

# Off The Pitch

Volume 4, Issue 4 October 2002

NM State Referee Committee Newsletter

## Tournament Time!!!



**Don't wait until the last minute — contact the assignors and sign up now for games:**

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*Loveland NMSTC*

**U8-U12**  
*November 9-10*  
**POC: Paul Quan**  
**NMSoccerRef@aol.com**

**U13-U19**  
*November 16-17*  
**POC: Gary Bauerschmidt**  
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[www.nmsra.org](http://www.nmsra.org)

## Upgrade Process & Changes

January will soon be on us. With that comes the time to declare for upgrade. There are changes in the process this year.



The first step in the process is to contact your District Referee Administrator (DRA) to declare your intention to upgrade. One of the changes is at this point, and that is to complete the Upgrade Declaration form which is an application and an agreement/commitment to the program and process. Your DRA will have the declaration form.

Your intent to upgrade must be made to your DRA and the form completed and returned to your DRA on or before December 31, 2002. There are no mid-year/mid-season entries into the upgrade program. Declaration to upgrade is made once a year. Your DRA will verify your game count and time in grade per USSF requirements for acceptance into the upgrade program.

The second change and requirement to get into the Upgrade process will be to complete and pass the USSF physical certification. What this means is that although you have declared your intent to upgrade your acceptance into the upgrade process is dependent on passing the physical certification program. This certification is over and above the annual USSF physical re-certification. Additional physical certifications will be scheduled and conducted during the year and must be passed to stay in the program.

Upgrade candidates are also part of the Referee Academy Training program and are required to participate in clinics (attending and presenting), tournaments, and mentoring.

It is extremely important that you are prepared for the upgrade process mentally and physically. It is a big commitment to upgrade and takes a lot of time. You should be on a regular physical training program, traveling and refereeing in out of town/state tournaments, and being a student of the game.

- Continued on Page 2

# Upgrade Process & Changes (Continued from page 1)

Upgrade to Referee grade 7 requires the successful completion of one assessment as a center referee. Upgrade to a Referee State grade 6 or 5 requires two successful assessments as a center referee and one successful assessment as an assistant referee. If an unsuccessful assessment happens, there is a “two-for-one” requirement to meet the upgrade requirement and the candidate is responsible for paying for these assessments. If there are two unsuccessful assessments the candidate is no longer eligible for upgrade, and is on probation for the next upgrade year. Upgrade year is January 1 through December 31.

All of this takes a bunch of commitment, a lot of focus, and the desire to improve.

- Bob Linebaugh, SDA; Gary Bauerschmidt, SYRA; Larry Grimes, DRA District 2

<b>STEPS TO UPGRADING</b>		
<i>Step</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Requirement / Purpose</i>
<b>1</b>	Contact DRA and declare candidacy for upgrade. Complete Upgrade Declaration Form.	Formal, written request to be considered for the upgrade program. You must be willing to make the commitment to the upgrade program.
<b>2</b>	Run and pass USSF physical certification.	If not fit enough to pass physical certification, no need for further consideration.
<b>3</b>	Upgrade orientation. Conducted in conjunction with the Classic FC tournament.	Rules of engagement. Requirements and expectations for upgrade process.
<b>4</b>	Have Developmental and Guidance assessment(s) during Classic FC tournament.	Identify strengths and weaknesses which may be the focus of assessment(s).
<b>5</b>	SDA will assign Assessor. You coordinate with Assignor and Assessor game time and date.	You are the one wanting to upgrade, it is your responsibility to get assessable games in a timely manner. Don't wait until the last minute.
<b>6</b>	Attend annual certification clinic.	You must make a commitment to a set numbers of hours for personal training to remain in the upgrade program.
<b>7</b>	Take and pass annual re-certification written test.	This is required annually for recertification and/or upgrade.
<b>8</b>	Run and pass the annual USSF physical re-certification.	This is required annually for recertification and/or upgrade.
<b>9</b>	Complete the paperwork.	This is required annually for recertification and/or upgrade.

## 2002 USSF Referee Grade Demographics

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	<i>Total</i>
<b>US</b>	10	11	213	22	869	1619	4264	95332	5282	4810	1729	35	52	95	498	559	11	<b>115411</b>
<b>NM</b>	0	0	2	0	12	17	44	477	34	8	72	0	1	0	2	8	0	<b>877</b>
	0%	0%	.009%	0%	.014%	.011%	.010%	.005%	.006%	.002%	.042%	0%	.019%	0%	.004%	.014%	0%	<b>.008%</b>

## RE-CERTIFICATION TIME

Re-certification for 2003 is currently taking place. If you have not already done so, contact your District Referee Administrator (DRA) as soon as possible.

Don't know who your DRA is? Check the NMSRA website ([www.nmsra.org](http://www.nmsra.org)).

## Obvious Goal-Scoring Opportunity Denied

Should I call it or shouldn't I? Is anyone watching? Maybe the player wouldn't have taken the shot anyway. Oh, where do I begin? Think no further...just remember the "four D's."

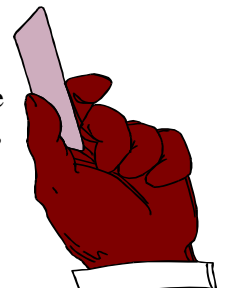
Law 12 provides that a defender whose violation of the Law prevents a goal or denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity must be sent off and shown the red card. The "professional foul" which is taken in a cynical attempt to prevent opponents from scoring requires a quick, firm response by the referee. Such misconduct by the defender overshadows the severity of the foul itself. In order for a player to be sent off for denying an "obvious goal-scoring opportunity," four elements **must** be present:

- Number of **Defenders** -- not more than one defender between the foul and the goal, not counting the defender who committed the foul
- **Distance** to goal -- the closer the foul is to the goal, the more likely it is an obvious goalscoring opportunity
- **Distance** to ball -- the attacker must have been close enough to the ball at the time of the foul to have continued playing the ball
- **Direction** of play -- the attacker must have been moving toward the goal at the time the foul was committed

If **any** element is missing, there can be no send off for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity. Further, the presence of each of these elements must be "obvious" in order for the send off to be appropriate under this provision of Law 12.

However, the foul might, by itself, warrant a card -- a caution for unsporting behavior, for example, if the challenge was reckless or a send off if the challenge was violent. If the foul by the defender is both violent and qualifies as an obvious goal-scoring opportunity offense misconduct, the referee should include both facts in the game report but must only list one official reason for the red card.

Referees are reminded that offenses which deny a goal-scoring opportunity are not limited to those punishable by a direct free kick or penalty kick but may include technical fouls for which the restart is an indirect free kick.



## IDEAS ... COMMENTS ... SUGGESTIONS

Do you have ideas, comments and/or suggestions for future newsletter topics? Or even an article???? Send it to the Off The Pitch editor (e-mail [NMSoccerRef@aol.com](mailto:NMSoccerRef@aol.com)):

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# *Off The Pitch*

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## Calendar of Events

November 9-10	Gaylord Sheppard Tournament (U8-U12), Lovelace NMSTC Assignor: Paul Quan (NMSoccerRef@aol.com)
November 9-10	NMSSA Fall Classic, Lovelace NMSTC Assignor: Leroy Stradford (NeedAMatch@aol.com)
November 16-17	Gaylord Sheppard Tournament (U13-U19), Lovelace NMSTC Assignor: Gary Bauerschmidt (gbauers@unm.edu)
November 29 - December 1	Classic FC Thanksgiving Tournament, Albuquerque
February 1-2	Summit 3v3 Tournament, Las Cruces
February 15-17	Second Annual Riner Steinhoff Soccer Classic, Alamogordo
February 15-16	Dominico Marquez Memorial Tournament, Albuquerque
February 22-23	Classic FC Cup Tournament, Lovelace NMSTC