



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

October 28, 2003

Editor: Dick Eastman

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www.ssbra.org

President: Larry Stern; VP: Jon Ziegler; Secretary: Dick Eastman; Treasurer: Tom Mallen
Assignor: Bill Cook; Training & Membership: Keith Gendler; At Large: Warren Howell, Brian O'Donnell; Webmaster: Lee Jordan

CSL SCHEDULE; F&W DISTRIBUTION; ASSESSMENTS; DEALING WITH COACHES

Assignor **Bill Cook** announced at this well attended meeting (38 members plus three visitors who are expected to apply to become members) that the CSL schedule for the coming weekend was set, so he was told, but he wasn't sure the games would in fact happen as planned, given the weather and the effect of the fires.

A meeting with the league is scheduled for the 29th where he expected to learn more definitive information.

He is assigning referee crews for the UCLA-sponsored tournament on November 8/9 which pits teams from business schools around the country. This is the second year we have handled the officiating for this event.

He reported with satisfaction that of the 616 or so total games we have done so far for the Coast League and the J-League, only 3 have not had the full complement of three referees, which is fewer than 0.5%, an enviable record.

The Roster.

Secretary **Dick Eastman** reported that the roster continues to grow, reaching 102 so far. Several youth referees have recently joined the association.

Finances.

Treasurer **Tom Mallen** distributed his financial report showing a net bank account balance of \$2049. Along with this good news, he asked for a show of hands on how many might be interested in buying specially logoed SSBRA polo shirts costing about \$20. Most of the attendees approved the idea, so Tom will proceed to firm up the details.

Green Cards.

President **Larry Stern** brought up the subject of "green cards," the little cards given by referees in U19 games to senior-age players who exhibit special skill combined with exemplary sportsmanship. A finalist is selected from among these candidates for a scholarship awarded by SSBRA at the end of the season. Larry handed out green cards to some of those expecting to officiate these upper level games.

Flag and Whistle.

Webmaster **Lee Jordan** announced that a new method for distributing the Flag and Whistle will be in effect for the next issue [*this one*] in which e-mails will be sent to all members that the F&W is available by going to a link in our Web site.

Refereeing.

Training director **Keith Gendler** reported that FIFA has issued a new directive on offside. Its general tenor is that too many flags are being put up, especially on players in offside position who do not actually participate. The USSF has not yet distributed this FIFA memorandum. However, Keith mentioned that an updated version of the Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game is out and may be accessed on our Web site under "Training."

Keith reminded one and all that next month's speaker will be **Jesse Johnson** (he first said Jesse Jackson), a national and MLS referee and FIFA candidate. Jesse is featured in this month's issue of the Referee magazine.

Assessments of the "friendly" kind have started, according to Keith. Six referee members have had the pleasure of being eyeballed and given a rundown of their weaknesses (and presumably strengths), and more are on the list. The lucky ones are mostly new members whose capabilities need to be rated for as-

signment purposes. Anyone wishing an assessment for his or her own edification has only to request one and pay a \$25 fee for the privilege.

A reminder by Keith: one can only change a decision (such as a score, a direction for a free kick, a card, etc.) *before* play has restarted. After a restart, no change can be made. If it turns out that a card has been shown to the wrong player you must still note it on the game report, but explain the discrepancy on the back (or on a supplemental report).

TRAINING SESSION ON DEALING WITH COACHES AND OTHER SIDELINE WORTHIES

Keith launched into his subject *du jour*: how to deal with coaches who have unflattering things to say about the officiating during a game.

In true didactic fashion, Keith asked for ideas on how and when to handle this universal problem. He gave out several scenarios to groups around the room, intending each group to discuss theirs, come to a consensus, and name a spokesman to report on their conclusions.

Most of the groups came up with the same general methodology of first speaking quietly to the coach in question, then raising the ante to warnings and finally dismissals (but never, ever must one show a yellow or red card to a coach or other team official).

In his best “facilitator” style, Keith had people play act on how they would proceed: stars included **Vince Delmonico**, **Gabe Goldsman**, **Lee Jordan**, **Rick Duvall**, and many others.

Notable was member-at-large **Brian O’Donnell**, who demonstrated bringing the coach a few feet onto the field and talking to him quietly, shoulder to shoulder, with both facing the field, so as not to embarrass the coach in front of his supporters, but still to firmly explain the errors of his ways.

It was emphasized that there should be no debate: just tell him what you want him to do (or not do), then walk away and resume the game as quickly as possible.

Door Prizes.

Winners of a pair of referee socks were **Bob Hildreth** and **Tom Mallen**; grand prize winner of a gift certificate of \$50 was **Mike Takaki**.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, OCTOBER 20, 2003

- Three applications approved: **Amir Badawi**, **Mary Lynn Richmond**, and **Jillian Richmond**.
- **Stuart Winter** requested an assessment.
- Other assessments made; reports awaited.
- Letters received criticizing one member’s performance. Member to be added to list for assessment.
- Fine not paid for a no-show.
- Dues check bounced; member will pay bank fine.
- Member who did not permit “ineligible” player to play to be advised that this is not proper procedure. Note situation on game report.
- For October monthly: Keith training session.

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NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: *NOVEMBER 25, 2003*
TIME: *7:30 P.M.*
PLACE: *REDONDO BCH. CITY HALL EMPL. LOUNGE, CARNELIAN & B’WAY.*
AGENDA: *SPEAKER: JESSE JOHNSON; BUSINESS AND TRAINING.*