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## EPSARC Update October 23, 2020

In this week's update we have information about:

- **2021 Recertifications are Open**
- **Female MLS Referee**
- **Pre-Game: Why We Walk the Field**

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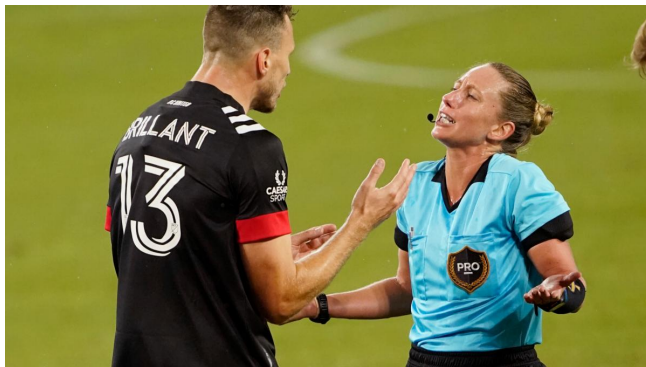
### All Recertifications are Now Open!

No matter if you are a Grassroots Referee, Regional Referee, Instructor, Assessor, Assignor or an Emeritus Referee your online classes are open for 2021 Registration!

Please review and follow the instructions [here](http://www.epsarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Instructions-to-Register-for-2021.pdf) to register for 2021. (<http://www.epsarc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Instructions-to-Register-for-2021.pdf>)

The criteria to recertify this year (no matter the role) is:

- Ensure your background checks are clear and update to date
- Ensure you have completed SafeSport and that the completion certificate is still active
- Complete the required online course models for that role



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### First Female Referee in MLS in 20 Years!!

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tori Penso officiated her first match as an MLS referee. She is the first female referee to oversee an MLS game in 20 years. The last was Sandy Hunt on May 13, 2000. Many female referees in the years since have served as MLS Assistant Referees and 4<sup>th</sup> Officials.

Tori has worked NWSL and USL Championship matches and came through the PRO2 development program earlier in her career.

Penso, who's married to long-time MLS referee Chris Penso, has also served as the managing director of the National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association.

"Every opportunity you get on that pitch is an opportunity to learn and grow," Penso said during a May 2020 story on the [Professional Referee Organization's website](#). If you ever walk off the pitch having not learned something, then you're not reflecting effectively." For more on Penso's background and growing referee profile, check out [PRO's entire story here](#).



### Pre-Game: Why We Walk the Field

Here is a picture reminder of why we must walk the fields before every match.

The deer arrow was found on a local field in Eastern PA.



A job very well done by a seasoned referee crew!

Do you and your crew walk the entire field before every match?

- Touchlines
- Goal lines
- Goals
- Corner flags
- Penalty areas
- Interior of the field

[2020-2021 Laws of the Game Changes](#)

[2020-2021 Laws of the Game](#)

**The Laws of the Game now fit in your pocket!** The International Football Association Board (IFAB) has put together a great iPhone and Android app with the Laws of the Game and more...definitely worth downloading!

Simply go to the App Store in iOS or the Google Play Store and search "Laws of the Game".

All EPSARC Update emails are archived as pdfs on our website by clicking [here](#) or visiting <http://www.epsarc.org/news/epsarc-update-emails/>

For the Good of the Game.

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Ian Bongaardt, SRA  
Eastern PA Soccer Association Referee Committee

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