**CSOA Training Information from Miles Kara, CSOA Assignor – January 2019**

***Update #1 – August 31, 2018: "Three Keys to Success"***

The three keys to success for CSOA referees are:

1. Crews communicate to confirm stuff and share late-breaking information. We talk about this every year at the clinic. Designated referee contacts his/her partner(s). (JV referee contacts partner and Varsity referee contacts ARs.)

2. One crew member checks the school website. This practice saves us several moments of grief. During the crew communication one referee can volunteer or be designated (by the referee) to monitor the school website.

3. Always check Arbiter. Now, you need to know that Arbiter has forced us to use standardized data for schools, teams, and locations. That has resulted in some very odd-looking entries as to site/location. For example, Wittier Field is its own site. It is also a subsite at Bishop Ireton. Pay close attention to the site description for your games both in the fall and spring.

***Update #2 – October 4, 2018: Umbrella Client Organizations***

Information is provided below about three umbrella client organizations, the Virginia High School League (VHSL) the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association (VISAA), and the District of Columbia State Athletic Association (DCSAA).

VHSL is the parent organization for all public high schools in Virginia. There is the rare private school or two that has chosen to associate with VHSL, but none in our jurisdiction. By extension, CSOA considers the public middle school programs to be officiated under the VHSL umbrella.

Here are some handy links:

VHSL: <https://www.vhsl.org/>

VHSL Officials: <https://www.vhsl.org/officials/>

VHSL Soccer: <https://www.vhsl.org/soccer/>

VHSL alignment: <https://www.vhsl.org/alignment/alignmentdistrictregion-table/>

Note especially the third link. There you have the ability to quickly access the schedule at any VHSL school. Spend some time studying that link. There you will find all sorts of useful information. Scroll to the bottom, for example, and find a link to Lightning Safety.

Here is a critical link to whistle.org, the new VHSL site for registration and testing. We recommend all members become familiar with this new feature.

<https://www.whistle.vhsl.org/>

Here is a new link I just found that tells you everything you ever wanted to know about each of the VHSL schools. I know, I know, way too much information, but check it out.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CPgttHgEprNOVo0x7WdNqSu-lKiNC-EW/view>

VISAA is the umbrella organization for most private schools in Virginia. VISAA, state-wide, is structured for girls competition in the spring and boys in the fall.

Now you may think that VISAA is important to just fall CSOA officials. Not so. Girl’s competitions in the spring at St. John Paul, Trinity Christian, Highland, Wakefield and Seton leads to potential seeding for end-of-season tournaments.

All this places our major client schools at a disadvantage on the girl’s side. Ireton, O’Connell, Paul VI, Episcopal, Flint Hill, SSSA, Madeira, and Oakcrest cannot compete in season-ending state tournaments. Beginning last year, that consortium of schools implemented its own end-of-season tournament for the top two WCAC teams and the top two non-WCAC teams.

VISAA plays soccer under modified-FIFA rules. That gets confusing for the WCAC and NVIAC schools that play conference games under NFHS rules. Not much we can do about that.

An important point to remember: it is CSOA philosophy that all interscholastic competition should be played under NFHS rules. That said, we have had no success in convincing any private school of our position.

Here are some important links for information about VISAA.

VISAA Official Site: <http://www.visaa.org/>

VISAA Weekly Polls: <http://www.visaa.org/sports/soccer/boys/weekly-polls/>

VISAA Tournament Rules: <http://www.visaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2018-VISAA-BOYS-SOCCER-TOURNAMENT-LAWS.pdf>. The latter link is same for the girls in the spring. Note that at the very top VISAA spells out differences between modified-FIFA and NFHS.

WCAC Sports Link: <http://www.wcacsports.com/landing/index> (provides WCAC standings)

Our newest umbrella organization is DCSAA. Currently, we officiate for just one of those schools, St. John’s College High School. However, we have reporting responsibility to DCSAA for ejection reports when DCSAA schools play in Virginia.

There are special registration requirements for CSOA officials who elect to do DCSAA games. Dick Cote’ handled that for the fall. Let Dave Dunlap know at the clinic if you want to be considered for DCSAA games next fall.

Here are some important links for information relevant to DCSAA.

DCSAA Official Site: <https://www.dcsaasports.org/>

DCSAA Soccer Site: <https://www.dcsaasports.org/page/show/3453907-soccer>

DCSAA School list: <https://www.dcsaasports.org/page/show/3453147-dcsaa-schools-directory>

DCSAA Lightning Policy: <https://www.dcsaasports.org/page/show/3453928-weather>

***Update #3 – January 17, 2019: Start Times at Spring Venues***

The expectation is that you will have this information with you for ready reference. Subject matter is inclusive and covers all of our spring schools.

**Commonwealth District - 5:00/6:30 or 5:30/7:00**

Commonwealth comprises the five Stafford County High Schools plus Riverbend and Massaponax. Our sister organization, RSRA, provides officials for those two schools and we coordinate continuously to make sure all venues are covered. For Brooke Point and North Stafford, start times are 5:30/7:00, while for Colonial Forge, Mt. View, and Stafford, start times are 5:00/6:30. Those travelling the I-95 corridor need to start planning ahead now.

**Prince William County High Schools - 5:30/7:00**

There are two Districts in Prince William County, Cardinal in the East, and Cedar Run in the West. Osbourn, a Manassas City school, follows County policy. The schools play interlocking schedules, which means there can be long haul bus travel, say from Battlefield to Gar-Field, for example. Typically, at least two schools do not field girls JV teams. Single varsity games, therefore, usually start at 6pm.

**Prince William Middle Schools - 5:00, but flexible**

The middle school program is now organized in four regions, which has helped with the long-haul bus routes. (Manassas Park and Metz (Manassas City) are integrated into the master schedule.) No longer must Reagan, for example, travel to Rippon. Nevertheless, visiting team arrival time is still an issue. Start time is listed as 5:00 PM but has always been a flexible time. If both teams are on site and warmed up, then that game can start as early as 4:45. So, be prepared. Games still start as late as 5:30 because of visiting team arrival time. Your task is to stay with the venue until completion. Make sure your follow-on schedule (for example, adult league games) allows that. Don’t forget, the program calls for two full 5-minute OT periods if tied after regulation.

**Fauquier County, Manassas Park, George Mason - 5:30/7**

The three Fauquier schools are Liberty, Fauquier, and Kettle Run. Manassas Park is in greater Prince William County and George Mason is in Falls Church.

**Greater Fairfax County - 5:45/7:15**

This is the old Northern Region, all Fairfax County schools, including Falls Church and Fairfax, and the three Arlington high schools, Yorktown, Wakefield, and W-L. Varsity doubleheaders may go at 5:30/7:30, but not always.

TC Williams is in the consortium but plays afternoon games, varsity at the main school and JV at Wittier. Start time at both locations is 4:30.

**Loudoun County - 6:00/ten minutes after JV game**

Loudoun County schools comprise two districts, Potomac and Dulles. Varsity start times, county-wide are ten minutes after JV game completes, regardless of what Arbiter says. Some schools schedule the varsity game at 7:30, some at 7:15. We have encouraged standardization, but that has not happened.

**Private Schools - start times vary**

These will all be afternoon games. If a school plays on a county field then they must start and finish on time. Such games (South Run, Valley View) typically start at 3:30. Other games usually start at 4:00 PM, but not always.

**Guidance**

We are not empowered to unilaterally or arbitrarily change the start time, length of the periods, length of the break, or make other adjustments because of visitor arrival time. Always work this out with the athletic director(s), site coordinator, and the coaches. The home athletic director should make the final call. If ever in doubt about how to proceed call the CSOA Assignor (703-357-7921).