

# Sandra Serafini

**Ph.D., Referee**



Sandra Serafini became certified as a United States Soccer Federation (USSF) referee in 1998 and as a National Intercollegiate referee in 1999, being the first from North Carolina to serve on the FIFA Panel of Women Referees from 2006-2009. Originally from Hamilton, Ontario, she became certified in Washington State and moved to North Carolina in 2000, where she advanced through the referee ranks and represented North Carolina within the region and nationally at various tournaments and events. In 2004 Sandra received the NCYSA/NCSRA Adult Referee of the Year award for outstanding and significant service in officiating youth soccer matches. She has also been recognized with TISOA's William Utter Service award and NISOA's Regional Referee of the Year Award.

She officiated multiple College Conference Finals, NCAA Final Fours, men's and women's domestic professional leagues, and international events in North America, Europe, and Asia. She currently serves with the Professional Referee Organization (PRO) as the Strategic Initiatives Manager and co-manager of the Development Group. She served as a Triangle Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association (TISOA) board member and Director of Education for several years. She co-managed a youth referee mentoring program in North Carolina during her time as an active official, conducting instructional clinics and field sessions in Raleigh, Greensboro, Charlotte, Statesville, and Winston-Salem, and served as an instructor, mentor, and assessor at multiple referee clinics and tournaments across the country for youth, high school, and college officials, as well as providing referee education content for NCYSA re-certification modules. In Greensboro, she led bridge-building sessions with youth coaches about Common Myths in the Laws of the Game and how to support youth referee development recruitment and retention programs. These efforts have propelled the state forward in their mentor and development efforts to provide the best equipped officials for the betterment of the game and have also greatly improved relations between the three major stakeholders within the Youth Soccer Community: Coaches, Players, and Officials. Her ground work has set a foundation for an increase in camaraderie and cooperation among all involved with the sport. For several years, she led senior groups of USSF and NISOA officials in officiating North Carolina Special Olympics events in Winston-Salem. She currently serves with the Professional Referee Organization (PRO) as the Strategic Initiatives Manager and Co-manager of the Development Group, initiating and managing a youth referee scouting program that provides instruction to youth officials at tournaments across the country, including North Carolina (McDonald's-Wrangler), Washington, DC (WAGS), Massachusetts (Needham Memorial Day tournament), Texas (Austin Labor Day Tournament), Florida (Regional Mentoring Group, ECNL), Washington, Illinois, and California (ECNL).

She is a National Referee-Coach for USSF and Elite Assessor/Instructor for CONCACAF, has instructed referee courses for FIFA, and has recently completed her 4-year term as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO).

Sandra Serafini holds a Ph.D. in Speech & Hearing Sciences/Neuroscience from the University of Washington, specializing in neurocognitive mapping of language processes. She held the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC from 2000-2015, directing the Neurocognitive Mapping Lab and conducting clinical research in cortical stimulation mapping of adult and pediatric epilepsy and brain tumor patients. She is the author of several peer-reviewed publications on multimodality language processing and of medical reference textbook chapters on Neurocognitive Mapping in current volumes of the Epilepsy and Neurosurgery textbook series. She continues with the DUMC's Department of Neurosurgery as an Adjunct Assistant Professor.