



**The Flag and Whistle**  
**Newsletter of the South Bay Soccer Referee Association**  
**Serving the Soccer Community since 1976**



Written by: Jonny Joseph  
 Edited by: Alan Siegel

March 2026

**We're Back!**

Following a break of 2.5 months for the high school season, our EA and other clubs have resumed playing at the older youth group ages. Given the break we have had, it is as important as ever to review the rules of competition before each game day. See more about this under pet peeves.

**Annual General Meeting 2026**

Our AGM is scheduled for June 30, 2026. As discussed at our last membership meeting, we need to choose a suitable venue for us to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> year of our association! Factors to consider include:

- Location – needs to be in close proximity to North High, our regular meeting place and center of the SBSRA universe,
- Size of location – needs to accommodate 70 – 80 attendees,
- Suitability for meeting – exclusive space for SBSRA, separated from other customers is ideal,
- Parking availability,
- Suitable menu – variety and desirability of menu items at a reasonable cost (approximately \$15 per member).

Several members offered suggestions which they were asked to check out. Please share your suggestions and evaluation of their suitability based on the above criteria.

**Website**

Having problems signing in to our website with your password? Getting a “Can’t find php template” error?

- Step 1 – clear the cache on your device
- Step 2 – try logging in again
- Step 3 - if that doesn't work, reach out to our webmaster Rick Roberts, at [web@sbsra.org](mailto:web@sbsra.org).

**Bylaws Amendments**

Six proposed Bylaws amendment proposals were voted on at our most recent membership meeting on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Sixty-two Members in Good Standing were present and voted.

A very consequential change in our bylaws is the requirement for all members to attend at least 3 membership meetings per membership year. Following February’s meeting, several members are short of this requirement as follows:

<b><u># of Meetings Attended</u></b>	<b><u>Returning Members</u></b>	<b><u>New Members</u></b>
2	20	7
1	20	7
0	23	10

**Board of Directors**

**President:** Jonny Joseph      **Vice-President:** Steve Brandon      **Secretary:** Kiku Annon  
**Treasurer:** Bruce Ashton      **Member-At-Large:** Tony Calandra      **Assignor:** Gabriel Goldsman



This potential change was first discussed at a Membership Meeting in October 2025, so this is not something that has been sprung upon the Membership. Interestingly, attendance improved right after that, so apparently some members took notice. We still have 4 meetings left this Membership Year, so plenty of opportunity to attend even if you need all 3 meetings.

We have also added language to the home page of our website to make it clear to prospective members that attendance at 3 meetings per Membership Year is required.

Please read the minutes of the meeting below to see the results of all the amendments.

## **Parking at Games**

SBSRA reimburses members for parking in limited cases. We have a small number of locations that charge for parking, most notably Historic Belmar Park in Santa Monica. Please be reminded:

- Always use free parking when available, even if it means walking an extra block or two,
- Send a copy of your parking receipt to our treasurer **within 7 days of the game.**

## **Professional Appearance**

It is important to avoid the following non-compliance with uniform standards:

- Long-sleeve undershirts, of any color, are unacceptable under short-sleeve referee shirts
- The only acceptable socks are black with two stripes above the ankle
- Shorts and socks that are excessively faded or worn (not quite black)
- Desert style, or any other floppy style, hats with neck flaps.

**DO NOT EXPOSE** bodily bare skin or underwear at the fields. Please wear an appropriate undershirt to and from the field to avoid this unnecessary exposure!

## **Jersey Badges**

We have 4 alternatives:

- USSF Soccer
- USSF Futsal
- SBSRA
- CSL “5 Star Referee” (for CSL games only)

Please ensure you wear the correct one for each game. Generally, most youth games require a USSF badge (current year or next year’s badges only), middle school and most adult games require an SBSRA badge.



## **League Rules**

Please be reminded to visit each league's dedicated page on our website, which can be found at <https://www.sbsra.org/competitions> before going to the fields to officiate their games. If you have any questions about a league, please check the website before asking an assignor or anyone else.

A variety of problems on and off the pitch occur when members are not familiar with the rules of the league in which they officiate and are easily avoided with just a few minutes of research on our part.

## **Certified Athletic Trainers**

The Elite Academy (EA) requires the presence of a certified athletic trainer at all of their matches other than U11 and U12 (not required but considered best practice) and is optional for EA2 matches.

The EA Standards & Rules (2025-2026) state:

- *Matches are instructed to not start without a Certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) and*
- *If a club does not provide ATC the game will go down as forfeit and all referee expenses will still need to be paid for by the home team.*

Other leagues may have similar requirements, and we need to enforce them as appropriate.

## **Single Referee Call-In Procedures**

Please be reminded of our day of game single referee call-in procedures as follows:

- Weekday games – continue to call into our SBSRA hotline, (310) 955 9905, and select 1 to leave a message,
- Weekend games – send a text message to the Assignor, (213) 220 3580
- Whether you call or text, make sure you include the following:
  - Your Name,
  - Field Location,
  - Time of Game.

## **Referee Pet Peeves**

Referees who are not ready for their games when they arrive at the fields.

What are we referring to here? Teeth and hair are brushed? Hands and face washed? These are all important but the most important preparation we need to do is to read the rules of competition.

A lot of work has gone into creating a webpage for each league/competition that we provide to referees as a resource. Each of us has a responsibility to review the relevant page(s) within a day or two before our matches to ensure we are knowledgeable about:

- Duration of Games – these are not always consistent across age groups.
- Substitution Rules – how many, how often, when and re-entry rules.
- Team check-in procedures – will teams provide paper rosters or is there an electronic check-in?
- Special requirements – athletic trainers, spectator placement, team, coach or sideline behavior requirements, etc.



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So review the Rules of Competition before each game and take a copy of the rules with you to the field.

This enables us to be prepared to provide high quality, professional soccer referee services.

Do you have any referee pet peeves? What do fellow referees, coaches and players not like about referees? How do we do better?

Please share for inclusion here by email to [President@sbsra.org](mailto:President@sbsra.org).

### **Some Things to Think and Laugh about**

*"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do." Pelé.*

*"If you want special results, you have to feel special things and do special things together. You can speak about spirit, or you can live it." Jürgen Klopp.*

*"Once you bid farewell to discipline, you say goodbye to success." Sir Alex Ferguson.*



### **Approval of Minutes**

Included below are the General Membership Meeting Minutes for our most recent meeting for approval by the Membership at our next meeting.



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## SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes February 24, 2026

1. Called to order at 7:05 pm
2. Approval of January 2026 Meeting Minutes, Motion made by Steve Brandon, seconded by Bill Yee, approved by acclamation
3. Monthly Training - Wayne Merrick - Cards and Game Management:
  - a) Managing Free Kicks
    - Communication to both teams, especially for ceremonial restarts, is key
    - The minimum distance for defenders is 10 yards, positioning of the referee team is important to ensure the referee has a view of the ball, it's expected destination and the lead AR
    - Signaling for restart is required as noted below for ceremonial restarts
    - Players don't have ask for 10, refs are responsible for enforcing it and we should be able to approximate this visually
    - Ceremonial restarts are required after:
      - Yellow and red cards
      - Injured player
      - Substitutions
      - Prolonged stoppages
      - An injury report must include:
        - Time in game of injury,
        - Injured player number,
        - Injured player name,
        - Injured player team
        - Short narration describing how the injury occurred and what action took place to treat the injured player.
    - Referee should not turn their back on the ball
      - Try to position the play between ref and AR
        - Don't walk through and close to players when managing the defensive wall
  - b) Foul or no foul videos were presented and discussed
    - Speed of player, distance, possibility of player getting the ball, level of aggression needs to be considered:
      - Careless, simple lack of attention
      - Reckless, disregard for safety (needs caution)
      - With excessive force (likely a red card)
4. Treasurer's Report:
  - a) Bi-annual financial review of SBSRA, we need someone to do this review (preferably with some accounting background). Bruce has binders prepared and the specific procedures to be performed are included in our bylaws. A stipend is paid for this work
  - b) Address Changes, please send a direct email to Bruce, he does not receive updates from Arbiter
  - c) Checks for games can be collected from Bruce for January games



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## 5. President’s Report

- a) Next president - it is just under 100 days until nominations are to be made for president. At this point, no one has expressed interest in being our next president. I am available to discuss the details of being president and how I can help the next one to continue growing our association. The time is now. It is really important that we are prepared for this transition and someone needs to come forward. Please.
- b) Board Meeting - February 2026:
  - i. Bylaw amendment revisions,
  - ii. Need to recruit a successor president
  - iii. AGM Location, looking for recommendations as more people seemed to want to go off site for this meeting
- c) New Member Introductions - Janek Schaller, Chaplin Lev, Sean Nestor, Vivianne Waisman

## 6. Vice President’s Report

- a) ROL Update and SafeSport 154 members, 25 not on ROL

## 7. Secretary’s Report

- a) SBSRA Membership Report
  - i. Total Members 129 (excludes those not on ROL)
  - ii. Number of New Members this Month 2

## 8. Assignor’s Report:

- a) Future Games Expectations, need to be certified for 2026
- b) CORE Training
- c) Fitness Tests are changing for US Soccer, Gabriel is hoping to have training to help those who want to prepare properly as failure rates tend to be high

## 9. Member-At-Large Report - Please submit supplemental reports in a timely manner. If you cannot do so immediately after evening games, perhaps you should not be doing these games

## 10. Proposed Bylaws Amendments - the results of the voting for each proposal were as follows:

<b><u>Amendment 1</u></b> Vote “Yes” on <b><u>one of the following</u></b> two proposals or “No” on both:	<b>[1]</b>
<b><u>Amendment 1a</u></b> Refundable deposit equal to annual dues to be paid by Members who have not attended 3 membership meetings in prior year	No
<b><u>Amendment 1b</u></b> Attendance at a minimum of three, monthly Membership Meetings per year required for approval of returning membership application.	Yes
<b><u>Amendment 2</u></b> Nominations for elected Board Member positions must be made at the Monthly Membership Meeting (May) prior to the Annual General Meeting	Yes
<b><u>Amendment 3</u></b> Removal of term (3) limits for Board Members	No <b>[2]</b>



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<b><u>Amendment 4</u></b> Move duties regarding Code of Conduct communication from President to Secretary	Yes
<b><u>Amendment 5</u></b> Require payment of fines before creation of a Grievance Committee Review to hear an appeal	Yes
<b>[1]</b> Amendment 1b received more “Yes” votes than Amendment 1a, accordingly Amendment 1b only passes <b>[2]</b> Number of “Yes” votes equaled “No” votes, accordingly amendment is not passed	

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm