

### **1. Who are You and where are you from?**

My name is Mark Seres from Miskolc, Hungary. It is a relatively big city in the northeast part of Hungary and about 200 km away from Budapest. I am 20 years old.

### **2. Tell shortly something about Yourself (family, education, etc.)?**

I have one brother, he is 17 years old. My parents are very supportive, and we always help to each other. I think family is the most important thing in our life. In Hungary I study at University of Miskolc and my Major is Accounting and Finance.

### **3. You are now in Tampere, but why?**

In my University the Erasmus+ scholarship program is available for us and in February I applied.

We can choose from more than 15 countries with more than 30 universities, but we can add only 3 in our application. I added only one: Tampere, Finland. Why? It's a hard question. Shortly: Ice hockey, Northern Lights, the famous finish education, beautiful nature, saunas and last but not least - it said to be we are relatives. These languages are part of the Finno-Ugric group.

I was curious if there are some similarities or not.

Now, I study International Business at TAMK.

### **4. What is Your ice hockey back ground?**

I was about 8 years old when my ice hockey career started. Compare to the other beginners, I was pretty old. In Hungary the age groups are a little bit different: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18, U20 and the Pro league. In my last two years I played in the U18 team and we participated in the Hungarian league and in the Austrian based EBJL (Ebel Juniors League) too. I played in every position except the Goalie. After 11 years I stopped playing.

### **5. Why have you started refereeing?**

I did not want to be far from this sport. When I was leaving the locker-room for the last time as a player, I directly went to the referee room and asked them, how can I start being a referee. In 2016 February, my referee career has started. This was one of the best decision in my life.

Furthermore, the referees can watch the games from the best places.

### **6. As a Referee, what level of games do You whistle on Hungary?**

During my two seasons in Hungary I had 90 games. I was referring U8-U20 and in the EBJL. I gained experience in 4 man-system too during the play-offs.

### **7. Is being referee in Finland surprised You? Why?**

First of all, I am very grateful for the Referee Club of Tampere to give me the chance to be referee here in this season and thank you for your help during this 3 months!  
I enjoy every game and every moment. My idea and the reality were close to each other. Almost everybody speaks English and it was a big help to me. There were some new things (of course not in the rule book), but these were mainly technical ones. Positioning and procedures, but I think it was easy to change my habits.

**8. What is biggest difference between Hungary and Finnish ice-hockey in eyes of referee? If there is something.**

The games have higher speed.

**9. What are Your aims in refereeing?**

My goal is to be a linesman in the Liiga, KHL or even in a World Championship in a few years. Therefore, I have been working hard every day. Going to the gym, run outside and watch as much Liiga games as I can.

I don't compare myself to others. I just want to be better than yesterday and I hope, in one day the hard work will pay off.

**10. Have You enjoyed Your stay in Tampere?**

I arrived in the middle of August and it was an awesome three months. My favourite free time activity is going to the sauna. I would like to try as much Finnish food, tradition and activity as I can in the following months. I am sure, I will never forget this year.

**11. Have You tasted Tampere famous food mustamakkara? If yes, did You like it? If no, why not?**

Yes, I tried it. As I realized, the Finnish gastronomy use less spice than the Hungarian one (generally). The mustamakkara is one of my favourite Finnish food. Very delicious. As I know it made of blood. In Hungary we have a similar food but that one made from liver.

**12. What do you like most in Finland?**

First of all, the nature. The forests are completely different here. It was an amazing feeling when for the first time I was sitting next to the lake and saw the forest around it and the people just went to the lake from the sauna. I felt that, yeah, I am here.

The other one: Because of the different education system, I have more free time, even if I have more courses.

**13. Do You have something to say our readers?**

Suomi on vaikea kieli.  
But I will learn it.