

TO: All TMSL Captains, Players and Interested Parties

**FROM: Carl A. Piccarreta, President
Tucson Metro Soccer League**

RE: Referees

DATE: March 21, 2016

It is not new to the Tucson Metro Soccer League that, on occasion, individual teams and players are disappointed with the quality of our officiating. As a League, we are aware and sensitive to these complaints. However, we all should be aware that this is a recreational League comprised of recreational, part-time soccer players officiated by recreational, part-time referees. Nonetheless, we all want the best that can be provided.

Here is the reality. We have more recreational soccer being played in Tucson – junior level, adult men and women and co-ed – than the available referee pool can regularly accommodate. Stated differently, not every referee wants or can referee every week or at every level. For those that do referee, we do not have film or the ability to assess their performances for constructive criticism and direction. The same can be said about the quality of our soccer players and teams. Game day performances by all is a double-edged sword.

Specific to TMSL, there are a number of local referees that do not want to officiate our matches...and it's not because of the high quality of play. It is because of the high quantity of whining, bitching, inadvertent fouls committed by people of limited soccer skills which are interpreted as acts of war, assorted behaviors not accepted on the streets of Tucson or a civilized society, etc. As a result, we do not have enough referees to regularly assign three officials to every match.

We have two options to correct this problem. One is short term. The other is long term.

Short term – on occasion only two referees will be assigned to a match. This will require each participating team to be prepared to provide a volunteer “club linesman” to complete the USSF/ASSA/TMSL required three person referee crew. (of course, we can always register fewer teams in the future to accommodate our limited referee pool, but I suspect that is not acceptable to most people).

Long term – we can individually and as teams recognize that this is a recreational soccer league and that we are fortunate to be able to play this wonderful team sport as adults. This will, of course, require us to act like adults and control our mouths and actions – and those of our teammates – such that we act like adults who understand that the laws of society apply equally during soccer matches.

Please emphasize sportsmanship amongst your teams, individual players and spectators. Yes, we have some poor officiating and equally poor play that sometimes combine to make for an unpleasant playing experience. However, let's appreciate what we have, enjoy the opportunity to still be playing a game we love and act like adults while we try to grow our referee pool with quality officials. **Please share the contents of this memo with your players and supporters.**

Thank you.