

## 2017 AGM Report

### Club Head Referee (CHR)

This year saw the referee numbers for KDSC reduce slightly.

In 2016 we had 34 referees of which 5 were adults and 2 were mini soccer referees.

In 2017 we decreased to 28 referees with 5 adults and 5 mini soccer referees, 9 of our referees were first year. However 12 referees did not return from 2016. However the referee retention rate was 61% which is a better retention than some other clubs.

In 2017 KDSC hosted an entry level referee course which was combined with Smith Falls, clinic with 14 attendees.

The CHR is trying to address the poor retention of referees by continuing the mentoring program started in 2016. Two to three nights a week were spent at South Gower and KCAT fields to mentor youth referees, mainly the first year officials. This will assist in developing their skills to eventually be able to referee the ERSL games and encourage them to possibly enter into the OSA upgrading programs.

In addition 5 winter education sessions were conducted from January to March for all returning referees and an assistant referee refresher was held in May. The winter education sessions for returning referees provided instruction on the changes to the Laws of the Game introduced in June 2016 by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) as well as other topics.

Unlike 2016 where we struggled to have sufficient referees for our games, the 2017 season went well with most of the required assignments being met. In addition we had 2 referees upgraded into the District referee pool for 2017 allowing them to be center referee for some ERSL games and to be assistant referees for the Ontario Player Development League (OPDL) games played in the Ottawa area. A number of our referees also participated in tournaments in Ottawa to gain more experience.

We also supplied officials for the 5 games for the ERSL Cup finals also held at South Gower of which 2 KDSC referees were the center referees.

In January the OSA announced a 5 year plan for referee development, the Long Term Match Official Development plan (LTOD). This plan will focus on 7 key pillars to referee development to improve the quality and retention of referees in Ontario. Those key areas are Mentoring, Technical Leadership, Education, Recruitment & Retention, Fitness, Competition and Talent Identification. The District Referee Coordinators (DRC) are heavily involved in the LTOD as some of the fees for this program are funneled back to the districts for referee development.

In the EODSA the DRC has formed an LTOD steering committee comprised of the DRC, 6 CHR's, one of which is me, and 2 high level Ottawa referee. This committee is preparing to begin a referee training program in 2018 for a number of identified youth referees as part of the EODSA commitment to the LTOD.

In addition the OSA has formed a think tank of 20 CHR's from across the province to discuss the LTOD and explore and implement best practices to foster referee development. Two CHR's are going from our district, one of which is me.