

# Off The Pitch

Volume 3, Issue 2 April 2001

NM State Referee Committee Newsletter



NEW MEXICO  
OPEN STATE CUP

Ready for the  
New Mexico  
Open State Cup?

[www.nmysa.net/n-state.html](http://www.nmysa.net/n-state.html)



A topnotch New  
Mexico tourna-  
ment, the **Sandia  
Cup**.

[www.iolnm.net/sandiacup](http://www.iolnm.net/sandiacup)  
Jarbitro@netzero.net



REGION IV CHAMPIONSHIPS



What about the  
Far West  
Regionals? It's  
being held in  
New Mexico this  
June.



## USASA Referee of the Year



*Reprinted with permission (Wolfram Blattner, USASA Referee Committee Chairman):*



The Referee of the Year Award for the Millennium Year 2000 went to **Jesse Johnson**, New Mexico. Jesse came from the ranks of youth players and started to officiate at the age of 15 and advanced to National Referee last year, at the young age of 24. He showed his capabilities during the Soccer Festival in Providence, Rhode Island where he was selected the Referee of the Tournament. This reward came not only in a great performance during the US U20 vs. Canada U20 game, but also through his

outstanding attitude towards the game and his fellow officials. His contribution to the game does not stop here. Jesse is a certified assessor and finds time to assess other referees; he is often requested by other referees. He mentors several teenage referees. Jesse demonstrated his knowledge of the game by coaching an U-19 boys team to the Far West Regionals, earning the tournament "Fair Play" award on top of it.

In his professional life, Jesse teaches high school Spanish. Each summer he travels out of the country to do missionary work with his church as far away as Ghana, West Africa. In addition to their ministry work, Jesse and the other local youth traveling with him, conduct soccer clinics in the small villages where they are working.

It is apparent that Jesse's success as a referee and assessor/mentor is strongly connected with his religious believes, putting fellow officials and players before himself. This becomes evident through his own words. His best refereeing experience: it is not the tournament award from the Soccer Festival, but "Working with a group of youth referees that I mentor"; what do you like best about being a referee: "I love to feel like I helped make the game fun to watch"; who do you wish to thank for helping you as a referee: "...he taught me the importance of loving not soccer, but those who are involved in soccer".

*(Continued on page 2)*

## USASA Referee of the Year — Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

The Region I Referee of the Year, **Michael Lukashunas**, resides in Eastern Pennsylvania and has been involved in officiating since 1979, and in amateur games since 1986. His involvement in amateur soccer includes surviving more than eight hundred amateur games; more importantly, Michael has developed “Mentor Programs” in the Capital area, focusing on developing younger referees with both instructional and fitness training. He has been successful over the past five years in assisting five youth referees to advance to the professional list. Michael is very serious about being able to help younger referees to get the exposure and the experience they need to move up the ranks, and to replace those who are getting to the later stages of their officiating careers. Michael is fitness buff and intends to stay active as long as he has the physical and mental fitness that is required. - Michael has a degree in business administration and holds a high level managing position for a large Web Offset printer company. Michael’s managing job has assisted him in his officiating as much as his dealing with players and coaches has helped him in his professional job.

**Elias Bazakos** is Region’s II Referee of the year and lives in Bloomington, Minnesota. There are a number of reasons why Elias has become one of the most respected referees in amateur competition – on his way to a professional career. He started playing at a very young age, played through high school and, unlike some other referees, is still an active player. Elias has over twelve years experience as a referee and has advanced through the ranks, traveling around his Region and the country to take on new challenges. - In addition to going to medical school, besides playing and officiating, Elias still finds time for activities that include church choir, camp counseling and youth ministries; playing oboe for a UoM orchestra and being an active member of a Greek dancing group. His energy, adaptability and, as he puts it, “thirst for the game” brought him to the level where he is today.

Regions III Referee of the Year, **Tim Debysingh**, lives in Arlington, North-Texas. Born in Trinidad, West Indies, Tim played soccer over 25 years. He advanced to National Referee in just seven years of officiating. His officiating capabilities sent him to both the Youth and Amateur Nationals last year. Tim is an example of a referee who demonstrates a high level of confidence and professionalism. Tim is constantly working with amateur and youth programs on his own time to keep the high standards expected of referees in his State. He is serving as an assessor and mentor of grade 7 and 8 referees, talking to younger referees on a one-on-one basis to help them understand the finer points of officiating. He was instrumental in starting a physical training program with other referees to make sure that they are all match fit at all times. On the other end of the string, he knows that he has still to learn and you rarely miss him at advanced clinics and at discussions with MLS officials after professional games. – Tim has a degree in Psychology. He currently is a counselor working with people suffering from schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depression.

IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED WITH USSF, YOU MUST NOT DO GAMES. IF YOU DO, YOU **WILL NOT BE PAID** (NOT TO MENTION LIABILITY ISSUES). IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, SO CHECK WITH YOUR DRA.

## ***Your District Referee Administrator***

Do you know who your District Referee Administrator is? We call them DRA for short. They take care of your training and your registration; they help you with all of your paperwork. Do you know how to contact them? Well, here they are:

### **District 1**

**Albuquerque-West** (Socorro, Sandoval County)  
Stan Harrison, 898-2564  
StanHarrison7@cs.com

### **District 2**

**Albuquerque-East** (Socorro, Sandoval County)  
Gary Bauerschmidt, 265-7849  
gbauers@unm.edu

### **District 3**

**Las Cruces** (Dona Ana County, Deming, Silver City)  
Gary Manley, 522-4421  
GaryM@zianet.com

### **District 4**

**Carlsbad** (Artesia)  
Rick Castillo, 885-5019

### **District 5**

**Los Alamos** (Taos, Questa)  
Kim Thomas, 672-3354  
kwthomas@lanl.gov

### **District 6**

**Hobbs** (Loving, Lovington, Lea County)  
Rick Castillo (Acting), 885-5019

### **District 7**

**Four-Corners** (Farmington, Bloomington, Aztec, Kirtland)  
Steve Thomas, 334-8849  
SThomas@cyberport.com

### **District 8**

**Alamogordo** (Tularosa Basin, Ruidoso)  
David Van Horn, 434-3679  
davev@zianet.com

### **District 9**

**Santa Fe** (Eldorado, Pojaque, Espanola, Las Vegas)  
Philip deGive, 988-2681

### **District 10**

**Roswell** (Clovis, Portales)  
Ed Preble, 622-3601  
epreble@rt66.com

### **District 11**

**Gallup** (Grants)  
Marce Gomez, 722-9152  
mrgomez@cnetco.com

## **Associate Instructor Clinic**

Paul Mix, SDI

An associate instructor course will be offered on July 6, 7, and 8 in Las Cruces and on July 13, 14, and 15 in Albuquerque if we have a minimum of 8 pre-registered students for the clinics. Successful completion of either clinic will allow graduates to teach courses in entry-level clinics throughout the state. The 16-hour USSF associate instructor course attempts to provide the students a brief overview of instructional theory and explains the instructional methodology ITIP (Instructional Theory Into Practice) that has been adopted by USSF. Instructors are expected to continue their referee development through attendance at the annual intermediate clinic, in-service training, regional tournament clinics, or other USSF sanctioned clinics. A thorough understanding of the Laws of the Game is a prerequisite; the Laws are not specifically covered in the course. Successful completion of the course requires the students to pass a test on the Laws of the Game and to demonstrate a proficiency in the ITIP paradigm. Some previous experience in presentation skills is mandatory. Interested referees should contact their district referee administrator (DRA) or the SDI for an application (also available on page 6). The clinic fee will be \$35 (to NMSRA) and should be submitted with the application by May 29 to the SDI. Out of town students will be assisted with travel and lodging expenses. Letters of acceptance with additional clinic details will be mailed the week of June 4 and emailed to all applicants about the same time.

# Sports Officials Assault Law

Doug Cotter, ASRA President

At the beginning of April, Governor Gary Johnson signed into law a bill that will stiffen criminal penalties against people who assault or batter sports officials while performing their duties. The bill will go into effect on July 1 of this year.

The law covers sports officials when they arrive at the sports event and ends when he/she returns to their home or place of business following the sports event. This law will include referees, referee's assistants, fourth officials, timers, scorers and sports event supervisors or administrators. The officials must be registered members of a local, state, regional, or national organization that provides education and training in the sport.

There are several categories of crimes and penalties pertaining to sports officials while performing their duties outlined in the new law as shown below.

| <b>Crime</b>                            | <b>Definition</b>   | <b>Penalty</b>       |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Assault                                 | Attempt to commit battery or threatening or menacing acts which cause a person to believe they are in danger of receiving immediate battery | Misdemeanor          |
| Aggravated Assault                      | Assaulting or striking at with a deadly weapon or use of body or face coverings to conceal identity while assaulting                        | Third Degree Felony  |
| Assault with felonious intent           | Assaulting with the intent to kill  | Second Degree Felony |
| Battery                                 | Unlawful intentional touching or force in a rude, insolent or angry manner  | Fourth Degree Felony |
| Aggravated Battery                      | Battery with the intent to injure causing temporary disfigurement or impairment   | Third Degree Felony  |
| Aggravated Battery w/ great bodily harm | Battery causing great bodily harm or potential for death  | Second Degree Felony |
| Battery Assistance                      | Assisting in committing battery   | Fourth Degree Felony |

The actual affect of the bill is an increase in penalties by one order of magnitude. What used to be a misdemeanor is now a fourth degree felony, fourth degree felonies are raised to third degree felonies, etc. As you can see, the stakes are raised considerably for all of these crimes. Now, even the act of approaching an official to angrily or emotionally protest a call may be considered assault. We must tread very carefully in this area.

I believe a real benefit of this law is that it will now give the police greater latitude in dealing with persons guilty of criminal acts against officials. As a misdemeanor, the police must witness the act in order to make an arrest. Now, most of the crimes are considered felonies, which will allow the police to make an arrest at the scene. In addition, the District Attorney is probably not going to get involved in misdemeanor cases as they would a felony. Arrests and greater court involvement will send a much stronger message.

There will be greater burden on officials also, however. Our game reports must be in much better order than they currently are. Remember that your game report is a legal document as a record of the match. In the event that you are battered or assaulted, your game report must be flawless and accurate, as it will be a piece of evidence. You must also get full concurrence with the entire crew concerning the facts of the incident as it is stated in the game report. All officials involved must submit a written report within a few days to the league and the State Referee Administrator.

It is very unfortunate that I am even writing about this topic at all. I'm sure none of us anticipated having to deal with these issues when we chose to become referees. Unfortunately sporting events have become a reflection of our society. It is my sincere hope that no one has to use this new law.

# The Bad and the Ugly

*Reprinted with permission (C.W. Nevius, San Francisco Chronicle):*

A selection of incidents, with details taken from police reports and news accounts, at youth sports events in the United States during June to September 2000.

**June 2000:** Two parents scuffle at an in-line hockey rink in Tucson, Ariz., after one of their kids isn't chosen for a select 10-and-under team.

**June 2000:** A coach breaks an umpire's jaw with a punch at a baseball game for high school kids. He has been charged with aggravated assault in Hollywood, Fla.

**July 2000:** In the most publicized case, Thomas Junta, 42, beats Michael Costin, 40, to death in a fight at an informal hockey game involving their 10-year-old sons in Reading, Mass. Junta has pleaded not guilty to manslaughter charges. The fight apparently began when Junta became angry that Costin, who was monitoring the game, didn't curb the children's rough play.

**August 2000:** Two adults punch a referee at an under-16 soccer game in Pleasanton in a dispute over a player's ejection. One is charged with battery of a sports official.

**August 2000:** An argument over a teenaged umpire's call at the T-ball game for 5-year-olds in west Miami-Dade County, Fla., turns into a brawl involving more than 20 parents and coaches.

**September 2000:** Former major leaguer Pete Incaviglia is cited for assault by threat after a confrontation at his 10-year-old son's hockey game in North Richland Hills, Texas. He already had been banned from coaching in the league after a run-in with a referee.

**September 2000:** At a Pop Warner football game for 13- to 15-year olds in Port Orange, Fla., words exchanged shortly after the game ignite a fight that draws more than 100 parents, coaches and players onto the field. One mother and one player are arrested.

## New Assistant Referee Grade

*Reprinted with permission (Wolfram Blattner, USASA Referee Committee Chairman):*

During the spring meeting of the National Referee Committee of USSF, a new Assistant Referee Grade was approved. This decision was based on a survey of SRA's conducted during the SRA workshop in Colorado Springs last September. Many State Associations are short of officials for amateur games on weekends. A number of amateur players seem to be willing to help out as assistant referees in "their leagues", but they have no intention of becoming referees nor do they want to officiate youth games.

Over the last several years a number of complaints were voiced stating that referees and assistant referees moving up from the youth ranks do not have sufficient training for amateur level games. Therefore, training courses for the new badge have to provide adequate instruction for adult level competition. Although the course for the new grade is a condensed course, a number of restrictions will assure that high standards are met.

The new badge is not for soccer novices and has little resemblance with the "Linesmen Grade" which is authorized for recreational youth games up to U14. An Assistant Referee graduating from this course can be assigned to any level amateur game. Requirements for admittance to the Assistant Referee course are a minimum age of 18 and at least three years of experience either as a player in amateur, collegiate or competitive youth level games or at least three years of experience at grade levels 9 or 10.

The course will usually be conducted on a weekend. It includes intensive instructions on offside, fouls and misconduct as well as a field training session. A test equivalent to the Grade 8 test will be required.

Assistant referees who want to re-register in subsequent years have to pass a game assessment as well as the Grade 7 fitness test.

Send completed application by May 29 with a \$35 check to:  
Paul Mix, SDI, 3004 Palo Alto Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111



**Application**  
**Associate Referee Instructor Course**  
**July 6-8, 2001, Las Cruces, NM**  
**July 13-15, 2001, Albuquerque, NM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Referee Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Assessor Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date First Registered as Referee: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Preferred Date: (please indicate preference and availability)**

July 6-8, 2001, Las Cruces, NM    First Choice    Second Choice    I cannot attend this date

July 13-15, 2001, Albuquerque, NM    First Choice    Second Choice    I cannot attend this date

**Please indicate any special circumstances which should be considered for this application:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Young Referee of the Year

David Vehar, State Youth Referee Administrator

Each year, New Mexico Youth Soccer Association honors one each outstanding male and female youth referee as its Young Referees of the Year. Nominations are made by members of the soccer community, and may come from fellow referees, coaches, administrators, or anyone else familiar with a young referee's abilities. Selections are based on a candidate's abilities and experience as a referee, as well as his or her dedication to refereeing. Professionalism, maturity, demonstration of leadership, and other activities are important considerations.

This year's selection for female Young Referee of the Year is Carly Foreback. Carly, age 17, is a grade 8 referee from Gallup, NM. She has been officiating since age 12. She primarily serves the Gallup Soccer League, but has also officiated high school matches. Her experience includes numerous tournaments, including last year's Snickers New Mexico Open State Cup.

Carly will represent New Mexico at the Region IV youth soccer championships, held this year at the New Mexico Soccer Tournament Complex. In addition, her nomination packet has been forwarded to Region IV for consideration as Regional Young Referee of the Year.

A male Young Referee of the Year was not identified.



## NMYSA (Youth) Open State Cup

- Youth Open State Cup is April 28-29, May 12-13 and May 19-20.
- Referees interested in officiating should contact the scheduler, Jana Vehar, 505-323-5689, email [jlvehar@aol.com](mailto:jlvehar@aol.com).

## NMYSA American Cup

- American Cup is April 28-29.
- Referees interested in officiating should contact the scheduler, Susan Vallez, 505-831-1552, email [sjvallez@msn.com](mailto:sjvallez@msn.com).



Do you have ideas, comments and/or suggestions for future newsletter topics? Or even an article???? Send it to the Off The Pitch editor:

Paul Quan  
9319 Layton Ave NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Email: [NMSoccerRef@aol.com](mailto:NMSoccerRef@aol.com)





# *Off The Pitch*

Paul Quan  
9319 Layton Ave NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87111

*Mailing label*

---

Off The Pitch

---



## Calendar of Events

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Apr 28-29     | Tide American Cup, Albuquerque                                      |
| Apr 28-May 20 | Snickers New Mexico (NMYSA) Open State Cup, Albuquerque             |
| May 26-28     | Sandia Cup, Albuquerque   |
| May 26-28     | 9th Annual Memorial Day Soccer Classic, Farmington                  |
| Jun 2-3       | Southwest Zia Cup, Albuquerque                                      |
| Jun 24-30     | Far West Regional, Albuquerque, NM                                  |
| Jul 6-8       | Associate Instructor Course, Las Cruces, NM                         |
| July 13-15    | Associate Instructor Course, Albuquerque, NM                        |
| Aug 11-12     | Statewide Referee and In-Service Instructor Clinic, Albuquerque, NM |

<< **VENUE CHANGE:** ASRA MEETINGS: Jewish Community Center, 5520 Wyoming NE, Albuquerque—2nd Tuesdays, 7:00 PM >>