season progressed. This is typical as in the fall we lose some to school and to moving away as well as some having obtained part time jobs in the summer that kept them on through the fall as well.

The most difficult areas to schedule divisional referees were WYSA and LCYSA. WYSA BU16 was difficult as most of their District/Youth referees play in this league. LCYSA just does not have many referees available for any level.

Number of referees to hit 50% of middles by league:

COYSA – 19 – busiest did 3.9% (20) of games, 2<sup>nd</sup> did 3.7% (19) of games.

KWSL – 13 - busiest did 6.2% (22) of games, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> did 4.8% (17) of games

KMSL – 6 - busiest did 10.9% (52) of games, 2<sup>nd</sup> did 9.7% (46) of games

This shows the dependency of leagues on limited referees. The importance of this is if the top 2 referees were to stop refereeing, what impact would that have on the leagues. Of note, the busiest referees in each league do not repeat.

#### Online Scheduling

I am using Assignr for the COYSA Indoor league to assign referees. This is a trial to see if it can be useful for the outdoor season as well. It requires the referees to submit an online report after each game to ensure the referee and ARs all showed up (payroll is done automatically from the program). It also asks for scores and misconduct reports. I am working with the owners of the program for some customization to allow it to display on the Kelownaref.com site as it normally is.

#### Recommendations for KWSL:

- Move to an online game sheet system. This would allow for payroll to be done in a more timely manner as well as cautions reported quicker. Potentially this can prevent unregistered players from playing as well.
- Provide clear regulations for “water breaks”. Teams have developed a belief that if they have few substitutes there should be water breaks. FIFA guidelines say only in extreme temperatures are water breaks taken.
- Provide clear regulations on uniforms. The KWSL Bylaws allow “sleeveless” but we are seeing tank tops and sleeveless with very thin shoulder straps that are not really suitable for soccer. The shoulder strap width should be defined.
- Consider the introduction of the Retreat line in lower divisions. This will allow teams to get out of their defensive end on goal kicks more consistently.