

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE REFEREE COMMITTEE

## 2007 Overview

The growth of the sport continues to put increased demands on the referee program. Leagues in both the Youth and Adult associations continue to ask for better-trained referees and more of them. The Referee Committee continues to focus all of its efforts on serving the needs of the state associations and their leagues.

## Registration Data

In 2007 we saw the number of registered referees in Massachusetts reach the highest number we have ever had, topping out at over 5300. Unfortunately, we are retaining a disproportionately low number of female referees.

<u>*Role</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>%</u>
Referee	2007	5349 (1800 new)	1502	28	3847	72
Instructor	2007	47 (9 new)				
Assessors	2007	64 (1 new)				
Assignors	2007	154 (26 new)				

## Referee Development

The Assessment and Instructional staff were busy during the year under the direction of Milan Robbins and Nigel Bright, respectively. In 2007, no fewer than 181 total courses were run, with 145 of those being entry level grade 8 and 9 course, and the other 36 events being recertification and advanced courses. Both numbers are a significant increase.

## Retaining Female Officials

Due to the high dropout rate of female officials, we have set aside funding to study and reduce the attrition rate. Under the leadership of Jenna Powell, we will be looking at changes to any facet of the program with the ultimate goal to retain more female officials.

## Referee Service Awards:

Recognition awards were created to recognize long term commitment to refereeing and reduce attrition. These length of service awards are to be phased in over the next year and will become an annual occurrence.

## Website upgrades:

In 2007 we completed an overhaul of the web site to increase functionality and streamline the layout and user interface. Improvements to the navigational menu and log in procedures continue to make the experience a positive one for all users.

## Advanced Publication of Courses

The MSRC now publicizes all referee courses for the entire year, offering an on-line registration and enrollment system for all referees. This will allow us to better serve the growing demand for new referees in all areas of the state. We have also shifted the location of courses from schools or public buildings to hotels, in order to improve the teaching facility and security for all involved.

## Administrative/Budget

Two more staff positions were added. We commenced a year long effort to codify and record MSRC functions and job descriptions to ensure program continuity and ease transition when new administrators assume these roles.

## Referee Upgrades

The upgrade process was streamlined. Upgrades are now processed within seven days of submittal.

### **Referee Academy**

The Massachusetts Referee Academy was re-launched in earnest under State Adult Referee Administrator Del Rainho. This ongoing program will serve as a vehicle for helping referees to achieve their potential and will include comprehensive and high level instruction as well as targeted assessment and assignment opportunities to developing referees.

### **2007 Referees of the Year**

Igor Senic of Stoughton and Meaghan Heinz of Medford were selected as the Young Male and Female Referees of the Year. Michael Rugnetta of Rockland was selected as the Adult Referee of the Year. These referees have not only excelled on the field, but have also demonstrated poise and good common sense off the field, have achieved academic excellence and/or a reputation for community service.

### **Professional/Amateur Tournament Appointments**

Seven of our officials were appointed to either international and/or national professional/amateur tournaments. These people are:

- Jen Bennett – Women’s World Cup
- Tom Supple – Mexican Interliga, International matches
- Rachel Woo – US Women’s National Team matches
- Niko Bratsis – Nike Friendlies
- Claudiu Badea – US Open Cup Semifinal
- Suren Karapetyan, Sean Nally – Region 1 Select
- Sean Nally – USASA National Cup Finals, Region 1 Select

### **2007 National Championship Series – Region I Championships**

Massachusetts sent a large delegation of 14 referees, and 3 assessors to the 2007 Region I Championships, with Erich Simmons, of Reading serving as the Head of the Delegation. Stephen DiLeo of Stoneham was selected to attend the 2007 National Championship tournament as an Assistant Referee, based on his performance at Regionals.

### **2007 Region I ODP Tournament**

Our delegation to the 2007 Region I ODP Tournament was comprised of 12 referees and 2 assessors with Derek Ambrozaitis of Middleboro as the Head of Delegation. Rusmir Bilalic of Medford was selected to attend the ODP Region I Finals held in Kirkwood, DE.

### **Out of State Tournaments**

In 2007, our efforts to promote Massachusetts referees to out-of-state tournaments was under the leadership of John Jordan, who has taken charge with organizing and sending officials to some of the top youth tournaments in the country with much success. The following events were attended in 2007:

- Score at the Shore – Jacksonville, FL (February)
- Las Vegas Showcase – Las Vegas, NV (March)
- Score at the Shore – Greensboro, NC (July)
- WAGS – DC/Baltimore, MD (October)
- Super Y North American Finals – Tampa, FL (November)
- Baltimore Showcase – Baltimore, MD (November)
- Tampa Sun Bowl – Tampa, FL (December)
- Disney Showcase – Orlando, FL (December/January ‘08)

### **In Memoriam:**

Albert P. Lopes, Jr., 83, Peabody

Respectfully Submitted,

Andy Weiss  
State Referee Administrator

Brian Treanor  
State Youth Referee Administrator