



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

February 2025

Notes from the Board

We are relieved to share that, although any losses from the fires were too high, only 4 of our members' homes were lost. Thankfully, there were no injuries or more significant personal damage or loss. We empathize with the trauma and loss they have gone through and as a small gesture of support, your Board authorized donations of \$250 for each of them to assist your fellow members with replacing their referee equipment. The Board thanks those few members who have donated to this very worthy cause and encourage the remaining members to participate by giving a contribution to Jonny or Bruce at our meeting on Tuesday, or you can contact either of them for Venmo/Zelle details.

We have recently had a number of service failures due to the non/late arrival of one of the three referees in the team. In addition to this concern, we have noticed a disturbing trend which exacerbates these situations. If you are at the field on time, at least 30 minutes prior to kickoff, you need to try to call your missing partner(s) no later than 20 minutes before kickoff. **DO NOT TEXT!!!** They are likely driving and cannot read or respond to text messages. If one is unable to reach her/him, IMMEDIATELY contact the assignor to allow enough time for a replacement to be found. As a group we are not doing this. This has resulted in numerous service failures recently and is avoidable. Please be more mindful of this requirement.

Congratulations to our referees who recently represented SBSRA at State Cup. Performances were so good that we were awarded final games assignments also. Well done!

Jersey Badges

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. As a general rule, most youth games will require a USSF badge (current year or next year badges only) and most adult games (excluding South Bay Sports 11v11 and 7v7 which are USSF affiliated games) will require an SBSRA badge.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph

Vice-President: Steve Morgan

Secretary: Kiku Annon

Treasurer: Bruce Ashton

Member-At-Large: David Martin

Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman



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.

In particular, South Bay Peninsula Soccer League (SBPSL) requests that we emphasize the following:

Check In:

- Before the match can begin, each team must provide a completed team sheet including the **full name of each player**
- Each player or team official must present you with their player ID when checking in individually. The player ID includes their team name, player name and photo – see examples here (https://sbsra.org/images/SBPSL_Cards.png). Make sure that all IDs match their appearance, jersey number, team name and the match report.
- **NO ID = NO PLAY– There are No Player Check-in Exceptions. No guest players, no substituting driver's licenses for SBPSL ID cards, etc.** (other than on a limited basis, from time to time).
- Count the number of players, number of ID cards and names checked on the match reports to ensure consistency.
- Others (i.e., spectators) may not be in the bench/substitutes area.

Collect the game fees in cash only. No Venmo, Zelle, Bitcoin, etc.

During the Game:

- We need to strictly enforce the league's "no-bad-language" rule. Use basic sense, if the player mutters it under his breath, simply remind him to be careful not to say it any louder. If it can be heard 20 – 30 yards away, it likely deserves a caution (Yellow card) and if it is directed at anyone it deserves a Red Card.
- They want fouls to be called. Let's give them what they want unless it is a promising attack, close to goal, etc., when you might consider applying the Advantage provisions in the Powers and Duties of Law 5.

After the Game:

- When completing the match reports, please ensure you complete the section concerning field conditions - missing corner flags, issues with goals or nets, etc.
- Ensure all players'/managers' cards are returned, except for sent off players. The cards for sent off players/managers need to be mailed to the league. The address is on the match reports.
- Take a scan of the match reports, which will be clearer than taking a picture. If you don't know how to scan, please ask a board member for help.
- The scanned match report must be emailed to John Moody (jmomoods@verizon.net) by Monday morning, **with the Member-at-Large (MAL) copied**, so he knows it has been sent. Always ensure the MAL is copied on your email or he will follow up with you to verify your report was sent. **Ensure you have the correct email address before hitting "SEND."**



- Any supplemental reports must be sent to the Assignor, **not to the league**, as soon as possible, but within 24 hours of the match (**applies to all leagues**).

Also, please be reminded for all leagues:

- The USSF Supplemental Report contains the following list of events requiring the completion of this report:
 - dismissal of team officials,
 - sending-off offenses,
 - serious injuries,
 - game abandonment or other substantial occurrences.

Please remember to **use your LOTG book** to use the correct technical language and to text the applicable assignor immediately after the game so they know to expect your report.

- Many (most, all?) of us think we can officiate at the World Cup. However, EVERY game deserves a good referee. I know many (most, all?) of us want the upper-level games every week. That is simply not possible. Each week there are more referees in our Association that can manage these games very well than there are games at this level. As members of the Association, we all need to be willing to officiate the lower-level games also. Try them, you may just have fun!

Futsal Rules

The updated LA Galaxy youth and adult futsal rules are available on our website at www.sbsra.org/competitions/futsal. There were some significant changes for this past season.

New Member Incentive Program

Remember, we have a New Member Incentive program whereby you can enjoy a year's membership with no dues payable for any new member you recruit when they pay for their second year of membership. We are anticipating a very busy fall season. With huge demand (of many games) we need additional supply (of referees).

We created a flyer (https://sbsra.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Ref_Recruiting_Poster.202305.pdf) for us to hand out at the fields. These are also available on our website. Print them out, insert your information at the bottom of the flyer (so you get credit from the Association) and take them with you to the fields to hand out.

Cal South Female Referee Initiative

At the time that Cal South's Referee Committee created its "Female Development Initiative," which is dedicated to the female referee who is seeking support or to advance her referee license, approximately 10% the SBSRA membership was comprised of female referees. Given that approximately 50% of our games are girls' games, this provides us with an opportunity for significant growth in numbers.

With this program being focused on female referees, Cal South is hosting a series of instruction dedicated to females in the referee community via Zoom (and some in person), along with mentoring sessions during State/National cup and other local tournaments. **Please take advantage of these opportunities!**



Their hope is that the participants in the program will share what they have learned with their association and inspire not only other female referees, but everyone in their association.

So, female members in our association (of all ages and experience levels), please be aware of the program (**application form link** and following QR code is also offered).



With your support, Cal South feels they will have the best female referee program in the nation. If you have any questions, please contact Penny Rehm (prehm@calsouth.com) or (951) 315 5023.

Professionalism

Match Reports

Our referee duties do not end when we blow the final whistle. We usually need to complete a match report. This is mostly in the form of a printed document provided by team managers or coaches. We need to be aware of the different league requirements and ensure we comply with them.

In particular:

- In cases which require misconduct reports, members are reminded to send the misconduct reports to the applicable assignor and **not to any leagues**.

For more details about the completion of any match reports and the reporting requirements for our leagues, please visit our Competitions page at <https://sbsra.org/competitions> and see further details below.

While the importance of every one of these reports cannot be emphasized strongly enough, we have experienced another level of seriousness for their proper completion in the past. For example, following an adult game, a sent off player returned after the game and struck an opponent. The referee on the game was contacted by a police detective who requested “any information regarding the involved players, including any notes or any US Soccer Federation Referee Reports.”

Availability and Blocks

All members have an obligation to minimize the number of times we decline games after we are assigned.



As independent contractors, we are entitled to accept assignments wherever we can get them. However, in fairness to all assignors, Gabriel and Veto here, and others elsewhere, we are all requested to block the days that we are unavailable to the applicable assignor(s) ahead of time.

Choosing which association/league/organization we want to work for on specific days is perfectly fine. However, waiting to see which games you are assigned and then declining the less favorable ones is simply **not acceptable** to any of the assignors.

The extra work it creates for the assignor is more than most of us can imagine. **Please block ahead of time!**

Honesty

Our assignors' jobs are complex, and they spend a significant amount of time assigning games each week. Periodically, we have members turning back games (declining after receiving the assignment) for various reasons. A common reason is games from another assignor that the member prefers. In many of these cases, we learn about the other assignments and know that any reason given for turning back our association's games is not the truth!

This is not acceptable. Please pick up the phone and call the assignor to discuss your situation. They will work with you to make you happy and will not deny you the opportunity to referee a "better game," if possible.

Supplemental Reports

Due to ongoing challenges, we continue to provide the following guidance for all members: Please be reminded that whenever we have serious situations, a supplemental report is required:

- The **USSF Supplemental Referee Report form (both pages)**, on the SBSRA website, must be used and refer to the **IFAB LOTG** for **proper terminology** to use,
- **Misconduct Codes** may be found in "U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program Report Codes for Cautionable and Sending-Off Offenses" at https://sbsra.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2020-2021_Cautionable_and_Sending-off_Offenses_-_updated_3-31-2020.pdf.
- The report is required to be prepared ASAP, **within 24 hours** for **all serious situations**, including:
 - **Red cards** (for all reasons prescribed by IFAB including a second caution);
 - **Serious injuries** (paramedics called, player taken to emergency room/hospital), attended to by the trainer;
 - **League requirements, or;**
 - **Game terminations, other serious incidents, etc.,**
- Take a **copy/picture of the Match Report** and, if applicable, player or team representative cards to assist you with preparing the USSF Supplemental Referee Report later,



- Use **simple language** and include the **facts of the incident** only:
 - **When** – date and time, point in the match;
 - **Where** – venue and specific location on the field;
 - **Who** was involved? The player’s name, number and team; and,
 - **What** happened? Don’t speculate on what caused it, just note what you saw.Note, there is no “**Why**.” It is not our job to speculate on why someone did what they did, and we should not include a diagnosis of the injury, even if we have the ability to do so.
- **Do not use abbreviations**, only use **language in the Laws of the Game** to describe the applicable misconduct.
- **Call the applicable Assignor and/or send him a text**, immediately after any game that requires a supplemental report, to alert him a report is coming and so he is informed if/when the league calls him.
- **Submit the supplemental report** to the applicable Assignor (who assigned the game) who will review the report and possibly suggest edits. **Referees - do not submit supplemental reports directly to any league.**
- Following submission of the incident report to the applicable assignor, please call him/her to ensure it has been received if you have not received an **acknowledgement of receipt within 2 hours**.
- **Following review and approval** of the report by the Assignor, the **Assignor submits the final report** to the applicable league.
- **If you have kept ID cards** (which is only required in limited cases for red cards), the card(s), together with copies of the match report and supplemental report must be sent to the applicable league administrator **by the end of the first business day (likely Monday)** following the game.
- The **importance of this process** cannot be stressed strongly enough! These reports are really needed by the leagues and everything we do needs to **reflect on our professionalism** as individuals and as a referee association.

At the July 2023 Membership Meeting, we went through two supplemental reports – the original draft submitted, and the final report sent to the league after edits were made with the assistance of certain Board Members. To assist members further, we have added these sample reports to our website (<https://sbsra.org/laws/>) – one how not to do it and one which is more concise but contains all of the necessary information that we should provide most leagues. If you have any questions or need further guidance, please contact our Member-at-Large who would be happy to spend time with you to assist with this very important function.

Training Opportunities

The following training opportunities are coming up and all members are encouraged to attend as many of these as you are able.

You may sign up at any time for all future Cal South courses, at no cost, at <https://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/calendarlist.asp?calguid=&eventtab=current>



CORE Training at North High

The next CORE training session at North High is scheduled for 7:00pm on March 11, 2025, in the cafeteria (indoor only).

What is CORE?

Center of Referee Education (CORE) is a program established by the Cal South State Referee Committee (SRC). It is open to all USSF certified referees. It primarily consists of lectured meetings for referees who are ambitious to rise to the elite level of Cal South refereeing or just want to be better on the field.

Referees attending this event are expected to come prepared with items customarily taken to the field on match days (i.e., whistle, cards, flags) as well as material for classroom (i.e., current IFAB Laws of the Game, Considerations for Match Analysis, paper and pen).

While these training sessions are for referee self-development, please note that Regional or Grassroots Elite certification or recertification require referees to attend at least 5 CORE trainings per year. The same requirement applies to instructors and assessors.

In addition, to become a full member of SBSRA, all members are required to attend one CORE training to be exposed to this wonderful program and opportunity to enhance one's skills and learning.

Novice Referee Training at North High

Do you want a year's **free membership dues** of SBSRA? Do you know of anyone who wants to be a referee? Please let them know of the next opportunity to attend Cal South's next New Referee Training at North High School at the same time as the CORE training each month.

Ensure they include your name on their SBSRA New Member Application, which you can download from <https://sbsra.org/association/nma/> so you can benefit from our New Member Incentive (NMI) program.

New SBSRA Member Training

This training is required for all new SBSRA members to become full members of our association. All referees, both those new to refereeing and those with prior referee experience are required to attend so we can share all the details of how to maximize your enjoyment and experience as a referee in **our organization**. The next New Member Training will be at 5:30pm just before the February Monthly Membership meeting in the cafeteria.

In addition, under the leadership of our assignor, Gabriel, we launched a new referees' training program to provide all new members with the knowledge and confidence to begin their refereeing career. The vast majority of new members may not be assigned to games until they have completed this training.



Cal South Monthly In-Service Webinar

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR OR TO VIEW THESE WEBINARS](#)

Please be reminded that after viewing the presentation, live or recorded, one must take the Review (Quiz) to receive In-Service Training credit.

Other Cal South Offerings

Candidates need to register for selected courses on the Cal South Referee Website under the “Classes & Clinics offered” tab:

(<https://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/calendarlist.asp?calguid=&eventtab=current>).

Two Person (Whistle) Referee System

IFAB and USSF prohibit the use of the two-person referee system. While many of us may use this system for high school and middle school games, it may not be used in any USSF-sanctioned games that we do. If you have any doubt, please **DO NOT USE THE TWO-PERSON REFEREE SYSTEM** unless you have been assigned by one of our Assignors to be on a two-person referee crew.

Conversely, if you have been assigned as a **TWO-PERSON REFEREE CREW** for **non-USSF-sanctioned games**, please honor the assignment regardless of what your assigned partner may say. If there is an issue, please contact the appropriate assignor, Gabriel for weekend games and Veto for weekday games.

Monthly Referee Quick Tip

Not a referee tip, but Scott Jarus submitted the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1146268340239340>

The creator probably expresses what many of us think and feel.

However, let us not worry/focus on this. We do this because we enjoy it and we don't need validation from anyone else, right? We all know our importance to the game and our association appreciates all our members, the sacrifices we make and the great work we all do out there. So do some clubs, coaches and others!

THANK YOU!!!

Do you have a quick tip to share? Please email it to President@sbsra.org.



From the Office of the Treasurer

Please be reminded:

- **Home/Mailing Address Changes** - Provide the Treasurer with your change of address at the same time that you make the change in Arbiter,
- **Checks** - Please cash these in a timely manner,
- **Forfeits** - Notify the applicable Assignor and the Treasurer within 24 hours of forfeited games. This way we can ensure the applicable league is billed for the ref fees that would have been paid on the field and that the referees are paid the fees owed to them,
- **W-9 form** – Every member is required by Federal law to provide a W-9 form (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>) to the Treasurer. We are required to keep these forms for at least 7 years after you cease to be a member. Simply providing your SSN is not sufficient. Please cooperate so as not to place your Treasurer and the Association in jeopardy.

Referee Match Fees

The latest updated referee fee schedules are posted on our website at <https://sbsra.org/game-fees/>. It is a best practice to:

- 1) Print a copy to have with you at games, in case there is a dispute with team managers and/or coaches, and
- 2) Visit the website periodically to check for updates,

Monthly Membership Meetings

To maintain our high standards of refereeing, the Association provides two vehicles to share information and instruction with our members – this *Flag & Whistle* monthly newsletter and our monthly membership meetings. Please try to attend the meeting and read the newsletter every month - this is how we share important information with all of our members.

Approval of Minutes

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

Next Meeting

Our next Monthly Membership Meeting is on **Tuesday, February 25, 2025, starting at 7:03pm** at North High School **in the cafeteria**. We look forward to seeing you there!



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes January 28, 2025

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm
2. Approval of November 2024 Meeting Minutes, motion by Brian Switzer, seconded by Dan Scotting, approved by acclamation
3. Monthly Training - Gabriel Goldsman - misconduct, drop ball and pass back to goalkeeper:
 - a) Misconduct
 - Referees need to understand dissent (strong disagreement or dissatisfaction with a decision or opinion) is a yellow card. Identifying/classifying this depends on the age/level of the player.
 - Abusive language refers to harsh, insulting, or threatening words used to intimidate, demean or control another person, often including profanity and derogatory remarks, with the goal of causing emotional distress; examples include calling someone names, using racial slurs, alleging racial bias, making threats and belittling comments. This is likely a red card offense.
 - Referees need to balance being totally in charge with managing the game with humor and calmness.
 - Supplemental Reports
 - Misconduct report must include:
 - Time in game of incident,
 - Perpetrator's player number,
 - Perpetrator's player name,
 - Perpetrator's player team,
 - Misconduct code (see USSF document on misconduct codes on our website),
 - Short narration describing all of the above details, including referee's reason for the misconduct action using Laws of the Game language, e.g., dissent, unsporting behavior, etc.,
 - 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.
 - b) Drop ball
 - A drop ball is the restart when:
 - The referee stops play and the Laws of the Game do not require one of the other prescribed restarts, including:
 - Injury not caused by a foul,
 - Ball contacts the referee AND
 - * There is a change in possession, or



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- * A promising attack occurs (includes a goal scored almost immediately after the ball hits the referee), or
 - * The ball goes in the goal
 - Play is stopped due to an inadvertent whistle or play is interrupted by an outside agent, e.g., extra ball or animal on the field.
 - The ball is dropped for the defending team goalkeeper in their penalty area if, when play was stopped:
 - the ball was in the penalty area or
 - the last touch of the ball was in the penalty area
 - In all other cases, the referee drops the ball for one of the players of the team that last touched the ball at the position where it last touched that team's player, an outside agent or a match official,
 - If this cannot be determined, drop the ball to the team that did NOT cause the stoppage or the team in whose half the restart is taking place, if applicable,
 - All other players (of both teams) must remain at least 4 m (4.5 yds) from the ball until it is in play
 - The ball is in play when it touches the ground
 - The ball is dropped again if it:
 - touches a player before it touches the ground
 - leaves the field of play after it touches the ground, without touching a player
 - If a dropped ball enters the goal without touching at least two players, play is restarted with:
 - a goal kick if it enters the opponents' goal
 - a corner kick if it enters the team's goal
- Very important: a goal cannot be scored by the player who initially plays the drop ball without the ball touching another player.

c) Deliberate Pass Back to the goalkeeper

- Only a deliberate kick back to the keeper can be a pass back infraction. A "kick back" must be a deliberate action with the foot,
- If a defender is under attack or it is a deflection off the defender it is not a pass back,
- A deliberate but miscued kick (i.e., it does not appear to have been kicked to where the player intended) by a defender that goes to the goalkeeper is not a "deliberate pass back,"
- If a player initiates a deliberate trick for the ball to be passed (including from a defensive free kick or goal kick) to the goalkeeper with the head, chest, knee etc. to circumvent the Law, whether or not the goalkeeper touches the ball with the hands, the player is penalized,
- the goalkeeper is penalized if responsible for initiating the deliberate trick.

4. Treasurer's Report:

- a) Accounts receivable were higher than usual due to EA team payments misunderstanding, overall decrease in revenues and expenditures from comparable period in prior year
- b) Checks for games refereed in December are available
- c) Please let Bruce know if you change your address



5. President's Report
 - a) Devastating Fires – four members lost their homes, SBSRA will donate \$250 to each member to replace their referee gear lost in the fires. Additionally, one of our members, Kyle Mattingly is part of a group raising funds for players who lost their soccer items in the fires. Members were invited to donate money to help too. Monies raised will be prioritized for our members and then for players.
 - b) Season/League Update – Not many games at the moment and most likely to be assigned to members who have been available most during the busy parts of our year.
 - c) November 2024 Board Meeting matters discussed not mentioned already:
 - i. Change in periods for new member dues for partial months of membership,
 - ii. Concept to compensate President, VP, Secretary and MAL with a nominal amount which will cause an increase in annual dues by approximately \$25 per member per year in first two years of adoption. To be discussed further before presentation to the membership,
 - d) New Member Introductions – Darin Beffa
6. Vice President's Report – Steve Morgan was not present
 - a) ROL Update and SafeSport – 130 on ROL, 35 not on ROL
7. Secretary's Report
 - a) SBSRA Membership Report
 - i. Total Members - 165
 - ii. Number of New Members this Month - 2
8. Assignor's Report:
 - a) Game counts will pick up in February
 - b) Members with too many limitations in Arbiter will get fewer games
9. Member-At-Large Report – David Martin was not present
 - a) Supplemental reports covered in tonight's training
10. Other Business – none
11. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm