

Interview With...SHELBY MITCHLER

Shelby is currently a sophomore in Livermore that has played recreational soccer for LYSL for years. Two years ago so took a referee course and has become an active referee for Livermore Referee Association. She is the subject of this month's interview



Livermore Referee Association (LRA): You started as a Grade 9 referee. When did you take that class?

SHELBY: That was in June 2006. I did games last year as a Grade 9. At the time, the hours of the course fit my schedule.

LRA: Why did becoming a referee appeal to you?

SHELBY: I have been a player since I was 7 years old. During the years I played in games with referees, they always seem in control, even when the job seemed hard. I decided to start refereeing to give back to the league that I have enjoyed and the money. Yes, getting paid to referee was a plus.

LRA: What age group are you playing in during this fall season?

SHELBY: U19 Girls in the recreational program.

LRA: Recently you upgraded your badge to a Grade 8. Why did you decide to move up?

SHELBY: To be able to do more and higher level games. I was getting more comfortable with my abilities. It is a good job with flexible hours. I like soccer and helping where the league really needs more resources.

LRA: What other jobs do you have to help earn money?

SHELBY: Babysit. File clerk for a local business.

LRA: Did the courses meet your expectations?

SHELBY: Yes. I learned the Laws of the Game and how to apply them.

LRA: When you are ready to do a center, what are you expecting?

SHELBY: I will be responsible to control the match; keep it safe and fair; get a feel for the tempo of the game; make calls that in the end are final; and handle any issues that come up. I will also work with the Assistant Referees to help do the game successfully.

From what I have I seen so far, I think the younger teams have respect for the referee. In the older age groups, the players will be closer to my own age.

LRA: What are the attributes of a good referee?

SHELBY: Makes the right call even when it might be unpopular; Know what to do in most situations; be good with kids (don't scare them).

LRA: Did you ever have a bad experience with a referee?

SHELBY: In soccer and softball, I have seen players and coaches yell at the referees/umpires from time to time. In a U10 game, a coach argued with a referee about whether or not a ball was out over the goal line or touch line over the flag. As a player in a U14 games once we had a 15 year old referee. That seemed odd.

LRA: Has becoming an active referee changed anything for you?

SHELBY: I do not make offside calls from the spectator area any more. Proper perspective and positioning is important to make that call correctly.

LRA: How are you treated by others as a youth referee?

SHELBY: I got a lot of encouragement from friends and referees that also referee my dad's team that he plays on.

LRA: Do you attend the monthly LRA meetings?

SHELBY: I have not in the past. But I hear that there are experienced referees that have interesting stories.

Great to see you developing and growing as a referee, Shelby. Have a great year in all aspects of your life. And see you at the next LRA meeting, June 25!



Shelby Mitchler

May 2007