

Purpose

The **Rochester Soccer Referee District Scholarship** was initially created as the Joseph W. Martuscello Jr. Scholarship Program in 2007. In 2008 the program was renamed. The program recognizes the memory of Joseph W. Martuscello and Lois Brondon.

Joe served as a soccer referee in the Rochester area for 5 years, working faithfully with so many new referees in the Unit that his name and contributions will never be forgotten. Joe passed away after battling cancer in November of 2006. His spirit never broke. Lois was a member of the Rochester district for an impressive 15 years. Lois tragically passed away while officiating a match in May of 2007. This program pays tribute to the leadership, courage, and vision of both Joe and Lois.

The purpose of the Rochester Soccer Referee District Scholarship Program is to encourage the high school and college age members of the Rochester Referee Unit to further their education at a college level.

The Scholarship is supported by the Unit and its members through contributions. The treasury of the Unit will have a distinct account for managing the funds under the Rochester Unit's General Fund.

General Guidelines

The Unit and its members will award scholarships to outstanding students and referees, to be known as Rochester Soccer Referee District Scholars. Awards will be made annually to selected winners who will be attending college in the upcoming year. Those interested in being considered must complete an application and provide a letter of recommendation from a member using the materials available to each member on the Unit's website. Executive committee and scholarship committee members are excluded from recommending applicants.

Five hundred dollar scholarships will be awarded to assist with **undergraduate** tuition, fees, books, and room and board. Members may only win the scholarship once. The number of scholarships to be awarded is dependent upon the eligible members and funds available.

Higher Education at a Collegiate Level

In awarding scholarships, the committee will consider the following:

- The nominee's contributions to the Rochester Referee Unit, including the number of games worked and any volunteer service. Volunteer service can include training activities or community service games worked.
- The nominee's field of study and career objectives.
- The nominee's 500-word essay that explains the influence refereeing the game of soccer has had on his/her life. The essay may also address what the nominee aspires to relative to soccer officiating.

Conditions of Eligibility

To be considered for nomination as a Rochester Soccer Referee District Scholar, a student must:

- ◆ Be a Rochester Referee Unit Member in good standing.
- ◆ Be a full-time student pursuing a degree at an accredited institution of higher education during the following academic year.

Application Procedure

Candidates must:

1. **Complete the application** form, provided by the Scholarship Committee via the Rochester Unit's web site.
2. **Provide a letter of recommendation** from a Rochester unit member. Executive committee and scholarship committee unit members are excluded from recommending applicants.
3. **Provide proof of attendance** to an Institution of Higher Education, such as a letter of acceptance, or a copy of course registration for the next semester.
4. **Provide transcripts** of the nominee's college grades, including fall semester if available. Applicants must also provide a transcript of their high school grades. Photocopies are acceptable.
5. **Include an original and one copy** of all required documents for each application must be submitted to the committee representative.

The Scholarship Committee will:

- ◆ Publicize the Rochester Soccer Referee District Scholarship Program at its member meetings.
- ◆ Solicit member nominations of outstanding students.

- ◆ Establish the process to select the best qualified candidates to be nominated.
- ◆ Help nominees prepare the nomination form.
- ◆ Review all applications and make recommendations to the Executive Committee by the stated deadline.

Application Materials

The Rochester Referee Unit application materials will be available at the unit website for download. Applications must be submitted on the forms provided on the Rochester Referee Unit website.

Application Deadline

The potential scholar must submit one original and one copy of all required documents **by July 1**. Applications not submitted by July 1, with all required supporting documents, will not be considered.

Selection Procedures

Initial Evaluation

An independent scholarship committee appointed by the Executive Committee will evaluate all valid applications and recommend the most outstanding nominees for consideration by the Executive Committee.

Applicants are evaluated on:

- ◆ Involvement with the Rochester Referee Unit.
- ◆ Demonstrated potential for and commitment to a career at a higher collegiate level.
- ◆ Outstanding academic performance.
- ◆ Content of nominee's essay on how soccer officiating has influenced their life..

Final Selection

From among the candidates recommended by the independent review committee, the Executive Committee will name up to 3 Rochester Soccer Referee District Scholars.

Payment of Scholarship Awards

Payment will be in the form of \$500 check to be presented to the scholarship winners at the August business meeting of the Rochester Referee Unit.

Duration of Awards

No unit member may be awarded the Rochester Soccer Referee District Scholarship more than once. The scholarship award is \$500.

Important Dates

July 1	Receipt deadline for the nomination of candidates for the 2008 Rochester Soccer Referee District Scholarship Competition. Submit one original and one copy of all required documents for each nomination.
July 15	Scholarship Review Committee meets to recommend finalists to the Executive Committee.
July 31	The Rochester Soccer Referee District Scholars are selected by the Executive Committee.
August	Rochester Soccer Referee District Scholars are presented at the business meeting of the Rochester Referee Unit.