

2019 KWSL Referee Report

For the 2019 KWSL season I scheduled officials for 319 games. The fill rate was 99.7%. This is 954 of 957 spots filled.

This statistic makes my advising of a referee shortage sound inaccurate.... But it is not. I estimate it took at least 30% more time to fill assignments this year over last year. There were many nights/days where every available referee was doing games. Mondays and Wednesdays were the busiest nights of the week with up to 24 games on a night.

This shortage meant that I had to use some referees that I felt were not quite ready for the levels they were assigned to. It also meant I could not take as hard a stance with those late sending in their reports. HorizonWebRef also helped in filling the schedules. COYSA paid the cost of HorizonWebRef and allowed me to use it for all the leagues.

Between all the leagues we conducted 180 mentor sessions up to September 15. The bulk of these were with our youngest referees. This will hopefully help us to maintain more referees for a longer time. Statistics show that 30% of all referees quit within 1 year of beginning and 50% quit within 3 years of beginning. We are also now losing about 20% of long term referees each year. We are faced with a bit of a crisis due to these statistics. If we continue to lose referees at the current pace we will not have enough referees to cover games by next year.

It is time for the leagues to start helping with this problem from the recruitment end of things. Leagues have been great for the past few years in supporting the referees and this is appreciated. I think leagues now have to get players to become referees. Some of the players turned referee are among our very best referees. Perhaps KWSL can come up with some sort of incentive for players that referee. Even paying for their course once they do 5 games might help (course cost is \$136).

I would also like to see KMSL, KWSL and COYSA work together on a bonus system where referees are issued a bonus cheque at the end of the season for their work. This would be based on the number of games they do for each league. My thought is \$5 per game above 20 games done combined.

I previously submitted an email regarding referee rates. Currently the rates are \$60/\$35. In speaking with BC Soccer they feel we are about 3 years behind the Coastal leagues. The top tiers are paying \$90/\$60 with others at \$80/\$50. I have proposed the fees structure below to KMSL.

2020 - \$70/\$40

2021 - \$70/\$45

2022 - \$80/\$45

2023 - \$80/\$50

2024 - \$90/\$50

I suggest KWSL adjust as below:

2020 - \$60 / \$40

2021 - \$70 / \$40

2022 - \$70 / \$45

2023 - \$75 / \$45

2024 - \$75 / \$50

This means an increase of \$10 per game each year. I suggest the KWSL stays close to the fees paid by other leagues as referees do have options when there is a shortage of officials and they are likely to take the league with the highest fees.