



# Tennessee Soccer Referee Newsletter

Spring 2024

Volume 1

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for reading our very first Tennessee Soccer Referee newsletter! We hope this information helps you on your journey as a referee and keeps you up to date with events and details from across the state. We are proud of the Tennessee Soccer Referee Program and have earned a spot among the premier soccer states in the country. These newsletters will provide useful information for new and seasoned referees, highlight and recognize referees for their hard work, and help facilitate learning all year long.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to a member of the SRC (State Referee Committee) or ask a referee/assignor you are familiar with. We are a team and will do our best to help you and other referees who might be in the same boat as you are. Click [here](#) for a full list of SRC members.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out our list of upcoming tournaments across the state! Contact the Referee Assignor if you have any questions. Some tournaments pay travel and hotel, so don't let the distance stop you from signing up. Click the link below for a complete list and plan your spring season today!

[Information Here](#)



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## REF RECS

What does it mean to be a sanctioned U.S.S.F. event? Part of being a certified U.S.S.F. official is being covered by the insurance that is supplied as a member in good standing. When you wear the U.S.S.F. badge, you have the support of U.S. Soccer. If any incident, abuse, or problem occurs, there is accountability and risk management support from the state and federation. While it is fine to referee recreational soccer or other unsanctioned events, you should not wear the U.S.S.F. badge and understand that you are refereeing those games at your own risk. Contact your SRA with any questions!



## RECERTIFICATION

Recertification is required every year to continue refereeing U.S.S.F. soccer matches. Grassroots, or entry level, referees must register through the TN OMS system, take the online training course, SafeSport course, pass a background check, and pass the online quiz to recertify. No fitness test or assessments are required for this level. It is recommended that you start the recertification process in the early fall to ensure that you are ready for the spring season the following year. Click [here](#) for the full recertification process through Tennessee soccer.





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## DID YOU KNOW?

In any U.S.S.F./Tennessee Soccer sanctioned event you do in the state of Tennessee, if you have any cautions, send-offs, injuries, or unusual occurrences (coach/spectator incidents, early game termination, injured player leaves and does not return), you must complete a referee report that can be found [here](#). This allows Tennessee Soccer to track disciplinary issues and hold players, coaches, and parents accountable across the state. This is very important to help keep referees safe, so please fill out the form properly and completely.

If you know anyone between the ages of 11-13 who is interested in becoming a soccer referee, there is an option to earn an orange badge through the state. These referees will go through a shorter, simplified course and can only do small-sided, recreational games. The certification is good for two years and comes with a referee starter kit. Find out more details [here](#)!



## SRC MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

We are thrilled to shine the spotlight on Don Eubank, our State Referee Administrator (SRA), in our first newsletter! Since stepping into this role in 2019, Don has propelled the TN Referee Program to new heights. With his deep-rooted passion for soccer and refereeing, Don has worn many hats within Tennessee Soccer over the years. From day one, Don has held a clear vision: to make the TN referee program the premier program in the country. His dedication to this vision is evident in everything he does. Don is also a mentor and is always ready to lend a helping hand. You can easily reach out to him at [sra@tnsoccer.org](mailto:sra@tnsoccer.org)!





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## REFEREE RECOGNITION

Congratulations to our Youth Male and Female Referees of the Year, Alex Linville and Jessica Hoeft! Alex became a referee when he was 13 years old, and has loved it ever since. He has worked games for MLS Next, ECNL, TSL, USYS Regionals and Nationals, and many others. He is thankful for all the referees and mentors who have helped him along the way and wants to continue to work to become a better official! Jessica has been refereeing since 2018 and is a sophomore at MTSU. She has worked various regional and national events, and hopes to work in the MLS/NWSL one day. She is very excited about her future as a referee! Congrats!!



Congratulations to Donovan Eubank for being selected with 16 officials by U.S. Youth Soccer to attend an international soccer tour in England. Good luck on this prestigious honor! Read more about it [here](#).

Congratulations to Bill Nelson for being selected for the 2023 Trailblazer Award in Tennessee Soccer. Bill is honored to be a part of the Tennessee soccer referee family. When he transferred from another state, he felt welcomed with open arms. He has had the privilege of working with some of the most awesome men and women who strive “to lead, serve, and inspire referees for the good of the game.”



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## SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

Follow our Facebook and Instagram pages to stay up-to-date on all our social platforms. Connect with other referees across the state and get daily updates, motivators, and information about the Tennessee Soccer Referee Program. [Facebook](#) (IG coming soon) and a [Facebook](#) group for Female Referees in Tennessee.



## RUNNIN REF

Ready to take your training to the next level? [Runnin Ref](#) focuses on YOU and will help you find a roadmap for your fitness goals and training. Learn more about it [here](#) to see how we have helped other referees as well! Discount codes for a month (Tennessee\_MO), 6 months (Tennessee\_6MO), & 1-year (Tennessee\_12MO) are available, so sign up today!



## CAPELLI SPORT

Tennessee Soccer has a special deal with Capelli Sports for referee uniforms. You can find everything you need to be ready for your games right [here](#). Contact a member of the SRC if you have any questions!