



Colorado Referee Family -

Once again, Colorado Soccer Association and the State Referee Committee hopes that you and your family are remaining safe, healthy, and optimistic during this Coronavirus pandemic. **We like to share some GREAT NEWS with you!! US Soccer and Colorado Soccer Association very much appreciate YOU and have extended all registrations to 2021 as explained below.**

- We share your frustration about the lack of soccer and would like to return to the pitch as soon as possible. As many of you know, clubs have begun small-group training and as of yesterday, the state of Colorado has released preliminary guidelines for a return to youth and adult team sports. We are waiting to see how these guidelines will be implemented and plan to return to play in August.
- As we stated in our last communication, your health and safety, as well as that of players, coaches and spectators are our top priorities and will not be compromised. CSA is committed to following all recommendations and requirements of our local, state and national leaders.
- Upon return to league play, there will be a huge demand for referees. In fact, we expect this demand to exceed the number of officials in our current referee pool. As a recruitment incentive, US Soccer, Colorado Soccer and the State Referee Committee have taken the following initiatives to help out our Colorado referee family:
 - **Any new official who completed the Grassroots Referee course from July 1, 2019 through June 25, 2020 will be registered for 2021 in addition to 2020. The annual certification fee will be waived by US Soccer and Colorado Soccer Association, but referees will be responsible for background check fees, course fees, fitness test fees or assessments as applicable for the 2021 registration year.**
 - **Any recertifying referees who were proactive and already registered for 2020 (and have been sitting in your house instead of officiating matches), will be registered for 2021 in addition to 2020. The annual certification fee will be waived by US Soccer and CSA, but referees will be responsible for background check fees, course fees, fitness test fees or assessments as applicable for the 2021 registration year.**
 - **Returning Grassroots Referees who have not certified for 2020 will need to wait until after July, 2020 to start the 2021 recertification courses through the US Soccer Learning Center. As of July 1, 2020, the Learning Center will be the primary education tool for all national certifications offered through the Colorado Referee Committee. You will be able to begin officiating games upon registration processing and be registered to work through December 31, 2021 – unless a background check or SafeSport certification is required during that time.**
 - **Regional Referees who had incomplete status for 2020 and were not able to meet all requirements will be assisted on an individual basis. We are working on details for each individual regional referee.**

To keep you mentally connected while you're physically in isolation from your fellow referees, we have already started hosting webinars, online chats and quizzes. Watch for announcements about upcoming virtual events (presentations about handling and positioning are coming soon). Again, please continue to keep yourself healthy and safe.

Thank you so much for all the games you work, your continuing involvement in the referee family, and your passion and dedication to the beautiful game.

Kind regards,

Esse Baharmast
CSA Director of Referees

Neal Fausset
State Referee Administrator