

A Coaches' guide to the referee assignment system (Central Assign)

The Avon Soccer Club's assignor (Mario Gilardini) uses the CT Soccer Referee Program's "Central Assign" web site to assign all referees for Intramural, Travel Friendly and Travel League matches. Central Assign it is also used by a District Assignor (Gary Walker) to assign center referees (CR) for CT Cup matches, and then the Avon Soccer club assigns the two assistant referees (AR1/AR2).

The Central Assign web site is <https://csrp.ctreferee.net/> It is designed to be usable on mobile devices as well as traditional PCs.

On the left-hand side of the Central Assign home page, there is a two week schedule for all the leagues that are active in the system. There are three Avon leagues, i.e.

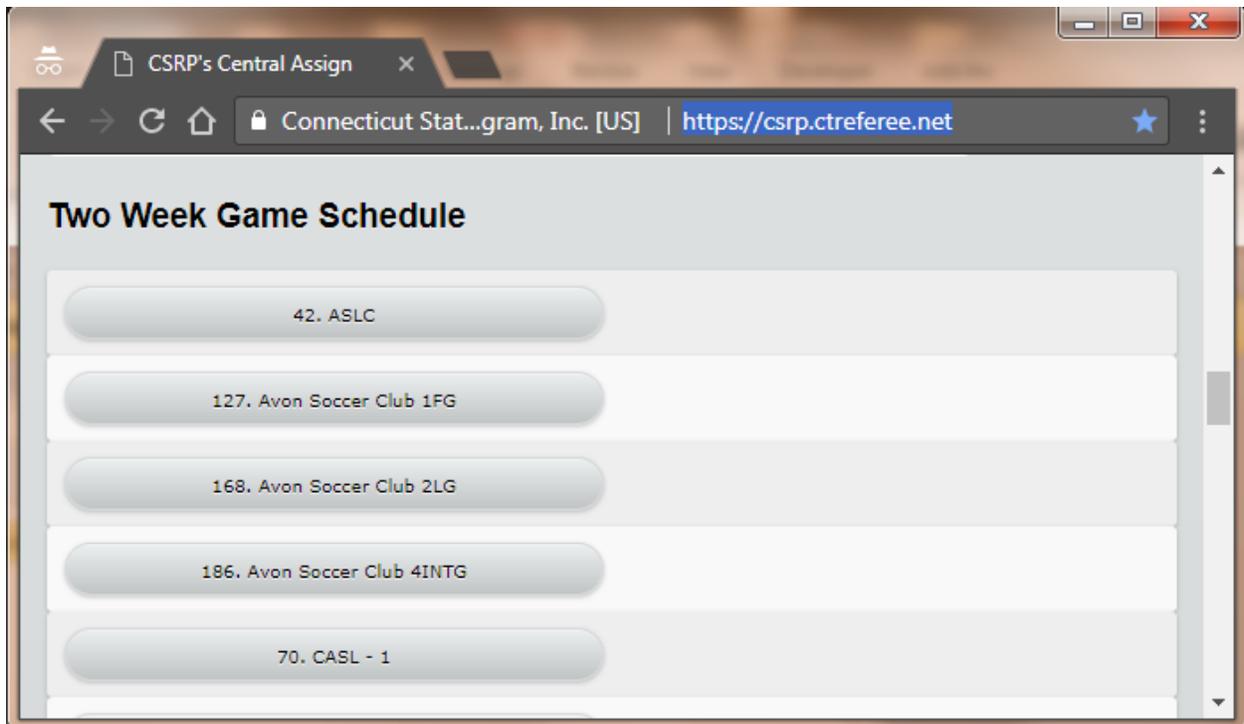
Avon Soccer Club 1FG – For all Travel Friendly games

Avon Soccer Club 2LG – For all Travel League games

Avon Soccer Club 4INTG – For all Intramural games

For CT Cup matches, there will be an additional league, called "CT Cup North Central (Walker) League".

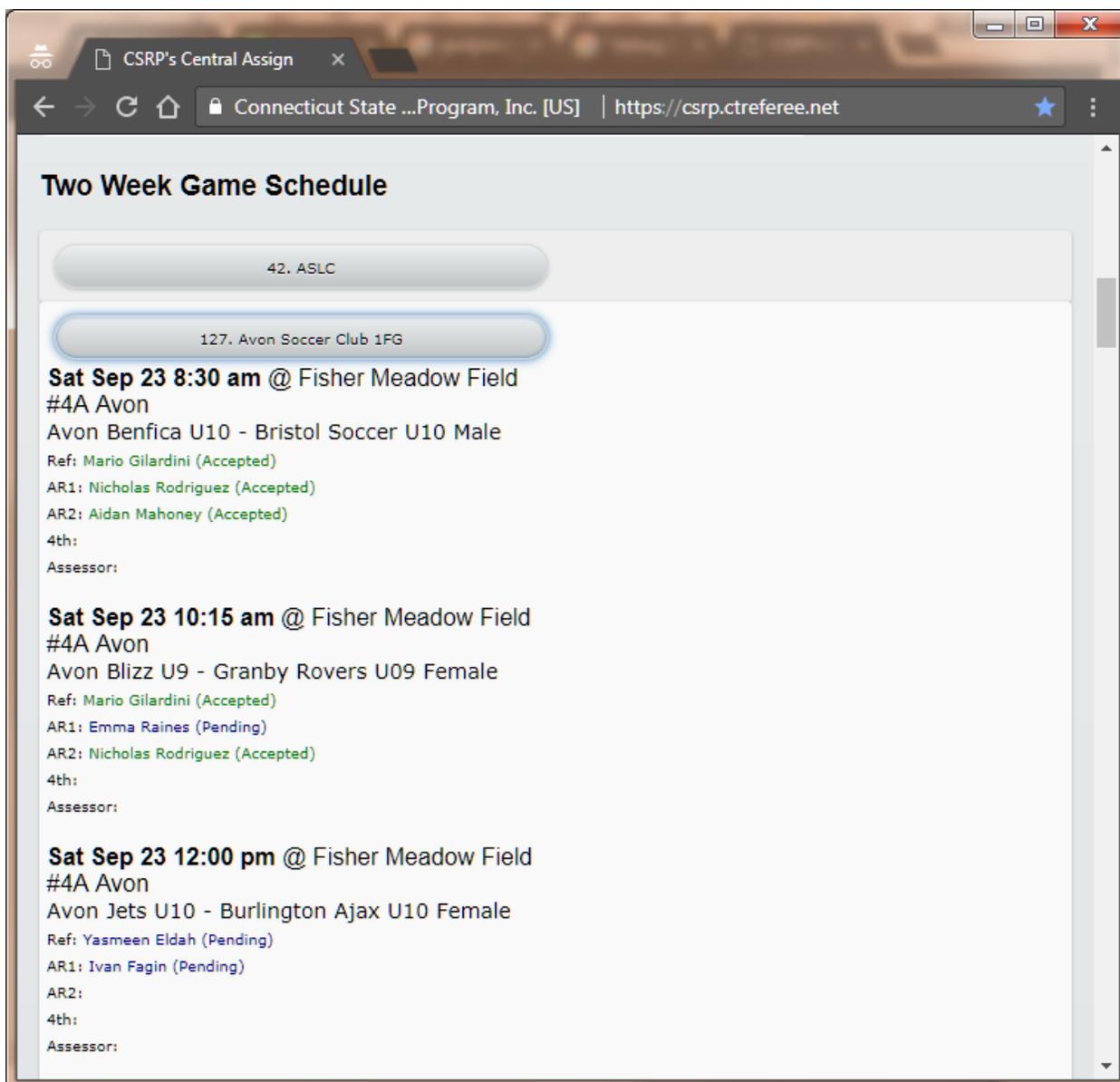
All the league names are shown alphabetically.



Clicking on a league name will expand the view to show all games for the next two weeks within that league, as long as they have been entered into Central Assign.

It will not show games that are “away” games, nor any games that have been cancelled by the assignor.

NOTE: The list of games, fields and starting times is NOT linked in any way to League Athletics (the web site provider used by Avon Soccer Club for player sign-ups, team schedules, etc.) Just because a game appears in an Avon Soccer Club team’s schedule in League Athletics does NOT mean that the Assignor is aware of it or has assigned referees to it. The ONLY source of that information is Central Assign ! For this reason, it is important to communicate with the Assignor whenever there are changes to games to ensure that referees are properly assigned.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying "Connecticut State ...Program, Inc. [US] | https://csrp.ctreferee.net". The page title is "Two Week Game Schedule". Below the title, there are two buttons: "42. ASLC" and "127. Avon Soccer Club 1FG". The "127. Avon Soccer Club 1FG" button is selected and highlighted. Below this button, the schedule for Saturday, September 23rd is displayed. The first game is at 8:30 am at Fisher Meadow Field #4A Avon, featuring Avon Benfica U10 vs Bristol Soccer U10 Male. Referee: Mario Gilardini (Accepted). AR1: Nicholas Rodriguez (Accepted). AR2: Aidan Mahoney (Accepted). The second game is at 10:15 am at Fisher Meadow Field #4A Avon, featuring Avon Blizz U9 vs Granby Rovers U09 Female. Referee: Mario Gilardini (Accepted). AR1: Emma Raines (Pending). AR2: Nicholas Rodriguez (Accepted). The third game is at 12:00 pm at Fisher Meadow Field #4A Avon, featuring Avon Jets U10 vs Burlington Ajax U10 Female. Referee: Yasmeen Eldah (Pending). AR1: Ivan Fagin (Pending). Each game listing includes fields for "4th:" and "Assessor:".

As you can see in the screenshot above, there are three games visible, and more could be seen by scrolling down further on the page. There are 5 fields for each game, which will be explained briefly.

- “Ref” is the center referee
- “AR1” and “AR2” are the first and second assistant referees
- “4th” is the fourth official, and if you see something entered here, it is probably an error as youth games don’t use them. Possibly it means that one of the ARs was entered here accidentally.
- “Assessor:” would only be present if the referee crew were being formally assessed.

There are three other things to look for when viewing the status of a game’s referee crew on Central Assign:

- Referee name followed by “(accepted)”. The referee has accepted the game assignment. This is not a cast-iron guarantee – in some cases a referee will find themselves being unavailable due to sickness, personal conflict (particularly if they themselves play or coach a team and are now scheduled for a CT Cup match), or for other reason. The referee needs to reach out to the Assignor with a “turn back” and ask to be unassigned, and hopefully they will have found an available replacement to take their place. If not, the Assignor has to chase around trying to find another referee.
- Referee name followed by “(pending)”. The referee has been assigned but has not yet accepted the game. Ideally referees should respond to the assignment e-mail within 24 hours, but not every teenager checks their e-mails this often. For this reason, the parents of teenage referees are (hopefully) also getting cc-ed on the assignment e-mails if the referee profile in Central Assign was correctly filled in.
- No referee name. This has two possible meanings:
 - No referee has yet been assigned. The Assignor will endeavor to find a referee who can fulfil this role.
 - A referee was assigned but has rejected the assignment. This means the assignor has to search for a replacement referee. If the assigned referee was diligent, they will have identified a fellow referee who can take their place. Otherwise the Assignor is again tasked with having to find another referee.

The Avon Soccer Club’s Assignor holds a meeting with all referees prior to the start of each season. At that meeting, referees are allocated to games for the entire season. This gives a good starting point to work from.

Assignments are normally posted on Central Assign by Tuesday morning each week for the upcoming weekend’s games. Being assigned results in system generating a notification e-mail to each referee that they have to respond to.

Coaches and managers should re-check the status of their games in Central Assign. If by Thursday evening ahead of the upcoming weekend there is not a complete referee crew that has accepted the assignments to a game, then it's time for the coach/manager to reach back out to the Assignor to make sure this is on the radar. If the coach/manager has rescheduled/cancelled a game, then that's also the perfect time to make sure the Assignor has removed the game from Central Assign, which also frees up the referee crew to be reassigned if required. There is nothing worse from a referees perspective than to turn up for an assigned game, only to discover that no teams turn up and that the game was cancelled earlier in the week.

As you can see, everyone has a part to play to make things run smoothly. It begins with Coaches/Managers providing accurate and up-to-date game details to the Assignor. The Assignor can then take this information and assign referees with an appropriate level of experience to each game. The referees have to respond to assignments to ensure the Assignor is aware of any changes to their availability, and were possible, try to find a replacement if they are unable to fulfil an assignment that they had previously accepted.

Questions/comments ? Please contact the author, Jason Armistead
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