

Dear Referee,

You are currently an ACTIVE EKCSRA Referee and are likely interested in receiving the periodic e-mails (albeit maybe too many of them) that are ongoing in our efforts to keep you informed and to ask for your help on games now and again.

You have two options if this is not the case:

1) You can flip off your ACTIVE flag by logging on and going to your Profile (Services:Profile) and turning this flag off. This will remove you from active participation with EKCSRA.

2) You can change the BULK MAIL field to NONE and this will turn off the e-mails that we send out.

I wanted to get both of these out of the way before proceeding.

Comcast has implemented an AGGRESSIVE blacklist of providers who they believe to be spammers. Symantec has devised this scheme for them to protect you from receiving e-mail that looks like SPAM.

While I am sympathetic to this GOAL as I remove 200-300 spam messages each day from my own system I think this is the wrong approach. In my systems I have my junk e-mail filters route suspected spam to a folder that I scan daily looking for e-mails from you that it has categorized as SPAM. Needless to say it is somewhat embarrassing to reason sometimes (even just the titles).

However, I do not feel that I need protection from myself and that I should be the one to determine if what is being sent is spam or not.

Additionally, in this case if ANYONE using the Ridgestar e-mail server does send out some things that look like SPAM to Comcast, then Comcast KILLS ALL EMAIL to Comcast from Ridgestar until they can be convinced it is not SPAM.

This is a blatant disruption of service that we at EKCSRA may not even be responsible for. And like most service PROVIDERS Ridgestar has several hundred clients not just us.

So if you don't care if you miss our e-mails; if you don't care if you may miss important e-mails; and if one of these e-mails that you miss causes you to go to a game that didn't happen and you don't care if you don't get paid; then continue to use your Comcast e-mail for your e-mail address at EKCSRA.

THIS IS THE PRICE OF RETAINING YOUR COMCAST E-MAIL ADDRESS AND I TOO AM A COMCAST CUSTOMER BUT DO YOU THINK THEY CARE IF I CAN'T RECEIVE IMPORTANT E-MAIL; I CAN TELL YOU FIRST HAND THEY DO NOT CARE.

So if you think you do want UNINTERRUPTED e-mail then I highly suggest that you consider getting a different e-mail account for use just with your Refereeing activities.

I use a G-MAIL account; others use Yahoo mail; still others use HOTMAIL. And there are many many more free e-mail providers.

On our end we are attempting to streamline how we send out e-mails; currently we use additional filters to create these e-mails. Some of which are:

- 1) Are you ranked to do games in a specific league (client)?
- 2) Your availability for the various days of the week. (we use this to target those referees who are available on Tuesday only as an example) Update your Availability using Referee Availability frequently to avoid excess e-mails.
- 3) We use filters like number of games you already have on any given day.
- 4) And we are constantly looking for ways to better define your availability and add them to our process.

PLEASE GIVE THIS THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES: By that I mean if you don't care then do nothing; but if you DO CARE then change your e-mail account to something OTHER than COMCAST.

It is also possible that the other big providers like Hotmail & Yahoo & G-mail & AOL & Verizon may do something similar, but so far all have chosen the better approach of identifying potential spam and putting it into a Junk folder for later review. And once you approve the sender you are off and running.

Sorry to be so verbose, but didn't want to gloss over the issues.

Tom