

Hello Everyone,

With mostly everyone getting switched over to Notch, here is the 2026 referee welcome email! In this email, I am going to cover Notch, Assigning, Payments, Tournament Info, and Season Info. If you have not already done so, I highly suggest you download the Notch Sports app to your phone and login to your account.

Being a referee is a paid position and you are expected to handle your game assignments in a professional manner. This includes showing up to your games in a timely manner, wearing the appropriate referee attire correctly and creating a safe environment for the games being played.

Availability/Scheduling:

I always try to stay at least one week ahead of the game schedule and two weeks if I can. Remember this when you are updating your availability.

The system we use on Notch lets you input your typical weekly availability. What you input will then show me that you are available to work games on those days and times. There is also a "Date Overrides" section next to your weekly availability. This section lets you block out a range of dates or individual dates so you do not show up as available for me when I am assigning games. This is very helpful if you do not want to keep updating your typical weekly availability and just block off the dates instead.

For example, you may know you're going on a vacation from June 1st to June 8th. You can then go to the date overrides section and block these dates out. This can be done for singular dates as well. For example, if you know you will be able to work most Tuesday's but maybe the last Tuesday of the month you know you have a soccer game or any other conflicting commitment, you can then block that out as well.

Accepting/Declining Games:

When you are assigned games, you will have **3 days** to accept or decline the game. You will be notified of all new game assignments via your email address associated with your Notch account and you will also receive a notification from the Notch sports app if you have it downloaded. Parents, I also urge you to download this app to receive these notifications as you are usually better at responding to these assignments in a timely manner. If you do not respond within 3 days, I will unassign you from the game and start to look for a replacement referee.

Payment Methods:

Payments for games will be released into your Notch wallet following the submission of the game report by your center referee. I will then approve the game report and the funds will be released into your Notch wallet. Please make sure you have set up a **Checking Account** within

your Notch account. The money within your Notch wallet will be transferred to this checking account.

You can set up a scheduled auto payment where your funds inside your wallet will be transferred for free at the end of every month. However, if you wish to access your funds sooner, you can always pay a \$1.99 standard payout and transfer your money at any point. To set up auto pay, click the "my wallet" tab in Notch. Then click the "schedule" tab and you will see the free monthly option. **Any referee who makes over \$2000 during the calendar year through Notch pay, will be sent a 1099 tax form by Notch.**

Tournament Info

There will be three big local tournaments this year. These will provide a lot of game opportunities during the weekend and a good way to make some money. Please mark these dates on your calendar. I will not be assigning these tournaments, but the tournament assignor will be reaching out to you as their tournament date gets closer. They will let you know all the information you need to know like rules and payment for the tournaments.

Hermantown Jamboree: May 29th-31st

Gitchi Gummi Head of The Lakes: June 5th-7th

ESS Lake Superior Open: June 26th- 28th

Spring Season Info

There will be three separate leagues going on during the spring season. Your games will either be **Minnesota Academy, Northern 1 or Northern 2**. Minnesota Academy will be the older MYSA competitive games. Northern 1 is our intermediate younger local soccer league and then Northern 2 is essentially our spring recreational league. The Northern 1 and 2 games do not start until **May 26th**. This is when a lot of you new first year referees will start to get your first game assignments. The link below is to our referee resources page. Make sure to **SAVE** this link as it includes rule summaries and check in procedure for each spring level games that you can quickly access. This will also include info about game reports where the center referee is expected to report the score in Notch after each game to ensure you will be paid.

Link: <https://arrowheadsoccer.com/referees/resources/>

If you ever have questions about navigating Notch, you can click on the green paper like icon in the bottom right corner. They have helpful walkthrough tutorials on everything you may need. I am excited to work with you all this upcoming year and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to my email below!

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