

August 3, 2007

Dear West Islip Soccer Club Referees:

My name is Michael Prate and I am the new Director of Referees. I hope that you have all had a great summer and are, as I am, looking forward to a new season. I have been involved with the West Islip Soccer Club for the past 10 years, as a parent, coach and board member.

Let me welcome all of you who have applied to referee this year in the club. Whether this is your first time or you are a returning experienced referee we are excited to have you. It is your enthusiasm that will help to make this program work. Referees protect the integrity of the game. This is a very important responsibility.

This year a Referee Committee was formed, and has been involved in discussions on how to improve the quality of the referee program. Changes that we as a committee have implemented should help to improve communication, training and the overall appearance of the referee program.

This year all referees who referee in house or inter-town will be required to pay a **\$10.00 registration fee**. This registration fee will be put completely back into the referee program. The fee collected from you, shows a level of commitment on your part. Commitment and responsibility is a major theme we will be stressing this year. This fee is made up on the first game you referee.

This year we are also going to once again compensate referees for their games. The club views the referee program as a teaching tool, where responsible young men and women have the opportunity to learn the game of soccer from a different perspective. We do recognize the time you are committing. Referees who meet all the requirements and conduct themselves within the club guidelines should be compensated. You should view this experience as educational not vocational. Translation: **This is not a job**, it is a small way for our youth to develop and be recognized for what they do. This is a lesson about life. Payment schedules for games will be discussed at our first training session.



This year we will also be addressing the issue of scheduling games. Over the past years there have been concerns regarding how games are assigned. We are currently in the process of updating the Clubs web site in regards to the Referee Program. We are hoping to get an online scheduling system in place that will allow referees to submit their availability on weekly bases. I will follow up with more information at our first training session.

All in house referee (Intramural-Inter-Town) must attend two training sessions prior to the season. The 1st session will be held on Thursday, August 16, 2007 @ 7 pm. This will take place in the Higbie Center- 2nd floor soccer room. We ask that you please arrive early and have a \$10.00 check payable to the West Islip Soccer Club. The class will go to about 8:30. I also ask that an adult guardian be available for a short meeting at 7pm so that I might explain and answer any questions you might have regarding the program.

The second night of training will be on August 23, 2007 @ 6pm. This will also be at the Higbie center and will follow with a short test. This class will go to about 7:30 pm.

I look forward to meeting you all. If there are any questions please feel free to contact me.

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