



# B5 Referee Newsletter

BYSL Referee Liaison: Justin Lauer

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## Websites of interest:

- [www.JustinLauer.net](http://www.JustinLauer.net)
- [www.fsr-inc.com](http://www.fsr-inc.com)
- [www.bysl.net](http://www.bysl.net)

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## Meet BYSL's New Referee Liaison

Justin Lauer passed his entry level soccer referee exam in November 1994. Since that time, Justin has officiated youth and adult soccer matches across Florida. He upgrade to grade 07 in 1999 and then officiated over one hundred adult level matches to qualify for state referee a few years later.



Tournament assigning is challenging with hundreds of games in one weekend.

After officiating as a state referee for multiple years, Justin earned his State Referee Emeritus status in 2008.

In 2002, Justin became a certified referee assignor because he wanted to make the assigning process better for referees after recognizing areas for improvement. Justin used personal experiences as a referee to give other referees the services they deserve.

Since that time, Justin has modernized the referee community by creating a virtual experience where referees can sign up for games, view assignments, get driving directions, and get information on upcoming referee courses. The days of mailing paper tournament schedules, weekly phone calls for league games, and not knowing assignment information at a referee's convenience are over.

Club officials and tournament directs also enjoy logging into [www.JustinLauer.net](http://www.JustinLauer.net) to check referee assignments for their games. Justin currently assigns for the following B5 organizations: Challenge Sports, Central Brevard, Cocoa Expo, Indialantic, Indian Harbour Beach, Malabar, Melbourne Beach, Melbourne Eau Gallie, Rockledge, Satellite Beach, and Space Coast.

## District Referee Administrator

Richard Akelewicz currently serves B5 as District Referee Administrator. This is an administrative position with FSR (Florida State Referees) to coordinate referee courses, training, and certification within a given district. Rich is currently a State Referee Emeritus and works game across the county. In addition to administrative duties, Rich is an assessor who evaluates referee performance. Rich should be contacted for any administrative issues before contacting any FSR representatives outside of district B5.

Richard Akelewicz (B5 DRA) - [akelewicz@cfl.rr.com](mailto:akelewicz@cfl.rr.com)

# Referee Highlights

## Columbian Games

March 16th, 2008: Columbian boys and girls teams played at Cocoa Stadium as part of their visit to Brevard County. Local referees Bill Quinter (grade 07), Jonathan Quinter (grade 07), and Rick Waggener (grade 08) officiated the two matches. Bill Quinter had his picture taken with the Columbian girls team. From time to time, local referees officiate international matches.



## College Game at Viera

Brevard County veteran referee, Michael Stephens was center referee for a college exhibition match (fundraiser for ovarian cancer awareness) between UCF and FSU held at Viera Regional Park on April 12th, 2008. His crew consisted of Moncef Hadji (AR), Mike Reeves (AR), and Roger O'brien (4th official). All of these referees currently officiate at the college level and still support BYSL matches when available. They also work with youth referees to help them improve their referee skills.

Furthermore, Michael Stephens will be cycling across the US for a good cause. "I will be leaving St. Augustine, Florida, on May 12, 2008 for a 4,000 mile bike trip. Our group will cover 11 states over a 56 day period. This effort is a fund raiser for Habitat For Humanity and Lake Aurora Christian Camp. This trip is known as The Big Ride 2008," said Stephens. You can follow him online at [www.thebigride2008.com](http://www.thebigride2008.com)



## Spring Challenge

With the largest Palm Bay Spring Challenge ever, all available Brevard County referees were put to use in addition to out of area referee who traveled in for this event. Close to 350 games were played over a two day span, May 3rd-4th, 2008. Referees enjoyed officiating at all levels of play from u9-u19 boys and girls.





# Advanced Referee Training Courses

## Grade 5-6-7 Recertification

August 2, 2008, 8:00 AM run, Stetson Field, 10:00 AM written test Hall above the cafeteria. 11:00 lunch at Stetson Cafeteria, 12:00 PM class begins with the National Instructor in the hall above the cafeteria, Class ends about 5:00 PM

## Assessor Recertification

August 2, 2008 8:00 AM break out session class room above the cafeteria at Stetson, 10:00 Written Test, 11:00 lunch at Stetson Cafeteria, 12:00 PM class begins with the National Instructor in the hall above the cafeteria, Class ends about 5:00 PM

## Grade 7-6 Upgrade

August 2, 2008, 8:00 AM run, Stetson Field, 10:00 AM written test Hall above the cafeteria. 11:00 lunch at Stetson Cafeteria, 12:00 PM class begins with the National Instructor in the hall above the cafeteria, Class ends about 5:00 PM

August 3, 2008, 9:00 AM till 12:00 PM field training Stetson field

## Instructor Recert

August 2, 2008 8:00 AM break out session class room above the cafeteria at Stetson,

10:00 Written Test, 11:00 lunch at Stetson Cafeteria, 12:00 PM class begins with the National Instructor in the hall above the cafeteria, Class ends about 5:00 PM

August 3, 2008, 9:00 AM till 12:00 PM field training Stetson field

Online Registration Required: [www.fsr-inc.com](http://www.fsr-inc.com)



**I would like to thank Harold Grosholz for serving as BYSL liaison for the past four years!**

## The Upgrade Process: Grade 08 to 07

### Assessment Tips

- **Arrive at least 30 minutes in advance**
- **Dress professional in official uniform**
- **Inspect field and ensure goals have anchors**
- **Conduct a detailed pre-game with ARs**
- **Start game on time**

Many grade 08, entry level, referees are unfamiliar with upgrading to 07. There are required steps every referee must follow in order to get upgraded. Requirements include experience, performance, and fitness.

A referee must have officiated 75 centers and have a game log documenting each game's date, time, field, age group, and teams. After the game log is complete or close to completion, a referee would need to declare intent to upgrade with the Area Referee

Administrator. Assuming approval is granted, a referee would then need to work with a league or tournament assignor to get a qualifying u17-19 center assignment. This assignment must be a full ninety minute game and competitive in order to qualify. Once the game details are confirmed, the Area Referee Administrator must be notified and given all game details. These details will be entered into the FSR computer system so an assessor can be assigned. Then an assessor must show up and evaluate the

referee. If a passing score is not attained, a referee must reschedule an assessment on another match.

Another requirement is the grade 08 to 07 upgrade clinic. At this clinic, a referee must pass both a written and physical fitness exam. Details of each are published in the USSF administrative handbook.

Finally, paperwork must be processed before a new grade is reflected in FSR's database. Referees who upgrade midyear also have to pay an extra fee.