

KWSL REFEREE REPORT 2016

HEAD REFEREE

This season there were 131 Referees registered. The breakdown of qualifications are: 47 District, 5 Regional, 1 Provincial, 79 Youth. There are currently 175 small sided referees.

The challenge with the numbers are that we have a huge number of small sided referees. Too many for them to get enough games to become invested in being a referee. As they do not get many games, they lose interest and the numbers drop at 14 (Entry Level age) drastically. Each year we lose more referees until we are at a level where all games are not able to be properly filled. Optimum numbers are to have approximately 100 Youth/District+ referees available each month. This season we had as little as 65 in October and as many as 115 in May.

I have now taken over the role of Referee in Chief for COYSA as well and as a result I am more able to impact the referee numbers and quality overall. My plan for 2017 is to introduce a different system of mentoring. I believe mentoring is the key to improving and retaining our referees. The concept is to have levels of mentoring where the mentors will be responsible for a group of referees until they are developed enough to go to the next level. This would also create some accountability for the mentor to develop their group.

COYSA has been footing the entire bill for mentoring to date. I think it is time for KWSL to pitch in as well. For the 2017 season I would like to see KWSL pay mentors to work with referees in this league. I would like to see a fee of \$40 per game be paid for mentors. If the mentor also ARs the game then they collect a fee of \$60 for the AR role and mentor role combined. This will help to encourage our experienced referees to work the line with less experienced referees and to mentor them. I suggest a budget of \$1500 be allotted to mentoring. This would cover the cost of mentors and the use of communication devices for the games where a mentor is involved. The communication devices allow for instant feedback and have proven to be a great asset.

REFEREE SCHEDULER

In 2016, not including tournaments we scheduled referees for 1712 games. There were also 397 tournament games covered. The leagues we looked after included COYSA, TOYSL, BCSPL, KWSL, High School Boys and Girls, and O45 men.

Overall it was a successful year with 4682 spots filled out of 4746 total spots (98.7% filled). 64 spots were not filled. There were 67 occasions where no shows or cancellations within 12 hours of the game occurred. 298 times people accepted games and then cancelled with more than 24 hours of notice. This is a huge amount that we have not seen previously.

For this year so far we have sent and processed a total of 18,153 emails. This is an average of about 1800 per month, 60 per day. It was a busy year!

As a result of the number of game cancellations we have had a number of referees say they are not interested in refereeing KWSL games in the future. The reason is that when they accept our games they are no longer considered for other games. When games are cancelled they are, in effect, losing money. I suggest we change the policy of payment to be:

24 hours or less notice - full pay

1 week or less notice - half pay

Full pay is budgeted for so there should not be a loss of funds for the league as a result.

Game sheets - Although much better this season they are still not often to the referees on time to check id and get the game started on time. Perhaps an online roster can be printed by teams and given to the referee. Much like KMSL does. The template can include the info at the bottom of the current sheet.

Non Referee Suggestions

Sunday Cup - If this is to be successful I think it has to have a prize and make it an event. The finals could be booked in the Apple Bowl with a barbeque and awards event. Perhaps the division winners are presented with trophies at the game. Have a beer garden and a season wind up party. Make it an event! Not on the Sunday of the long weekend!

Tree provides the KMSL winner of the Royal cup with a half season of beer. Maybe they can do so for the Sunday Cup? Name it the Tree Brewing Sunday Cup.

Season Awards -

Most Sportsmanlike Team award - trophy. KelownaRef.com will sponsor. Awarded to the team named as the most sportsmanlike in each game as evaluated by the referees. (Add to game sheet)

Golden Boot award in each division for top scorer.