

2024 Referee Report

2024 was another successful year at MPSA following a 9-week club league season and U11 mega hosted at MPSA.

Started the year off by hosting a MPSA small-sided course and entry level course. Those courses were tough by NLSA RDO and was a great success.

MPSA gained 19 new officials 2024 who helped out with Club league. 25 officials returned from 2023.

And although our numbers dropped from 54 in 2023 to 44 , the 30 non returning officials mainly aged out and most have moved on to working with MPSA as staff, some did the entry level and moved up in the referee career, and very few just moved on to working part time jobs outside of soccer. It's expected once these young officials reach the age of 14-16.

2024 we went with the pink/ purple shirts campaign again. Signs were reused and new order of pink shirts were ordered and passed out. Those who had been given purple shirts in 2023 had the choice to wear purple or pink mpsa ones.

NLSA didn't do purple shirts as it seems to be a one-year thing that didn't go as planned. They moved on to yellow nlsa arm bands.

MPSA paid out a total of \$12,634 to 44 young officials in our 9-week program plus U11 jamboree.

Week 1-4 total-\$4095 paid to 36 officials

Week 5-9 total - \$5419 paid out to 44 officials

U11 jamboree - \$3120 paid out to all officials who took part.

We hosted the U11 jamboree and although it had its challenges, I believe MPSA hosted it with great praise to all the field marshals, officials and ones who helped out. The main issues that were brought up were outside of MPSA control and was on NLSA side of scheduling. Last day there was a glitch in the scheduling on NLSA side which caused confusion and frustration at 8am when no one was able to get hold of powers to be. And that delay caused a snowball of issues for me as director of officials with the referee scheduling. But we got through it.

The club league for 8 weeks ran very well and had very few holes where staff had to fill in. Week 9 was the worst I've dealt with in the last 4 years.

Week 9 several officials went on vacation. But the biggest issue was NLSA scheduled both our u15 girl and u15 boys to play the same time at two different feild . And with teams preparing for their final weekend scheduling extra practices left filling games a challenge.

The majority of the 44 officials played on both those teams.

All staff were on standby, and I believe they had to ref the majority of the games that week.

Mpsa wasn't the only club affected as CBS also reached out asking if we handed any officials because they were in the exact same predicament that week.

Overall, it was another great summer, and the young officials gained some life skills, some earned their first \$'s and we will have most of not all return next summer.

2025 there should be a large group of our small-sided officials who are 14 to upgrade and do an entry level course, while I will be chatting with the u13 teams in the new year to encourage them to start thinking of doing the small-sided course to continue to build the referee pool.

I'm Hoping 2025 NLSA brings back PD days for officials of all ages, small sided and senior.

There has to be more of an effort to help the young officials navigate and improve their skills and confidence and life skills, not only at MPSA level but province wide.

It has to be better from the top down!

I believe we have some of the best officials in the province. They just need the proper support which has lacked over the last large number of years.

I look forward to carrying on as director of officials for 2025 and any challenges that come with it.

Shannon Tobin