

Davis AYSO, Region 218

New Referee Uniform Transition Plan: 12-27-07

On November 2007, the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) unveiled a new design for referee jerseys that affects Davis AYSO referees. The new design basically changes the stripe pattern and adds another alternative color, green, while maintaining all the existing colors (see it here: <http://www.officialsports.com/>). Gold is still the primary jersey color. AYSO National policy states we are to conform to the uniform standards established by USSF. So this change does affect us.

Our transition to the new design will be staggered over the 2008 seasons and into 2009. We will eventually supply all Davis AYSO referees with this new jersey. Please don't feel an obligation to rush out and buy the new uniform. We will continue to use the existing style jersey for awhile as everyone gets caught up with the new jersey. We are all volunteers and we are not looking for you to spend your own money on the referee jersey. Our plan is to first use up the remaining uniforms we have in stock as we produce new Regional Referees, before purchasing the new design. Once the existing supply has been distributed, we will change over to distributing the new design as volunteers complete the Basic Referee course. We estimate that will occur sometime in the fall 2008.

Our transition plan for existing referees will take us into the Select Season 2009 and beyond. Our plan tries to balance the cost and logistics of buying everyone a new jersey immediately vs. the image we want to project for our Region as referees in terms of presenting a uniform and professional image. As such, here's the plan for Davis AYSO over the course of the 2008-09 seasons:

Select Season 2008: Continue to wear the existing style jersey. The primary objective is to show a uniform and professional image for the 3 member referee team. As such, we want all three members of the referee team in the same style and color jersey as we play games with teams from other Regions. If all three members have the new style jersey, then feel free to wear that jersey. The objective is uniformity of jersey in order to establish credibility for the referee team.

2008 Select Season Referee Jersey Incentive Program: we will provide, free of charge to Davis AYSO referees, a new style gold referee jersey for anyone who referees 5 or more games in the Select Season. Those referees who have refereed 5 or more Select Season games (either AR or Center) will have the option of either receiving a new style gold jersey from the AYSO Store (Pro Stripe (not entry level)...men or woman's cut) or a reimbursement check for \$22.00 (the cost of an AYSO Store Pro Stripe Jersey) for those who prefer to buy their jersey from the USSF supplier, Official Sports International for \$47.00+ (or another supplier). Receipt and AYSO reimbursement form would need to be submitted for reimbursement. We will track the games via both the Davis Referee Scheduler and the honor system as our referees oftentimes travel with their teams and will referee

in other Regions (and those games count, too!). We will set up a process for tracking the eligible referees and let everyone know later on how we will work it. If you decide to buy early, keep your receipt.

Spring Season 2008: This is our co-ed, very loosey-goosey season. If you have one, feel free to wear the new style jersey even if the referee team will not be uniform in design. The goal is to get the new designed jersey seen and people educated that there is now a new jersey. See explanation under Fall 2008. If the Select Season Referee Jersey Incentive Program is a success, we will run it again in the Spring Season.

Davis World Cup 2008: While the emphasis will again be on uniformity of the referee team, we will work with the World Cup Coordinator to make sure any Davis Referee signed up for World Cup games receives a free new style gold jersey from our stock to use in the tournament. We may also use an incentive program just for Davis Referees for purchase of a new jersey (maybe alternate color) as noted above for the Select Season for refereeing a certain number of World Cup games. This will be determined later.

Fall Season 2008: Because our recreational season is primarily intra-regional play and our primary goal during this season is to get all the game spots filled by referees, we don't have quite the same concern about our Regional image as we do during the Select Season. This combined with the fact we want the new jersey design to begin to be seen by our local referees, means we will not be picky about requiring the referee team to wear the same style jersey (color will remain a prime objective). As such, we will have games with some referees wearing the new design and some wearing the existing design. That's o.k. for the fall 2008 and will continue to be fine for the next couple of fall seasons as we transition everyone to the new design. The new designed jersey will be available during this season for those Davis referees needing to switch-out their old jersey.

Select Season 2009: This will be the first season we will require the new design for Davis AYSO Referees in the gold color. Any Davis Referee refereeing the 2009 Select Season would be able to obtain the new gold jersey from us at no cost so there will be no reason not to wear the new style gold jersey. Again, our goal is to show Davis Referees in a professional light during inter-regional play and that starts with the referee team wearing the same style and color jersey. Note: it will take much longer to get everyone in the new style jersey in alternate colors. As such, **KEEP YOUR ALTERNATE COLOR EXISTING JERSEYS** and use them as needed to maintain uniformity of the three member referee team.

Note: Depending on how the incentive program works out during the 2008 Select Season, we may offer it again in 2009 so Davis Referees can begin to add an alternate color jersey. This will be determined later.

Final Comments:

We suspect, as with the last transition to a new style jersey in 1998, there will be a long transition period to get everyone into the new style jerseys, especially the alternate colors. Over the next few years, our Fall seasons will be ones of transition where referees will be officiating using mixtures of new and old jerseys. By the 2009 Select season we will have the new design in stock in our building and will gladly offer it to any Davis AYSO referee.

Alternate Jersey Colors: We are working with our local Davis Legacy USSF referees to attempt to develop a recommended order for purchasing alternate color jerseys. We want to make it as easy and cost effective for our Davis referees as possible in order to give them a high probability that the referee team they are on will all have the same alternate color jersey if necessary. More to come as we continue to discuss this issue.

What to do with your Old Referee Jersey?: Following the 2008 Select Season and your obtaining of a new gold referee jersey, you may wish to donate your old style gold referee jersey to the Davis AYSO Uniform Donation Program. We collect used uniforms to be sent to other countries in need of soccer supplies. You can drop your uniform(s) off at any time during the year. Include a note saying it's for the uniform donation program. We recommend donating only the gold jersey at this time, as you will need the old style alternate jersey colors for possibly a few more years.

If you have any questions re: the transition plan or incentive program, please contact Mike Goodison at RefInstruction@davisayso.net