

# 2008 NAGM Financial Assistance Info

## NAGM MEMO #4

The NAGM budget includes limited funds for chartered regions in need of financial assistance to send their regional commissioners to the NAGM business meeting. This financial assistance is designed specifically to assist with **travel** expenses only. **It does not cover meeting registration, meal packages or hotel costs.**

### Eligibility Requirements:

- Region must be less than two years old from the date of their charter.
- Region has less than 500 players registered in the current/last completed season.
- Estimated ending cash balance for the year/season will be under \$1,000.

### Financial Assistance Application Procedure:

Complete and return the enclosed financial assistance application to the National Support & Training Center by Friday, **March 28, 2008**. We cannot process your application without a current budget and information Form.

### Financial Assistance Review Process:

1. Applications will be reviewed with the respective area director prior to final evaluation.
2. Regions will be notified by NSTC Events Department of their status by mail/e-mail April 11, 2008.
3. Regions should not consider themselves "approved" prior to receiving written confirmation from the National Support & Training Center. Those regions approved will receive information on how to submit their subsidized expenses.

Keep in mind that financial assistance is limited. Please evaluate your needs carefully before submitting an application. All chartered regions are encouraged to budget for the NAGM through player registration fees or special fund-raisers. If you have any questions, contact the Events Department toll-free, at (800) 872-2976.

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## Don't be a Coach... Be a Ref!

### Joe Eldridge, National Referee Administrator

Have you ever heard or seen a referee coaching players while he or she was refereeing? Is this a good thing or not? I suggest to you that referees at all levels should be "talking" to players throughout the game but they should not be "coaching" players during the game. The younger the players, the more the conversation should be instructive and educational. The older the players, the more the conversation should be informative and proactive to reduce or avoid future problems. Exactly what the referee should say or not say and when it is and is not appropriate for the referee to make comments is, of course, an art all referees should seek to develop and refine. I have said it many times, "If you want to be good referee you should coach and if you want to be a good coach you should referee." However, not at the same time. Referees don't appreciate coaches telling them how to referee during a game and visversa. Coaches who referee understand the importance of respecting the referee's decisions and the futility of dissent. Referee's who coach understand the importance of letting players make their own decisions for games and to reserve their coaching efforts for practice. Parents of the players may think the referee is being such a nice referee when he delays the taking of a free kick so he can coach the defending team how to form a wall the appropriate distance from the ball. But the referee who understands coaching will know that this is inappropriate interference with the game and is unfair to the coach who has spent hours during practice training his team how to legally take advantage of the Laws by taking a quick free kick before the defense gets organized. The referee who tells the goalkeeper they are close to taking too long to put the ball into play after making a save understands the benefit of some friendly conversation to avoid possible major problems for minor technical violations. Likewise, the referee who runs by a player and says, "Number 7, it's a little early in the game for me to know your number" understands the benefit of some proactive conversation without unfairly coaching a player. The appropriate use of conversation with players coupled with a good overall understanding of the game by referees can greatly improve everyone's enjoyment of the game. Knowing all aspects of the game means not only understanding the Laws of the Game but understanding the nuances of the game and coaching as well. Referees must assess the immediate situation and determine the pros and cons of making comments. As has been said, "Timing is everything" and good referees are ready, when the moment is right, not to "coach" but to make well chosen comments for the good of the game. Be a coach and be a ref but don't be a coach while you are the ref... enjoy!