

PIAA LETTER OF INTEREST

Listed here is some basic information for you to check into if you would like to become a PIAA Soccer Official. I think you would like the atmosphere of officiating. We have a good local chapter of officials and the camaraderie is great. The local assigner for the games is very flexible when it comes to considering work obligations and refereeing. We have high school and middle school games in the afternoon (middle school at 3:45, varsity at 4:00) and then JV and Varsity games at night. JV usually start at 5:45 and varsity at 7 PM. All day Saturday as well.

To become a soccer official, you would first have to apply with the PIAA, pay a \$40.00 registration fee, receive study material, and pass an online test. Not too difficult if you study some and know the game. Here is the link to the PIAA website for you to explore.

www.PIAA.org

On the home page, click on the "Officials" drop down arrow for a sub window. On the left side you see a link for "Become an Official". Click on that and you will see the requirements.

Once you have passed the test, you will need to join a local chapter of officials. The Berks County games are worked by the Berks County Soccer Officials Association. We have a \$35.00 annual dues requirement to join. As an official, you would need to attend 4 chapter meetings plus a Rules Interpretation Meeting annually to maintain your active status. We train and go over issues at these one hour meetings. Currently we use Penn State Berks Campus for in person meetings. We also use Zoom to hold one or two meetings to reduce travel. Meetings usually start early August and run through early November. The last meeting is a dinner meeting which is paid for with your dues.

The BCSOA has a website as well, it is:

<https://berkssoa.org>

If you are interested in becoming an official, I would recommend that you start the process soon. Our game assigner sends out information for games in late spring and likes to start assigning in June so he can have it squared away by August. Assignments can change for various reasons before and during the season, mostly due to weather.