



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

September, 2009

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www.ssbra.org

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***NO RECERTIFICATION YET – MAYBE NOVEMBER?
FURTHER REMINDER OF THE NEW LATE POLICY.***



GENERAL MEETING: SEPT. 28, 2009

The following were welcomed as new members: Peter Iomenzo, Vince Amalfitano, Pete Elmore, Alexander Arita, Jon (“Jack”) Hailwood, Michael Hailwood, and Sue Pascoe.

Warren announced that despite his many efforts to have someone present at this meeting, Cal South still was not sure who to send to recertify us. They may send someone in November.

Bill went to CSL's president's meeting and reported on some of the new things CSL wants to put into place, such as:

- Consistent Instruction: having a Cal South instructor at every associations' meetings to instruct on some, pre-decided topic for that meeting (as determined by Cal South)
- Possibly extending deadlines for assessment – talks about waiving one assessment for one year (See Cal south website for more info re registering for 2010)

The issue of what SSBRA members think about its members reffing the PSL Over 40's through another assignor was discussed. Although the responses ranged from the fact that members are independent contractors to calls to “cut off the heads” of those that work with the other assignor, the majority view was that SSBRA members are independent contractors, and are free to do what they like.

Many responses were received discussing SSBRA as an association in general and what we should strive to do to ensure that we are constantly updating and improving our skills and that we are putting our best refs out there.

Once again, as what seems to be a constant reminder, the board reinforced that referees are to be at the field 30 minutes before game time and voiced its new policy. If you are not going to be at the field on time:

- Call Bill (*on the soccer line*), and then Larry Stern (if you cannot get a hold of Bill) to tell them you are running late **AND**
- Call your partners at the field to let them know you are running late.

If you do not do this, and you are replaced, you will be fined for the *entire game set*.

Remember the SSBRA Member Roster is available on SSBRA website. Log in using your email address. The password is “SSBRA” which you can then change once you log-in. Also, remember to update your personal information this way so the roster can then be updated.

This announcement and reinforcement of the late arrival policy stirred some comments from members about the futility of arriving 30 minutes early when – as might usually be the case – the fields are not ready or teams are not even there that early before the games. The Board's Response: This is our own “CYA” so to speak – because the one time when the field is ready and the players are there before us is the only time those that hire us will remember. And, its too late to find a replacement at five minutes before kickoff. So, to make sure we all represent SSBRA properly, get to the field on time. ***On time is 30 minutes prior to game time.*** And, make sure to have the phone numbers of those refs you are assigned to work with, and even those at the surrounding fields (at places like Aviation, Manhattan Village, and Crossroads).

The PSL Over 30's “No ID cards = No Play = that's it” rule was discussed. As were the proper fees, which are \$65/team – a rate that was negotiated prior to the new board's term and which will be honored until the expiration of this contract, at which point the board will attempt to renegotiate the game fees.

Be sure to know the CSL Rules regarding the Coaches and Administrators. A licensed coach is needed at all times; otherwise there will be no game (it will either end before it starts, or it will end when the licensed coach leaves).

Discussed upcoming meetings: Gil Weber will be at the October meeting, arranged by Lee Jordan and paid for by Larry Yee of Cal South. Live Scan will be returning in November – feel free to invite other associations to get live scanned at that time (\$15). Remember, you must be live scanned by January 2010 if you want to continue refereeing youths.

Bill reminded everyone to take a CSL books if they didn't already have one. Delinquent dues were discussed. Bill reinforced that we actually get a bit of a break with SSBRA dues because most other associations charge a percentage of game fees where SSBRA only asks for one flat annual amount.

Bill also said we've been really busy especially with CSL: In the three weeks between the beginning of CSL and the September general meeting, we had over 400 CSL games as well as over 100 of our other affiliated games for a total of approximately 566 games in the three weekends before this meeting – all of which were covered with a full crew! But, Bill did grumble that he had to do 7 games in one day.

As for reassignments, these should go through Bill or Larry. Stated otherwise, don't call another ref to take your place, just tell Bill or Larry you can't make it and they'll replace – or try to replace – you. Again, make sure you have the phone numbers of the other members you are reffing with and call them if you are running late.

Larry made an announcement about training for high school reffing. This was followed up by an email sent to all members with information about the high school referee training sessions.

The evening's training was conducted by Larry Savell who posed the following question (available at www.askasoccerref.com):

I was doing an over30 competitive match when the following occurred: White player is dribbling in the penalty area when he begins to lose his balance. Orange fullback sees the white player is beginning to fall and pretends to be tripped by the player and falls pinning the attacker under him. I blew the whistle and awarded a penalty because in my opinion the fullback simulated a fall in order to knock the attacker to the ground and fell on top so the attacker was completely taken out of the play. Of course the orange team was upset and felt I penalized their defender for falling. Could I call this a trip because the action of the fullback caused the attacker to go to ground? Unfair challenge? Or simulation (misconduct IFK)? I don't know what to call it but it certainly looked like a foul to me.

- September 24, 2009

This, of course, elicited many responses from our members. This is how the question was answered on www.askasoccerref.com:

We seem to have at least two infringements here and they must be dealt with in the order in which they occurred. We also need to remember that the referee must base the restart on the infringement that occurred first, rather than the more serious, unless the infringements occur simultaneously, which was not the case described here.

If we accept your description, this is the order in which the infringements occurred:

Infringement the first: The defender simulates a fall.

Infringement the second: The defender then trips the attacker.

Infringement the third: The defender then holds the attacker down.

The correct action here would be to call the simulation and caution the defender for unsporting behavior, for which the restart is an indirect free kick from the spot of the infringement. While the defender did indeed trip the attacker and then hold him down, these acts occurred after the simulation and cannot be punished — unless, of course, you applied the advantage for the simulation and then called the second infringement, the tripping. This would allow you to caution the defender for the simulation and also award a penalty kick for the tripping in the penalty area.

Based on the description, the referee could take either path, depending on what he felt the game “needed” under the circumstances (temperature of the match, behavior of the players, etc.). In addition, there is a third option — caution for the simulation, indirect free kick or penalty kick restart based on which offense is the basis for the stoppage, but then a second caution for the subsequent misconduct of holding the opponent down — which results in a dismissal (red card) for the second yellow.

- **USSF answer (September 24, 2009)**

What do you think?

WHAT THE BOARD’S BEEN UP TO:

BOARD MEETING: SEPT. 15, 2009

- Approved New Apps: Kilian Kerwin, Brian Wilson, and Mark Tau
- Reviewed Referee Observations
- Discussed ref recertification
 - o PSL Over 40 – responses to Warren’s Email re Rolando: Overwhelming response is to do nothing because referees are independent contractors and if there is a problem, we, as an association should try and fix it
- Discussed amount of communication SSBRA has with the different leagues (a lot) to make sure that concerns of each league are addressed. We have lots of communication w/the different leagues
- Discussed complaints, late referees, and no-shows
 - o South Bay Sports: issue of refs not knowing the specific 7v7 rules for the night they are refing
 - o Issued fines for no-shows and late refs
- Discussion re PSL Over 30s and communications with division commissioner and assigning those games
- Again discussed new late policy: call Bill, Larry, and refs assigned to work with if you will not be at the field at least 20min prior to game time. Otherwise you’ll be replaced and fined the entire game set
- CSL Rules: teams will only pay for the number of refs on the field – so don’t be late
- Live scan – working on rescheduling
- Pulmonary Fibrosis Contribution - \$100.00 (to support bike race to raise \$)
- D&O insurance: \$1m coverage, Steve got discount on our D&O premium

- Cal South Pres Meeting : 9/26 at 1:30 - Bill went
- Assignor's Report
 - o 1st CSL weekend went well
 - o Covered all with full crew
 - o Keep using both availability systems: Problem w/CSL's availability system –
 - o On Match Reports – Yellow Card should be indicated with a “C”
- Treasurer's Report
 - o As of August 31, 2009: \$7,369.84
 - Includes MB advancements of \$2,730
 - o PSL owes us \$84 for a no show
 - o DUES owed
 - 250 members, only 84 paid
 - Need to pay dues, otherwise, will be passed over by bill – dropped to the bottom of the list re assigning
- Training Report
 - o Recertification
 - Don't pay online for registration
 - Print form, fill it out, bring check to pay if someone shows up
 - WH to call Cal South – Danielle Bryant – to set up something for recert
 - o Gene Ogle – wants to do clinics, AR mechanics
 - o CSL wants to standardize training = each association does same thing = same topic
 - o November training preparation
 - Back up training prep for sept in case recert doesn't happen
 - o Possibly looking at two trainings per meeting
 - For new refs and experienced refs
- Gil Weber – October set
- Member at large report
 - o Welcome committee
 - o Put something together re welcome wagon – should have yellow, red, blue ref jerseys
- Lee:
 - o Some people are still not getting emails and availability
 - o Updated info
 - Revise fees bc caught some errors
- Possible South bay force tournament in January – talks under way

BOARD MEETING: SEPT. 29, 2009

- Discussed talking to Jason Cave (commissioner of Over 30's) and the board as a whole may meet with him in the near future to keep our lines of communication open with the leagues we service.
- Discussed PSL “No Card, No Play” Rule
- Discussed refunds to be issued to PSL teams who were charged \$75, rather than %65 per team.
- Vince would like members to send him their incident reports before forwarding them onto CSL so he can will keep the reports on file.
- J-League has no complaints, they have a youth tournament coming up.
- Discussed complaints and outstanding fines.

The profound stupidity of football

[David Goldblatt](#)

[30th September 2009](#) — [Issue 163](#)

A brilliant new book lays bare the idiocies of the beautiful game



Why England Lose and Other Curious Football Phenomena Explained

By Simon Kuper and Stefan Szymanski (Harper Collins, £15.99)

“Anyone who spends any time inside football soon discovers that just as oil is part of the oil business, stupidity is part of the football business.” Well, football may not spend billions of pounds actively seeking out stupidity, piping, refining and selling it, but as Simon Kuper and Stefan Szymanski demonstrate over and over again in *Why England Lose*, it is certainly swimming in the stuff.

For starters, take the case of the striker Nicolas Anelka, whom Real Madrid purchased from Arsenal for £22.3m. Multinational companies, like football clubs, spend a great deal of time locating and then transferring key personnel to foreign postings. When they do, they also spend a great deal of time and money making that reallocation as easy as possible: finding their staff housing, schools for their kids, and providing a variety of services to acclimatise them to new cultures and ways of working—on the grounds, not unreasonably, that they want them to focus on their job.

When you are moving young, often poorly educated, shy and emotionally fragile, inexperienced, young men who happen to play football very well, you might think this a useful model; not as an act of kindness or generosity, lord forbid, but because it makes economic sense. This of course is not the case in football. Anelka was left to rot at Real Madrid: for all the money thrown at him, when he arrived they failed to give him a locker, any assistance with housing, let alone any formal introductions to the team he was to be working with. Unsurprisingly, his performance at Real was disappointing. Didier Drogba spent months in a hotel looking for somewhere to live after

training with Chelsea: one wonders how much faster he would have assumed his current form if his move, five years ago, had been better managed. The list goes on. In fact, the situation is so bad that Nike, a real business, employs minders to look after its transferred football stars, well aware that left to the clubs their brand ambassadors are likely to suffer a calamitous decline in form and thus value.

Economic rationality is just not football's strong suit, and nor is emotional intelligence. As Kuper and Syzmanski demonstrate, the transfer market is full of obvious irrationalities. For example, scouts over-report blonde players—who stand out and stick in the mind—irrespective of their actual performance. Despite all evidence to the contrary, clubs also overpay for teenagers, for players of fashionable nationalities and for recent stars of international tournaments without properly assessing their likely course of development, their suitability for the football culture they are moving to or the latter's real long-term track record and value.

In fact, almost every mainstream football homily is revealed by the authors of this book to be hokum: untested, prejudiced myth spawned by an unreflective, anti-educational and above all closed culture. What other business would allow a single person to take all the key purchasing and personnel decisions unexamined and untested by the rest of the company? They certainly don't do that at Shell, but then Shell makes money while football and its megalomaniac managers pour it down the drain.

Kuper and Syzmanski are, by contrast, a highly effective and scrupulously rational team, combining the former's detailed and nuanced understanding of European football with the latter's sophisticated econometric analysis. With a remarkable lightness of touch, they demonstrate the limits of conventional thinking in football, as well as the real patterns of behaviour that shape sporting outcomes. Their statistical breakdown of English football spectators shows that despite the cultural centrality of the Nick Hornby-style of lifelong addiction to a single club, most of us are fair-weather friends with polygamous allegiances. Contrary to the myths that sporting calamities raise suicide rates among fans, they show that the unusual solidarities and shared communities of big football tournaments actually lead to a statistically significant drop in suicide rates.

As for the English football team, well, they do just about as well as they should. Taking the huge data bases of international football games that now exist, and using regression analysis—a statistical method that allows one to determine how much of a given outcome (winning football games) can be related to a other factors (wealth, population size, footballing experience, home advantage)—the authors suggest that England are in fact over-performing. And they show that England's over-performance is especially significant when one recognises the talent pool that players are drawn from is much smaller than similarly sized countries because there is, within the industry, such a systematic bias against middle class and educated staff. Of all the 34 England team members who have played at the last three international tournaments, only 5 came from anything approaching a middle-class background. Gareth Southgate is emblematic of the anti-intellectualism that pervades football culture; a man pilloried in the sports press for having the temerity to read a broadsheet. English football nationalists should worry less about the flood of foreign players coming to the country and more about the class apartheid that operates in the game.

I enjoyed this book enormously. I was forced to think about and reassess innumerable aspects of the football industry and its history. Yet, as with every attempt to apply economics to sport, and indeed to any realm of human activity, both the authors and I also reached the intellectual limits of the dismal science. When considering, for example, the debate over the distribution of resources between clubs and the impact of new money from sovereign funds and itinerant billionaires, the authors recognise that there are moral questions in play. They claim that they cannot judge the rightness of the case either way. And indeed none of us can, certainly not with the precision offered by regression analysis. But as fans, citizens and intellectuals, we are obliged to assess it in other ways. The football industry, as this book shows, is too stupid, too insular and too unreflective at the moment to do so itself; those of us that can should not bottle the opportunity to do so.

Soccer: Study reveals tell-tale signs of diving

12:04PM Wednesday Sep 16, 2009



British psychologist Dr Paul Morris has discovered four tell-tale signs that a soccer player has taken a dive. Photo / AP

LONDON - Flying through the air with chest puffed out and arms spread wide: the so-called "archer's bow" position is among tell-tale signs that a soccer player is faking a foul, according to a study.

A four-point referees' guide to "diving" was unveiled by British psychologist Dr Paul Morris on Wednesday, detailing how players make a spectacle of themselves to win a penalty or earn an opponent a yellow or red card.

The main obvious signs are:

- Clutching their body where they have not been hit;
- Taking an extra roll when they hit the ground;
- Taking fully controlled strides after being tackled before falling;
- Holding up both arms in the air, with open palms, chest thrust out, legs bent at the knee in an "archer's bow" position.

Morris, who specialises in how people show emotions and intentions, said: "Referees have a very difficult job and given the demands of the task, they do it remarkably well.

"We think even experienced professionals could enhance their decision-making by studying the categories of deceptive behaviour we have identified."

Morris, from the University of Portsmouth in southern England, said the "archer's bow" was one of the most revealing as the body would not make such a "peculiar" shape in a natural fall.

"In most dishonest tackles the behaviour itself does not indicate dishonesty, the deception is revealed in the timing and co-ordination of the behaviours," he explained.

"But one action is unique to a faked fall - the archer's bow.

"This occurs in many dives but biomechanically it does not occur in a natural fall.

"Instead, instinctively the arms either go down in an attempt to cushion the fall or out to the side for balance."

He employed more than 30 experienced amateur footballers to stage a scenario taken from a football coaching manual.

Attackers were asked to dribble the ball past approaching defenders and then deceptively exaggerate the effects of a tackle to varying degrees.

The study, published in the *Springer Journal of Nonverbal Behaviour*, showed that the 50 observers consistently judged the level of exaggeration correctly.

Referees and officials overseeing top-class matches find it harder to judge, as the recent case of Arsenal striker Eduardo shows.

He was banned for two Champions League matches for apparently diving to win a penalty in the English side's 3-1 victory over Celtic last month after going down under a challenge from Celtic goalkeeper Artur Boruc.

But the appeals body of European football's governing body Uefa overturned the ban yesterday, saying "it was not established to the panel's satisfaction that the referee had been deceived".

- AFP

WHO SAYS FANS CAN'T PARTICIPATE?

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/soccerinsider/2009/09/video_russian_fan_scores.html?wprss=soccerinsider

Finally, for those of you who want just one more *crude* laugh:

Next time you have a bad day at work think of this guy. Bob is a commercial saturation diver for Global Divers in Louisiana. He performs underwater repairs on offshore drilling rigs.

Below is an E-mail he sent to his sister. She then sent it to radio station 103.5 on FM dial in Indiana, who was sponsoring a worst job experience contest. Needless to say, she won. Read his letter below.

Hi Sue,

Just another note from your bottom-dwelling brother.

Last week I had a bad day at the office. I know you've been feeling down lately at work, so I thought I would share my dilemma with you to make you realize it's not so bad after all.

Before I can tell you what happened to me, I first must bore you with a few technicalities of my job. As you know, my office lies at the bottom of the sea. I wear a suit to the office. It's a wet suit.

This time of year the water is quite cool. So what we do to keep warm is this: We have a diesel powered industrial water heater. This \$20,000 piece of equipment sucks the water out of the sea. It heats it to a delightful temperature. It then pumps it down to the diver through a garden hose, which is taped to the air hose. Now this sounds like a darn good plan, and I've used it several times with no complaints.

What I do, when I get to the bottom and start working, is take the hose and stuff it down the back of my wet suit. This floods my whole suit with warm water. It's like working in a Jacuzzi. Everything was going well until all of a sudden, my butt started to itch. So, of course, I scratched it. This only made things worse. Within a few seconds my a** started to burn.

I pulled the hose out from my back, but the damage was done. In agony I realized what had happened. The hot water machine had sucked up a jellyfish and pumped it into my suit. Now, since I don't have any hair on my back, the jellyfish couldn't stick to it, however, the crack of my a** was not as fortunate. When I scratched what I thought was an itch, I was actually grinding the jellyfish into the crack of my a**.

I informed the dive supervisor of my dilemma over the communicator. His instructions were unclear due to the fact that he, along with five other divers, were all laughing hysterically.

Needless to say, I aborted the dive. I was instructed to make three agonizing in-water decompression stops totaling thirty-five minutes before I could reach the surface to begin my chamber dry decompression. When I arrived at the surface, I was wearing nothing but my brass helmet. As I climbed out of the water, the medic, with tears of laughter running down his face, handed me a tube of cream and told me to rub it on my butt as soon as I got in the chamber. The cream put the fire out, but I couldn't crap for two days because my a** was swollen shut.

So, next time you're having a bad day at work, think about how much worse it would be if you had a jellyfish shoved up you're a**.

Now repeat to yourself, 'I love my job, I love my job, . ' I love my job

Whenever you have a bad day, ask yourself, is this a jellyfish bad day?

May you NEVER have a jellyfish bad day! !!!!

Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

Regards, Bob

