

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



Written by: Jonny Joseph March 2025

Edited by: Alan Siegel

Notes from the Board

SBSRA Annual Membership Dues

As discussed at the February Membership Meeting, the Board had previously discussed two issues:

- 1. Stipends to be paid to previously non-compensated board members: President, Vice President, Secretary and Member-at-Large,
- 2. New Member Initiative granted to members following the payment of a second year of annual dues by a new member who named an existing member in their New Member Application.

The Board has decided to recommend the following changes for approval by the membership:

1. Stipends – in the early days up to not so long ago, the SBSRA operation was quite simple. There were two youth leagues, Coast Soccer League (CSL) and the Southern California Development Soccer League (SCDSL), a handful of small unaffiliated leagues and few adult leagues. Currently, we have all of that plus more – notably the Development Player League (DPL), Elite Academy League (EA) and EA2, Elite Clubs National League (ECNL), Pre-ECNL & Elite Clubs Regional League (ECRL) and Girls Academy (GA). Each of these leagues requires coordination and ongoing management throughout the season and the need to work individually with multiple clubs (currently at least 5 or 6).

We have been successful in bringing in a middle school district, multiple individual middle schools, futsal and many special soccer events through each season. The insurance landscape has become more complicated requiring the listing and addition of individual referees to obtain liability coverage. We have also been successful negotiating increased fees wherever possible.

This requires many hours of work and is perhaps the reason we are finding it difficult to recruit new board members. To incentivize others to play a part in leading our association, we believe it is necessary to offer a tangible appreciation for the work performed.

To allow for this, a bylaw amendment will be presented to the membership in May for voting on at the AGM in June. A dues increase will follow but will be comparable with other associations

2. New Member Initiative – new member applications continue to flow in, our membership is at a record high. Accordingly, it appears to be appropriate to limit the incentive to 50% of Annual Dues, instead of 100% of Annual Dues, each membership year.

Professional Appearance

Recently we have noticed non-compliance with uniform standards amongst our membership:

- Long-sleeve undershirts are unacceptable under short-sleeve referee shirts
- The only acceptable socks are black with two stripes in the ankle area.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph Vice-President: Steve Morgan Secretary: Kiku Annon Treasurer: Bruce Ashton Member-At-Large: David Martin Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman

March 2025

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

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.



March 2025

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 <u>mailed to the league</u>. 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 (member.at.large@sbsra.org) 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). Please note the incentive likely will be reduced to 50% for 2025-2026.

We created a flyer (https://sbsra.org/ref-recruiting-poster) 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



March 2025

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 the applicable league**.

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



March 2025

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 downloaded and completed, referring 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



March 2025

- 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 the applicable 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 on 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.

March 2025

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 April 8, 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. Please note the incentive likely will be reduced to 50% for 2025-2026.

March 2025

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 scheduled before a future Monthly Membership meeting TBD 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.

For games assigned with a <u>TWO-PERSON REFEREE CREW</u> for <u>non-USSF-sanctioned games</u>, please honor the assignment regardless of what your assigned partner may say. If there is an issue, please contact the appropriate assignor, Gabriel (weekend games), Veto (weekday games) immediately.



Monthly Referee Quick Tip

Teamwork! Are you a good teammate?

How often do we hear this and the impact it has to enhance the performance of the participants?

Here are some ideas on how we as referees and members of SBSRA can improve our teamwork:

- Communicate to teammates a day or two before the game if we might be late due to an earlier commitment
- Arrive at the field with sufficient time for a complete pre-game discussion
- Take timely action if a teammate does not arrive at the field on time call the referee, then the assignor, if necessary
- Help each other with player check in and match report completion, especially for new members
- Leave as a team, especially after contentious games. If one referee parks in a different location from the other two, he/she should go with the other two and get a ride to his/her car
- Send a draft of your supplemental report to your teammates for their review and comments.

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,

March 2025

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, March 25, 2025, starting at 7:03pm at North High School in the cafeteria. We look forward to seeing you there!

Some Things to Think About

Cringe worthy? (Submitted by Warren Howell and Kiku Annon)

DUISBURG, Germany, Sunday, February 23 - A referee cancelled a soccer game on account of debilitating pain he endured after a player's child bit him in the testicles.

Referee Stefan Kahler said the incident occurred on Sunday when he was completing the final necessary checks before a soccer match between FC Taxi II and Rot-Weiss Mulheim III, two lower-tier German teams. Kahler said that a child belonging to one of the FC Taxi players was stretching and warming up alongside the players.

"[The child] came closer and closer to me, then suddenly - to my complete surprise - gave me a sharp bite in my left testicle," Kahler wrote in a report about the ordeal. He determined that the game should be cancelled due to the pain caused by the bite and the absurdity of the situation itself.

Would you cancel your game for this?!?!?!

As seen in a referee group on Facebook

"Stupidity should be rewarded with pain!"



As seen in Referee Magazine, March 2025

Jerod Mayo, former head coach of the New England Patriots in an interview on Greg Hill: "You always ask me, 'what have you learned as a head coach?" Well, sometimes yelling at the referee works and sometimes - most of the time - they are right."

Referee Left Bloodied After Brawl

A brawl broke out on December 28, 2024 near the end of the Military Bowl between East Carolina and N.C. State, and an official was left injured after trying to intervene. East Carolina attempted to run out the clock after scoring a go-ahead touchdown with 1:3 remaining in the fourth quarter when a large scale fight broke out. While trying to break up some of the players, umpire Rod Tucker inadvertently took a helmet to the face and sustained a cut beneath his left eye. Tucker could be seen bleeding and received medical attention on the field. Eight players were ejected following the scuffle.

Lesson learned - don't officiate sports where they wear helmets! **Second Lesson** - don't try to break up fights!

Don't be this guy!



or this one



The Final Word

"Being a referee is about managing players, not just enforcing rules." Mark Clattenburg Coaches and sidelines too?!?!?!



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 25, 2025

- 1. Call to order at 7:06 pm
- 2. Approval of January 2025 Meeting Minutes, Motion made by Larry Savell, seconded by Barry Giberman, approved by acclamation
- 3. Monthly Training Bubba Barnett Game management:
 - a) Misconduct
 - Videos were shown from World Cup and College games to set the scene.
 - He asked about the difference in the refereeing style. The first center let himself get surrounded and never asserted himself but the second (Anthony Taylor) asserted himself (even if he made a possible law error).
 - Manage the players, the coaches, the sidelines, know the laws and rules of the league
 - A good referee needs to be able to do all of the above at some level
 - b) Match Control
 - Establish clear priorities before the game understand the competition, the specific rules, the level of the game
 - Safety first, restart procedures, be yourself, correct use of tools voice whistle, cards, flag techniques, spray
 - c) Player management
 - Respect, body language, communication, prevention, dissent/confrontation, unsporting behavior, fair play
 - d) Preventative Refereeing to avoid problems
 - Involves football understanding, experience and handling a situation according to LOTG
 - Referees need to balance being totally in charge with managing the game with humor and calm.
 - Can a problem be prevented from occurring?
 - A clip was shown demonstrating a preventative action for a team, up by one goal, to prevent time wasting.
 - Another clip was shown of a team taking a VERY long time to do substitutions. We need to show that we are trying to keep control of time wasting and/or adding time to prevent frustration and reaction.
 - e) Situational awareness
 - A clip was shown where a RC was issued for a DOGSO, followed by a RC for shoving, and even after that there was a shove after the restart. The speaker explained that a YC only was issued, based on past accusations of trash talking by the player who was hit.
 - Proper positioning helps sell a call even if it might be the "wrong" one.
 - Corner kicks always lead to pushing and shoving by everyone. Let them know you are watching.
 - Take care of clear dissent (player slaps an ARs flag away because he didn't like the call).



March 2025

4. Treasurer's Report

- a) 1099s for SBSRA Payments only in response to a recent inquiry, BA informed a member that only amounts paid by SBSRA to members in checks are included in 1099s (i.e., does not include cash received at the field, which is still reportable income). 1099s are only issued to members who received >\$600 in a calendar year
- b) Address Changes Members are reminded that when they have address changes, they need to be made in Arbiter for assigning purposes and communicated to the treasurer so when a check is mailed it will be received. No one is notified of Arbiter address changes and the treasurer cannot check for this periodically.
- c) Checks for games -refereed in January, please see BA after the meeting if you have not received your check tonight yet.

5. President's Report

- a) Fire Fund we have received generous contributions from a few members who will be recognized in our next newsletter for which we are grateful, but we are still short of the \$1,000 disbursed. A few more contributors with even modest donations will get us there so if you have not already done so please reach out to JJ or BA to do so.
- b) Board Meeting the following matters were discussed at our February 2025 board meeting:
 - i. Scott Jarus provided a draft report on his examination of the financial records of the association. He has a few follow up items to complete so we should have that soon. No major issues raised so far.
 - ii. We are almost out of SBSRA coins so will order a new batch soon.
 - iii. The board is continuing to explore stipends for non-compensated Board Members which will result in an increase in membership dues over the next two years. We anticipate that our increased dues will be comparable to that of other associations at that point.
 - iv. One of our members has raised the point that the New Member Initiative of one year's membership dues is high compared to other referee groups. Given the rate of new membership applications, we are enjoying it probably makes sense to reduce the initiative to half of the annual dues for the 25-26 season.
 - v. Cal South board elections were recently held and two friends of our association were elected Nick Webster who was reelected president and Juan Guzman as State Referee Administrator.

6. Vice President's Report

a) ROL Update and SafeSport - 167 in Arbiter, 137 on ROL. JJ to reach out to non-ROL members

7. Secretary's Report

- a) SBSRA Membership Report
 - i. Total Members 166, plus 1 Honorary Member
 - ii. Number of New Members this Month NA

8. Assignor's Report:

- a) CORE Training March 12th (Will be on the new USSF Initiative on curbing referee abuse by sidelines)
- b) There were a few SBSRA members at the Las Vegas tournament who did well
- c) State Cup is still going on this weekend and next, these will be higher level games



March 2025

- d) In the future US Soccer will be taking over the Regional and National tournaments
- e) Elite Academy assigns on a different platform, "Assignr," but games are assigned and managed by SBSRA through Arbiter. Accept these games in Arbiter only, GG will accept them in "Assignr" for us
- f) Please send supplemental reports to the assignor who assigned the match not to the applicable league.
- 9. Member-At-Large Report Coins and badges available
 - a) Reports must be turned into the applicable assignor within 24 hours and please send a text ASAP after the game to alert the assignor to expect a report
- 10. Other Business NA
- 11. Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm