



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

November 30, 2008

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

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www.ssbra.org

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BIG LIVESCAN CONTROVERSY GETS EVERYONES ATTENTION FIFA, USSF AND SBPSL LAWS OF THE GAME EXPLAINED MEMBERS MAKE A BUNCH OF SPEECHES

Once again there was no sign of President **Ed McClure** at the monthly meeting, as he apparently had decided to spend his Thanksgiving in Turkey this year. This presented no problem for Vice President **Paul Kelly**, and he smoothly took over the sparsely attended last meeting of 2008. Looking for new faces, Paul found a newcomer in **Chris Navarrek**, who received a warm SSBRA welcome after standing up and saying a few words about himself. Not quite sure what to do next, Paul then yielded the floor to Secretary **Warren Howell** in hopes that he would have something to say. Indeed he did, starting off by encouraging all those present to sign the roster, of which (to Glenn's surprise) **Glenn Zardes** had volunteered to be in charge of for the evening. Warren then mentioned that there were 188 names on the list as compared with 166 at this time last year, correctly pointing out that this was an increase. Moving on, he announced that he had been told by **Penny Rehm** that the processing for USSF 2009 badges was "very behind" at the Chicago office due to the improvements of the on-line system now in use for registration. Less than 10 SSBRA Members had made the latest 2009 list, and there was no word as to when more would be listed so that the actually mailing out of badges could begin. Further stating that the F&W would be a bit longer in the future as the Treasurer's report and other items would be attached to it when available, he took the hint and sat down.

As is becoming his custom, **Vince Delmonico** then asked to address the group, and told us of the efforts he is involved in in identifying and helping families in need during the holidays. Anyone wanting to find out more can contact him directly at Del4220@aol.com.

Treasurer **Steve Brandon** wanted to say a few words, and pointed out that there was \$5377.49 in the bank (see complete report below), and that he was looking for a few W-9s to be mailed in to the P.O. Box. This caused **Reggie Raleigh** and **Larry Savell** to make comments relating to something or other.

At that point Paul took back the floor to make some random comments. This was mostly about the need to mail in the SBPSL game reports and seized ID cards in a timely fashion and to put separate division's reports in separate envelopes as they go to different places. Still talking about the PSL, he also told us that ALL the players must be on the roster after presenting the correct ID cards. **Ralph Quiroz** and **Richard LaGraff** had a few words to say about the PSL and their level of organization and game preparation too. Paul then announced (to the surprise of the current Secretary) that the game report protocol was ready and would appear in the next newsletter (see below).

Assignor **Bill Cook** did not have much to say, as the CSL season was done. Some tournaments were coming up in January 2009, as was State Cup in February.

Having gotten warmed up, Paul started talking again, and told us that the SSBRA response and position to LiveScan was ready to be sent to Penny. This was put together mostly as a result of the comments from the Members and the Board, and the interest level seems to be high (see below). From there he smoothly transitioned to a discussion of the new USSF Memorandum Supplement 2008, copies of which were passed out. Not only did some of the items therein represent wording modifications and clarifications, but there were a couple of actual changes as to how we are to apply the laws, and even a conflict between FIFA and USSF Law (if you were not at the meeting, please find the document on the internet and look over the changes). All of this generated a lively discussion, with **Joe Robelotto**, **Rick Roberts**, Larry Savell, **Larry Stern**, Vince Delmonico, Ralph Quiroz, **Pablo Diaz**, **Rick Gates**, **Alan Sampson**, **Bob Slater**, **Tom Mallen** and others all expressing their views. Continuing on with training issues, Paul then setup a session on Law 11, with a number of videos for us to look at and review. Offside being one of the most controversial Laws in soccer, the discussion was lively and Paul at times had to struggle (with varying degrees of success) to maintain order. Not surprisingly, the group in the back of the room, who were clearly much too far away from the screen to see any of the cases being shown, had the most to say about them – just like in a real game. At one point **Shaine Danbeli** politely asked for the floor, stood up to speak, and started making logical, helpful, insightful and correct comments on an issue. Showing that young Shaine had been accepted as one of their own, the Members would have none of it and rudely started shouting him down before he could even finish. Nonetheless, most of the points did get across, just about everyone had a say (if they did not mind talking over someone else), and a good time was had by all. Some of those expressing an opinion or three were Joe R., Alan S., Larry Savell, Rick G., **Ed Beverly**, **Gabriel Goldsman**, Bob S., **Rudy Chavez**, Richard L., Tom M. and of course Vince. There were more speeches to be given though this evening, as Joe Robelotto told us that he is looking for volunteers to be marshals at the Northern Trust Open Golf tournament, which will be held in February at the Riviera Country Club – contact him directly at Gesep@aol.com for more information.

Everyone was talked out, except Vince who complained repeatedly when he did not win anything, but the raffle went on despite his threats. There were a number of prizes, including flags, fancy ref bags and \$50 gift certificates. The winners were **Byron Eguchi**, **Shahram Danbeli**, **David Lanoye**, Larry Savell, **Brian O'Donnell**, Richard LaGraff, Gabriel Goldsman, **Musa Abdelshife** and **Barry Giberman**.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, November 17, 2008

- The need to promote one referee and fine three others for being late was dealt with
- Steve presented a good report, telling us there was \$6097.19 in the bank
- The report protocol was worked on and good progress made on it
- Bill reported that the CSL season was about done, some refs were going to the Nomads tournament, and a couple of items relating to one league were talked about that we will need to get back to that league on
- Rain-out invoice for SBPSL has been submitted in the amount agreed on internally
- LiveScan comments from the Members were being collected, of which there are many
- Training/Assessor/Observer issues were talked about to exhaustion far into the night, with no particular conclusions being reached

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING IS IN 2009

ALAS, THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN DECEMBER AND (CURSES!) NO FLAG AND WHISTLE EITHER. THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009 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. THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS, NEWS ABOUT THE STATE AND NATIONAL CUP TOURNAMENTS, TRAINING AND WHATEVER ELSE ANYONE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT.



You Make the Call (FIFA Women's U17 World Cup, USA v France, 11/2008)

News from Down South (news article submitted by Paul Kelly)

By **Nicole Vargas**, November 4, 2008

Jeff Glass is an ordained minister who lives in the College Area. He pays his state and federal taxes each spring. For 16 years, he has claimed as income the amount he earns officiating high school volleyball matches. Glass was stunned in July when he received a bill of more than \$300 from the city of San Diego. He had no idea his side job required him to purchase a business license and that failing to do so came with a penalty. "As a clergyperson in San Diego, I'm not trying to hide anything or do anything illegal," Glass said. "There was no word that this might be a possibility or this was coming down the pipe, so in that sense, it felt unfair. We're really doing this as a service to the community. We can't make a living doing it."

Businesses operating in San Diego are required to obtain a license. This includes home-based businesses and independent contractors. High school sports officials are considered independent contractors. The initial cost of the license is \$76, which includes a \$34 annual tax certificate fee and other costs for zoning and processing.

That might not seem like a lot of money, but the idea of buying a license and paying a fine for not having one has caught some high school officials off guard.

In the past, enforcement of the business-license requirement was lax. That changed after the city began working with newly acquired records from the state Franchise Tax Board. "Technically, if you are taking deductions for business, you need to have a business license in the jurisdiction in which you operate," said **Bill Harris**, deputy press secretary for Sanders. "What we found out when we started looking at the data was there was a whole long list of people (in that situation)." Since August 2007, 43,000 business owners or independent contractors living in San Diego have been sent letters similar to the one Glass received, Harris said, which include taxes and penalties dating back three years. More will go out in the future, he said, to city residents and others who live outside the city but do business in San Diego.

San Diego is not alone in requiring a business license. Seventeen of San Diego County's 18 incorporated cities require one. It's not necessary to purchase a business license in unincorporated areas. Glass said he is concerned about needing a license in other cities around the county where he works as an official. Glass said the requirement could hurt recruiting and might encourage cheating or an unwillingness to report income.

An informal e-mail poll of other associations revealed that a small number of officials in football, field hockey and basketball also have received letters. **Bill McLaughlin**, assistant commissioner of the San Diego Section, said the officials are subject to the city's regulations as independent contractors.

Quote of the Month (attributed to **St. Augustine**)

"The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page."

Meanwhile, in the Other Football (recent news article)

EVERGREEN, Ala. (Nov. 10) - Authorities say an argument over Saturday's Alabama-LSU football game led to the shooting deaths of a couple at a home in southern Alabama. Prosecutors identified the victims as **Dennis** and **Donna Smith** of Brewton. The shooting happened about 7 p.m. Saturday at the home of **Michael Williams** in the rural community of Owassa. Williams was arrested and charged with two counts of murder.

Investigators told the Press-Register newspaper in Mobile that Dennis Smith, an LSU fan, called Williams, an Alabama fan, after Alabama's 27-21 overtime win and an argument ensued. The Smiths went to Williams home. Investigators said Smith had a pistol and Williams had a shotgun and fired. Donna Smith was a relative of Williams' girlfriend.

Maybe the F&W is not so Bad After All (editor's note in the Johannesburg (South Africa) Star)

"November is a heavy publishing month for all newspapers and with large issues misprints inevitably increase. Note, however, that there are 5,000 characters in every full column of type. Even if there are five misprints a column that is only an error of 0.1 percent. We are working constantly on the problem, aiming to keep problem, aiming to keep—Editor."



This Referee has a Close Angle (FIFA Women's U17 World Cup, USA v France, 11/2008)

It All Depends on the Opinion of the Referee, or Whoever (attributed to **George W. Bush**)

"I know what I believe. I will continue to articulate what I believe and what I believe I believe what I believe is right".

You May Want to Review the Tape on This Call (submitted by Bill Cook)

With every decision being scrutinized during this time of year (playoff time), accuracy becomes even more paramount. Consequently, AR attentiveness to ensure proper positioning and an ARs ability to utilize the "wait and see" technique becomes increasingly critical and a vital part of the ARs repertoire. In order to get critical decisions

correct, ARs must work hard to ensure that they have a clear view of the ball, at the time it is played/passed, as well as the second-to-last defender and furthest most attacker. The best way to accomplish this is by being square to the field and by utilizing side stepping (side-to-side movement) as much as possible. With shoulders square to the field, ARs are able to have a broader perspective and wider angle of vision. In other words, ARs can simultaneously observe the pass of the ball by the attacker as well as the movement of the defensive offside line in relation to the furthestmost attacker who is in the offside or onside position.

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If a decision is made to disallow a goal for offside, it must be spot on especially given the direction (give the benefit of doubt to the attack) ARs have been provided throughout the season. ARs have been and are encouraged to keep the flag down in cases where it is not clear that the attacker is in an offside position.

As the slow motion, offside line and freeze frame indicate, the AR makes a correct decision by disallowing the goal. In accordance with Law 11, the goal scorer is in an offside position at the “moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team” because he was involved in “active play” by “interfering with play” by playing or touching the ball played/touched by his teammate. Despite the fact that a seemingly critical goal was disallowed, the AR made the right determination.

Quote of the Month (attributed to Dwight D. Eisenhower)

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

A Good Assessment is Hard to Come By (submitted by Tom Bobadilla)

Just a reminder on this topic and please share it with our referees. For all USSF grade 5 and lower, if you can not find games, one of the required assessments does not have to be completed. This applies only to the 2009 registration year.

The best, top referees (at any grade) are not looking for ways to avoid requirements. Instead, they are constantly pursuing improvement. In fact, if you consider being the best referee that you can be, and you should at all times, periodically request assessments (beyond the minimum requirements). For referees, who officiate at least 2 weekends per month, request one assessment every 2-3 months. This is the best way to identify strengths and weaknesses, and develop a plan for improvement. Every assessment provides valuable input that can be used to improve. Good enough is never good enough, if better is possible.

Good Election Advice (Louisiana State house Speaker John Alario, talking about voting machines)

"If you are here, please vote your machine. If you are not here, then don't."

Special Laws to be Used in SBPSL Announced (or not) (contributed by Larry Savell)

Law I, The Field of Play: The field shall be in perfect condition. If it is not in perfect condition, it is the referee's fault, and the referee must repair any imperfections immediately. The referee shall tell the league that the field was not perfect, and the league will make the community Parks and Recreation Department fix the field immediately.

Law II, The Ball: Our team gets to kick around the game ball before the game. Our goalie has the right to veto any choice of the game ball. If our team doesn't approve of the amount of air in the game ball, then we may force the referee to change the ball whenever we feel like it.

Law III, Number of Players: The coach can submit a list to the referee whenever he feels like it. When we want to substitute, all substitutes shall run on the field immediately the referee indicates that a substitution will be allowed.

Law IV, Players Equipment: If our goalie isn't wearing colors which distinguish himself from us, then it doesn't matter, and the referee is being officious if he asks him to change. The other goalie must wear the color of our team. The referee shall check the other team's equipment before the game. If the referee in the last game said it was OK, then you (today's referee) must also allow it. A team must use at least three different colors of socks. Under no circumstances may a team tuck their jerseys in.

Law V, Referee: The referee shall agree that the coaches have a far superior view of the game from the halfway line in front of their benches and can see all the fouls that occur, whether or not the referee calls them. If a referee observes more than 2/3 of the spectators in an uproar over his last call he/she must immediately stop play and submit to an eye exam. If, after the exam has occurred, it is deemed that the referee does indeed require spectacles, it is the visiting team's responsibility to provide a proper pair. Punishment for the second occurrence shall be a warning of bodily harm by a designated spectator whose name shall be submitted prior to the match (no substitutions shall be allowed.) Upon the third occurrence the referee shall be staked at midfield and secured with a tether not to exceed six feet in length (before stretching) but which must be at least two feet in length, and the spectators shall be awarded five minutes to discipline the referee as they see fit, provided there are a minimum of two spectators providing discipline at the same time. If the level falls below two spectators at any time while the referee is still breathing, then the referee shall be released and play will resume.

Law VI, Assistant Referee: If the referee makes a decision we don't like, then the Assistant Referee has the power to reverse the referee's decision. If our desperate appeals to the referee get us nothing, then it shall be appropriate to yell at the Assistant Referee, because the Assistant Referee can't caution us. When the other team is offside, our defender will raise one arm, and then the Assistant Referee shall put his flag up. Club linesmen shall be permitted to yell at the players from the other team, and it shall be taken personally if the referee reverses the decision of a club Assistant Referee.

Law VII, Duration of the Game: If after ninety minutes have elapsed, and we are leading, then the game shall terminate immediately. Our coach's watch shall keep the official time for the game. If the coach does not approve of the amount of time being added on to the half, then he shall complain to the Assistant Referee nearest him, who shall force the referee to end the half immediately.

Law VIII, Start of Play: The captains shall conduct a coin toss. The captains shall be immune from being punished for dissent for the duration of the game. During a drop ball, the ball need not hit the ground before it is played, unless the referee decides, for some reason, to stop play and drop it again.

Law IX, Ball In and Out of Play: The coach is permitted to stand on the touch line, regardless of whether the Assistant Referee's view of the line is obstructed.

Law X, Method of Scoring: A goal is scored if the majority of the ball crosses the line.

Law XI, Offside: If the Assistant Referee flags us for offside, we shall be permitted to yell "It's when the ball is played!" at the Assistant Referee. If we fail to properly execute an offside trap, then we will forget that offside is judged when the ball is played, and the ensuing goal shall be the fault of the Assistant Referee. A player can't be offside if he receives the ball on his own half of the field. A player isn't offside if he moves back to onside position to receive the ball. Any attacker who is unmarked is, by definition, to be declared offside.

Law XII, Fouls and Misconduct: If the ball comes in contact with the hand or arm of an opponent in his penalty area, a penalty kick shall be awarded. No matter how far I kick the ball away, I can't be cautioned for delay of game if the ball is still on the field when I kick it. A player should not be sent off for intentional hand ball if he was only trying to stop a goal. It is dangerous play for my opponents to play the ball while they are lying on the ground. My team's position has no effect on this ruling. If the player's shoe came off on the shot, then the goal should be disallowed for dangerous play. A spectator with a dog on a leash must stay at least one yard from the touch line; however the dog, since it was unable to understand soccer rules, may enter the field of play. When a goalkeeper catches the ball, any nearby attacker shall run up to the goalkeeper and stand directly in front of him, within one yard of him, and shall stare at him. Any ball which last touched a defender before going to the goalkeeper shall be considered a back pass and penalized with an IFK. A goalkeeper who traps the ball with his feet may only take four steps while dribbling the ball. No foul shall be called if a player gets the ball. Any player who raises his foot above knee height is guilty of "high kicking". A player may not move if he is standing in front of the goalkeeper.

Law XIII, Free Kicks: If we do not agree that the opposing team is 10 yards away, then we shall inform the referee, and he will move them back even more. We shall be permitted to delay the taking of a free kick until we are ready for it. If we take a quick free kick, and we lose possession to an opponent who was within 10 yards, then play shall be stopped and we shall take the kick over again. A defender need not yield 10 yards during a corner kick if a colleague of the player taking the kick goes over to assist with a short corner. A defender shall be allowed to kick the ball away if he feels that he needs more time to set up for an attacker's kick.

Law XIV, Penalty Kick: It was probably a bad call anyway.

Law XV, Throw In: In youth games, the referee shall penalize every foul throw, regardless of whether it will result in most of the time being spent taking throw-ins.

Law XVI, Goal Kick: The defending team can play the ball after it has traveled 10 yards. The attacking team must wait for the ball to leave the penalty area before playing it.

Law XVII, Corner Kick: If the ball, after being kicked, travels less than its circumference before crossing over the goal line, it shall be deemed to have never "come in" and the kick shall be retaken.

The Fourth Official: The fourth official shall assist us in yelling "ref" when we want a substitution.

The Technical Area: The technical area shall be marked in such a way as to allow our coach to follow play up and down the field.

Words of Wisdom from New Jersey (Bettye Munroe, a Superintendent of Elections in New Jersey)

"If anyone shows up that's on the deceased list we'll cross them off. If you're deceased, you're not supposed to be voting."

Let's Hope that at Least the Referees Know (recent news article)

Donvan McNabb took a lot of flak for admitting he didn't know NFL regular season games could end in a tie, but it turns out the Philadelphia Eagles quarterback is not alone among NFL players. Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback **Ben Roethlisberger** told the Associated Press he guessed half the league's players didn't know. Steelers wide receiver **Hines Ward**, an 11-year veteran, said he is one of them – and he played in a tie game only 6 years ago...

It has been All Downhill after this Match (submitted by Ralph Quiroz, as told to W. Howell)

On a recent Saturday the trio of **Surendra Menon** (a late substitute for an injured **Lee Jordan**), Ralph Quiroz and the current secretary were fortunate enough to have been assigned to a set of men's matches in the J-league at Garden Grove's Santiago High School. Taking advantage of the opportunity to carpool, there was plenty of time for story telling and other lies on the way back into town, after an enjoyable morning on the pitch. Ralph took just this opportunity (being reminded of how the players speak Japanese almost exclusively during these matches) to tell us about his first games after joining SSBRA some years ago. Wanting to make a good first impression, and also trying to figure out what kind of Association he had just joined, Ralph was assigned to some men's J-league matches, and found himself on the line while **Billy Cooke** did the honors as center referee. After the match had been going on awhile, some controversy or other erupted, and an argument ensued between one of the Japanese players and Billy. Neither was willing to back down, and soon they were nose-to-nose in a full-blown shouting match in the center of the field. Since the player was yelling in Japanese and Billy was yelling in some other language, Ralph soon realized that he could not understand what either of them was saying! Not only that, upon further reflection he came to the conclusion that neither of the screamers could likely understand each other either, though the shouting went on for quite some time. Unsure of exactly what he had gotten himself into, Ralph nonetheless decided to stick it out for awhile longer with SSBRA, a decision that has worked out well both for him and the Association.

Maybe He Should Have Just Put it in his Sock (recent news article)

Chelsea striker **Didler Drogba** was suspended for three matches for hurling a coin back into the crowd during an (English Premier) League Cup game against Burnley. The incident happened in the game after Drogba had scored at Stamford Bridge and was celebrating the goal close to the visiting fans. Some of the Burnley followers threw coins at the Ivory Coast striker and Drogba picked one up and threw it back.

SSBRA Members Shouldn't Vote for This One (a candidate announces she's running for President)

Reporter: "What did you major in in college?"

Sen. Carol Moseley Brown (D-Illinois): "I'm going to guess it was political science, but I'm not sure. It might have been history. I'll check. I hadn't thought of that one."

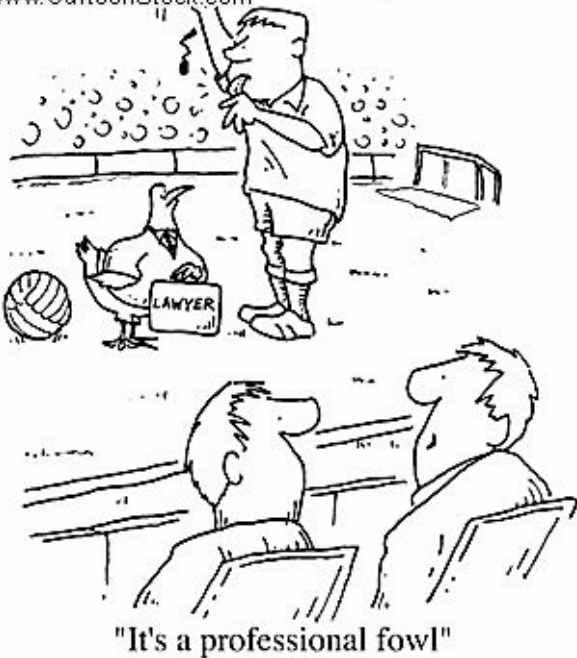
Don't Let this Happen to You (submitted by W. Howell)

The CSL Fall 2008 season was winding down, but there were still a few games to be had, and the team of **Mike Clifford**, **George Heggie** and the referee known as the **Large Member** were lucky enough to have been assigned a mid-November 3 game set at University High School. However, a couple of days after the assignment, the third (5 PM) game was canceled, probably because of the lack of lights at the field, leaving 2 U11 matches. While Mike and the L.M. knew about this change via the online assigning system, George did not, and showed up expecting all 3 games to be played. Furthermore, during the course of pre-game day communication, Mike did say that he would tell a story about an incident relating to George when we got to the pitch. On game day he did just that, telling the L.M. in private how the previous week-end he had insisted that George collect and distribute the game fees for the referee team, which he reluctantly did. While it was no problem for George to collect from the teams, it was painful indeed when he then had to part with most of the cash at the end of the day, each bill he gave away causing

him the same pain as a pulled tooth. The L.M. asked George about this, and he agreed that “it did not go well” and that he would never do it again. George’s discomfort did not end there though, as the L.M. then told him that the third game had been canceled. This news immediately brought a clear look of dismay to George’s face as he contemplated the loss of an AR fee for a BU12 match. Trying to cheer George up, the L.M. reminded him that, given the early departure from the pitch, there would be even more time available that evening to spend money on his girl-friend. On hearing those words, George’s eyes got very large, his mouth went into a small round pucker, and he seemed to stop breathing, causing concern for his immediate health and well-being. Fortunately, after awhile he recovered and once again became his good-natured self. There were not further incidents that day, except when he grabbed the player ID cards out of the L.M.’s hands while he was reading the names during team check-in, claiming the L.M. was mispronouncing them due to his accent, and the referee team went their separate ways after the last match.

With some time and cash available, the L.M. decided to take his own advice and, along with **Mrs. Large Member**, met old friends **Barbara** and **Milt Torin** at a Westside eatery for dinner and Saturday night revelry, as they often do. Many in the local community, of course, know Milt for his decades of continuing service to Culver City-area soccer in various capacities. Being comfortably seated and with the wine having arrived, Milt and the L.M. started in on sharing their various recent soccer adventures, of which there never seems to be a shortage. At one point the L.M. mentioned that he had spent the day with George, which inspired Milt to relate a story from years ago. It seems that one night a group of soccer officials had gone out as a group to enjoy each other’s company, food and adult beverages. Late in the evening George had over-indulged a wee bit and decided to tilt his head back and, uh, rest his eyes for a few minutes. It was noticed that George was doing a poor impression of Sleeping Beauty as the evening came to a close, and one by one the other members of the group left, each in turn pointing to George and telling the waitress that he would take care of the bill. Finally George was alone with the tab, a nightmare indeed. The story goes that George swore then and there to go on the wagon so that such a disaster would never befall him again, a pledge he has kept for going on 20 years.

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Report Protocol for Unusual Events

When Needed. For any match assigned by SSBRA (CSL, J-League, SBPSL, SBS, etc.) the referee will be required to submit a report for any match with an "unusual incident" such as:

- A send off involving serious foul play or violent conduct;
- An incident involving referee abuse or referee assault;
- An incident involving a serious injury (serious injuries include a broken bone, unconsciousness, etc: basically anything for which a player would have to go to the Hospital or see a doctor); and,
- An incident that resulted in the involvement of law enforcement.

Format. USSF Form of Match Report and Supplemental Report will be used for all leagues, regardless of whether or not affiliated. This form is available on the SSBRA website.

Prior to Submission of Report to SSBRA. Referee should consult with assistant referees for accuracy of report. The USSF Referee Administrative Handbook contains the following guidance on writing reports:

1. The misconduct report should include:
 - A. The teams (the full and correct names of the competing teams)
 - B. The venue and date of the match
 - C. The competition (league, tournament, etc.)
 - D. The player's name, jersey number, registration card, team
 - E. Reason for report (e.g., specific Law 12 reason)
 - F. Action taken
 - G. The incident (i.e., description of what actually happened stating only the facts, with no opinions and no recommendations)
2. The incident must be:
 - A. As you saw it (there is no substitute for the facts)
 - B. Brief, but containing enough evidence and information to enable a disciplinary committee to understand what happened. This description would include the reaction, if any, of the player(s) and others.

Submission of Report to SSBRA. All reports will be submitted by the affected Referee to the SSBRA Member At Large, before submission to any league. The SSBRA Member at Large is Gabriel Goldsman. His contact information is: E-mail:Gabriel@gggtech.com; Phone: 213-220-3580. If Gabriel is unavailable, submit the report to another board member.

Timing of Report Submission to SSBRA Member at Large. The report should be submitted to the SSBRA Member At Large not more than 48 hours after the incident. In case of extreme situations, please call or e-mail the SSBRA Member at Large as soon as practicable to alert him to the situation.

Submission of Report to Applicable League. Referee will be asked to sign the report after review and any comments or suggestions from the SSBRA Member at Large. SSBRA will submit the report to the applicable league if required.

Competitions Requiring At-Field Reports. For any competition in which the competition authority requires the referee to submit a report at the field, the referee shall follow the requirement of the competition, but shall also notify the SSBRA Member at Large of the unusual incident and the submission of the report.

LiveScan Fingerprinting (SSBRA position and response to CYSA, submitted by Ed McClure)

The board of SSBRA has discussed the LIVESCAN issue and has developed a list of questions/comments and objections concerning this program. Some of these questions/comments and objections are based on internal board discussions; and some come from discussions with the membership at the general meetings and with individual members outside of the general meeting.

WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW ABOUT THE PROPOSED LIVESCAN PROGRAM

In attendance at the September 29 general meeting were **Paul Doty**, of the California Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) and **Penny Rehm** and Tom Bobadilla of the Cal South State Referee Committee. At that meeting, Mr. Doty indicated that it was CYSA's intention that every referee who wanted to participate in competitions under CYSA's jurisdiction would have to be LIVESCAN screened by CYSA. It was uncertain when the program would be initiated, but the indication was that it would be implemented before State Cup and National Cup Competitions which will begin in approximately February of 2009. It was indicated that the cost of being in the LIVESCAN program would be approximately \$15 for each referee, and that the cost would be borne by each referee. From both Mr. Doty's presentation and some independent research on the topic, LIVESCAN is actually a manner to record fingerprint data digitally. The fingerprint data can then be submitted to a Department of Justice (DOJ) data base, where the fingerprint can be matched against arrest records, and presumably other records maintained by DOJ. The LIVESCAN requirement is used as an employment screening device by government and private employers, and as a requirement to certain forms of licensing (E.g. Pharmacists, attorneys, accountants, and many more). More familiar to many of our members is that many of you are probably already in LIVESCAN as a result of other activities you engage in with youth sports (coaches, team administrators, etc.). As we understand CYSA's intended use of LIVESCAN, the intention is to have each referee who wishes to referee a CYSA game be fingerprinted through LIVESCAN and have their information run through the DOJ data base. If the DOJ database has no matches, then the referee would be good to go. If a match is found in the DOJ database, depending upon the reason for the match, CYSA would make further inquiry toward a determination of whether or not the referee would be able to referee in CYSA games.

It is important that it be understood that this is what we think we know about CYSA and LIVESCAN, and it is our anticipation that if there are material differences between what we understand and what CYSA proposes, that CYSA will provide us that information.

In its current form as presented, the Board of SSBRA finds it difficult to support the LiveScan Program as it relates to the referee community. Inputs received from our membership consist of: Fees, Safeguards, False Accusations, Community Exposure, Privacy, Cost vs. Benefits, and Justification based on Limited Interaction. It is our hope the following will help to provide insight as to the concerns of the members of SSBRA on this matter.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS AND OBJECTIONS REGARDING CYSA AND LIVESCAN

The following are questions comments and objections that we have developed through board discussion and SSBRA member input.

A. WHY HAVE LIVESCAN IMPOSED UPON REFEREES

1. Why is the LIVESCAN program being imposed upon referees? It may be reasonable to require this type of screening for coaches and team administrators who are directly involved with youth in settings which could lead to abusive behavior. In contrast, referees only interact with youth in a very limited and public setting where the potential for abuse seems negligible.
2. Is the LIVESCAN program being imposed on referees on the initiative of CYSA, or is it being imposed by USSF?

3. Is the LIVESCAN program being imposed to meet a requirement of CYSA's insurance carrier?
4. What other course of action will CYSA take if referees refuse to participate in the LiveScan procedure?
5. Are there are other methods which are less intrusive?

B. HOW WILL LIVESCAN WORK

6. If I am already in the LIVESCAN system, do I have to do it again for CYSA. Why? What information do I need to provide CYSA to avoid having to do it again?
7. Who will be the person/persons at CYSA who will process the information from the LIVESCAN screening and what safeguards will be in place for the referee?
8. What are the qualifications of the person(s) who will be sitting in judgment should I be arrested?
9. What criteria will be used to determine if a referee is disqualified as a result of LIVESCAN screening?
10. Will the referee have any right to have the decision reviewed? If so, what is the review process? And will they be notified?
11. What will CYSA do to ensure that the information concerning individual referees in maintained in confidence? Who at CYSA will be charged with that responsibility?
12. Will LIVESCAN records be destroyed in the event that a person elects to permanently stop participating as a referee in CYSA games?
13. Are there any members of the CYSA Board or the State Referee committee who have business ventures that are involved with the LIVESCAN program?
14. Will the LIVESCAN screen be a one-time event; i.e. will it only take place to qualify the referee for participation; or, will participation in LIVESCAN mean that subsequent activity is also reported?
15. Shouldn't someone other than the referee be paying for this?
16. How will CYSA know who is and who is not LIVESCAN qualified?
17. What happens if an association assigns a referee to a match who has not been LIVESCAN qualified?
18. Is the organization insured for the potential loss of data and damages?
19. Local police stations do not maintain a database when you are arrested other than a log book, how is LiveScan to be tied in with this situations?
20. Have there been cases where referees have taken advantage of young soccer players? If so, how many cases?
21. Reporting of detainment/arrest to registered parties, i.e. CalSouth, has been ruled by the United States Court of Appeals to be a violation of privacy. How is LiveScan able to work within this ruling?
22. Why should fingerprints be taken when the same info can be obtained by running our social security numbers?
23. What recourse does the referee have if LiveScan has a false-positive hit (happens all the time with blood work)?

Treasurer's Report, November 2008 (submitted by Steve Brandon)

At the end of my report is a November 23, 2008 screen shot of the WFCU Check, Savings and Petty Cash account balances as maintained by the Quicken SSBRA database. The balances are comprised as follows:

SSBRA Cash Balances		
	10/31/2008	11/23/2008
Checking	\$ 2,020.89	\$ 1,290.19
Savings	4,005.30	4,005.30
Petty Cash	71.00	82.00
Totals	\$ 6,097.19	\$ 5,377.49
Advances:		
Manhattan Bch	\$ -	\$ 3,900.00
	-	-
Total Adv.	\$ -	\$ 3,900.00
Checking	\$ 2,020.89	\$ 1,290.19
Savings	4,005.30	7,905.30
Petty Cash	71.00	82.00
Adj. Totals	\$ 6,097.19	\$ 9,277.49

2009 Membership dues payments are comprised as follows:

SSBRA Dues Paid Thru 11/23/08		
	Count	Fee
Waived Dues	12	\$ -
Regular Dues	131	\$ 7,860
Non Internet Dues	1	\$ 70
Bank Deposit Error		\$ 5
Total Dues Paid	144	\$ 7,935

The Manhattan Beach 7v7 Fall season is underway with the first billing of \$3,250 being invoiced and paid. On November 13, 2008 I issued the second installment of referee payment advances, from SSBRA's savings account, for the Fall season. Specifically, the second installment consisted of payment for 120 games to 29 referees and SSBRA's Assignor and Treasurer totaling \$3,839.10. Accordingly, I have invoiced Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation Department for \$3,900.00. Once Manhattan's payment is received, the savings account will be replenished and I'll issue the next round of advance payments.

Cumulative totals for the Manhattan Beach Fall season are as follows:

Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation - Fall Season							
Category	Cks Issued 10/11/08		Cks Issued 11/13/08		Fall Season Totals		
Games		100		120		220	
	\$	Cks	\$	Cks	\$	Cks	
Referee Fees	\$ 2,900.00	30	\$ 3,480.00	29	\$ 6,380.00	59	
Assignor Fees	250.00	1	300.00	1	550.00	2	
Treasurer Fees	48.00	1	46.50	1	94.50	2	
Postage	12.60	n/a	12.60	n/a	25.20	n/a	
SSBRA Payment Totals	\$ 3,210.60	32	\$ 3,839.10	31	\$ 7,049.70	63	
Billed To Manhattan Beach	3,250.00		3,900.00		7,150.00		
Net Surplus to SSBRA	\$ 39.40		\$ 60.90		\$ 100.30		

Since the last membership meeting, I issued referee reimbursements for CSL's October'08 No Shows - \$236.00 and additional SBS payments for a referee substitution and a scheduling miscue of \$27.00 and \$37.00, respectively. Lastly, while at the UCLA tournament on Nov. 15th, I obtained payment and issued checks on Nov. 16th for the referee fees comprised as follows:

UCLA Tournament		
	\$	Cks
Referee Fees	\$ 2,418.00	31
Assignor Fees	155.00	2
Treasurer Fees	-	n/a
Postage	12.60	n/a
SSBRA Payment Totals	\$ 2,585.60	33

In addition, as directed by the board, I sent an invoice to PSL - \$338.00 for the games that were cancelled with late notification (subject to interpretation) on November 2, 2008. Given the sensitivity of the issue, I noted on my correspondence that PSL should direct any questions to Ed McClure and/or Paul Kelley.

Also attached is an Itemized Income/Expense Comparison by Category from the start of SSBRA's fiscal year 7/1/2008 thru 10/27/2008. Once again, the difference between the two periods shown is due to the timing of Adult and Youth match fees paid to SSBRA.

