

MASRA Referees:

Congratulations to each MASRA Referee who is asked to officiate a play-off match this spring. These invitations have to first come from the competing teams / leagues to Bill Freeman for selection. The involved coaches and athletic directors have had several associations to select from. We have just one opportunity to make this positive first impression -- when and how we arrive. Therefore, we want to make this a very positive first impression, and then carry through with a solid performance during the match and finish with a favorable departure when we leave. To help accomplish this, please follow the procedure outlined below after accepting a play-off assignment:

1. Referee, contact your AR's as soon as possible either by email or phone. Try to arrange traveling together so you can use the travel time to talk about the game and review "overtime procedures." Arrange your travel time to give you plenty of wiggle room due to traffic or getting lost. Because of the gas prices, if you ride together please share the cost of the gas with the driver.
2. For first and second round matches, arrive at least 45 minutes prior to kickoff. Agree to arrive wearing a dress or polo shirt with your uniform, and bring along both long and short sleeved jerseys.
3. For third and fourth round matches, arrive at least 60 minutes prior to kickoff. Agree to arrive wearing at least a dress shirt and tie, khaki slacks and dress shoes. Make sure the home team AD or Coach knows you will need a place to change.
4. For quarter, semi and final matches, arrive at least 60 minutes prior to kickoff. Agree to arrive wearing at least a blazer, dress shirt and tie, khaki slacks and dress shoes. Make sure the home team AD or Coach knows you will need a place to change.
5. When you arrive, go together straight to the field and do your field inspection, introduce yourselves to the coaches and players who have already arrived, discuss the pre-match ceremonies, and then proceed to the changing area.
6. Change into your official uniform and do your pre-game. At 30 minutes prior to kickoff, return to the field and warm up. Physical fitness is very important. Then collect your rosters, distribute your MASRA forms and inspect the teams. At 10 minutes prior to kickoff meet the captains and perform the coin toss. Remind the captains of the overtime procedure. Move to the touchline and allow for the introductions and prematch ceremonies. During the playing of the national anthem all referees should address the flag in the same manner. History and good manners dictates that you place your right hand over your heart during the anthem.
7. At the conclusion of the match, meet and leave the field as a crew, proceeding directly to your changing area. You may leave the stadium in your soccer uniform if you wish, but please, if you go out to eat following the match, at least change out of your uniform jersey, socks and cleats and into warm-ups before going out in public; you are still representing all of us and our new organization.

Again, thank you for accepting a play-off assignment and our continued work as a new organization to putting the best referee team on the field!