



EPSARC Update August 28, 2020

This past six weeks have been very busy for EPSARC. Please read below to see some of what is going on!

As many of you know, in July 2020, our State Referee Administrator (SRA) Frank Giancroce retired after more than 30 years of dedicated service to the referee program. I was jointly appointed by Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Association and Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association as the State Referee Administrator for the Referee Program.

A little history about myself - I am a National Emeritus Referee, Instructor and Assessor and I previously served the program as the State Director of Instruction. Residing in Delaware County with my wife, Kelly, and our two kids, Ella and Coby, I enjoy being involved in all their activities. In my non-soccer life, I own and operate multiple Comfort Keepers offices around the Philadelphia area where we provide services to the elderly population to keep them safe and comfortable in their home.

I am excited to serve the program to take it to the next level.

SDI Appointment

At our last EPSARC Board meeting, I nominated, and the Committee approved Tim Snyder to be our new State Director of Instruction.

Tim is National Emeritus Referee, Instructor, Assessor and Assignor. He has served on the Committee as an at-large member for the past decade before moving into the SDI role.

Having refereed, instructed, assessed and assigned at all levels he has a wealth of knowledge about the game within EPA.

Congratulations Tim!

Dealing with the Times

We are in unprecedented times right now. Fewer games are being played this fall, entire

tournaments are postponed, games are cancelled last minute, fields are moved last minute.

With all the uncertainty about fall sports we ask that every referee, assignor, assessor and instructor be flexible and understanding. You may get a call at the last minute because your game got cancelled. You may find out that you can't work the rest of a tournament because a team you refereed was exposed to COVID. You may be asked to go to a different field while driving to your game. You may lose game fees because you are not able to work a game.

We know it can be frustrating. Those decisions are made on a case-by-case basis and are made to protect everyone's health and safety. There are no easy or right answers. Each assignor has their own contract with the league or tournament and will work with them as situations arise.

We are all in this for the players.

2021 Recertification

U.S. Soccer has provided the option for State Referee Committees (SRCs) to extend registration for all 2020 licensed referees through 2021 at no additional charge. EPSARC has decided to opt-in to this decision. Therefore, we will be issuing all 2020 license holding referees the same license for 2021 at no additional cost. This applies to all assignors, assessors and instructors.

As a referee, you will need to complete the steps below to remain in compliance for 2021:

- Ensure your background checks are clear and up to date
- Ensure you have completed SafeSport and that the completion certificate is still active
- Complete the Laws of the Game online refresher course modules.

Information and details on how to complete the above steps and recertify for 2021 will be posted on our website.

We hope that this decision helps alleviate some of the challenges our community is currently facing. Your active participation within the soccer community is crucial to our continued goal of growing and improving the sport and we appreciate your continued involvement and support. If you have any questions, please contact us at EPSARCOffice@gmail.com.

2021 Upgrade

EPSARC is currently discussing different options for those referees wishing to upgrade for the 2021 registration year.

We will publish those requirements as soon as they are available.

For the Good of the Game.
—lan

Ian Bongaardt, SRA
Eastern PA Soccer Association Referee Committee

EPSARC
PO Box 851
Springfield, PA 19064
www.epsarc.org

[Visit our website](#)

Connect with us

