

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Colorado High School Soccer Officials (HSSO)

- 1. What are the requirements to officiate high school soccer in Colorado?**
 - a. You must be a member of Colorado's High School Soccer Officials (HSSO) to officiate Varsity and Junior Varsity high school soccer matches in Colorado.
- 2. What is HSSO?**
 - a. HSSO is the interface between the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) high school soccer programs and soccer officials.
 - b. Find the Constitution and Bylaws here: [HSSO Constitution](#).
- 3. What are the requirements to become a member of HSSO?**
 - a. You must be at least 18 years of age,
 - b. You must be out of high school,
 - c. You must attend a new referee HSSO clinic,
 - d. You must be a United States Soccer Federation (USSF) badge holder,
 - e. You must pay the annual membership fees to HSSO,
 - f. You must pass the National Federation of State High Schools Association (NFHS) test with a score of 85% (Active), 80% (Provisional) or 75% (JV),
 - g. You must sign the Code of Conduct, and
 - h. You must pass the CHSAA-required background check for all officials (and redo as required).
- 4. What does it cost to join HSSO?**
 - a. Initial membership costs \$60/year; a continuing membership costs \$50/year if paid on time.
 - b. Continuing members should pay prior to May 1st to avoid a \$10 late fee.
- 5. When/why do I pay membership dues?**
 - a. Dues are paid in the spring for the following school year (August through May).
 - b. Dues cover National Federation of Officials Association (NFOA) insurance, CHSAA fees, clinics, evaluations, etc.
 - c. New member fees are required up front to cover the cost of the NFHS rule book and the test, etc.
- 6. Do I have to recertify and pay every year?**
 - a. Yes. Dues are for one school year only (August through May).
 - b. Every year Active members must attend an officials' clinic, and JV and Provisional members are required to attend a clinic prior to each season.

- c. Every year you must pass the NFHS test with a score of 85% (Active), 80% (Provisional, or 75% (JV).
- d. Every year you must pay the annual membership fees to HSSO.
- e. Every year you must sign the Code of Conduct.
- f. You must maintain your USSF badge certification (unless you are grandfathered by HSSO).

7. What is my area?

- a. Your area is based on where you live and/or where you want to officiate.
- b. Colorado is divided into ten geographic areas for high school soccer. Each area is led by an Area Director ([Soccer Area Directors](#)).

8. How do I get games assigned?

- a. Game assignments are made by contractors with the schools, using the official's area as a guide as to who might be available for those schools.
- b. You should contact the assigners in your area and the areas where you want to work ([Soccer Assigners](#)).
- c. Most games are assigned through Arbiter Sports, so you will need to register at [Arbiter Sports](#).
 - i. Complete all elements of the "Profile" section (phones, custom fields, and picture).
 - ii. In the "Blocks" section, click on the "sites" and "teams" links to identify any conflicts and/or places you do not want to work.
 - iii. Also, in the "Blocks" section, complete information requested in the "travel limits" link.

9. How do I get into the Denver-area Draw (for games in the Denver-area)?

- a. Log into Arbiter, switch views to the main CHSAA account (104522), and make sure you check the "Ready to be Assigned" box.

10. Do I have to work for only one assignor?

- a. No. You can work for as many assigners as you want.

11. What is the 3-Whistle System?

- a. Also known as the Double-Dual System of Control, the 3-Whistle system has a center referee and two side referees. Each official has defined responsibilities, and each official has a whistle.

12. Why use the 3-Whistle System?

- a. Colorado adopted the 3-Whistle system of control by a vote of the coaches who were member of the soccer committee in 2003.
- b. The reason we use it is that it affords a safer and better controlled environment for high school soccer.

13. Where do I get information about the 3-Whistle System of Control?

- a. The 3-Whistle system is briefly described in the NFHS Soccer Rule Book, but the best thing you can do is watch the instructional video ([CHSAA Three Whistle Training](#)).

14. What is the uniform for high school soccer referees?

- a. High school referees wear the "US Soccer" referee uniforms (i.e. gold, red, green, black, and blue pin stripe jerseys with black shorts and three-stripe socks (the same uniform as for CSA youth soccer)).

15. What is the pay scale?

- a. The normal pay is: Varsity games (3-Whistle) pay \$49.00; Sub-Varsity (Dual) \$40.50.
- b. There are slightly different payments for aberrations from the norm. Please check the current soccer bulletin on the CHSAA soccer coaches' website ([CHSAA Soccer](#)) for complete information.

16. How do I get paid?

- a. Each school district pays differently.
 - i. You may be paid at the pitch in cash,
 - ii. You may get a check from the schools,
 - iii. The assigner may pay you via check, or
 - iv. You may get paid via RefPay.

17. Why is High School different than USSF?

- a. The best answer is that High school soccer is an extension of the classroom.

18. What is different between High School and USSF?

- a. A complete listing of all the differences can be found in the NFHS Soccer Rule Book.

19. How are games reported for High School/ What administrative paperwork is required for games?

- a. The referee needs to submit a supplemental report ([CHSAA Supplemental Report](#)) if there are certain non-game related issues (Field conditions, sportsmanship, team/coach conduct, spectator conduct, player equipment and uniforms, ball runners, weather, pre- and post-game incidents, etc.).
- b. The referee needs to submit a misconduct report ([CHSAA Misconduct Report](#)) for any send offs (player or coach) and if a caution is issued to a coach.
- c. The coach has the principal responsibility to report the results of the match.