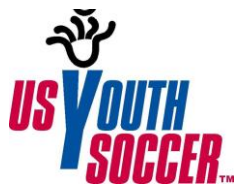


Heartland Soccer Association



**Referee Development
Academy
KSYSA AGM
Presentation
Andrew Fletcher
SYRA**





The referee conundrum



The Need: Experienced Referees

- **Every season, HSA recruits nearly 300 new referees**
- **The next season, many don't return. 50% last less than two years. This means you are always seeing new referees.**
- **Criticism from the sidelines is hard for 13 and 14 year olds and the major cause of referees quitting. An active mentoring program can help.**



The Referee Learning Process

- **Certification Courses**
- **Game experience is the training ground - YOUR GAME IS THEIR PRACTICE.**
 - **Learning by experience**
 - **Positive environment for learning**
- **Heartland has created a peer mentoring system in which our elite youth referees are watching and teaching the new referees**





Referee Development Academy

Mentor/Academy Program

- **A knowledgeable, more experienced helper**
- **A friendly source of guidance, advice, and confidence for new referees**
- **An active PEER mentoring program can help retain, train and build confidence**
- **Our referees are watched, trained and evaluated - just like your players. They will make mistakes - just like your players.**





Coaches Responsibility to Officials

- **Officials must have the support of coaches, players and spectators. Speak to the referees as you would your players.**
- **Please remember they are children, and you are adults.**
- **Comments regarding an official should be made to an adult - the Academy staff, referee assignor or mentor on site.**
- **Coaches should not approach referees for a post-game discussion.**
- **You are responsible for your parents behaviour.**
- **Yelling at referees, especially young referees, is not “part of the game.”**
- **It will not improve until more of our referees are allowed to work**



Conclusions and questions

- **We are trying to improve the product. We need your help.**
- **Heartland has funded 4 staff members with over 100 years of referee experience**
- **We would like to see this spread throughout the state.**
- **Questions/comments?**