

# YOUR EDUCATION

## ...whose responsibility?

By Ed Rae MA SDI

*“Perhaps the most valuable result of all education, is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not...”*

-----Thomas Huxley

The word education derives from the Latin, meaning to lead out. Out of where? Why from ignorance to knowledge. And how can a referee do that?

Who is responsible for that leading out? That education? Who?

**Recertification Sessions.** Your MSRC offers at least a dozen opportunities to interact with other referees in a learning context. Take advantage. Go to more than one. Talk to different people, other than those in your own backyard.

**Websites.** Surf [MassRef.Net](#), [US SOCCER](#). Plenty of states have sites worth a read. Try [SOCREF L](#). Or [Ask a Soccer Referee](#) on US SOCCER's site.

**Special Clinics.** Top-level officials visited with us here. Rick Eddy. Chip Reed. Paul Tamborino. Esse Baharmast. Did you take in the clinics with them, when they were in MA? The venerable, erudite Jim Allen was here, courtesy of your Massachusetts Referee Committee (MSRC). Did you take him in, at WPI this past August? He is duty expert. Uber alles. He occupies the scholarly high ground.

Watch MassRef.Net for more clinics like this.

**Publications.** US Soccer, Soccer America. Libraries. School media centers. Local newspapers. All are resources. Use them. MA Youth runs coaching courses year round. Take one. They have marvelous booklets that accompany the courses.

**Tournaments.** The referee 'tent' is a catalyst, a cauldron of learning. Simply shooting the breeze about games-yours-mine-theirs- is educational. Ask. Tell. To paraphrase Yogi Berra: you can hear a lot by listening.

**Games.** Referee, watch as many games as you can. Play-even if it informal. Great tool. Doing is best. Step up to officiate adult games. Do AR assignments with more experienced people. Then reflect, discuss, critique. It is platform on which to solidify your knowledge base. The greatest teacher is the game itself.

**Assessors.** Formal assessments are a given & a good. But do not limit it to that. Assessors can be sounding boards too, just bounce ideas thoughts off an experienced assessor. Does not even have to be at your game. They are a resource. Use them.

**Friends, colleagues, associates, players, coaches, mentors, administrators.** Talk with them. Listen to what they say. Discount in part, for obvious biases, but listen all the same. Weigh the weak versus the wise. Get inputs, insights, inside scoops. Shared information is a bigger, broader, better builder of knowledge, than uncertain solitary wonderings. Stockpile information.

Information is inexpensive, interesting, immediate. Wisdom takes its own good time. ***"all ignorance toboggans into know,"*** according to lower case poet, ee cummings.

At long last, education is neither one game, neither one season, neither one decade even. It is a plodding, particular pursuit of potential. Seasons long. Career long. Lifelong. The Rosetta stone secret is change. The human condition, the game, the world -- all change, change utterly. So do we. So we can.

So do arrange, so do adjust, so do adapt. So if we are open to it, we will.

So in the end, who is responsible for your education?

You are.