



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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CHAOS AND CONFUSION THE ORDER OF THE DAY IN THE 7v7 LEAGUES SSBRA REFEREES ADMIT TO SPEADING FALSEHOODS FEMALE MEMBERS GIVEN EQUAL TIME BY THE FLAG AND WHISTLE

Anticipating the upcoming start of the Coast (and other) League seasons, a large and boisterous crowd of 73 Members appeared at the August meeting. Secretary **Warren Howell** was the first to speak, and he started rambling on about dues collections, the money being due July 1. There are a variety of situations to deal with: Members who have had their dues waived for various reasons, new member incentive participants, youth Members, new Members that joined for the first time in 2007, some who have paid only \$50 rather than the new \$60 rate, Members who have had (and some who will still have) the money deducted from pre-season tournaments, those who pay \$70 because they lack an Email address, and others who are dropping out altogether. Warren and Treasurer **Tom Mallen** are chasing it all down as best they can, along with keeping track of who is registered with USSF for 2007. Since there are now 193 Members on the roster, Warren tried to explain that errors may be made, and he encouraged everyone to let him or Tom know if they got something wrong, so they could make it right.

President **Ed McClure**, being as bored with this stuff as everyone else, took back the floor and announced that **Walt Hoovler** (who was not present as he recovers from a medical condition) is the fourth recipient of the "center circle" award, and revealed that as such he became a lifetime Member of SSBRA, with his dues being waived in

perpetuity. This applies to all center circle award winners, including **Frank Troeger** (technically he was already a lifetime Member for past service), who Ed recognized and the group applauded, with **Joe Robelotto** and **Billy Cooke** also being previous winners.

Tom Mallen then stood up (or so it was alleged) and displayed a stack of checks he was going to hand out, said stack looking to be about as thick as a paperback copy of the novel “War and Peace.” He claimed that there was about \$7000 in the bank, and complained that dues collections were rather slow this year compared to years gone by, though few were paying much attention to his words as everyone was eyeing the checks in his hand.

It was then time to get on to more interesting stuff, and assignor **Bill Cook** did not disappoint. Thanking all those who had been taking assignments at the pre-season tournaments (and miscellaneous games elsewhere), he reported that there was another busy weekend ahead over Labor Day, and that he would attend the CSL assignors’ meeting the next day. Members are reminded that the CSL uses it’s own assignment system, and it does not send Emails automatically – you will have to check both systems (CSL and SSBRA) for assignments. Not only are CSL and the J-league starting on Sept. 8, but he announced that a new 7v7 Manhattan Beach league was starting up soon, SBS was gearing up and SBPSL would start their regular season Sept. 16, with more teams than ever. He then told us the annual ANA kids J-league tournament is coming Sept. 23, and broke the news that pay raises were in the works for our Members, pleasing all those present who were not too busy admiring their checks to pay attention. After answering a question from **Larry Savell** about whether substitutions would be allowed on any stoppage of play (the answer is “yes”), he was done talking for a while.

Ed McClure then started in about the fee schedule, our performance at SBS and other games, new contracts with the various leagues, and our attempts to consolidate and clarify the rules and fees of the various 7v7 leagues and divisions. The Board has recognized this as a problem area, and has been addressing it with our counterparts, Ed hoping to have things straightened out to the point of being able to create a rules summary for 7v7 that would be readily available to both referees and players. Showing widespread interest in these subjects, **Dan Damian, Alan Sampson, Larry Savell, Rudy Chavez, Vince Delmonico, Gabriel Goldsman, Steve McCall, Lee Jordan**, and others, asked questions and shared their views with the Members.

After that long discussion, it was time for Webmaster Lee Jordan to say a few words. He reported that a roster updating problem was being addressed, and hoped to start adding dates to the list of tournament links on ssbra.org in order to help the Members sort through all the tournaments that we do to get the information they need easier. This inspired **Kamel Guerbaoui** and **Ed Beverly** to say a few words too.

Having had enough of being uncharacteristically quiet, **Derek Taylor** demanded the floor in order to share a scenario with the group. Judging from the enthusiastic response, everyone was glad he did. The scenario had to do with a player who was temporarily on the sidelines with an injury or something (his team was playing short in his absence) rushing onto the field to make a fair tackle to prevent an opponent from taking a clear shot on goal, without being waved onto the field by the referee. Everyone, it seemed, wanted to be heard on this one, with **Alvar Kabe** having the best solution in the opinion of this writer (“keep playing and tell everyone you waved him on the field with a subtle hand motion”).

Ignoring the ever-rising decibel level in the cafeteria, Ed McClure got into the formal training part of the evening, showing two videos and asking the group if they had any opinions on the action he displayed. This they did, with those present showing their willingness to shout over one another in an effort to get their ideas heard. **Dan Ayala** and **Harry Ross** were among most, if not all, of the Members present who wanted to express themselves. Ed tried to make the point that tough referee decisions should be made in four stages:

- define the problem
- gather the facts
- determine your options
- implement your decision

Eventually the commotion had died down somewhat, and **Manny Fineberg** got to speak, announcing that he had a few pairs of socks to sell at a bargain price (they are highly recommended), had again donated items for the raffle, and talked about all the high-quality referee equipment available through soccerone.com at very reasonable prices, as many Members can attest to.

As it was growing late and everyone was exhausted, Tom Mallen held the raffle, with Rudy Chavez and **Dave Dillard** winning write-on cards, while Alan Sampson walked away with the grand prize of a first-class referee bag. After approving the application for Membership of **Scott Jabus**, the Board went home too.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, July 16, 2007

- Ed asked Bill to be conservative in the number of summer tournaments he commits to in view of the lack of availability of the Members
- A Member will have his games restricted due to ongoing problems and he was so informed
- P.O. box signatures to be Bill, Tom and Ed
- One application was rejected without prejudice and 3 others approved
- Walt Hoovler has retired
- A request for funds to support underprivileged players was rejected

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, August 22, 2007

- **Richard LaGraff** and **Gabe Devitt** accepted as new Members
- Another application was denied
- Paid, youth and USSF status of the Members will continue to be researched by Warren and Tom
- The USSF re-certification meeting is in September. Penny is scheduled to come.
- A long discussion about the 7v7 rules and fees took place, with the subject eventually being talked to exhaustion.
- New Manhattan Beach 7v7 rules, contracts and fees also talked about.
- Fees for all the other leagues were also reviewed, more discussion taking place
- The lack of SSBRA referee availability for summer tournaments was discussed. This is a problem with the other associations too
- Bill stated that he is still getting too many Emails asking for information that is available on ssbra.org. Various ways to make look-ups easier were discussed
- Complaints from **Dennis Fox** about some SBS referees discussed. Ed has looked at some games, and as a result problems with one referee will be dealt with and four others will get further observation. Ed has also told Dennis that his complaints cannot be justified in most cases.
- No progress to report on rankings
- An earlier application rejection was reviewed, still rejected
- Late PSL fees have been received now
- \$7146.32 in the bank
- Walt Hoovler has retired. It was decided to make him a lifetime Member, as are all center circle winners
- **Larry Stern** did not have surgery in July after all
- A problem referee and two problem games were discussed
- Another problem game and referee were discussed
- **Heidi Garlick** clarified that the re-certification at the September meeting only really works in total for grade 8

New Fee Schedule Released for 2007-2008 (submitted by Ed McClure)

SSBRA 2007 Referee Fee Schedule					
LEAGUE/DIVISION/HALFS	NO. OF REFS.	TEAM FEE	TOTAL FEE \$\$	REF. FEE	AR FEE
CSL U17-U19 (45 min.)	3	\$59	\$118	\$48	\$35
	2(+1 club line)	\$48	\$96	\$58	\$38
	1(+2 club)	\$36	\$72	\$72	
CSL U15-U16 (40 min.)	3	\$52	\$104	\$42	\$31
	2(+1 club line)	\$42	\$84	\$50	\$34
	1(+2 club)	\$32	\$64	\$64	
CSL U13-U14 (35 min.)	3	\$46	\$92	\$36	\$28
	2(+1 club line)	\$37	\$74	\$44	\$30
	1(+2 club)	\$28	\$56	\$56	
CSL U11-U12 (30 min.)	3	\$39	\$78	\$32	\$23
	2(+1 club line)	\$32	\$64	\$38	\$26
	1(+2 club)	\$24	\$48	\$48	
CSL U9-U10 (25 min.)	3	\$33	\$66	\$26	\$20
	2(+1 club line)	\$27	\$54	\$32	\$22
	1(+2 club)*	\$20	\$40	\$40	
CSL U17-U19 Premier	3	\$70	\$140	\$56	\$42
	2(+1 club line)	\$56	\$112	\$67	\$45
	1(+2 club)	\$42	\$84	\$84	
CSL U15-U16 Premier	3	\$62	\$124	\$50	\$37
	2(+1 club line)	\$50	\$100	\$60	\$40
	1(+2 club)	\$38	\$76	\$76	
J-League (40 min.)	3	\$62	\$124	\$50	\$37
	2	\$55	\$110	\$55	\$55
J-League Over 40 (30 min.)	3	\$47	\$94	\$38	\$28
	2	\$42	\$84	\$42	\$42
SBPSL Open (45 min.)	3	\$61	\$122	\$49	\$37
	2	\$50	\$100	\$50	\$50
	1	\$40	\$80	\$80	
SBPSL Over 30 (45 min.)	3	\$61	\$122	\$49	\$37
	2	\$50	\$100	\$50	\$50
	1	\$40	\$80	\$80	
SBPSL Over 40 (45 min.)	3	\$61	\$122	\$49	\$37
	2	\$50	\$100	\$50	\$50
	1	\$40	\$80	\$80	
SBPSL Over 40 (45 min.)	3	\$61	\$122	\$49	\$37
	2	\$50	\$100	\$50	\$50
	1	\$40	\$80	\$80	
SBS 7V7 (23 min.)	1	League Pays		\$23	
SBS 11V11 (35 min.)	3	League Pays		\$36	\$27
	2	League Pays		\$35	\$35
Torrance 7V7 (Assignor \$3)	1	\$15	\$30	\$27	
ManH Beach 7V7 (25 min)	1	SSBRA Pays		\$29	\$29
Updated as of 9-03-07					

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2007, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, 3620 182ND ST. (AT YUKON - SEE SSBRA.ORG FOR DETAILED MAPS), WHEREIN BEVERAGES AND FOOD ARE PROHIBITED BY THE SCHOOL. AFTER A BRIEF PERIOD FOR ASSOCIATION BUSINESS, THE MEETING WILL BE TURNED OVER TO REPRESENTATIVES OF USSF, WHO WILL BE SPEAKING TO US ABOUT THE LATEST NEWS AND EXPECTATIONS, FOLLOWED BY THE RECERTIFICATION WRITTEN TEST AND APPLICATION PROCESSING. PLEASE BRING THE REGISTRATION FORMS MAILED TO YOU FROM USSF AND A CHECK/CASH FOR THE REGISTRATION AMOUNT.

Thought of the Month (attributed to **Benjamin Franklin**)

“No man was ever hung for the speech he did not make.”

Claudius Shows His Knowledge of the Laws Under Pressure (submitted by W. Howell)

It was time for pre-season tournament play-off games, and referee **Claudius Haynes**, eagerly assisted by **Martin Haynes** and the referee known to some as the Large Member, were on hand to officiate a match between two top teams, the GU16 So. California Blues and San Diego Surf. No one was disappointed in the first half action, and the second half began with the So. Cal. team kicking-off and the score a 0 – 0 tie, bringing thoughts of a tied match and penalty kicks to the referee team. The kick-off was taken at full force from a running start – and the ball flew directly into the Surf’s goal on the fly. Stunned, the field grew silent, and all eyes turned to Claude, with everyone wondering what he would do. Showing he had been paying attention all these years to instructions on situations that “never happen,” Claude knew that it was a legitimate goal, and so indicated to everyone there. That did not end the surprises that day though, as the Surf came back, scored 2 goals, and won the match anyway 2 – 1. The So. Cal. players and fans went home unhappy with the result of the match, but no one had complaints about the performance of the officials that day.

Bob Evans Critical of MSL Referee Decision (submitted by Larry Savell)

David Beckham was playing in the Chivas/Galaxy game, having flown straight back from London after appearing for England against Germany. The LA Times photograph of the foul (below) on Beckham by **Marsch** ... is foreshortened because of the distance of the incident from the camera. The ball is a little more than six feet in front of Beckham, and Marsch had no possible chance of playing it. He simply came from behind and brought his opponent down with ... a "roundhouse kick" at hip level. It is clear that his only intention was to take Beckham down. When assessing and instructing the business of foul-recognition, and the problem of differentiating run-of-the-mill fouls from those that require the referee to take action for misconduct, I have long found it useful to ask referees to describe what they saw. Don't accept simply: "Number 7 tripped number 12", but ask probing questions to elicit all the details. "Which leg did he trip him with?" "Where did he make contact on his opponent?" "Where was the ball at the moment of the foul?" "Where was the referee with respect to the players?" "How far away?" "Did he have a clear view?" It has been my experience that generally the referee has all the information necessary to make the correct decision: he or she just hasn't assembled it before making the decision. Officials need to be trained and encouraged to make instantly this kind of analysis, and thereby get important decisions right. So let's do it with this foul...

(1) Marsch comes at Beckham from behind. That alone should set off bells in the referee's head, because of the requirement that has been around these last few years, that fouls from behind be regarded as more serious than others. Nowadays, that requirement has been extended to stress that *any* foul that endangers an opponent should be treated as serious foul play.

(2) Marsch swings his right leg at the height of Beckham's pelvis *even though the ball is not bouncing at that height*. That tells us that the subsequent foul was more than careless or reckless; Marsch had a clear intent to kick the player, not the ball.

(3) Marsch kicks Beckham in his midriff, not far from the groin. There is a clear risk of danger for the victim of this challenge.

(4) When Marsch made contact, Beckham had already played the ball away with his chest, and the distance to it was more than two yards. Under any circumstance during play, is it *serious* when one player deliberately kicks another when the ball is that far away? (A rhetorical question.)

(5) The referee was only 12-13 yards away, but not sprinting towards the action developing in front of him. The word "lumbering" comes to mind when thinking about the referee's lack of urgency about getting close to the contact and the subsequent reaction by the players.

(6) The referee was directly behind Marsch (i.e. looking *through* the challenger) as he fouled Beckham, and could not have seen the nature of the contact between Marsch's boot and Beckham's pelvis.

When you look at the tape, and consider the observations in this list, you should have come to the conclusion that Marsch should have been sent off. The Galaxy players were incensed by the foul, Beckham reacted understandably at being kicked that high with the ball nowhere near, and the referee's decision was a bad one, weak and inadequate.



Don't Let This Happen to You (recent news article)

Former referee **Tim Donaghy** pleaded guilty to two felony charges in an NBA betting scandal that rocked the league and raised questions about the integrity of games. Donaghy faces a maximum of 25 years in prison when he is sentenced for conspiracy to engage in wire fraud and transmitting wagering information through interstate commerce. He was released on a \$250,000 bond. Speaking in code during telephone calls, Donaghy provided recommendations, called "picks," to co-conspirators about what team they should bet on, said U.S. District Court Judge **Carol Bagley Amon**. If he was correct, they paid him \$5,000. The picks included information about games that Donaghy officiated, the government said. The information was not public, the judge said. Donaghy had "unique access," including what crews would officiate at games, the interaction of different officials and players, and the physical condition of certain players. He concealed the scheme from the NBA and other referees to avoid detection, the judge said. Donaghy also must pay a \$500,000 fine and at least \$30,000 in restitution. Donaghy, who stood ramrod-straight, hands clasped in front of him, spoke in nearly inaudible tones as he told the judge that he is seeing a psychiatrist for his gambling addiction, and is taking an antidepressant and anxiety medication. Prosecutors said in open court that Donaghy bet on games himself; but that was not a specific part of the verbal admission he made before the judge

Good News Announced for our American Colleagues (news article)

U.S. Soccer referees **Jennifer Bennett** and **Kari Seitz** have been named to the final list of referees for the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup in China. The announcement was made by FIFA Vice President **Angel Maria Villar Llona**, the chair of the FIFA Referees Committee. Overall, FIFA named 12 referees and 23 assistant referees from across the globe, with an additional six referees assigned as reserves. The U.S. is the only country to be represented by two referees.

"I'm extremely excited. I'm honored and fortunate to have the opportunity to pursue a dream of mine and to participate in a game I love at the highest level," said Bennett, who has been a FIFA referee since 2002. "I think it's a huge statement and a testament to our commitment to making our program one of the best in the world. A single ref doesn't make it to the World Cup on their own. It takes a team of people who are willing to take the time and make the investment in that referee. Having two referees at the world cup is phenomenal for U.S. soccer and is really representative of the quality of the programs that we have in place."

The selection process included intense scrutiny of the world's best women's soccer officials at the last three Algarve Cups (2005, 2006 and 2007), the 2006 FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship in Russia, a training camp in the Canary Islands in January 2007 and a final period of preparation and training at the home of FIFA in Zurich in May. The tournament referees were chosen after completing an intensive training program aimed at optimizing their performances at the FIFA Women's World Cup. In addition to participating in practical training sessions, the referees were tested on the Laws of the Game and the English language. The applicants also had to pass strenuous physical and medical examinations.

"This is the most excited I've ever been," said Sietz, who officiated at the 1999 and 2003 FIFA Women's World Cups. "This is an incredible honor. This is the most stringent qualification process to date and to continue to prove yourself time and again is really a testament to the hard work, dedication and support that we get. It is a particular honor because of the time and effort that went into it."

The FIFA Women's World Cup China 2007 will take place in Chengdu, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Tianjin and Wuhan from Sept. 10-30, 2007.

Sad News from Spain (news article)

Sevilla defender **Antonio Puerta** died Tuesday August 28. He was 22. The Spain international collapsed on the field after suffering a cardiac arrest during Saturday's Primera Liga game against Getafe.

Puerta was able to walk off but suffered a relapse in the dressing room and required cardiac resuscitation. He was rushed to the Hospital Virgen del Rocio in Seville but passed away on Tuesday. Puerta had been a member of the Sevilla first team for three seasons and spent 14 years in total with the Andalusian club he joined as a boy. He was capped by Spain in October.

Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid, When This Group Gets Together (submitted by Dick Lujan)

.....**Joe Robelotto** had a bunch of the old gang over yesterday for burgers and beer. VW (**Vladimir Wergeles**, SSBRA Past President) is in town and staying with Joe. Frank Troeger, Walt (Hoovler), Harry Ross, **Rich Molony** and myself sat around and told lies about past members and the great games we whistled! VW at 76 is still refereeing down in Florida. Looks great and is ornery at ever.

Another Alternate Sport Available during Soccer Off-Season (submitted by W. Howell)

In order to keep a respectful balance, it should be mentioned that there is another sport available, in addition to Wife-Carrying (see F&W 6/2007), for off-season participation. Some of you have no doubt been following the annual World Championships of the Old Geezer Carting competition (äijänkäräys in Finnish) that took place in Ruokolahti, Finland last month. In these races, a female competitor pushes a man in a traditional milk-can cart over a marked course, said course also containing water and other hazards. Since this important event occurs a couple of weeks after the Wife Carrying contest, it is possible to participate in both, making for the perfect European vacation for any happy couple.

The most important rules, a link to the site for applications etc., and a picture, can be seen below.

- All of the participants have got to have fun!
- The competing pair (carter and pusher) should be a man and a woman
- The carter has to be a geezer, which can be on loan or your own
- The pusher is a woman, known as the old lady
- If the carter doesn't weigh enough, additional weight will be added to the cart

<http://www.kulttuuripalvelukaiku.fi/old-geezer-carting>



Old Geezer Cart Pushers show their stuff at the start of a preliminary heat (photo courtesy of **Elina Piki**)