



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

May 31, 2006

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BALLOTING CANCELED AT ANNUAL GENERAL ELECTION MEETING; REFEREES SHOW LACK OF ABILITY TO MULTI-TASK; THE BYLAWS THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

It was only a few minutes past the scheduled 7 PM starting time on May 30 when the Secretary certified that a quorum of the Members were present and so the Annual General Meeting could begin at Shakey's on Torrance Blvd. However the pizza and beer (courtesy of SSBRA) were already being distributed, and the Members displayed far greater interest in that than in anything President **Keith Gendler** had to say. Showing some of that SSBRA determination for which we are all known, Keith plowed ahead anyway, doing his best to get the Members (divided) attention on the Association business at hand over the din. The first item was an amendment to the Bylaws to the effect that Board Members also had to be Members in good standing. A minor "friendly" change to the wording was submitted by **Ed Beverly** and approved by Webmaster **Lee Jordan** (who had offered the original amendment) and the rest of the gathering, after which the full amendment was approved by unanimous voice vote. The second item was another Bylaw amendment dealing with giving the Board the specific authority to suspend/expel Members for just cause. After a "friendly" amendment was offered by **Dick Eastman**, and accepted by Vice-President **Ed McClure** (the amendment originator) and the rest of those present who were still paying attention, this amendment also passed by unanimous voice vote. Ed and Keith then discussed a number of other amendments that Ed wanted to propose, but they were held for voting for a

later time (editor's note - the full text of the resulting Bylaws are printed at the end of this newsletter). Though the Members attention was increasingly becoming focused on the grub, beverages and the camaraderie of their fellow Members, Keith labored mightily to get to the next items, elections for President and Secretary. After a few minutes it was determined that there was only one candidate for each position, and per a motion from the floor by Ed, Keith Gendler was re-elected President and **Warren Howell** was re-elected Secretary for the standard two years terms, by acclamation. The meeting was officially adjourned at this point, though **Joe Robelotto** (gesep@AOL.com) was seen immediately afterwards reminding those present that he was looking for referees for the Watts Games (particularly for the weekend of June 10). Energetic and enthusiastic socializing then took over the establishment, with many stories and tales (some of dubious truthfulness but many of a humorous and/or entertaining nature) being told by the Members. Many of those present were observed trying to shout over the noise, with mixed results, as the evening went on. After a while the boisterousness had reached a peak, and Treasurer **Tom Mallen**, who reported privately to this writer that there was currently \$2,587.75 in the bank (as opposed to \$4383.64 at this time last year), closed out the tab before any serious damage could be done to the SSBRA treasury or the property and/or tranquility of the Torrance area in general. Tom was pleased at the total expense, it being a bit less than he had budgeted for, so everyone eventually was seen going home happy after an excellent night out.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, MAY 30, 2006 (the Board did not otherwise meet formally in May)

- Accepted the application of **Ali Mojibi** for Membership, bringing the total number of names on the roster to a record 160
- Held a second Membership application for future consideration as it was incomplete
- Rejected a third application outright

Profit Potential (news item - really):

Soccer referees in Nigeria have been told by the head of the Nigerian Football Assn. that it's OK to accept bribes - as long as they don't let it influence their decisions on the field.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2006, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, YUKON AND 182ND ST. , WHEREIN BEVERAGES AND FOOD ARE PROHIBITED BY THE SCHOOL. AGENDA TO INCLUDE THE USUAL STUFF.

Thought of the Month: When a player loses it in his legs, he gains it in his mouth.

American Referees Go to Germany After All (submitted by **Penny Rehm**);

Kevin and his crew have a blog set up where you can read about their daily experiences in Germany as they prepare for the World Cup. On the blog you can also send a message to the team, view pictures and videos. What a great way for all us in Cal South to not only support Kevin, Greg and Chris, but it also gives us a way to experience this great opportunity with them. The link for this site is on our website at www.californiareferee.org right under the story about Kevin. Please pass this on to your officials so no one misses out on this.

Penny Rehm, 909.598.3500.

Watts Games (submitted by **George Adeff**):

In the spring of 1968, the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce established the Watts Junior Olympics. Conceived by a belief in the promise of youth and respect for the dignity of human life, the L.A. Watts Summer Games "promotes positive interaction through competition in athletics, art and scholastics." The name is a reminder that all Americans must seek new forms of communication with one another if we are to avoid the problems and tensions that ultimately resulted in the Watts riots of 1965.

- Now in its 38th year, the Games are the largest high school athletic competition in the nation with more than 7,000 participants.
- The Games are covered by more than 30 media outlets, including two weeks of pre-Games coverage by NBC. Additional coverage draws from CBS, ABC, Fox, the Los Angeles Times, Power 106 FM, The Beat, Xtra Sports 690 AM as well as many other print, radio and television sources.
- More than 2,000 volunteers from the LAJCC, community organizations, youth groups, CIF officials and other corporations support the implementation of the Games.
- The L.A. Watts Summer Games is a nonprofit event.

Let's give the Games, and our good friend, Joe Robe lotto (gesep@aol.com), the support they and he deserve. Please make Joe's life easier by volunteering with as flexible a schedule as possible. High School Soccer is quite good to us as referees. High School games pay as well or in most cases better than Federation Youth and most adult amateur leagues that you referee. High School games allow you to keep more of what they pay because they're in your community so you don't have great travel expenses. This is a great opportunity to give back to the community and do something for the good of the game. Please help out.

More from Penny and Nick Algattas:

Thank you all for getting the word out to your officials reminding them to register for 2006. However, we have been getting numerous calls from officials stating that they are registered, and do not understand why they are getting emails saying they are not registered. It would help if you ask your officials to check the website (<http://www.californiareferee.org/>) and, if their name is listed to ignore the email. Remind them that your email notification is for those who are NOT listed on the site. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

Please remind all your referees June 17th and 18th we have a State upgrade clinic and re-certification at Walnut High school in Walnut. This clinic and the re-certification will be for the year 2007. If you have any questions please call me (Nick) at 909-985-3361(home) after 6:00 pm, or Email.

SOCCER SOUTH BAY REFEREE ASSOCIATION BYLAWS, 2006

I NAME

The name of the organization shall be: Soccer South Bay Referee Association.

II PURPOSES

The purposes for which this organization is formed are:

- A. To establish and maintain a high level of soccer officiating.
- B. To recruit, train, and evaluate referees to officiate soccer games in southwestern California.
- C. To coordinate the assignment of referees to games in leagues served by the Soccer South Bay Referee Association (hereinafter called the Association or SSBRA) in this area.
- D. To standardize the interpretation and application of the Laws of the Game in accordance with FIFA and USSF decisions.
- E. To promote the game of soccer throughout the community by encouraging a better understanding of the Laws.

III NONPROFIT

This Association is organized exclusively for nonprofit purposes, and no part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of a member, officer or director thereof.

IV MEMBERS

- A. Membership in this Association shall be limited to referees 14 years of age or older who are currently registered with USSF or who have satisfactorily met the standards prescribed by SSBRA to demonstrate their knowledge of the Laws of the Game, their physical ability and their officiating proficiency.
- B. Applications shall be approved by the Board of Directors.
- C. To be considered a member in good standing, each member shall:
 1. Attend at least one clinic on the Laws of the Game each year.
 2. Complete a referee physical fitness test each year.
 3. Attend at least 60% of the meetings of the general membership.
 4. Have paid all dues and assessments within 60 days of the due date.

V FEES AND DUES

- A. The annual dues are payable on or before July 1 of each year will be \$50.00 for all members maintaining an e-mail address, and \$60.00 for all members without an e-mail address.
- B. Special assessments, when approved by the membership voting at a general meeting, may be levied on the members when necessary to sustain the Association.

VI OFFICERS

- A. President - The duties of the President are to:
 - 1. Perform the duties incident to this office and such other duties as may be required by law.
 - 2. Supervise and control the business of SSBRA with the consent of the Board of Directors.
 - 3. Preside at all meetings of the general membership and of the Board of Directors.
 - 4. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.
- B. Vice President - The duties of the Vice President are to:
 - 1. Exercise the powers of the President in the event of his absence or disability.
 - 2. Assist the President in the performance of his duties.
 - 3. Have such powers and perform such other duties as may be imposed by law or as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors.
- C. Secretary - The duties of the Secretary are to:
 - 1. Take minutes and maintain a book of the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the general membership.
 - 2. Maintain an up-to-date roll of all members.
 - 3. Perform such other duties incident to the office as may be assigned by the Board of Directors, or as required by law.
- D. Treasurer - The duties of the Treasurer are to:
 - 1. Receive all moneys due to the Association.
 - 2. Deposit collected moneys in such depository as designated by the Board of Directors.
 - 3. Disburse as required and approved by the Board of Directors.
 - 4. Maintain adequate and correct books of account, showing receipts and disbursements of the Association and an account of its cash and other assets.
 - 5. Prepare and serve statements of account for the dues of members and any other person or organization.
 - 6. Give a financial report at all general membership meetings.
 - 7. Perform such other duties incident to the office as may be assigned by the Board of Directors, or as required by law.
- E. Past President - The Immediate Past President shall act as ex-officio member of the Board of Directors for two years following his term of office providing he remains active in the Association.

VII ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

- A. Officers shall be elected by a vote of the membership at the Annual General Meeting in May of each year.
- B. The President and Secretary will be elected for two-year terms in even-numbered years.
- C. The Vice President and Treasurer will be elected for two-year terms in odd-numbered years.
- D. If an office becomes vacant during the first year of a term, a replacement shall be elected for the second year of the term at the next AGM.
- E. The term of office of newly-elected officers shall begin on the first of July after elections.

VIII BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. Members:
 - 1. Officers.
 - 2. Other Members.

- a. The Board of Directors shall appoint an Assignor and a Membership Chairman, and other Board members having duties as it may deem necessary.
- b. Such members will serve at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- 3. All Members of the Board shall also be Members of the Association in good standing.
- B. Duties - The duties of the members of the Board of Directors are to:
 - 1. Deal with all matters pertaining to Association business.
 - 2. Deal with matters pertaining to soccer and referees as related to the Association.
 - 3. Appoint members to office vacancies whose terms will last until the next Annual General Meeting.
 - 4. Have sole discretion to deal with disciplinary matters related to Association members.
- C. Authority:
 - 1. All Board decisions shall be final, subject to appeal by 2/3 of the members.
 - 2. The Board of Directors shall deal with all differences and controversies which may arise within the Association, or any other matters not covered by the Bylaws.
- D. Meetings:
 - 1. Shall be held not less than bimonthly.
 - 2. Shall be held at the request of the President.
 - 3. Prior notice of upcoming meetings shall be given to Board members.
- E. Quorum - A majority of the Board members.

IX ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- A. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in May of each year.
- B. The time and location shall be set by the President.
- C. Prior notice shall be mailed or e-mailed to each member.
- D. A quorum of the AGM shall be 25% of all members, excluding honorary members.
- E. All meetings shall be governed by *Robert's Rules of Order*, as may be revised from time to time.
- F. Changes to the Bylaws may be proposed in the following manner:
 - 1. Bylaws may be changed only during the AGM by a vote of a majority of the quorum, except as noted in section XIII(I).
 - 2. All proposed Bylaw amendments shall be presented in writing at the general meeting immediately prior to the AGM. Such amendments shall be published in the minutes of that meeting and distributed to the members not less than one week prior to the AGM.
 - 3. The provisions of these Bylaws shall not preclude non-written proposals for Bylaw changes at the AGM. A member may propose germane Bylaw changes at the AGM without prior written submission. The President will determine if the proposal is appropriate for consideration by the membership.

X GENERAL MEETINGS

- A. There shall be a minimum of five general meetings per year.
- B. The time and location shall be set by the President.
- C. Prior notice shall be mailed or e-mailed to each member.
- D. A quorum of the general meeting shall be 25% of all members, excluding honorary members
- E. All residents of the local community in soccer are encouraged to attend these meetings.
- F. The agenda will include Association business, discussion of the Laws of the Game, or other matters as they pertain to soccer.

XI MEMBERSHIP CODE OF CONDUCT

- A. Any member creating a breach of faith or slandering a member of this Association or any other referee association shall be considered guilty of improper conduct.
- B. All charges against a member shall be made in writing to the President setting forth full details. The President shall notify the member of the charges against him. The member will be given 72 hours either to offer a written response or at his option request a hearing before the Board of Directors.
- C. The President shall present the written charges and the member's response, if any, to the Board. Alternatively, the Board shall afford the member a hearing on the charges.
- D. The Board shall decide by majority vote of the total number of Board Members any penalties and/or fines which it deems appropriate, including suspension and expulsion from the Association.
- E. Members shall respect and abide by any and all decisions made by this Association.
- F. Members shall conduct themselves in a respectable manner. They shall abide by these Bylaws and the USSF Referee's Code of Conduct.

XII UNIFORMS

- A. The official uniform shall be as defined by USSF or as otherwise defined by the Association.
- B. Referees are to present a professional appearance with a neat uniform and shined shoes.
- C. A referee may wear a hat if it is an all-black, baseball-type cap.
- D. While officiating games which are assigned by the SSBRA assignor, the referee must wear the appropriate USSF referee badge during USSF-affiliated games, and the Association badge during non-USSF affiliation games.

XIII GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

- A. A referee assigned to a game who fails to report without good cause or who fails to report to two assignments for any cause, shall be subject to suspension from the Association.
 - 1. Referees who are tardy in submitting game cards and/or game reports will be fined one-half fee for subsequent offenses within one year. This rule will apply to all leagues with which SSBRA has a contract specifying a time for submitting the cards and/or game reports.
 - 2. Fees paid to SSBRA as a result of a late-canceled game will revert to the SSBRA treasury.
 - 3. When a referee fails to fulfill a commitment for a game assignment properly assigned by the Association and does not notify the Association, the referee will be fined the full game fee per assignment. In addition, the referee will pay any penalties charged to SSBRA by the league.
 - 4. If there is a referee no-show in a game scheduled to use the Diagonal System of Control, the senior referee will decide on the method of game control.
 - 5. If the SSBRA assignor makes a mistake in a game assignment, the Association will pay one-half fee to the referee assigned in error, provided the referee requests payment in writing by submitting a game report.
- B. A member assigned to a game shall be on the playing field in sufficient time to perform the necessary pre-game activities and assure that the game will start at the prescribed time.
- C. No referee may change his assignment without the prior approval of the assignor.
- D. No member may solicit or accept assignments from a league served by the Association except through the assignor or his designated representative.

- E. The Association shall attempt to purchase medical/liability insurance to covers its members in good standing while refereeing games scheduled by the assignor. In the event such insurance cannot be obtained at a reasonable fee in the judgment of the Board, all such insurance shall be the sole responsibility of each member. The Association will not accept medical or liability claims for injury or property damage.
- F. Liability insurance premiums for the Board of Directors shall be borne by the Association for coverage while conducting Association business.
- G. Any member has the right to appeal a decision given by the Board of Directors in the following manner:
 - 1. Submit a written request to attend a Board of Directors meeting. Upon receipt of the request, the Board will invite the member to the next meeting.
 - 2. Request the matter be brought before the general membership. Two-thirds of the members may overrule a decision of the Board of Directors. The vote will be taken by secret ballot and counted by a neutral party.
- H. If a team no-show report is properly filed by a referee, the referee will be reimbursed the referee fee by the SSBRA treasury.
- I. Operating procedures may be amended by majority vote at a general meeting, and shall be considered the official policy of the Association.
- J. SSBRA will help train new referees in the area by sponsoring local USSF referee clinics.
- K. Any member may propose an expenditure of Association funds for a worthy soccer-related purpose, subject in all cases to the approval of the Board of Directors under the provisions of paragraphs VI(D.3) and VIII(C.1).