

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **Colorado High School Soccer Officials (HSSO)**

#### **1. What are the requirements to officiate high school soccer in Colorado?**

- a. You must be a member of Colorado's High School Soccer Officials (HSSO) to officiate varsity high school soccer matches in Colorado.

#### **2. What is HSSO?**

- a. HSSO is the interface between the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) high school soccer programs and soccer officials.
- b. Find the Constitution and Bylaws on the "About HSSO" link on the website, or by visiting the HSSO website ([Colorado High School Soccer Officials](#)).

#### **3. What are the requirements to become a member of HSSO?**

- a. You must be at least 18 years of age,
- b. You must be out of high school,
- c. You must attend a new referee HSSO clinic,
- d. You must be a United States Soccer Federation (USSF) badge holder,
- e. You must pay the annual membership fees to HSSO,
- f. You must pass the National Federation of State High Schools Association (NFHS) test with a score of 85% (Active), 80% (Provisional) or 75% (JV),
- g. You must sign the Code of Conduct, and
- h. You must pass the CHSAA-required background check for all officials (and redo as required).

#### **4. What does it cost to join HSSO?**

- a. As of today, initial membership costs \$60/year; a continuing membership costs \$50/year if paid on time.
- b. Continuing members should pay prior to July 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid a \$10 late fee.

#### **5. When/why do I pay membership dues?**

- a. Dues are paid in the spring for the following school year (August through May).
- b. Dues cover National Federation of Officials Association (NFOA) insurance, CHSAA fees, clinics, evaluations, etc.
- c. New member fees are required up front to cover the cost of the NFHS test and other fixed costs.

**6. Do I have to recertify and pay every year?**

- a. Yes. Dues are for one school year only (August through May).
- b. Active members must attend an officials' clinic once per year; JV and Provisional members are required to attend a clinic prior to each season.
- c. Every year you must pass the NFHS test (see above).
- d. Every year you must sign the Code of Conduct.
- e. You must maintain your USSF badge certification (unless you are grandfathered by HSSO).

**7. What is my area?**

- a. Your area is based on where you live and/or where you want to officiate.
- b. Colorado is divided into ten geographic areas for high school soccer. Each area is led by an Area Director (see the list on the HSSO 'Links' page).

**8. How do I get games assigned?**

- a. Game assignments are made by contractors with the schools, using the official's area as a guide as to who might be available for those schools.
- b. You should contact the assigners in your area and the areas where you want to work (see the Soccer Assigners link on the HSSO 'Links' page).
- c. Most games are assigned through Arbiter Sports, so you will need to register with Arbiter Sports (see the HSSO 'Links' page).
  - c.i. Complete all elements of the "Profile" section (phones, custom fields, and picture).
  - c.ii. In the "Blocks" section, click on the "sites" and "teams" links to identify any conflicts and/or places you do not want to work.

- c.iii. Also, in the "Blocks" section, complete information requested in the "travel limits" link.

**9. How do I get into the Denver-area Draw (for games in the Denver-area)?**

- a. Log into Arbiter, switch views to the main CHSAA account (104522), and make sure you check the "Ready to be Assigned" box.

**10. Do I have to work for only one assignor?**

- a. No. You can work for as many assignors as you want.

**11. What is the 3-Whistle System?**

- a. Also known as the Double-Dual System of Control, the 3-Whistle system has a center referee and two side referees. Each official has defined responsibilities, and each official has a whistle.

**12. Why use the 3-Whistle System?**

- a. Colorado adopted the 3-Whistle system of control by a vote of the coaches who were member of the soccer committee in 2003.
- b. The reason we use it is that it affords a safer and better controlled environment for high school soccer.

**13. Where do I get information about the 3-Whistle System of Control?**

- a. The 3-Whistle system is briefly described in the NFHS Soccer Rule Book, but the best thing you can do is watch the instructional video ([CHSAA Three Whistle Training](#)).

**14. What is the uniform for high school soccer referees?**

- a. High school referees wear the "US Soccer" referee uniforms (i.e. gold, red, green, black, and blue pin stripe jerseys; with black shorts; and crews can choose to wear either two or three-stripe socks).

**15. What is the pay scale?**

- a. As of 2018-19, the normal pay is: Varsity games (3-Whistle) pay \$51.00; Sub-Varsity (Dual) \$42.50.
- b. There are slightly different payments for aberrations from the norm. Please check the current soccer bulletin on the CHSAA soccer coaches' website ([CHSAA Soccer](#)) for complete information.

**16. How do I get paid?**

- a. Each school district pays differently.
  - a.i. You may be paid at the pitch in cash,
  - a.ii. You may get a check from the schools,
  - a.iii. The assigner may pay you via check, or
  - a.iv.** You may get paid via RefPay.

**17. Why is High School different than USSF?**

- a. The best answer is that High school soccer is an extension of the classroom.

**18. What is different between High School and USSF?**

- a. A complete listing of all the differences can be found in the NFHS Soccer Rule Book (HSSO members may review the rules online through the Arbiter website).

**19. How are games reported for High School/ What administrative paperwork is required for games?**

- a. The referee needs to submit a supplemental report if there are certain non-game related issues (Field conditions, sportsmanship, team/coach conduct, spectator conduct, player equipment and uniforms, ball runners, weather, pre- and post-game incidents, etc.).
- b. The referee needs to submit a misconduct report for any send offs (player or coach) and if a caution is issued to a coach.
- c. Find the supplemental and misconduct reports by clicking the link on the HSSO home page.

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