



# The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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[www.ssbra.org](http://www.ssbra.org)

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*STATE CUP TO BEGIN  
A VISIT FROM CAL SOUTH. NEW REQUIREMENTS???  
A WARREN HOWELL ADVENTURE*

## **GENERAL MEETING: JANUARY 26, 2010**

Before making any announcements and getting down to business, Warren turned the stage over to Manny who announced the latest and greatest product: the “devastator whistles” which can be modulated, are very effective on the field, and are used in Europe. He’s selling them for \$10.00. If you need anything, give him a call. His information is on the roster.

Warren then took center stage with an announcement: Lee has resigned from his position on the board. The good news is that he’s arranged to stay on as “Webmaster” and maintain our website for a \$50.00 monthly fee (so we won’t be replacing the webmaster board position). Thank you very much Lee for creating a wonderful website, attracting AMAZING guest speakers from which I know we all have learned so much, recruiting so many members, and putting us in contact with so many different leagues.

Warren then acknowledged the wonderful job SSBRA has done. He noted that we do a LOT of games per season and tend to only talk about the bad things that happen. In light of the many games we do, the “bad things”

are a very minimal percentage BUT we want to strive for 100%, which is why we address the bad more than the good. But, it's good to know that we get closer to that 100% every year.

Warren then put the spotlight on new and visiting members. There was a guy named Pat who I think was visiting from the east coast. David Serrano, Victor Gutierrez, Hernan Lopez, and Jorge Quezada then introduced themselves.

Warren then spoke briefly about Cal South and Live Scan. He says that Cal South is updating the USSF roster to indicate who is live scanned. This is noted by an "Approved" notation in the "RM" column - indicating "Risk Management Approved." For now, however, the roster is still being updated. Contact Liza Wols if you got live scanned but it doesn't show up on the roster.

He then mentioned that State cup was coming up and that Cal South was expecting approximately 1600 games at 14 different venues.

Steve then took the stage and told us that as of December 31, 2009 we had \$8,522.27 in treasury. He then talked about Manhattan Village league: in the fall season we did 270 games for a total of approximately \$7,830.00 paid to refs (99 checks). He explained that he bills Manhattan Village once a month. He said that he paid a total of \$1,901.00 to the 24 different refs for the OC Tournament in December and that we are current through the end of the year.

Steve then explained the 1099-MISC forms. These are for fees from matches assigned by SSBRA, Manhattan Village and any youth tournaments. You must report if you made over \$600. Report this as business income so you can report the associated business expenses. If you reffed at South Bay Sports, you will get a separate 1099-MISC form from them.

Larry then discussed the training for new members and what to expect and what to bring. He emphasized that you MUST attend the training if you either (1) joined in the last year, or (2) got an email from Bill telling you to attend.

Bill then took the stage and talked a whole lot about state cup and what to expect and the rules for state cup. Since I got to the F&W so late, all that is pretty much irrelevant now, so I'll save some space and not report it now. If you really want me to include it, let me know and I'll include it in the next F&W, by when it will be totally irrelevant.

Vince then stepped up and told all new members to see him at the end. He then emphasized to remember to fill out a report for serious injury or foul play or some other major issue. Before or just after filling out the report, call Vince to discuss it. Then complete the report and send it to Vince. Vince will keep reports on file for our own good just in case we ever need them.

Then, Paul Berman (or was it Vernon – sorry, next time I'll ask people to spell their names) from Cal South began his presentation. He said that if we have ANY questions about anything he discussed, visit [www.calsouth.com](http://www.calsouth.com). He explained that the leadership at Cal South is in transition and gave us a quiz to remind us of what we may not realize. Here are some points to take away from the quiz:

- Play stops when decide the call, even if you haven't blown the whistle
  - o So even if you haven't blown the whistle, everything after your decision is after the play has stopped and is misconduct, not foul because play stopped
- Goal Keeper = only defined position in soccer (Law 3)
  - o Basically GK is defined as a player in a diff shirt because that ID's that player as the one who can use his/her hands in the designated area

- AR Signal after seeing legal goal that R doesn't see
  - o Flag straight up, eye contact, flag dn, run up line/field
- Types of cautions can give subs
  - o 1 – Dissent
  - o 2 – Unsporting Behavior
  - o 3 – Delay restart of play
- Game Disrepute Defined:
  - o Acts that go against the spirit of the game
    - Dealing with one or two players
  - o If 3+ players = mass confrontation
  - o Key concept – ref get situation under control before gets to mass confrontation
    - Basically = game control, preventative measures to prevent things from escalating

He then emphasized that we should all make it a point to review the “Guide to Procedures.”

Then he began with the reason he was there, to discuss the 2011 recertification process. The new Cal South leadership has implemented a goal of “improving referee standards, making association meetings more meaningful, standardizing training, and improving clinics.” To do this, Cal South has said they will ID and mentor youth refs who show promise and commitment. Cal South will also be implementing new requirements for recertification.

He explained that USSF requires five hours of continuing education to recertify. Cal South, however, will be requiring 10 hours of continuing education if you want to upgrade or go to specific tournaments. According to this new requirement, 5 hours of continuing education will only be enough if you want to remain a grade 8, anything else requires at least 10 hours. He then said that Cal South will be providing the instructors at our monthly association meetings for a mandatory annual fee of \$1,000.00 per association.

He further explained that Cal South will present a pre-determined topic every month – if you want to know what they are, visit the cal south website – at our meetings (with the exception of June and July, where the home association gets to use its own lessons because Cal South is “dark” at that time) and if you cannot make your home association’s meeting, you better get to another association’s meeting so that you can get your hours of instruction (because, according to him Cal South will be reviewing rosters/sign-in sheets from all of the association’s meetings to determine if refs have obtained their hours of instruction). He also stated that he expects us to engage in “active participation,” which, based on my limited experience with SSBRA, I don’t think will be a problem. That is one thing – for sure – we do pretty well.

When asked about whether Cal South would offer make-up sessions, or whether Cal South would provide an alternate way (such as on-line instruction) to obtain the required continuing education for those who can’t make the meetings, he lectured us all on our priorities and essentially told us that we have to make a decision as to what’s more important to us.

He then explained that the Cal South recertification process was changing. Now they will be recertifying in June and November at 3 different locations. Apparently, everyone who needs to recertify must attend one of these locations in either June or November and take a written exam at 8:00 a.m. If you are shooting for a grade of 7 or higher you also have to complete the fitness exam. He also mentioned that upgrading requires an additional 4 hours of instruction (but I didn’t understand if that meant 4 hours of instruction at the recertification location or something else). If you have questions regarding recertification, contact Arturo Angeles. And, keep in mind that all refs must pay for assessments: \$15.00 each AR, and \$45.00 for the ref, for a total of \$75.00.

He concluded with telling us that next month’s topic will be offside and that we should bring the law book, a pencil, and a coin or button.

He then asked if we had questions, which, being the active participators that we are, we of course had PLENTY of questions, comments, *and* concerns.

Maybe these pictures will get us ready for our offside instruction.



## **WHAT THE BOARD'S BEEN UP TO:**

### **BOARD MEETING: JANUARY 11, 2010**

- Met with Jason Cave re a specific PSL team and the seriousness of their fouls
- Had a few Disciplinary Hearings
- New applications – reviewed, discussed, and approved
- Discussed and assessed fines
- Board decided to keep Lee Jordan as webmaster for \$50/mo (Steve to send check every month)
- Bill reported on 2 meetings he attended for CSL,
  - o State cup coordinator meeting: starting Jan 30: No hats at all, Lots teams
  - o 2010 season kick off meeting: Warren also attended this meeting
- Live scan will not take effect Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, rather will be TBD
- Board discussed Cal South wanting \$1,000 from all ref associations
  - o To register for 2011 season, all refs will need to have 10 hours of formal confirmed training (10 one hour sessions)
  - o Problem is – doesn't have 10 sessions available
    - No meeting in July or December and May is our election meeting
  - o Cal south says they may be willing to do a 5hr Saturday session to make up hours
  - o Another issue: a lot of refs are happy w/grade 8, and we have lots of members who do not do USSF games so can we really use member's dues to pay for something that not all members will utilize
  - o Board discussed pros and cons of this. Was not able to come to a resolution as to how to move forward at this point.
- Warren talked with Archie at Manhattan Village.
  - o He's satisfied w/SSBRA and not going to require player I.D.'s
  - o Talked about serious foul play in 7 v 7 at Manhattan Village
- SSBRA training sessions for new referees has been scheduled: Jan 16 and Jan 30:
- Steve provided financial report and update on 1099 misc reporting
  - o Paid \$1,300 for Manhattan Village
    - Manhattan Village – in the Fall of 2009 SSBRA did 270 games (for approx. \$8,660 total) (b/t Sept to Dec 2009)
  - o Irvine Tournament: Steve has paid all for OC tournament - \$1,109.18 = 24 refs
  - o As of Dec. 31, 2009
    - We have \$5,363.27 in the bank
    - \$3,159 in receivables
    - Total = \$8,522.27
  - o Only thing hasn't done yet = cash out Cal South no shows
  - o Steve created receivables account, which gets members paid quickly
  - o Re 1099's – Steve gets paid \$6.00 per W-9
    - [Please note, this is a correction from the November/December 2009 F&W]
- Secretary's Report
  - o Provided update on membership roster (who is and is not USSF certified and who is and is not live scanned) and need to drop inactive referees. Bill will need current list to assign state cup matches
  - o Live scanned refs are indicated as "RM Approved"
- Assignor report by Bill
  - o Currently slow but state cup coming
  - o Received schedule for state cup – not using Bakersfield this year
  - o Might get some tournament games prior to state cup
  - o J-League, starts Feb. 20
  - o SBS – having problem getting teams for Friday's schedules
  - o SBS 11 v. 11 starts Jan 23

- Vince's report
  - o Recognition for George Heggie: Suggested to provide flowers (\$100.00) for G. Heggie's funeral = board approved
  - o Pablo Diaz – retiring: Recommended making Pablo Diaz an honorary lifetime member = board approved
- Larry's report
  - o Discussion of training topics for January's meeting
- Rankings – postponed till February
- Soccer nation expo – Feb. 13-14 (so no state cup that weekend)
- Members have praised SSBRA as compared to other associations (this is always nice to hear)



## *A Warren Howell Adventure. . .*

Taking a break from their normal SSBRA matches, Valle Aitobelli and the Large Member found themselves at the Playa Vista venue on a cool January week-day, ready to blow a whistle or two at a boys middle school match. Thankful for Assigner Chris Nevil's kindness in letting them be there, the game started, and a surprisingly skilled and intense match was underway. However, it soon became apparent to the L.M. that you can never take anything for granted on the pitch, as he called a corner kick on his side of the (two-man) field, which was also the same side as the bench of defending team "B". It became clear that the attacking team "A" was going to take a "short" corner kick, as player A2 came over to stand next to kicker A1. A defender B1 followed A2 over to the corner too, marking his opponent as he was taught. The L.M., knowing what he was supposed to do, instructed B1 to retreat 10 yards, which both A2 and B1 did. Satisfied, the L.M. waited for the kick to be taken, but before it could be, A2 ran back to A1, with B1 close behind. Stopping play again, the L.M told B1 to retreat again....and the same scenario happened at third time. At this point coach B came running over down the line and the following ensued:

- Coach B: "My player can go there because he is marking an attacker!"
- L.M.: "No coach, he has to stay 10 yards back"
- Coach B: "What do you mean? He's allowed to go near the ball to mark!"
- L.M.: "No coach, the defenders have to stay back, but the attackers can go anywhere they want"
- Coach B: "Are you sure?"
- L.M.: "Yeah, I'm sure"
- Coach B (loudly): "Well, that's a new one on me, I've never heard that before!"

Soon it was half-time, so the L.M. took the opportunity to relate what had happened to Valle. Valle said that sounds strange, but "wait till you hear about the 'A' sideline on my side. On every free kick, they were asking that not only do the defenders have to be 10 yards from the ball, but each of the defending B players must be 10 yards from any attacking A player too." Never having heard of a "super" free kick like this before, Valle set them straight. While the referees were still shaking their heads, a team A parent came over and informed them that player B3 was swearing at and trash-talking his opponents, softly out of earshot of the referees. He was told that the referees would look into it, and it was decided to start the second half before anything else happened. Several minutes into the half, another corner kick was to take place near him, and the L.M. called over player B3 to find out about the foul language:

- L.M.: "Please come over here for a second"
- B3 (after walking over): "Hi ref"
- L.M. "Have you been using foul language at the other players so that we cannot hear it?"
- B3: "Uh, ah, I don't know...."

Taking that as a "yes," the L.M. told him to cut it out, which he did as near as they could tell. After awhile the game came to an end, with Valle and the L.M. making a quick exit.

***GK gets sent off for . . . you tell me (I can't figure it out).***

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFA0OaP9zMI&NR=1>

***Presentation, presentation, presentation. . . This ref is really trying to sell his calls!***

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yj\\_tqGRabQo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yj_tqGRabQo)

**Does height matter when you issue a card? This article seems to suggest it might. What do you think????**

## Football referees 'more likely to penalise taller players', say researchers

*Study of more than 100,000 fouls show shorter players get backing of officials*

- [Peter Walker](#)
- [guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk), Sunday 7 February 2010 16.50 GMT



Tottenham's 5ft 7in striker Jermain Defoe has, according to researchers, more chance of benefitting from refereeing decisions in tussles with taller players. Photograph: Jon Super/AP

As [Fabio Capello](#) weighs up the relative merits of Peter Crouch and Jermain Defoe for his World Cup forward line, it is unlikely he will be taking into account the views of social psychologists. Perhaps he should.

Research on the apparent human tendency to associate size with power and aggression has shown that football referees are notably more likely to penalise taller footballers when they tangle with less lofty opponents, potentially bad news for the 6ft 7in Crouch but a boon for fellow striker Defoe, who is a foot shorter.

A study of more than 100,000 fouls in domestic, European and international football showed that the greater the height difference between the players involved then the more chance the referee will adjudicate in favour of the shorter one.

Academics from Rotterdam school of management in the Netherlands tested the hypothesis further by getting panels of football fans to view mock-up images of two players heading towards a ball equidistant between them.

When asked to speculate which of the pair would be more likely to end up on the ground, and for what reason, there was a clear bias towards assuming the smaller player would be the victim and the taller one the aggressor.

"You will always get moments in a game when the situation isn't very clear and the referee has got to make a fast decision. This is where assumptions could influence them," said Steffen Giessner, one of the co-authors. "There are, of course, lots of causes and effects taking place here. There is an effect with height, but we can't say precisely how strong it is."

Giessner has carried out research into height and perceptions of power in business leadership. This study was partly inspired by an observation by his co-author, Niels van Quaquebeke, that as a keen but relatively short basketball player he got the impression he was rarely penalised for fouls.

Without sufficient data for basketball the pair examined statistics from the German domestic league, Champions League and World Cup, and found that where players were between 6cm and 10cm taller than opponents they were blamed for almost 60% of fouls.

"It's very much about visible height difference. The effect is much stronger the greater the differences in height," said van Quaquebeke.

The researchers speculated that some of this effect might be due to taller players predominating in positions such as defence, where fouls might be more common.

But closer analysis of the data found this was not the case – in fact the greatest number of fouls were carried out by relatively small midfielders against other players in the same position.

The findings are likely to underplay the true situation, the authors say, as the fouls considered included a lot of unambiguous offences where height played no factor. Additionally, the data excludes occasions where fouls by shorter players were missed entirely by referees.

There is, of course, another explanation: that taller players really are more aggressive. The only way to sort that out, the authors suggest, would be to film a series of matches from multiple angles and analyse the refereeing decisions.

In the meantime Giessner, as a German national, has no words of advice for Capello. But he does venture a plan for his own country's football coach, Joachim Loew, when it comes to the combative left back, Philipp Lahm, a modest 5ft 7in.

"You wouldn't call Lahm a dirty player, but he's certainly quite aggressive. And even as a defender he never seems to have many fouls given against him," he said.

"If I was Joachim Loew at the World Cup, I'd be advising Lahm to get into the opposition penalty area as often as he can, fall over and see what happens."



Soccer South Bay Referee Association				
Income/Expense Comparison by Category				
7/1/2008 through 12/31/2009				
Category Description	7/1/2008 - 12/31/2008	7/1/2009 - 12/31/2009	\$ Difference	% Difference
<b>INCOME</b>				
Interest	\$ 13.05	\$ 3.12	\$ (9.93)	-76.09%
Membership Dues	4,625.00	5,275.00	650.00	14.05%
Fines - Referees	-	257.00	257.00	n/a
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 4,638.05</b>	<b>\$ 5,535.12</b>	<b>\$ 897.07</b>	<b>19.34%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Uncategorized	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	n/a
Assigning Expenses	-	-	-	n/a
Checks & Bank Charges	258.67	438.97	(180.30)	-69.70%
<b>GAMES - ADULTS</b>				
7 v 7 Leagues	1,039.14	10.98	1,028.16	98.94%
Men's No-shows	-	-	-	n/a
Men's Tournaments	12.60	33.89	(21.29)	-168.97%
Other GAMES - ADULTS	(38.06)	58.00	(96.06)	252.39%
<b>TOTAL GAMES - ADULTS</b>	<b>1,013.68</b>	<b>102.87</b>	<b>910.81</b>	<b>89.85%</b>
<b>GAMES - YOUTH</b>				
Kid's No-shows	-	-	-	n/a
Kid's Tournament	90.56	2,306.72	(2,216.16)	-2447.17%
Other GAMES - YOUTH	(77.00)	(161.00)	84.00	-109.09%
<b>TOTAL GAMES - YOUTH</b>	<b>13.56</b>	<b>2,145.72</b>	<b>(2,132.16)</b>	<b>-15723.89%</b>
Insurance	1,066.74	672.00	394.74	37.00%
Meetings	1,241.00	956.83	284.17	22.90%
Stamps & Supplies	62.52	20.20	42.32	67.69%
Service Recognition	-	-	-	
Parking & Exp Reimbursement	288.05	639.00	(350.95)	-121.84%
Scholarships/Awards	-	-	-	
Office Supplies	-	162.07	(162.07)	n/a
Tax Notices & Reporting	-	99.95	(99.95)	n/a
Telephone & Fax	216.00	216.00	-	0.00%
Training	-	308.94	(308.94)	n/a
Uniforms & Equipment	-	-	-	n/a
Web Site	-	-	-	n/a
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 4,160.22</b>	<b>\$ 5,762.55</b>	<b>\$ (1,602.33)</b>	<b>-38.52%</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 477.83</b>	<b>\$ (227.43)</b>	<b>\$ (705.26)</b>	<b>-147.60%</b>

*Suggestions, corrections, questions, comments, and/or concerns: send me an e-mail at [flagandwhistle@gmail.com](mailto:flagandwhistle@gmail.com).*