

# Off The Pitch

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2002

NM STATE REFEREE COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

## Attending the Upgrade Orientation Clinic?

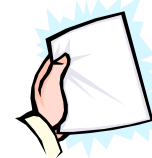
A special discount rate has been arranged at the Ameri Suites in Albuquerque, located south of Carlisle and north of Menaul. Food will be provided starting at 6:30 PM in the meeting room. The clinic starts at 7 PM.



Congratulations to **Jeremy Vehar** and **Dean Henke** for being selected to represent New Mexico at the Region IV ODP Tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada! Kudos to **Matthew Warpinski** and **Adam Arvizo** for making the list of finalists.

- Gary Bauerschmidt,  
SYRA

## 2002 Upgrade Program



To become a higher level referee requires you to declare your intention to upgrade to your DRA. The process for upgrade is described below. Although this process seem tedious, it is modeled after the USSF national referee candidate upgrade program. To upgrade requires a commitment to yourself and to Soccer. Grade 7 Upgrades are a joint District and State process with the emphasis on the District. State upgrades and higher are a joint District and State process with the emphasis on the State.

The process is:

- 1 Contact your District Referee Administrator (DRA) to discuss and declare your intent to upgrade.
- 2 Verify with your DRA that you have met the time in grade and number of games criteria.
- 3 Attend the orientation clinic conducted in conjunction with the Classic FC Cup tournament in February if you are requesting a State or higher level upgrade or you live in the Albuquerque area.
- 4 Schedule a Development and Guidance (D&G) assessment with your local Assessor. If you are requesting a State or higher level upgrade or you live in the Albuquerque area schedule the D&G during the Classic FC Tournament.
- 5 Have the proper number of full assessments conducted.
- 6 Attend and complete the State Clinic usually held mid-August or another approved Upgrade Clinic
- 7 Successfully complete the Fitness test at the appropriate level.
- 8 Successfully complete the proper level of Written test.
- 9 Do the paper work in concert with your DRA.

All of the above is required to be completed in the year declared. Assessors will be pre-assigned. Upgrade candidates will receive a letter or e-mail from the State Director of Assessments for State and higher level upgrades, informing them who is their assigned assessor. DRAs will coordinate the Grade 7 level assessments. It will be up to the referee to coordinate with the Scheduler and the Assessor assessable matches, therefore, it is important to get your profile sheets into the League assignors. Note that if an assessment is not recommended for upgrade the referee will pay for the assessment. This can be done by having the game fee paid to the assessor or by the referee directly paying the Assessor. Also game reports and how they are completed will be part of the criteria to pass an assessment. The Assessor will make a recommendation based on the field performance, however to complete the assessment a copy of the game report must be forwarded to the Assessor. The game report is important to determine if a referee meets the quality standards of the level upgrading. How a game report is completed is a critical element of refereeing.

- Bob Linebaugh, SDA

## 2002 Clinics & Tournaments

2002 promises to be a very busy year. In addition to the entry level clinics, a FIFA level Referee will be conducting a Referee clinic in Spanish. Lee Popejoy, a nationally recognized soccer aficionado, will be leading an Assessor clinic. And then we have the plethora of Spring tournaments.

Jan 18-21	Region IV ODP Championship Las Vegas, NV
Jan 19	Grade 9 Clinic, Rio Rancho
Jan 18,19,20	<b>*Spanish Language Entry Level Clinic, ABQ</b>
Jan 25,26,27	Entry level Clinic - ABQ East Entry level Clinic - Las Cruces/Alamogordo Assessor Clinic, ABQ
Feb 9,10	Adult Spring Tournament, TBA
Feb 16th	Grade 11 Clinic - NWRGSL
Feb 15,16,17	Entry level Clinic - ABQ West
Feb 23,24,25	Upgrade Clinic & Classic FC Cup, ABQ
March 16-17	West of the Pecos Shootout, Roswell (U-13 thru U-19)
March 23-24	(U-08 thru U-12)
April 6-7	LC United Border Cup, Las Cruces
Apr 27-May 19	NMYSA (Youth) State Cup tournament play
May 4-5	New Mexico Adult Amateur State Cup
May 11-12 (New Dates)	Tide American Cup, ABQ
May 25-27	Four Corners Cup, Farmington Sandia Cup, ABQ area
June 1-2	Southwest Zia Cup, ABQ
June 23-29	Region IV Far West Regionals, Salt Lake City, UT
July 22-28	Snickers National Championship Bethesda, MD

**\*Queries to Paul Mix (email: [mix@flash.net](mailto:mix@flash.net))**

The 2002 Classic FC Cup Assigning Committee invites everyone to Referee at this "Upgrade Tournament." The Orientation Clinic for those upgrading will be held on Friday Feb 22nd. The Tournament will be held Feb 23 – 24 at the Lovelace Soccer Complex in Bernalillo. Assessors will be available for evaluations of all grade levels.

Questions or where to send your availability:

Email: [gbauers@unm.edu](mailto:gbauers@unm.edu)

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Q. May referees wear caps or sunglasses?

A. With regard to caps, the policy of the United States Soccer Federation was stated in the Spring 1994 issue of Fair Play magazine:

*"Under normal circumstances, it is not acceptable for a game official to wear headgear, and it would never be seen on a high level regional, national or international competition. However, there may be rare circumstances in local competitions where head protection or sun visors might sensibly be tolerated for the good of the game, e.g. early morning or late afternoon games with sun in the officials' line of sight causing vision difficulties; understaffed situations where an official with sensitive skin might be pressed into service for multiple games under strong sunlight or a referee who wears glasses needing shielding from rain."*

Sunglasses would be subject to the same considerations. In addition, we ask referees to remember that sunglasses have the unfortunate side effect of suggesting that the referee or assistant referee is severely visually impaired and should not be working the game. They also limit communication between the officials and the players by providing a barrier against eye-to-eye contact.

Sunglasses, if worn, should be removed prior to any verbal communication with players.

- Paul Mix, SDI

# Looking Over Your Shoulder

If we look around our Referee ranks most of what we see are aging individuals. Yes, most of us still work hard at keeping fit but those aches, pains and little injuries stay around a lot longer. They are now preventing us from being at our best. Yet, we still sign up for as many or even more games than we used to because there are so many unfilled assignments. While the number of games played continues to grow and grow each year, the number of Referees is slightly down and the average Referee age

"The goal is to be able to increase the pool at every level of development. In my opinion, everybody should be looking over his or her shoulder to see Whom is coming next. And at the same time we fully expect that the people at the top are reaching back behind them to pull somebody else up along the way, and serve as an inspiration and a motivating force to our grassroots referees."

- Julie Ilacqua,  
USSF Managing Director of Federation Services

is way up, especially in the higher grades. We need to get more Referees as well as develop higher level ones. Each one of us should be helping others become Referees or develop or both.

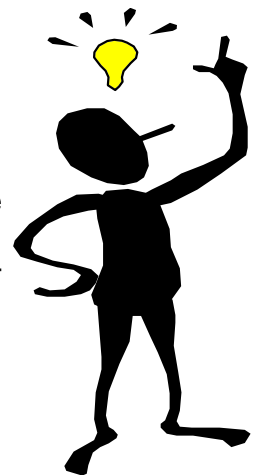
I was extremely fortunate to have help and support from a number of individuals. So good was their feedback, that I not only followed their advice but traveled with them to various tournaments all around the USA. Everyone, no matter what level, needs to be looking over his or her shoulder to help someone else become a better Referee. No that doesn't mean giving unasked for feedback, but following the Referee Code of Ethics by supporting your fellow Referees, by:

- Wear something other than your Ref jersey while watching games.
- Don't second guess the calls on the field.
- Seek out advice.
- Travel, travel and travel to gain experience.
- Be a mentor to others.

If you live outside of Albuquerque there are a plethora of tournaments around New Mexico that you can inexpensively attend. If you are seeking State level and higher you should be traveling to the top tournaments around the country.

As the State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA) I am particularly interested in growing the numbers and developing our youth Referees. If you have noticed a youth referee that has potential please support that individual by not allowing any kind of "spectator and/or coach" harassment. We already lose way too many good potential Referees because of touchline behavior, but it is inexcusable for any adult to harass a youth Referee. If you are a youth Referee and want to become better seek out advice every chance you get. Contact me! We'll see what can be arranged to help you grow as a Referee. For example, in the Albuquerque area two of our top young State Referees will be hosting a Pizza get together for all the youth Referees in the area.

- Gary Bauerschmidt, SYRA  
gbauers@unm.edu



# *Off The Pitch*

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*Mailing label*

## Calendar of Events

Feb 9,10	Adult Spring Tournament, TBA
Feb 23, 24	Classic FC Cup (and Referee Upgrade Orientation)
Mar 16-17, Mar 23-24	West of the Pecos, Roswell
April 6-7	LC United Border Cup, Las Cruces
April 27 – May 19	NMYSA (Youth) State Cup Play
May 4-5	Adult Amateur State Cup
May 11-12	NMYSA (Youth) Tide American Cup Albuquerque
May 25-27	Four Corner's Cup, Farmington Sandia Cup, Albuquerque
Jun 1-2	Zia Cup, Albuquerque
Jun 23-29	Far West Regionals, Salt Lake City, Utah