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**Fall 2022 Newsletter**

﻿Dear Fellow Officials,

**We are just under 4 months away from the start of the season and only a few weeks away from the start of the fall travel season. It’s a busy fall in Florida with over 17 tournaments between now and the end of the year across the state.**

**New Officials Training**

**Our 1st classroom session was held September 10th and had new officials in attendance. With 6 adults and 7 junior officials we are starting off the new season looking good. Several of the adults are returning to officiating after many years away and others come from the coaching ranks. We are hopeful that they will make an instant impact in the upcoming season.**

**We have 23 additional recruits that hopefully will attend classroom training in October or November. On Field training of the new officials will begin at the Monster Mash tournament at the end of October and continue at other tournaments through the end of the year.**

### **Important dates**

## **Annual General Meeting January 28th 10:00am**

## **Public Library, Glades Road, Boca Raton**

## **Pre-Season Field Training February 4th, 9:00am**

## **Patch Reef Park, Yamato Rd, Boca Raton**

**Returning officials training & Preseason on-field**

**We have scheduled our annual on field training. This is a mandatory training session. FEBRUARY 4TH 9:00 – 4:00pm. This year SFLOA will be hosting 12 teams (Spanish River, Boca, Wellington, Western, Belen Jesuit, American Heritage-Plantation, Cypress Bay, Kings Academy, Westminster Christian, Ransom Everglades, Cardinal Gibbons, PB Central) in a jamboree style to give us an opportunity to train and evaluate everyone in the association. The Board is also discussing holding a 3-man mechanics Zoom training session the week before the event. Additionally we are hoping to bring down some of the top officials USA Lacrosse to assist with training.**

**2023 Dues**

**There is no easy way to say it, so I’m going rip the Band-Aid off (so to speak). This year dues will be increased to $70.00 (less than a JV game fee). We have held dues at the same rate for the past few years and this small increase keeps SFLOA on the lower side of most LOA’s around the country. This increase will help offset the cost of our Training & Observer Program which we will be introducing in the coming months. The observer program is designed to improve the overall quality of officiating in the SFLOA and give all officials an opportunity to move up to better quality games.**

**Registration:**   Early registration closes on January 10th (SFLOA) and January 13th (FHSAA).  There is a $20 late fee after these dates so please register early.  A registration link will be sent in the next few weeks. This year we will be accepting payments electronically (either Venmo or something similar, don’t worry if you don’t have it, we will still accept checks or cash).  The last day to register with FHSAA is February 20th 2023.

All members must register with FHSAA, SFLOA & USA Lacrosse.  General information can be found on our website.

**FHSAA**:  Returning members can access the FHSAA registration through your account on

 Arbiter Sports and selecting FHSAA Central Hub.
**SFLOA**: A link to the SFLOA registration page will be sent in the November 1st.

 **USAL:** Please check your USAL membership and keep it current.

**FHSAA Rules Exam:** This opens January 16th and runs thru February 20th.  It is an open book exam, this year we will again do a review session by zoom and post the practice questions on our website.

**Committees:**  As per the FHSAA Officials Guidebook, committees exist to ensure that each local official’s association operates in a fair and democratic manner which is in the best interest of each of its member officials.

**The following committees are looking for volunteers to fill in open positions. Please let me know which one you will be volunteering for (pick your top two when responding).** If we don’t get enough volunteers, we will assign open positions to officials at random.

Descriptions of each committee can be found in the 2022-2023 FHSAA guidebook or in our bylaws.

 Evaluations Committee: Chair: Skip Spenseri

 Assignment Committee: Chair: Mike Loewenstein

 Recommendations Committee: Chair: Jim Vacco

 Grievance Committee: Chair: Mark Andriese

 Education / Training Committee: Chair: Mark Rodwell

Additionally, SFLOA has the following committees to meet our needs:

 Youth Committee: Co-Chair: Michael Bolger & Don Chappe

 Hospitality Committee: Chair: Joey Belando

**Jessica Lunsford Act Badge:** For those who need a badge or need to renew, the process is listed under the “Getting Started” section of our website.

**Calendar:**  Please check the calendar posted on our website (SFLOA.org) for a listing of upcoming meetings and other important dates.

**Contact info (can also be found in Arbiter)**

**President:** Jim Gottlieb james.gottlieb@me.com

**Vice President:** Michael Loewenstein msloewy1@comcast.net

**Secretary:** Jim Vacco jvacco33@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** John Craven, Sr. johnecraven@msn.com

**At-Large:** Dan Cavanaugh dcav19@gmail.com

**At-Large:** Michael Bolger msblax@gmail.com

**At-Large:** Joey Bellando jbellando9@gmail.com

**At-Large:** Don Chappe chappe@bellsouth.net

**At-Large:** Mark Andreisse markandriesse@gmail.com

**Past President:** JC Craven craven1121@msn.com

Assignor/Trainer/Observer: Mark Rodwell bearrodwell@bellsout.net

Assignor: Paul Cicio pcicio@pbday.org

Observer: Michael “Skip” Spensieri skiplax@juno.com