



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

November and December, 2009

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

Editor: Deepika Saluja

www.ssbra.org

President: Warren Howell Vice President: Gabriel Goldsman Secretary: Deepika Saluja Treasurer: Steve Brandon
Assignor: Bill Cook Webmaster: Lee Jordan Training Director: Larry Stern At Large: Vince Del Monico

***MANDATORY TRAINING IN JANUARY
SSBRA REFEREES OVER 7,000 GAMES IN 2009!!!!***

GENERAL MEETING: NOVEMBER 24, 2009

The November SSBRA meeting was – from what I hear – uncharacteristically very well attended. Perhaps the appeal of finally taking the recertification test (which we had been waiting to take since September when Cal South first promised to send someone) was enough to pull everyone away from their pre-Thanksgiving preparations.

Bill had to start the meeting because our Prez and VP were stuck on that nightmare we call the 405 freeway. Steve passed out checks and the following new SSBRA members were introduced: Victor Guterrez, Raul Dominguez, and Antonio (sorry, didn't get the last name). We also had others, like Matthew Wong, who attended to get live scanned.

Vince thanked everyone for sending their reports in on time and asked that members call him if they have any problems and keep reports coming in on time.

Bill announced that the CSL season ended the prior weekend and that during the season SSBRA reffed over 1300 games – all of 3 of which were covered with full crews. Stated otherwise, SSBRA reffed over 1297 games with full crews!!!!

Bill further announced that the J-League was in its final weekend for the season and that Aviation would be back to its old schedule: the 7:00pm, 8:00pm and 9:00pm games (not the 7:30 and 8:30 schedules). So, be sure to check your schedules and show up on time.

As for thanksgiving, Bill said there was nothing on the table, but that didn't mean that something wouldn't present itself.

The next assignments to look forward to would be: J-League, Youth Tournaments, and State Cup in February and March.

As for the South Bay Force tournament, we didn't get the winter tournament this year because South Bay had a prior commitment with another ref association (Long Beach I think), but we may get something in March and the summer from them.

To make sure our refs are the best they can be, Larry announced that SSBRA will be conducting a few training sessions in January. While all are welcome to attend, Larry and/or Bill will be contacting refs for whom this training is mandatory. If contacted to attend, **you must attend one of the two training sessions.**

The training dates are: **January 16, 2010** and **January 30, 2010**. **If contacted, you must attend one of these two sessions.**

Then, the reason why everyone showed up, Cal South's Steve Elliot took the stage to administer the recert test.

Prior to the recert test, however, he had to inform us of the latest and greatest at Cal south. He said that Cal South has a new protocol for registration: Grade 8 requires a test, Grade 7 requires a physical.

Steve also announced that there has been a change in top of the Cal South leadership. Apparently Cal South wants to make home associations more apart of Cal South and will be sending another instructor for January. He then announced the following:

Law 11 – Offside Change

First, if the Defender goes off the field, over the goal line, without the referees' permission, that Defender is treated as if he is on the goal line and then becomes the Last Defender. This makes the Goal Keeper the Second to Last Defender.

Second, if the Defender goes off the touch line, the Second to Last Defender is considered to be at the place where the Defender left the field off the touch line.

The point of these rules is to prevent a defender from stepping off the field to trap an attacker in the offside position.

Law 5 – Reminder

Remember, when a player is injured, the referee stops play if, in his/her opinion, the player is seriously injured.

The Bottom line: the referee makes the decision whether the injury is serious enough to stop the game.

Procedures: Changes/Updates

Penalty Kick Signal:

- 1-Signal Foul
- 2-Flag across lower body
- 3-Then walk to the corner flag

Substitutions:

- Referees must whistle to restart the game after a substitution

WHAT THE BOARD'S BEEN UP TO:

BOARD MEETING: NOVEMBER 10, 2009

- New Member accepted: Patrick OMalley
- Green Card Sportsmanship suggestion – Rebecca Lozano
- Tournaments
 - o West Coast = March Tournament
 - o No South Bay Tournament this Jan 2010 bc SB had prior commitment w/other association, but they'll probably use us next summer
- Nov. Gen Mtg.
 - o Cal South written recert (Larry will prepare back up training if they don't show)
 - o Live Scan
- UCLA Anderson Tournament Recap
 - o They were happy, we'll probably do it again next year
 - o The Board recognizes that the tournament rules need to be updated and a roster system is needed because yellow/red cards have a bearing on tie breakers
 - o This was the 8th year we've done this tournament (since 2002)
- Board resolution re what to tell teams that ask for Referee's names
 - o Go through proper procedure: refer team to the league so they can talk to league and go through league's process to lodge formal complaints
- Discussed Complaints
- Member suggestions
 - o Some refs want the rules between the 7v7 leagues to be mainstreamed but we can't control that
 - o AR's need to run ALL the way to the goal line
- Refs showing up on time
 - o Getting much better, Bill and Larry are getting more calls from people who are running late - So we're improving
- Training New Refs
 - o Discussed class for new refs in January 2010 and the need for better monthly training for new refs = an internal program
 - o The Board is developing list of refs who need to attend the January training, but it is open to everyone

- PSL: Board is keeping lines of communication open with Jason at PSL-via email and on the field. We currently have a contract that has been signed by Jason with this division.
- Discussed Rankings and whether we need to re-rank refs. Board will form a committee – keep at least one person on it from last time, then few others, at least 3 members. Gabriel to chair the committee, board will follow up more on this at the next meeting.
- Dues: Steve deposited checks; all those being assigned have been paid. Will be dropping people from the roster who don't pay.
- Assignor's report
 - o Haven't had that many problems, which is great because we were doing 200+ games a weekend with less than 1% problems
 - o At the date of this meeting: we'd done almost 1200 CSL games and only 2 w/o a full crew
- Discussed Good Refs – Kudos to them!
- Treasurer's Report
 - o As of 10/31/2009 - \$8,309.33 in bank [All budgeted, Insurance paid]
- Lee – discussed possibly putting together a folder, with rules for all different leagues, will follow up on it.
- Larry – offered suggestions for people who can't ref anymore.

BOARD MEETING: NOVEMBER 24, 2009

- Cal South's Proposed Plans
 - o Send instructors to all association meetings
 - o All refs must attend 5 meetings
 - o Requiring us to send in min \$1,000 for instructors
 - o If we don't comply = they won't recertify us
 - o Board Decisions: wait for further information from CSL
- Live scanned 20 people tonight
- Larry – further discussion of January Training, more to come
- Timeliness
 - o Tardy refs and no shows need to let us know why. Contact us before we have to contact you – don't wait for us to contact you to figure out why you missed
 - o Assigning depends on this
- Proposal to add formatting to roster tabled till next bd meeting
- Rankings committee
 - o Paul Kelly
 - o Warren Howell
 - o Gabriel Goldsman
- George Heggie
 - o Health problems – will be retiring from SSBRA
 - o We'll refund dues to him

BOARD MEETING: DECEMBER 12, 2009

- Fines have been collected from some members, some others disagree with their fines
- Lee announced that he's resigning from the Board after 6yrs
 - o Warren praised Lee for the great job he's done with SSBRA
 - o The Board will have a separate meeting re his successor
- Gabriel praised Vince as member at large
- Accepted new member Eric Bails
- Discussed Complaints and issued fines
- Timeliness: We're getting better re refs calling 20 min prior to game time
- 2010 Assigning

- USSF Registration: Live Scan – cal south to let us know who's been live scanned
- Roster - Needs to be Pruned: Delete non-active and Designate USSF v. Non-USSF
- Rankings Committee determined, expect rankings to be completed in January
 - Committee: Paul Kelly, Warren, and Gabriel
- Cal South Clinics and Training – haven't heard anything yet from Cal South
- Treasurer's Report
 - End mo. Cash \$6,456.30
 - Collected approx \$3,000 from MB
 - Needs to close out for 2009
 - Needs to prep 1099's – only on actual fees received
 - Steve gets paid \$4 on each 1099 prepared
 - Dues
 - 191 members paid or waived = total \$7,800
 - Re amount of dues - \$60
 - Good deal, probably ½ of what other associations are charging
 - That covers insurance as well
 - We have lots of games and training
 - We are the cheapest association
 - Other associations charge 10% of game fees
 - Even w/only charging \$60 – we still have enough of a cushion in the treasury to make sure our members get paid in a very timely manner
- Suggestion re downloadable roster – right now, not going to do it
- Bill
 - December Tournament in Irvine
 - Season winding down
 - Finished CSL season with 99.5% full crews
 - **We've done over 7,000 games in 2009!**
 - In 2008 we did over 6,000
 - 5yrs ago we hadn't even done 1,000 games
 - We've grown really fast
 - And, we do a good job
 - We've really raised the bar/quality for our members
- Vince : Cal South recerts sent in and got confirmation of receipt of recerts
- Larry
 - **Jan 16 and 30 2010** – dates for mandatory training
 - If you are contacted re this training – you have to go = mandatory if contacted
 - Bill will send a list of people who need the training to Larry
 - Also open to people who want a refresher

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOSVVrj0WZo> - Thank you Gil Weber for “this hilarious video on the diving and cheating we see every week on TV.”



Short Hop From Cheating To Fixing...

Posted 23/11/09 12:36

http://www.football365.com/john_nicholson/0,17033,8746_5713795,00.html

Cheating is endemic in football. The game offers many opportunities to cheat and it is routine for players to try and take advantage.

So many players betray a sheer lack of basic honesty; they try to claim corners and throw-ins when they know it's come off them. They feign injury to get opposition players sent off or to disrupt play. They dive to get penalties or free-kicks, they obstruct and shirt pull. The nip, punch and elbow each other. In short they do anything they can to seek to gain an advantage and they will not admit to the crime until the game is over and the evidence is undeniable.

If such cheating happened in any other sport it would be considered shocking. If a snooker player moved a cue ball to a better position while the referee wasn't looking, he'd be considered utterly corrupt. Same goes for a golfer who moves a ball. Yes, team games are always going to invite more cheating - but rugby, cricket, hockey or even basketball do not tolerate the endemic levels of attempted and actual deception that occurs in football. If a cricketer scoops a ball up after it's hit the ground and claims a catch, he is condemned as an absolute bounder, Sir. In football, that level of cheating isn't really even thought of as cheating. It's just doing what it takes to win.

So accustomed to cheating are we that when a player does something honest - such the Robbie Fowler penalty incident all those years ago - it's hailed as an act of a saint. That's how warped the game already is.

In that sense, football's culture is innately corrupt. It tolerates cheating, sometimes even condones aspects of it. It's all part of the game.

So it's surprising that for so long, so many in football have claimed that the game is not corrupt in bigger, more lucrative ways; that match-fixing is a rare thing; that paying off referees is a practice for banana republics.

We have the occasional example of bribery and corruption in the past, and more recently in Italy and Germany, but everyone likes to think that this is little more than a few bad apples.

However, on Friday it was announced that the German police had arrested 17 people about alleged match-fixing and they considered up to 200 others were involved including referees and over 30 players in several European countries from Germany to Hungary and Turkey. Games in the Champions League qualifiers and Europa League are involved as well as many domestic league games.

So far, no English clubs, players or referees have been involved - but given the widespread nature of this corruption, it seems likely that at some point past, present or future, they will be. People in British football are not genetically less programmed to be corrupt. Perhaps they're just better at covering it up.

But then we've always kind of suspected this, haven't we?

Without, for obvious legal reasons, specifying any particular results and refereeing decisions, it's fair to say that every season, calls are made by referees that are inexplicably wrong; we've all seen them. Equally, inexplicably odd things happen in football games - terrible penalties, rash challenges, missed open goals, strange results and we've always wondered, hmmm now just how did that happen?

Clearly, football is a game of infinite variation and subject to the full panoply of human foibles and errors, so such oddities are always put down to the vagaries of the game. But are they always? This would have been said about all those games which were fixed. Those matches would not have looked any different to any other game of football.

It is in football's innate variables that corruption can easily hide. It's hard to prove but easy to suspect.

We know players are used to cheating; they do it all the time in minor ways. It is not a leap of imagination to see a few of them cheating in major ways, especially players who are not well paid in the lower leagues or even well-paid players who have financial problems. It's easy money and hard to prove you've been bought off.

Given those involved in this investigation have said they have uncovered the tip of an iceberg, coming so soon after the Thierry Henry handball, it really does begin to question the integrity and veracity of the game. Are we really watching fair contests all of the time in all competitions? Increasingly, it would seem we'd be naive to think so.

Who knows where these investigations will lead? People will say that it's not widespread - that may or may not be the case - but it doesn't have to be, because football is one body with many limbs. One infected part could eventually destroy the whole.

If a Champions League qualifying match is fixed, that affects the whole of the tournament. It is forever altered by that corruption. One bent keeper paid to let in two goals to make a bet successful alters the whole of the league they play in even if ten other team-mates are innocent. We already mistrust players' footballing intentions on the pitch - if we can't trust the results to be honestly achieved, the game is surely invalidated.

If you can get to a World Cup by such cheating as handling the ball, why not by paying a referee to make decisions to facilitate the likelihood of a favourable outcome? Why not pay a keeper to be a second too slow to dive for a ball? Why not pay a player to miss any penalties awarded? It's all cheating. It all makes the result of the game dishonest and dishonesty in football is a mycelium that spreads from top to bottom of the game.

Those with a vested interest in football are extremely keen to down play the possibility that match-fixing, bribery and corruption are anything other than occasional incidents because football is like a currency - as soon as enough people stop believing in its worth, it ceases to have any value.

Given the levels of financial reward in football, that gives all concerned a reason to hope the corruption is uncovered and purged from the game, but, perhaps more realistically, it will be swept under the carpet so we can all go on pretending that the game is legal, decent, honest and truthful.



Suggestions, corrections, questions, comments, and/or concerns: send me an e-mail at flagandwhistle@gmail.com.