

MISSISSIPPI COAST SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION (MCSRA) BY-LAWS

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR MEETINGS:

All meetings shall be conducted utilizing Roberts Rules of Order.

2. MEMBERSHIP FEES:

Membership fees, for the current year, shall be equal to one Varsity game center fee, minus the MSHAA membership fee. All Membership fees shall be paid by 1 October. Officials shall not be assigned any games until membership fees are paid in full. Any member that has not paid the MCSRA membership fees by the 1st of October shall be assessed a \$10.00 penalty.

3. SEASON:

The season will be designated by MHSAA.

4. GAME RULES:

Games shall be officiated according to the most current Rule Book published by the National Federation of State High School Associations, (NFHS).

5. UNIFORMS:

The current USSF uniform will be the standard uniform for MCSRA and worn by all referees. The Primary color uniform for MCSRA is Green. An Alternate color uniform may be utilized for any match provided ALL referees wear the same color uniform.

6. TRAINING:

At least five (5) local clinics shall be scheduled during each season. The clinics will be administered by the Association Training Instructor. Each official is required to attend four of the local clinics. Failure to comply shall result in probation for one year and failure to comply the following year shall result in suspension of the violator from this Association.

First year referees to the association shall be assigned as Assistant Referees for Varsity games. They will be assigned with experienced referees who will assist in observing and evaluating them and offer suggestions for improvement. Exceptions to this may be granted by Board approval.

Association officers are encouraged to observe games for the purpose of assessing the performance of referees. All referees should be observed at least

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once per season.

7. REFEREE SCHEDULING:

The Assignor and Assistant Assignor will be responsible for the scheduling of officials during the Regular Season. The MCSRA President will have final approval authority for all game assignments and can direct changes to the schedule as necessary. Any routine changes made to the schedule during the season will be the responsibility of the Assignor and Assistant Assignor.

The following guidelines will be utilized to assign Officials to games:

- A. Member of MCSRA in Good Standing **prior** to the start of the Season.
- B. First year Officials are not eligible for assignment as a Center Referee.
- C. Games assignments shall be scheduled as equally as possible among referees.
- D. The following age requirements shall apply when scheduling Center referees:

GAME	MINIMUM AGE
Varsity	21
Junior Varsity	19
Junior High/Middle School	18

While the MCSRA recognizes, without objection, that members may belong to multiple High School Referee organizations, membership in MCSRA gives MCSRA the right to reserve first priority in any and all game assignments for MCSRA members. No member shall decline an MCSRA game assignment with the intent to accept game assignments from another High School Referee organizations. Members in multiple High School Referee organizations must carefully coordinate their non-MCSRA game assignments with MCSRA Assignors to avoid conflict, but must accept that failure to provide MCSRA with priority in game assignment may result in disciplinary action by the MCSRA Board, up to and including suspension from MCSRA.

The MCSRA board will meet and cumulatively assign Officials to ALL Post Season matches.

Only certified officials who have attended the required number of clinics are eligible to officiate in any Post Season match leading to a State Championship.

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Schools with teams competing in Post Season matches shall be afforded the opportunity to submit a list of three (3) Referees they would like to have Officiate as the Center Referee of their match. The MCSRA Board shall attempt to assign one of the officials from the schools list as the Center Referee.

8. SCRATCH PRIVILEGES:

School scratch privileges shall be honored if the request is submitted in writing prior to the start of the season. For requests received after the season has commenced, the President shall call a special meeting of the MCSRA Board to determine the validity of any such request. The school AD and the affected referee shall be so notified upon the Board's decision. The MCSRA Board members' decision in all matters is final.

9. GAME FEES:

Game fees will be as per the most current Rule Book published by the MHSAA.

Notification of changes or cancellations to any scheduled game, due to weather, must be accomplished at least five (5) hours prior to the scheduled game time. Cancellation for any other reason must be accomplished no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled game time.

When no notice of cancellation or change is given, the Host School is liable for the referees' fees associated with the match.

10. REFEREE ABUSE:

Should a referee be physically abused by a Spectator, Player, Coach or School Official, the referee shall, within 24 hours, submit a complete game report to the President who shall submit all documentation to MHSAA within 5 working days.

11. REFEREE COMPLAINTS:

If a formal complaint is filed in writing by School Officials or by member(s) of the organization concerning referee conduct, the referee must appear before the Board. The Board, based on testimony from the accused, other witnesses and from written reports, will vote by secret ballot whether to discipline the referee.

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Complaints must be filled within 2 working days from game day.

An official's membership to this association may be revoked if formally charged and found guilty of any of the following:

- A. Continuous poor performance in officiating.
- B. Continual tardiness for games.
- C. Use of physical force unless in self-defense.
- D. Accepting monies for officiating games other than normal fees
- E. Reporting for games under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
- F. Using alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs at the playing site before, during, or after the game.
- G. There will be no use of tobacco products in any form at the playing site.
- H. There shall be no social fraternizing with players at the playing site.

12. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

- A. Any member found guilty of not attending the minimum number of required meetings, shall be deemed a member not in good standing and is subject to the following actions at the discretion of the MCSRA Board:

- 1. Pay a fine to the organization equal to one varsity game center fee.
- 2. Placed on probation for the remainder of the current season.
- 3. Be assigned games on an as needed basis.
- 4. Will not be eligible for Post Season participation.

Any member that attends only the MSHAA Rules Clinic and, not excused by a Board member from any previous meetings shall be placed on suspension and not utilized during the current season.

Any referee wishing to be reinstated shall submit a request in writing to the MCSRA Board President to show just cause for reinstatement.

- B. Any Referee found guilty of a complaint listed in Section 12 shall be deemed a member not in good standing and is subject to the following actions at the discretion of the MCSRA Board:
 - 1. Pay a fine to the organization equal to two (2) varsity game center fees.
 - 2. Placed on suspension for a duration up to the remainder of the current season.
 - 3. Will not be eligible for Post Season participation.

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Any referee wishing to be reinstated shall submit a request in writing to the MCSRA Board President to show just cause for reinstatement. GAME REPORTING TIME:

All officials are required to report to the game site a minimum of 30 minutes prior to game time.

When a referee is late arriving to the game site without prior coordination (Telephonic communications) with his officiating team:

- a. The senior official at the game site will assume the responsibility of coordinating any referee assignment changes.
- b. Any changes deemed necessary by the senior Official assigned to the game is final.
- c. The above changes can be made when the integrity of the game is at risk.
- d. The senior Official assigned to the game has the authority to make these changes without consulting the Association President, but, must report the incident to the President in writing within 24 hours.

Any of the above actions taken are subject to board review and possible disciplinary actions.

13. WORLD WIDE WEB PAGE:

MCSRA has established an information page on the World Wide Web. The Web Page and its contents will be the intellectual property of and owned solely by MCSRA. This web page is to be utilized as an information source to publish information to the members of the association. The web page will be overseen and updated periodically by the Vice-President of the association.

14. AMENDMENTS:

Amendments to these By-Laws shall be made by a simple majority vote of eligible members present.

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15. **REVISION RECORD:**

18 August 1994 – General Revision

28 October 2006 – Game Reporting time

18 September 2008 – Disciplinary Actions and MCSRA Web page

08 September 2016 – Updated Uniform section, Deleted Rating System

06 July 2017 – Membership Fees

12 August 2019 – Membership in Multiple Associations