

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 15th 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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