



# The Flag and Whistle

## Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, Ca 90505

Editor: Warren Howell

[www.ssbra.org](http://www.ssbra.org)

President: Keith Gendler

VP: Jon Ziegler

Secretary: Warren Howell

Treasurer: Tom Mallen

Assignor: Bill Cook

Past President: Larry Stern

Membership: Brian O'Donnell

Training: Heidi Garlick

Webmaster: Lee Jordan

### **CONTROVERSY ERUPTS OVER NEW USSF REFEREE FEE; ASSIGNOR BREAKS BAD NEWS TO MEETING ATTENDEES; TONY SUGGESTS A NEW PLACE FOR THE YELLOW CARD**

Once again a large turnout was on hand at the monthly meeting at our new venue (North Torrance High School at Yukon and 182<sup>nd</sup> St.), with the Members eager to hear what the Board had to say. Or, perhaps they were planning on ignoring the Board and just enjoying the camaraderie of their fellow referees - in any event, 62 folks signed the attendance roster, out of the 144 Members currently on the list. Plunging right in, Assignor **Bill Cook** informed us that the two anticipated tournaments that SSBRA had planned to cover over the July 4<sup>th</sup> week-end had been canceled and rescheduled, and so there would be no games over the holiday. Sensing the disappointment of all those there, Bill quickly pointed out that it looked good for SSBRA getting games for the week-ends of 8/6, 8/13, 8/20 and 9/3. He then pointed out problems at the just concluded ANA youth tournament, wherein there were referee no-shows on both week-ends (without notification nor explanation). Further, no one from SSBRA (for example, the other referees who did the games short-handed) notified Bill after the fact, which left him in the embarrassing position of being told about it for the first time by the tournament organizer a week later. This hurts the Association in several ways; not only do the games go without full coverage (which we promised to do), but other Members were available and could have covered the games at the last minute, if we had only known, and so Members who wanted games did not get them. In accordance with the bylaws, the Members who failed to show up as promised have been issued fines, which add

up to sizeable amounts. The purpose of the fines is not to collect money, but to encourage proper behavior from our Members once they have accepted games. Even in an emergency, a one minute phone call to Bill (or another Board Member) is all it takes to set remedial action in motion.

Treasurer **Tom Mallen** took a break from handing out checks and reported an inflated figure of \$4480 in the bank, which includes some dues collected early from tournaments. Tom will bring some SSBRA shirts to future meetings that can be purchased on the spot, so that one does not have to order them in advance, though that can still be done also.

It was then time for President **Keith Gendler** to speak, and he relayed the happy news that our CSL league sent 19 teams to the national regional competitions, and 15 of those went through to the next stage. Many of those teams that went through are familiar to SSBRA referees as we often cover their games, and we can take pleasure in knowing that the caliber of soccer played in our area is at the highest level. Moving on to the latest controversy with SBPSL, Keith told how the League requested specific referees be assigned to the matches on their final week-end. This request was rightly denied, and an argument ensued with SBPSL. SSBRA held its ground, taking the position that, since we are responsible and were hired for just this task, the decision would remain ours. The requested officials did serve as fourth officials, which somewhat mollified certain SBPSL individuals. SSBRA has had about 40 different referees officiate at SBPSL games this year, with good results and satisfaction on both sides, with the exception of certain SBPSL folks. Outgoing vice-President **Jon Ziegler** observed that the weekly complaints went down greatly about midway through the SBPSL season after he complained to them about all the complaints, after which they decided that they liked the job SSBRA was doing after all. Keith reported that the "L.A." group (SCSRA, AKA "Alpine Village" group), which is covering SBPSL divisions 1 and 2, is going through changes, and SSBRA may get a chance to cover some of those games next season.

Moving on to another topic, Keith reported from a meeting he attended on a discussion there about the new USSF fee (increase to annual dues). This money will be going to the California affiliate of USSF, though the purpose, and total amount collected, are to be determined. An equally long SSBRA discussion ensued, the Members being united in their displeasure. A number of Members expressed opinions - **Dick Eastman** for example wondered if their own bylaws even allowed for such a surcharge, Tom Mallen showing amazement that such a thing would be attempted, as it was contrary to standard accounting principles. **Larry Stern** stated that no budget nor financial statement had been issued by them lately, so it was unclear as to what was really going on, and other referee organizations have already protested. **Dan Damian** complained that he has been waiting for his badge since February, and that service to the referees in this kind of thing would be more appropriate. After a long while, the meeting moved on.

Though tiring after listening to all the rhetoric, Secretary **Warren Howell** decided to say a few words anyway. He noted that the new roster had 11 new Members, and paper copies were passed out to those who wanted them. Only three youth Members have responded to the e-mail requesting verification of youth status and the desire to continue with SSBRA so far. While there were no factual errors noted with the last Flag & Whistle, Tom pointed out that the proper spelling is "Wanker," rather than what was printed there (since there was no objection from **Derek Taylor**, who, alas, was absent, perhaps both spellings are correct). Warren stated that he would be in and out of town in July and August, and so might be slower than usual in receiving e-mails and messages, but would try to respond in as timely a manner as possible.

**Brian O'Donnell** then recognized **Andy Kopulsky**, who had brought two new prospective members with him

to the meeting. Prospective Member **Justin Wharton** also stood up and said a few words, receiving a friendly SSBRA welcome in return. Larry then mentioned that the ranking would be reviewed by the Committee in August and January, half of the Members being reviewed at each cycle. It was also revealed that more changes had been made to the SSBRA web-site, with the full decisions and minutes of IFAB added, though adding the roster is still a work in progress.

It was then time for training, with **Heidi Garlick** present and ready to enlighten us. She discussed the latest changes to the Laws, most of which were not important from a practical standpoint (as with so much else, the details are available at [ssbra.org](http://ssbra.org)). An IFK is now the restart for an illegal substitution, and the referee is to show the yellow or red card after the match is over too, if warranted. When the question was posed as to how much after the match it could be shown, **Tony Amalfiatano** stated that it was OK to follow the player all the way into the shower if necessary, a comment that much amused **Surendra Menon**, among others. Law 11 offside clarifications were discussed. Heidi then went on to explain that game termination decisions can not be reversed, and “from behind” was taken out of the verbiage of describing dangerous tackles. A clarification of PK encroachment was talked about, which seemed to confuse more than clarify - during the discussion **Vince Delmonico** and **Ed Beverly** shared their opinion on the matter, among others. Both **Steve McCall** and incoming Vice-President **Ed McClure** also had some comments about the new rule requiring the defender being at least 2 yards back from a throw-in. A wide range discussion of the Laws followed, with **Frank Troeger** asking the crowd why we were seeing more PK encroachment penalties called. Dan Damian also took the floor for a short time, after which the meeting was adjourned.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JUNE 6, 2005**

- Ed McClure attended as a guest
- An ex-SSBRA Member, who is still active locally was commented on
- Tom said there is about \$4700 in the bank, and gave out some checks
- SBPSL is paid up, both Bakersfield no shows and CSL single game fee are not
- shirt buy to be made for sale at the monthly meetings
- Warren to work with Larry gathering statistics for ratings
- 11 applications approved, one rejected as incomplete
- Bill attended a general assignors meeting, with nothing special to report. It seems that the SSBRA assigning systems are superiors to some others in use, and Bill encouraged another group to contact **Lee Jordan**
- Bill was told that there would be July 4<sup>th</sup> games/tournaments for us to cover
- Three Members were fined for no shows
- the Watts games was discussed
- the bylaws may need changing as to assignment conflicts
- Lee has passed on the roster specifications to the programmers for reaction, and has updated [ssbra.org](http://ssbra.org) again
- Heidi stated that the new mentor committee needs to meet, and that she would discuss Law changes at the next monthly meeting
- Keith reported on a President's meeting he attended, and the discussion there about the USSF fee increase. This started another long discussion, and a motion to make a formal response was defeated

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, JUNE 28, 2005**

- Applications were approved for Justin Wharton, **Andrew Borstel** and **Ian Wittkepp**
- a motion was voted on and passed to limit the new member incentive to one year dues waiver, not two

## NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

**THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2005, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, YUKON AND 182<sup>ND</sup> ST. - NOTE THE PERMANENT CHANGE IN LOCATION. THERE IS NO MEETING NOR FLAG AND WHISTLE IN JULY. AGENDA TO INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS, TRAINING, ETC.**

**Thought of the Month** (attributed to Ralph Kiner): Father's Day is in June, so for all you Fathers out there, Happy Birthday!

### **REFEREES TO BE ISSUED WITH LUMINOUS PLAYER STICK-ON SIGNS** (Contributed by Keith Gendler)

Officials worldwide are shortly to be issued with bright orange coloured self-adhesive signs that can be peeled off and easily placed on the foreheads of players (or managers), to enable Referees to quickly identify the stupid ones.

In future, if a player or a manager during a game is being particularly daft, they are now obliged to wear a bright luminous orange sign on their forehead that says, **"I'M STUPID"**.

This new system will allow Referees to ignore those who are wearing the **"I'M STUPID"** signs, and not take anything said by them too seriously. This will allow Referees to concentrate more on the rest of the game. It would be like, "Excuse me....oops, never mind. Didn't see your sign. Sorry!"

Information has been gathered from Referees to show that the new system is already working a treat. Below are some real examples where Referees have been able to put the new **"I'M STUPID"** signs into good effect.

It's like before my Assistant's and I have even stepped out of the changing room, the Home Team manager enters and says "Do want your money Ref?"

"Nope - we only came to watch the game from the touchline, to try out our fancy-dress outfits. Oh, and here's your sign".

A couple of games ago, I cautioned a player and showed him the yellow card. One of his mates comes over and says, "You didn't really book him for that tackle did you Ref?"

"Nope - I was just scraping the sweat from his forehead! And here's your sign".

I was watching one of those Cup Finals on the television when the manager was loudly berating the Referee for awarding an offside. "There's no way you could have seen my player offside from the centre circle Ref.!"

Nope - but my Assistant who was in dead-in-line did - and here's your sign.

There was an almighty fight on the field of play the other day. I stepped back to get a good ring-side seat whilst making a note of the perpetrators. Then the goalkeeper finally arrives and says,

"Leave it to me Ref., I'll sort them out. Can you hold my sign for a minute, I don't wanna lose it !".

I asked a player if he could remove the broken glass down by my foot. He reaches down and grabs the shards of glass, blood spurting everywhere - then says, "Shit, that's sharp!". See, if he'd been wearing his sign, I could have stopped him.

The other day, I heard an angry shout go up. "There's no way we can win against 12 today lads".  
I called the 'shouter' over, and cautioned him.  
He said. "What's that for Ref?"  
I replied - "For not being able to count properly!"  
He said. "I was only joking Ref".  
"In that case, you've won a bonus - here's your sign".

The manager is tearing his hair out in the dugout. "You must of F^&\*ing seen that tackle on my player Ref. It was right under your nose!"  
"Na sorry mate, I was looking at my eyebrows at the time!" I replied. "Here's your sign, can you go and hang it up in the changing room."

Following an attempt to 'chop the legs of an opponent', I issued a Red card. The perpetrator decides that he wants to count the hairs up my nose, and spits out "You're a dead man Ref!"  
I take a step back in fright!  
I raise my hands to my face and waggle my fingers.  
OK, so far so good.  
I take out my traveling mirror (no Ref should be without one), and hold it up in front of my mouth. It starts to steam up.  
Phew! The signs are getting better.  
I pinch the soft skin on the inner side of my arm; "Bloody hell that hurt!"  
"Thank Christ I'm still alive," I think to myself. He had me going there for just a minute.  
"Oh, here you are mate, I forgot to give you your sign!

Last time I had an injury, I limped over to the touchline for some treatment and a player walks by, looks at my leg, looks at me, and I SWEAR he said,  
"Got a limp Ref?".  
I couldn't resist it and I said, "Nope. I started off the game running around with both legs limping, but the other one sort of got better, & Here's your sign".

Player: "How long Ref?"  
Ref: "22mins 30 seconds."  
Player: "Is that time already played or how long we have left?"  
Ref: Here you are mate, stick this sign on your wrist!

At last weekend's adult match, the Referee had one official (neutral) Assistant Referee (AR) and one club linesman. The Referee called the captains together for the coin toss and advised them that the neutral AR would be calling all offside as normal, but the club linesman on this half would be calling throw-ins and ball out of play only. One captain puts his hand up and asks "Does that mean there are no offside in this half, then Ref?"  
One sign for this gent, please.

Last night, when I was Refereeing a game, a defender who had been moaning at me throughout the game, asked me if I had ever watched a game football in my life?  
I paused, very slowly replied, "You know, now that I come to think about it; NO."  
The player gave me a blank stare.  
I just had to give him one of the signs!!  
(By Julian Carosi)