



# Florida Referee Academy Program



# The IDEA and its BEGINNING

- MENTORING, TRAINING, SUPPORT & DIRECTION leads to better refereeing SUCCESS
- FSR began this effort in 2005 with a small group of referees, under the mentoring of Nancy (Lay) McCormick and Brooks McCormick
- In 2007, based on the idea's preliminary success, the decision was made to expand this idea and effort to a larger number of referees



# Organization & Implementation

- The volunteer position of State Director of Referee Academy was advertised, applicants were screened and the position appointment was made by the State Referee Administrator
- The Florida State Referee Academy Program was fully implemented by FSR on January 2, 2008, with the full approval and support of both State Associations (FSSA & FYSA) with the objective of serving the Florida Referee Community



# Academy Program Structure

- The SDRA is accountable directly to the SRA who administers all referee programs
- The Academy Policy is publicly available through the FSR web site
- The Academy is intended to bring together all referees, assessors, instructors and mentors, to promote excellence in referee guidance and development



# Academy Program Staff

- State Director of Referee Academy
  - John David McGee
- Area Directors of Referee Academy
  - Area A, Greg Watson
  - Area B, Chris Kenney
  - Area C, Merritt Guthrie
  - Area D, Tim Fouts



# Developments Todate

- Implemented a CLUB REFEREE TRAINERS Program (CRTs) following this program's presentation at the 2008 FYSA AGM
- With FYSA's support during the first year, the CRT Program has produced excellent results when Academy referees work as mentors within the structure of a club environment
- The key for success has been a Local Area Focus where youth Academy Referees work hand-in-hand with youth local club referees that show commitment

## Developments Todate (con't)

- The FYSA State Cup Finals in 2009 were officiated by 55 referees, of which:
  - 9 or 16% were female
  - 45 or 82% were below the age 30
  - 26 or 47% were age 22 or lower



## Developments Todate (con't)

- First ever State Select Academy Clinic was held at Stetson University on July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009
- The group of invitees included:
  - 8 grade 5 referees
  - 12 grade 6 referees
  - 24 grade 7 referees
  - 20 National Referees
  - FSR Administrators
  - Academy Staff Mentors





# The Academy PATH

- Promising young referees are identified by Academy Area Directors working with club and league assignors and other FSR staff
- Referees who show interest, are invited to local tournaments
  - Region Cups leading to the President's Cup
  - State knockout rounds leading to the State Cup
- Those who do well, are recommended for additional development and participation



# Getting From Area To State

- Area development involves working with younger referees within the CRT Program
- Mentoring early skill development
- Working local tournament
- State development requires a minimum age of 18 and having attained grade 7
- Development of higher skills within the Academy State Select Clinics and related mentoring events



# State Selection Requirements

- Currently USSF and FSR certified
- Minimum age 18
- Grade 7 Referee
- Recommendation by the Area Academy Director
- Active participation in FYSA tournaments
- Demonstration of true commitment
- Meeting RTS Fitness Standards



# Planned Academy Events

## These Events By Invitation Only

- September 2009
  - Labor Day Disney Showcase Qualifier Tournament
- December 2009
  - Disney Showcase Tournament
- December 2009
  - Orange Classic



## Planned Academy Events (con't)

- Jan- Feb 2010
  - Academy Area Clinic qualifying events for grade 7, 6 & 5 referees
  - Referees must meet minimum fitness standards in order to be invited to the Referee Training Seminar (formerly Pro Clinic)
  - Depending on performance, new grade 7 referees may be recommended for FYSA tournaments



## Planned Academy Events (con't)

- Feb-Mar 2010
  - Referee Training Seminar (by invitation)
  - FYSA Region Cup tournaments
- Apr-May 2010
  - FYSA President's Cup (by invitation)
  - FSSA Adult Cup (by invitation)
  - FYSA State Cup (by invitation)
- Jun 2010
  - ODP Camps (by invitation)
  - Southern Regional Tournament (by invitation)



## Planned Academy Events (con't)

- Jul 2010
  - Recertification for badge year 2011 starts
- July 30<sup>th</sup> – August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010
  - Academy State Select Clinic
  - Stetson University, by invitation only
  - Prior fitness test required
  - Primary focus will be fitness training



# A Final Word

- The FSR Academy Program is all about DEVELOPMENT:
  - Of Referees
  - OF Mentors
  - In Focusing the FSR developmental objectives
- The FSR Academy Program serves “THE GAME” and those who LOVE and SUPPORT IT