

January 28, 2009

To All,

You can enter your availability for the 2009 Maple Spring season now. Referee fees have been significantly increased from last Spring and the expectation is improved officiating and adherence to league rules and policies. If you have registered on the Maple website previously, just login with your username and password and update your availability. If you have forgotten your password, enter your username and click on the "Forgot Password." If you have forgotten both your username and password, you need to send me an email (rfileppetti@townisp.com) requesting your information. If you have not registered previously, you need to go to www.maplesoccer.org – click on referee login on the bottom of the page – then create your own username and password. Please save this information as you will need this information to revise your availability afterwards and to complete the online game report – **it is your responsibility to keep your contact information and availability current throughout the season.** All dates allow you to choose your specific availability: AM (up to 12:00pm), PM (12:00 pm and later), or all day. The U10 (8v8) games will be played on Sundays (between 10:15am to 12:45pm) – if you want to do any of these games, you'll need to mark your availability as AM or All Day. Please note that if you say you're available for AM on one of the seven regular season play dates that means that you are available for a 10:15am game.

You need to read the Maple Referee Information – Spring 2009 under Referee Resources as there are some changes including information on the assignments/website that referees have to follow. Also, game reports from the "center referee" are required for all games. If the "center referee" does not submit the online game report within 24 hours or Monday night (whichever is later), only the ARs will be paid. The online game reports will be used for payment for the regular season. The referee payment form still needs to be completed (and kept for your records) as it will be used for verification purposes only – DO NOT SEND THE FORM TO ANYONE.

The Maple assignors can only assign referees whose availability shows as available for the time of the game. Special time restrictions should be discussed with your local Maple assignor. Also, you need to understand how makeup games will work. When a postponed game is rescheduled, all referees in the appropriate assignor's area will receive an email stating that a makeup game has been scheduled (time and location will be specified) and ask you to update your availability **IF** you are available. You will be notified **only if you are assigned.**

Maple Regular Season Play Dates

The dates for the Maple regular season games are: March 29, April 5, 19, 26, May 3, 10, and 17. These games will be played normally in 3-game sets (1:00, 2:30, and 4:00) every Sunday - there will be a few two game sets. All U10 games are normally played at 10:15am or 11:30am on Sundays.

Referee fees **have been increased** and are listed in the Referee Information located in the Referee Resources section on the Maple website. The payment system for Maple Tournament games is also detailed. The online game reports for the regular season will be used to pay the referees. The payment form is the referee's proof of actual assignments – **DO NOT SEND THE PAYMENT FORM TO KATHY IRWIN OR ANYONE ELSE!!!**

Maple Post-Season and State Cup Round Robin Play-Finals Dates

The availability form also lists the dates for the Maple post-season games, and State Cup games. These games will be played at the Mass Youth soccer fields in Lancaster. I will be assigning all Maple post-season games and all State Cup games.

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State Cup Challenge Games

The State Cup Challenge games will be played throughout the Spring. As games are finalized, the schedules for these games can be found on the Mass Youth website (www.mayouthsoccer.org) – go to Tournaments – State Cup – Schedule/Brackets. These Challenge games are State Cup games **and not** Maple games.

You can find the Rules for the State Cup Challenge games on the same section of the Mass Youth website. Referee fees for the State Cup Challenge games and the Maple post season games have been **increased**.

State Cup Challenge Games:

U13 to U14 Ref	\$50
U15 to U19 Ref	\$70
U11 to U14 AR	\$35
U15 to U19 AR	\$40

State Cup Round Robin/Maple Post-Season Games

U11 to U14 Ref	\$45
U15 to U19 Ref	\$60
U11 to U14 AR	\$35
U15 to U19 AR	\$35

The Maple schedule will be available approximately March 1st and the individual Maple assignors will start assigning games immediately thereafter. Referees who have officiated Maple games previously, normally will receive assignments on all regular season dates that they indicate as available. If you want definitive knowledge if you have been assigned games on a specific date, send an email to the appropriate assignor.

Thank you for your continued support of soccer in Massachusetts.

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