



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

March, 2010

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www.ssbra.org

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GAME MANAGEMENT: THE ART OF CONDUCTING

GENERAL MEETING: MARCH 30, 2010

A few of our board members were absent – Warren was in Vegas, and Gabriel and Larry for the Passover holiday –so Steve kicked the meeting off by introducing our new members and having them say a little bit about themselves. The new members included: Merit Shoucri; Patrick O'Malley; Chris Nevil; David Martin; and David Welch.

Steve then repeated the message we've heard from Bill again and again: ***go to the website for any and all information that you need.*** Only when you cannot find what you are looking for should you contact Bill. Keep in mind that you can access the roster from the SSBRA website so you don't need to call Bill to get other members phone numbers. Also, don't forget to call the soccer phone line when you need to call Bill about an assignment – specifically, when one of your ref partners is not at a game or if you're going to be late for your assignment.

The Soccer Phone line number is: (310)316-0808.

Vince then took over and explained that the SBS players needed to be checked in and that we have to be consistent with checking in players. Concern was raised about SBS players without cards – specifically that the SBS office often permits players to play without a card. In the event that this happens, let the board know.

The members then raised concerns about the fact that the refs should be informed as to the players in SBS and other leagues that may be suspended so the refs know who is not allowed to play. The members suggested that the board talk to the leagues about possibly posting a list of suspended players' names on a website or at least in an email to the referee association to keep the refs informed about the players' eligibility.

Vince then reminded everyone that we are each, individually, responsible for making sure that our information on the roster is correct and, if it's not correct, then we are responsible for changing it.

Vince then reminded everyone to fill out reports in a timely fashion if there is an incident at the field. If you are going to take a few days to file your report, then at least call Vince right away and send him an email with the information for the report while it is fresh.

Vince also wanted to know who had not received their 2010 badge because he will be contacting Cal South to follow up. He finished up with reminding the new members to see him for rosters and SSBRA patches.

Steve took over then and reminded everyone that SSBRA has liability insurance coverage for SSBRA refs assigned to SSBRA games by Bill Cook. He then touched a little on the treasurer's report, noting that he'd sent it out a few days before the general meeting and to contact him if you have any questions about it. He also told us that, as of February 28, 2010, SSBRA has approximately 210 members and reminded us that if we recruit new members, your annual dues will be waived for the next year. You can get credit for up to two years (i.e. for two members recruited).

Bill then took over and noted that he still has CSL books if anyone needs them and he reiterated the fact that all the info you need is on the website.

Bill then explained the assigning systems. At any given time, you can get games through two different assigning systems.

- (1) The SSBRA Assigning System. At all times, games are assigned through the first system – the SSBRA Assigning system. You are usually notified about these games with an email, which will then take you to a link where you can accept or decline your assignment. But, even if you don't get an email, you are still responsible for checking the SSBRA assigning system by going here <http://ssbra.org/list.php> and checking the date(s) for which you've given availability, and by then emailing Bill to accept or decline your assignment.
- (2) Depending on the time year, the second system will be one of the following:
 - a. The Spring League website; or
 - b. The CSL website.

Both the Spring League and CSL websites require you to log on to view and accept or decline your assignments

The Point, you only have to look in two different places at any given time to determine if you've been assigned a game.

Bill then talked about the upcoming tournaments. The Home Depot Center Tournament, which was going on that week – Tuesday through Saturday, with games starting at 7:00 a.m. For more information on this tournament, see the "Athletes Without Borders" below.

State Cup and National Cup for the olders would begin the weekend of April 10-11 with fields in Chino and Lancaster. Spring was going well so far, and Bill reminded us, that he cannot assign the Spring League games until Wednesday morning and that there would be no games on Easter Sunday.

Bill then made a note about female refs in the association. He noted that about 35-40% of SSBRA ref crews have at least one female ref on the field, which, compared to about ten years ago when SSBRA crews had no females on the field, is very impressive!

Bill then capped off the tournament talk with the Beach Tournaments. We only had about 6 refs interested in the Oxnard Beach Tournament so Bill said he'd probably give the Oxnard Beach Tournament to the Ventura Association. He mentioned that the Seal Beach Tournament was in May and that a bigger Santa Monica Beach Tournament was coming up in June. Bill noted that you don't have to be beach certified for these tournaments because, although the rules are a bit funky, they are easy enough to figure out and there is not much to beach soccer. The certification is more targeted towards Futsal.

Bill then reminded us that we get paid with checks for tournament games and Manhattan Village games.

With one final note to, you guessed it, use the website for any and all information you need, and to sign the Cal South roster and – if you remember them – include the last four digits of your USSF ID number, and after calling me out about my timing of putting out the Flag and Whistle (which, really should have prompted me to put this issue out sooner – well, there is always April's issue), the meeting was turned over to the Cal South presenter, Arthur Angeles, to discuss Game Management.

Mr. Angeles began with a caveat that this presentation is directed at MLS game levels and that context is important. So, we need to be aware of the game and level of skill in the game that we are reffing and adjust accordingly. The bottom line is that the game must be under control.

We can control the game by setting goals and to have fun. Mr. Angeles made the good point that we should ref because it is fun and because we enjoy it, and because enjoying it will be reflected in our attitudes on the fields. Context is important to keep in mind as well as far as game management is concerned. We need to know the game level, the skill level, the age, the teams – if possible, what might be on the line with this game, and whatever else may give us insight as to the game we are about to ref because this may help us determine how the game should flow.

Under "The Spirit of the Laws of the Game," we should not stop the game for trifling, insignificant offenses, or doubt. Foul selection/recognition, flow, and game control are important. There is always contact in this game, if the players tell you to let them play, they are telling you that they are ok with a little contact.

A lot of game management comes with experience.

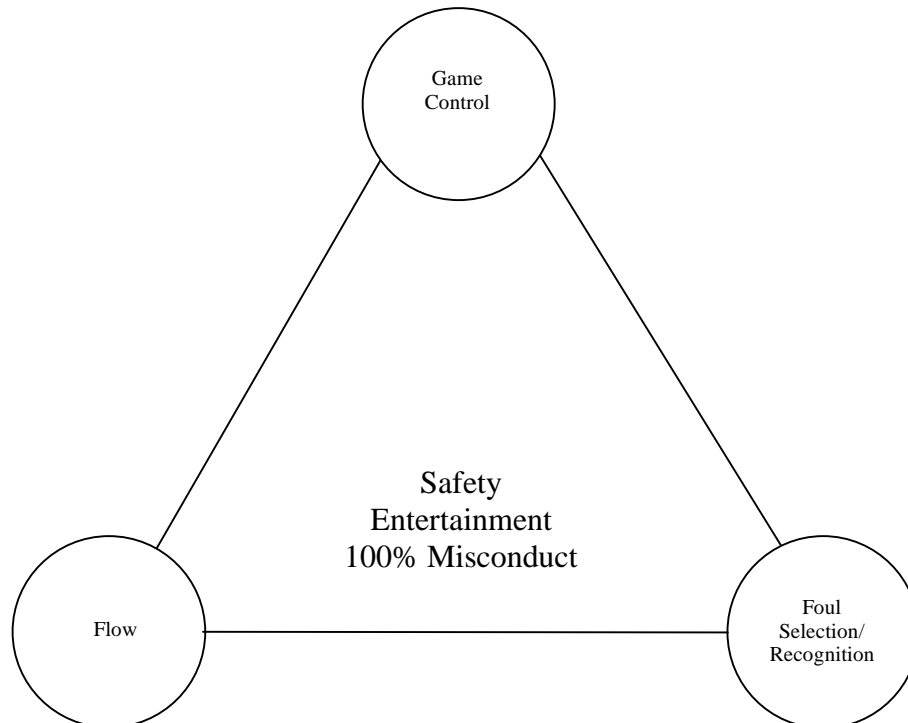
When defining what game management is, he explained that it is not advantage, but it is a little bit before advantage. Basically, there are some fouls that you don't have to call to ensure that the game flows properly.

You don't want to lose control of the game. You cannot let the game flow if you are losing control or if you don't have control. Warning signs that you are losing control of the game include: dissent, persistent infringement, the score – for example the underdog scores first, by the 47th minute, the game may change because of frustration and more aggression and you may start seeing faster play, faster restarts, and possible delays by the winning team.

Game management begins when you get your assignment. At that point you need to familiarize yourself with the rules of the league that you are about to ref and possibly review what you might know about the teams and their skill levels. You should also be prepared for factors that may rattle you.

The goal is to have more game flow and less stoppage by playing through trifling, minor, soft challenges. "Football is based on speed, pace & rhythm and if you interrupt the flow of the game, you kill the game's spirit." For example, the difference between offsides now and 5-10 years ago is that the AR must now wait for participation.

The point is that the game and rule application have changed. Take a look at the following model and explanation:



- Explanation of Model

o Foul Selection/Recognition

- Players will accept small/minor challenges
- Appropriate foul selection are ones that make sense given the following:
 - Location on the field
 - Type of challenge committed
 - Opportunity for successful results from letting the game flow – i.e. advantage
 - Eventual impact on the game control given the “big picture” of the match
 - o “Big Picture” = the tone sent by the players (Ref allows the tone to be set)

o Flow

- “Let us play”
- More the players play = less trouble you, as the ref, gets into
- Don’t interfere if you don’t have to
- Eliminate unnecessary stoppage, don’t interfere with the game
- “Feel the game” but don’t let the game go on at any price
- Proper time for flow – you can usually “feel the game” in the first 5-15 min.
 - By 15 min into the game you should know

Know Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct. There are 10 fouls in Law 12 that result in a Direct Free Kick.

- Any of the following seven offenses committed by a player in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless, or using excessive force:
 - Kicking or attempting to kick an opponent
 - Tripping or attempting to trip an opponent
 - Jumping at an opponent
 - Charging an opponent
 - Striking or attempting to strike an opponent
 - Pushing an opponent
 - Tackling an opponent
- Any of the following three offenses (100% Misconduct)
 - Holding an opponent
 - Spitting at an opponent
 - Handling the ball deliberately (except for the goal keeper within his own penalty area)

There are four offenses in Law 12 that the Goal Keeper can commit that will result in an Indirect Free Kick. They are:

- Controlling the ball with his hands for more than six seconds before releasing it from his possession
- Touching the ball again with his hands after he has released it from his possession and before it has touched another player
- Touching the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately kicked to him by a teammate
- Touching the ball with his hands after he has received it directly from a throw-in taken by a teammate

Keep in mind, the three guidelines in Law 12 to keep in mind when deciding whether to call one of the seven fouls. They are:

- Excessive Force
- Careless
- Reckless

If you chose NOT to call a foul, you must make sure that these were not present. If there is either excessive force, recklessness, or carelessness, then the foul is significant and you should call it. Keep in mind, law 5 tells us what we can do with fouls, for example – you can apply advantage.

As to the degree of fouls, there are certain fouls that can be qualified, which means that we can be selective with certain fouls, permitting the game to flow. The referee has the power to stop the game at any time so make the stoppage meaningful. At some point, the ref may have to be noticed to keep the game under control.

As a guide, you have to think about whether the foul is insignificant, doubtful, and/or trifling, versus one committed with excessive force, recklessness, and/or carelessness. The basic idea is to “conduct” the game so it flows. The referee should think of him/her self as a conductor.

In 2008, using this game management model, the MLS had the following results: 3.5+ less fouls per game; approximately 2 more minutes that the ball was in play; more time for players to exhibit skills; and more entertainment value.

The referee is accountable for the following:

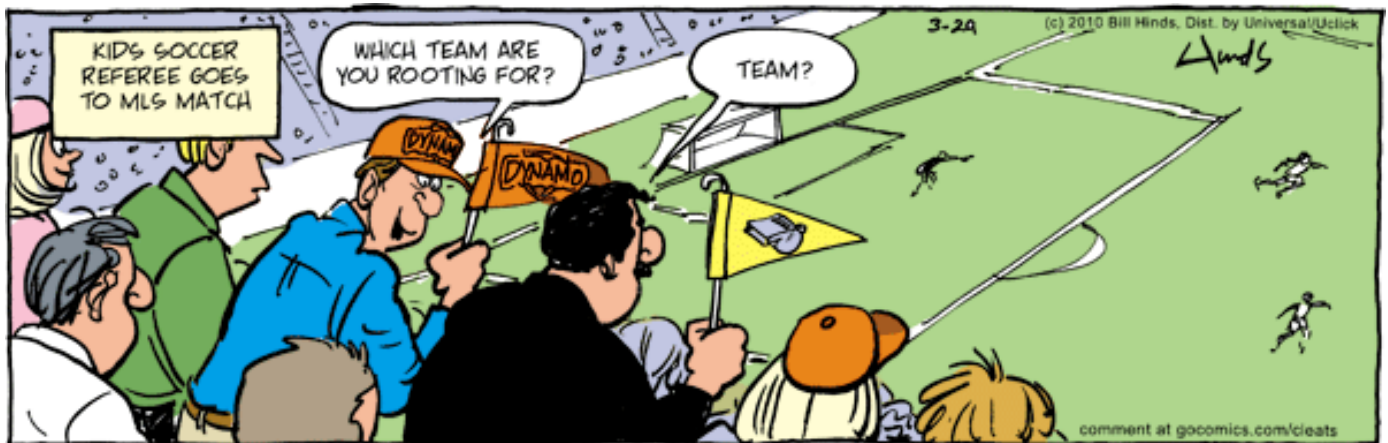
- The safety of players

- 100% misconduct
 - Can't be qualified, no discretion – if do it = disciplined
 - Ex. spitting, striking
 - There is no discretion to avoid these, if they happen, they are fouls
 - No grey area – discipline is clearly needed as mandated by the laws of the game

The Referee is NOT accountable for entertainment

As a referee, you should maintain a certain comfort level and know how to release pressure. Some examples of how to release pressure include: handing out cards if necessary, talking to players, getting closer to play (which means you have to work harder), taking a deep breath.

Have confidence and know the tolerance level for the game and explain to your AR's – in the pre-game – what you consider trifling and the types of fouls you will and will not call.



WHAT THE BOARD'S BEEN UP TO:

BOARD MEETING: MARCH 17, 2010

- New Apps – all accepted
- Larry – Probationary Membership Idea
 - To be included in Bylaws
 - Members on probation will still get games and will have full rights (i.e. getting games, voting, etc) as rest of members
 - Exception to rights – can't hold office while on probation
- Bad Boys
 - Shouldn't wait until 7:00 a.m. the day of an 8:00 a.m. game to notify Bill you can't make it, especially if you know the evening before that you can't make it
 - Let Bill know when you know – don't wait until last minute
 - We're adults – let's be responsible about this
- Good News: Refs are getting much better about showing up on time and/or calling if they are not going to be there on time and if their partners are late
- March Meeting
 - President, VP, and Training instructor (Larry) won't be there
 - Rest of the Board Members will run it
- May Elections – Who's Up for Elections
 - VP – Term not over, but GG resigning
 - Not going to leave association but doesn't live in South Bay so thinks that someone else in the area will be better suited to serve the association

- Board members made recommendations as to who could be successor VP
 - President – WH is happy to run again
 - Secretary – DSS fine with running again if members want her to
 - Member at large – happy to run again
 - This will be announced at April meeting
- Live Scan: Cal South says it will be ready by June 1st
- Cal South
 - We're going to keep track of how often we have to provide our own equipment
 - Some members are really upset about Cal South
- Rankings
 - Paul, Gabriel, WH met and discussed
 - Going to email rankings to Bill and Larry for further questions
 - Right now in 6 groups, ranked 100's through 600's - and this was tough to do
 - Needs to be finalized by board bc need input on lower rankings
- Contracts for different leagues
 - J-League: don't currently have one, may discuss one for the fall
 - CSL – they set their own fees and they're pretty proactive re fee increases
 - Manhattan Village: we have a new contract w/them, they're pleased w/us and paying us well
 - PSL: is pleased w/us, contract is good through December 31, 2010
 - Only problem really tends to be with markings of certain fields and players arriving on time. Jason emailed teams to tell them to fix fields and told us to let him know if fields are not fixed
 - SBS – WH to check to see if their K is up and whether we should renegotiate fees
- Treasurer's Report – accepted (treasurer absent, report emailed before meeting)
- Bill
 - LA Galaxy Tournament coming up – pay is 4 tix to a Galaxy game
 - J-League = kids tournament: 9, 12, 15 yrs old; 2 fields
 - Ladies Tournament possibly soon
 - Force Tournament – possibly soon (Bill will try to get a hold of Shelly)
 - Possible Santa Monica Tournament in the Summer
 - Beach Tournament
 - Long Beach – mid-April
 - Seal Beach – late-April
 - Santa Monica – June = 300+ games
 - Our members like the games, they pay well = \$16/game
 - Home Depot Center Tournament
 - WH to send f/u email to confirm if they want us – if so, we need the schedule
- Vince
 - Will contact Cal South about badges and at the meeting will ask for list of SSBRA members who don't have 2010 badges
 - Will make a point at meeting to note that refs need to check in teams properly so that other refs don't have to deal with “but the other ref let us . . . “
 - WH encouraged Vince to make speech re checking in properly and commended him with f/u with cal south re badges
- Larry
 - Probationary membership idea
 - Bylaws
 - Welcome wagon needs to be revised = either wipe it out or adjust it
 - Decided to wipe it out until we get a new one

- Need to wipe out bad info
- We need a back up of our website
- Spring league
 - Teams that want to play up – more time (ex. u-10 wanting to play 30min halves instead of 25min). This is ok if: (1) Teams pay appropriate fee for time played; (2) have time in b/t games to play the extra time; and (3) all refs and both teams are agreeable to extra time and extra fees.

Corrections to February's Flag & Whistle: On page 3 of the February 2010 Flag & Whistle, I apologize for the misspelling of Joe Robelotto's name.



Who's telling who to leave the match???

But, then again, is this the proper referee uniform???



ATHLETES WITHOUT BORDERS

Mexican government seeks to build its teams with competitors living abroad.

- By Kevin Baxter [kevin.baxter@latimes.com]
- April 1, 2010

Anthonie Linares hasn't been to Mexico, doesn't speak Spanish and doesn't know the words to the Mexican national anthem.

But as he stood in a tunnel beneath the Home Depot Center in Carson on Tuesday, with a pair of gold medals hanging around his neck, the 16-year-old from San Jose said he could imagine himself someday climbing atop the podium at a major international competition as a strange flag is raised and an incomprehensible anthem played.

"My dad would be proud of me," said Linares, whose father was born in Acapulco. "Knowing that I'm wrestling for the Mexican team, he'll probably be more proud of me."

The possibility was something neither Linares nor his father was aware of until the high school wrestler was invited to take part in the Sports Games for Mexicans Abroad, a multidisciplinary athletic competition for children of Mexican heritage living in the U.S., organized and sponsored by the Mexican government.

Mexico has long sought athletes in the U.S., home to more than 30 million Mexican Americans. The country's top two pole vaulters live and train on this side of the border, for example, as did five members of Mexico's national boxing team, a wrestler and two water polo players from the last Pan American Games.

But after Mexico's disappointing performance in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, when it won just three medals, Bernardo de la Garza, the new head of Mexico's sports ministry, made the recruitment of Mexican Americans a priority.

"There is talent there that can bring us medals," said De la Garza, who studied at UCLA. "We are all Mexicans. Living abroad is because of different circumstances. But they have all the legal rights to compete."

The Mexican Constitution confers nationality on the children of Mexican-born parents, making Linares and the other 500 athletes who registered for the Mexico Games event eligible to compete. De la Garza had hoped for a larger turnout -- competition in five sports had to be canceled due to a lack of entrants -- but said he anticipated growing pains.

"We cannot look at it just for 2010. It has to become a system. And as a system it will get better," he said.

At Tuesday's opening ceremonies, De la Garza read a letter from Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who pledged support for the Games through the end of his term in 2012. By then, De la Garza hopes the event will have gained enough momentum to continue no matter who is in power.

"This has to be growing continuously. We have to stick with this project," De la Garza said. "If we look at the history of the medals that have been lost because of the absence of a network to bring those Mexicans living abroad to compete for Mexico, the most famous one probably is Oscar De La Hoya. And now Henry Cejudo."

Cejudo, born in Los Angeles to undocumented Mexican immigrants, won an Olympic gold medal in wrestling for the U.S. Cejudo shared the dais with De la Garza at Tuesday's event and acknowledged afterward that no one ever approached him with the idea of competing for Mexico.

Not that it would have mattered.

"I'm American," said Cejudo, who famously wrapped himself in the Stars and Stripes after winning a gold medal in Beijing two years ago. "I'm very patriotic. I was raised here.

"I definitely would love to help out. I love the Mexican people. But I'm American."



What's your call?

The Answer is . . .





Is this what SSBRA members do in their down-time?

Perhaps this is a valuable lesson in Keeping it Simple:

http://sports.yahoo.com/soccer/blog/sow_experts/post/The-Michael-Jackson-spin-move-penalty-kick-does-?urn=sow,232257

There's synchronized swimming, and then there's this:

http://sports.yahoo.com/soccer/blog/sow_experts/post/The-two-man-bicycle-kick?urn=sow,236168



Ejected player tackles ref

L.A. TIMES 4/6/2010

Man, 31, is arrested on suspicion of felony battery after soccer game in Temecula.

MY-THUAN TRAN

A 31-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of felony battery after tackling a referee following a soccer match in Temecula, authorities said Monday.

Charles Haynes was ejected during a match Sunday evening between adult soccer teams at Patricia H. Birdsall Sports Park, according to the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

The incident occurred after the two teams had begun to fight and the referee, Gaston Manrique, 50, ended the game with 20 minutes left in regulation time.

As Manrique was recording the final score on the field, Haynes tackled him. Manrique was taken to a hospital and examined for possible spinal injuries, authorities said.

Haynes fled before sheriff's deputies arrived at the park. Police found him later at his residence in Canyon Lake.

He was arrested on suspicion of felony battery and battery against a sports official.

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