

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Quality Officiating Since 1956



A MUST READ IF YOU PLAN TO OFFICIATE HIGH SCHOOL GAMES IN MD OR DC

The fall high school soccer season is upon us! Please pay close attention to the information below as there is a lot to digest for Maryland and DC registration.

Maryland

1. **Attend a state-sponsored high school rules clinic**, which will be held in our area on Thursday, August 1, 2019, at 6:30 pm at James Hubert Blake High School (300 Norwood Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905).
 - a. You must attend a state sponsored clinic if you want to officiate public high school games in Maryland. If you cannot make this clinic, you can attend another clinic in the state. A list of other state sponsored clinics can be found at www.mpssaa.org. Once at the site, click on 'Officials' on the top right-hand side of the page and then *Rules Interpretation Clinics*. The first 2019 clinic in Maryland will be on July 18th.
 - b. **YOU MUST BE THERE ON TIME.** Once the clinic starts, the sign-in sheet will be pulled and you will have to attend another clinic.
2. **You will need to pass the high school rules exam** (which is administered online) prior to being able to officiate games. The test is administered on the NFHS website (<https://exams.nfhs.org>) **beginning on August 1, 2019 and closing on August 30, 2019**. Therefore, you will not be able to take the exam prior to attending the clinic. Also, you do not have to send MWSRA your test score; we will be able to access it via NFHS.
 - a. To officiate interscholastic contests, MPSSAA requires every official to score a minimum (passing score) of 75%. To officiate a post-season state tournament assignment a minimum score of 85% is required.
 - b. Officials can take the test up to five (5) times to reach 75% and/or 85%. The reason for this is that some officials like to take the test multiple times for self-enrichment. To achieve that, MPSSAA has set the test passing score at ninety-percent (90%). After you

score a 90%, you will be prevented from retaking the test again. Therefore, setting the passing score at 90% would achieve both goals.

c. To take the exam, log into NFHS (<https://exams.nfhs.org>). You will need your user name and password. You can only access the system if you have registered with the MPSSAA.

3. **Please bring a check for registration fees in the amount of \$34 made payable to MWSRA.** We will begin registering officials at the August 1st clinic at James Hubert Blake High School.

a. We prefer that you pay by check. If you want to pay by cash, please bring the exact amount as the availability of change is extremely limited. *Note that this registration does NOT register you for D.C. That is a separate registration (see below).*

b. You will not get a rule book if you do not pay.

c. If you are unable to attend the August 1st clinic, you may mail your \$34 payment to:

Seth Cohen
13631 Alderton Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Before you mail your payment, e-mail shcoh11@verizon.net to let me know you will be registering. All payments must be received by August 30th. August 30th is the day that MWSRA will be closing high school registrations.

d. You must be present at the August 1st clinic to pick up a rule book; we will NOT be mailing rule books to individual members.

e. We will be collecting clean, used Ref Uniforms and Gear in good condition that will be given to a local group that will be donated. Please bring this gear to our meeting on August 1st.

4. **Complete a background check.** As in prior years, MWSRA is requiring (by the requirement of a majority of our clients) that all referees officiating public high school games in Maryland to complete a background check/security process. We will follow-up on this topic in a later communication as well as discussing it at the August 1st clinic at Blake High School.

Washington, DC

The District of Columbia State Athletic Association (DCSAA) is responsible for certifying and registering interscholastic officials who work in the District of Columbia. This includes both public and private high school games. Below is information that you will need to be certified to referee games in DC:

1. To complete a background check, please contact Sean Conley of the DCSAA office (sean.conley@dc.gov). The cost associated with the background check will be covered by DCSAA.
 - a. You will need to have a background check performed, unless you have a Secret or Top Secret clearance. If you have a Secret or Top Secret clearance, there is a separate form that needs to be completed. ***If you had a background check completed by DC in 2018, you do NOT need to have another background check performed in 2019.***
2. All officials will need to take the soccer exam on the NFHS website. If you have already taken the exam through Maryland or another state association, you will need to provide a copy of your test results and pay \$20. If you only plan on officiating in DC, the fee is \$35.
3. We will begin registering officials at the August 1st clinic at James Hubert Blake High School even if you did not take the exam. Please bring a check made payable to MWSRA.
 - a. We prefer that you pay by check. If you want to pay by cash, please bring the exact amount as the availability of change is extremely limited. ***Note: If you are registering for both D.C. and Maryland, the amount due to MWSRA will be \$54.***
 - b. You will not get a rule book if you do not pay.
 - c. If you are unable to attend the August 1st clinic, you may mail your \$35/\$54 payment to:

Seth Cohen
13631 Alderton Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Before you mail your payment, e-mail shcoh11@verizon.net to let me know you will be registering. All payments must be received by August 30th. August 30th is the day that MWSRA will be closing high school registrations.

- d. You must be present at the August 1st clinic to pick up a rule book; we will not be mailing rule books to individual members.