



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

June/July, 2010

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DUES ARE DUE!

***NEW PROTOCOL FOR SINGLE REFEREE GAMES
COMMAND PRESENCE WITHOUT USING WORDS***

GENERAL MEETING: JUNE 29, 2010

Warren kicked off the June general meeting with an appreciation and farewell to Gabriel as Vice President of the SSBRA Board. We then met the new faces, these included: David Welch; Padelis Sakellaridas; Dave Meisten; Ramon Piedo; and Manuel whose last name I didn't catch.

Warren then informed us that even though there is no formal cal south training in June and July, we will still get credit for the June meeting and the training we were going to get that evening was the same training that was offered in May.

Then Warren reminded us that our dues for the 2010-2011 season are due by July 1, 2010. You can give your dues to Steve or Steve can deduct them from your checks. No dues = no assignments.

SSBRA then expressed a warm welcome for a well known face. David Sena had been overseas for over 1.5 years and he's now back and was present at the June meeting.



Manny wasn't at the meeting so Warren then went on with the necessary reminders:

- Be professional
- Be on time (30 min ahead of game time) make yourself visible so that the other refs see you there
- Proper uniform – be properly equipped
- Know the rules
- Work with Bill – get your availability in and accept games ASAP
- We're a big organization – approx 230 members – if you mess up, it reflects on SSBRA's reputation

Vince then took the floor, informing all new members to see him for a roster and SSBRA patch. He then updated us as to the RM Approval status of all SSBRA members. As of the June General Meeting, 97 members were not RM approved. Vince said he'd try, once again, to make sure all members are RM Approved if you send him an email with your full name (the name you registered USSF with) as well as your address and date of birth. He also noted that new members must get registered and live scanned as well. He ended with reiterating the importance of wearing the proper referee uniform and emphasized that this does not include bike pants.

Steve then took over and was immediately a favorite as he was handing out checks for the Eagles, Copa, and Bruins tournaments. He did lose some favor, however, when he announced that he was still waiting for the Village and CSL no show checks. He then reminded us that he'd be deducting dues from our tournament checks if they are not paid before the July 1, 2010 deadline. I'm sure he lost all favor with that announcement. 😊 As a reminder the dues are:

- Payable to SSBRA
- \$60 if you have an email address
- \$70 if you don't have an email address
- If don't pay - you won't get game assignments

Gabriel was then given one last chance to stay anything but had nothing to say.

Bill then took over. He said he's offered our services for the summer, through labor day, and is waiting to hear from tournaments. He also said that 54 refs are waiting to get their single game fees and 25 refs are waiting for their forfeit games fees from the CSL spring season.

Larry then reviewed the SSBRA training for new members that took place on June 26, 2010 and informed us that another SSBRA training would take place in late August and urged new members to attend so they don't find themselves at the bottom of SSBRA's ranking. We were also reminded that any bylaw changes must be submitted in writing one month prior to the following meetings: the Annual General Meeting in May, the October General Meeting, and/or the February General Meeting.

Larry then explained that because we had our annual pizza meeting (aka the "Annual General Meeting") in May, and thus did not get the Cal South instruction, our June training was going to be what Cal South taught in May given by our very own Steve Elliot – a top college ref and the assignor for all south bay high school games.

Prior to the meeting, Steve had conducted a physical training at North for all those refs who were interested. I'm not sure who showed up, but for those who did and for those who didn't, Steve also provided the following information:

- Fitness Resources
 - From FIFA – “The 11+”: www.fifa.com/aboutfifa/developing/medical/the11/index.html
 - From USSF: [Referee Training Options](http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Referee-Development/Instructional-Materials.aspx) found about halfway down the page, under “Training Materials” on this site: <http://www.ussoccer.com/Referees/Referee-Development/Instructional-Materials.aspx>
- Additional Resources
 - 2009-10 Laws of the Game – FIFA version
 - Interpretation of the laws and guidelines for refs
 - Book: Verbal Judo: The Gentle Art of Persuasion by George Thompson

Steve then launched into the presentation: **COMMAND PRESENCE WITHOUT USING WORDS.**

Command presence without words is established by non-verbal communication through the following:

- Your eyes, hands, mouth/smile, posture/ stature
- Your fitness level
- Whether you look the part = posture and uniform and look like a team/crew

You want to make sure that through the above, the receiver actually received the message you were trying to send.

Reviewing April's Concepts, Steve reminded us to keep what we say short - 3-4 words; that the verbal message is the smallest part; and that we must broadcast our message.

Breaking it down, non verbal communication constitutes 55% of our communication while para-verbal communication makes up 37% and verbal only 7%.

Steve then spent some time showing us clips of different refs in different situations and had us assess each referees body language, what was being communicated, and whether there was a more effective way of communicating. Some aspects of body language include posture, eye contact – “helping a player up with your eyes,” facial expressions, and hand and arm gestures - ex. putting index finger to head to tell player to think about what doing. Keep in mind the different messages that can be sent with your body language.

It's important to broadcast your message so everyone – the players, coaches, audience and your assistant refs – know what's going on. For example, you can use your hands to set a player up – to show the player and the audience that the next time he's going to be in trouble so that if something happens, everyone knew it was coming.

Steve also gave us some tips. For example, as far as your body is concerned, in the event of a potential confrontation between players get your body – not just your arm – in between them and begin backing up – thereby backing up one of the players – to diffuse the situation. It is very important to make sure you don't just stick your arm out in a women's game.

Also, don't leave your whistle in your mouth. Leaving your whistle in your mouth is a bad idea, because then you can't speak then and you end up looking like a big man w/a pacifier.

Some messages you can send with body language include:

- “Yes, I know you committed the foul”
- “Oh, come on”
- “Take it easy”
- “Nice try, I saw you”
- “Think what you're doing”
- “No more”

But remember, don't overdo it.

Steve then addressed the question of whether “To touch or not to touch a player.” He explained that it’s ok to touch a player because it shows empathy but you have to know how to touch a player. For example, keep your hands away from a player’s hips and don’t touch a player if you’re angry or upset.

Don’t forget that command presence and fitness applies to AR’s as well.

In sum, there are 4 ways we communicate non-verbally using our body: through our

- Eyes/face;
- Posture;
- Hands/arms; and
- Fitness

Sleeve Length: To match or not to match. . .

<http://www.askasoccerreferee.com/?p=2452>

REFEREE UNIFORM SLEEVES

July 14, 2010

Question:

I was at a high level youth tournament this summer and we had an interesting discussion amongst the referees, as one of the referees had an affinity for the long-sleeved jerseys. My understanding up until now had been that the referee crew was to be wearing sleeves of the same length, all long, or all short. (This is frequently not the case in other matches I have seen such as EPL and some WC matches, and I believe possibly on a MLS match or two.) When I looked at the most recent Administrative Handbook edition under the uniform, I found no such direction. The referee I worked with at this tournament said a recent memo/position paper had just come out from US Soccer saying referees could wear whichever sleeve length they wanted, and just be comfortable. Can you confirm or put to rest the rumors that any such memo exists? Thanks.

USSF answer (July 14, 2010):

No, there is no such memo. Here is the reply from the authority at U. S. Soccer: “We have never sent a position paper on sleeves. It is up to each person to decide and they do not all have to match.”

WHAT THE BOARD’S BEEN UP TO:

BOARD MEETING: JUNE 17, 2010

- 5 new applications – all accepted
- Tournaments
 - PCSC UCLA – 5 fields
 - 1st year for this tournament
 - SSBRA fields did well at this tournament
 - Bill ended up coordinating the whole thing as far as referees were concerned
 - Valley association – good at getting us games and using us for help when they have tournaments
 - Laguna Niguel Tournament was covered this nicely by us
 - Discussed Tournament Fees
 - Range from old rates of \$1.10/min to State Cup’s fees of \$1.40/min
 - Tournaments usually do between \$1.20/min and \$1.30/min
 - Check-in at Tournaments
 - Common sense - If you have a rest before the next game, check the teams in before the game before you is over, this way you can keep games running on time
 - Copa Beach Tournament
 - Used to have it, now don’t.
 - But, if had Copa, wouldn’t have gotten Laguna or Eagles tournaments
 - So something good came out of something not so good maybe not so bad to lose Copa
- Bad Boys discussed, a few fines assessed

- Election Results discussed
 - We encouraged people to participate and they did
 - Bill and Larry reappointed – to be confirmed in August
- Bill says we're continuing to thrive, we still getting our old stuff and we've got new stuff coming in
- Larry says the Home Depot Center games – going to grow and get big
 - Dues and Roster: Steve will deduct dues from tournament/MB checks
- North HS
 - Art retired – he opens gym for us
 - He has replacement until end of school year
 - We need to figure out what to do for monthly meetings
 - Steve suggested his office
 - Permit for room at NHS needs to be redone in August
 - We want to stay in library not move to cafeteria
 - WH work w/Jeff at NHS re meeting space and we have some back up places in case NHS won't work
- MB 7v7
 - Fight, no ID, how penalize?
 - Vince talked to Archie about ID – suggestion about using Driver's License as ID
 - Most of board didn't like this idea – privacy issues
 - But we do need some form of ID to deal with issues at Village – i.e. fights, threats, etc.
 - Other solution - get rid of team that caused problem
 - But then they just reform under new name and different mgr
 - WH will call Archie to discuss – ID big concern
- Lomita City League
 - 2 days/week
 - Asked us to help with refs – want ref names
 - Bill said we can cover games for him – so Lomita league guy in charges will talk to city mgr to figure out if they can use us
- Cal South: Only about 40% refs are live scanned
- July Bd Mtg – restaurant mtg - possibly third week of July
- Summer Board Absences – WH gone during a lot of summer, he'll let us know
 - Financial Audit - After books are closed – August
- Steve's Report
 - \$5,738.71 – end May
 - J-League = no shows sent over
 - Remind M.Benjamin about no-shows and forfeit
 - Big bill paid – ref insurance \$2,300
 - 3 tournaments, 40 refs – we'll get dues out of that too
 - We need to collect dues
 - At Annual General Meeting at Lamppost - \$1,005.00
 - Budget – we'll end 2011 with \$186.80 in the general fund
 - Reflects 170 paid refs (\$10,200 in referee member fees)
 - Also includes the \$1,000 for Cal South and \$600 (year - \$50/mo) to Lee for web manager stuff
 - Budget also includes training money based on what SSBRA spent last year on training – approx \$600
 - Hopefully will be more than \$186 because of new members
 - UCLA check expected soon
 - Formal resolution to accept budget, moved to accept, second, budget unanimously approved by board
- Vince: All live scanned people should be reflecting as RM Approved
- Larry
 - Training for June gen mtg
 - Steve Elliot – what Cal South did in May
 - 6pm physical training before for those interested
 - June 26 training discussed

- Should have a bill for the Advise to Refs and Procedures books distributed at the training sessions
- Bill: Invoiced all tournaments to date

BOARD MEETING FOLLOWING GENERAL MEETING

- Training class June 26 – 12 people showed up and we had 5 instructors
 - Is it cost effective to do the August one?
- Possible charge for new members – a little more to cover training costs
 - We may have to do this in a bylaw change
 - Steve's idea: charge the extra amount for new members and if come to clinic that extra amount is refunded
 - Check bylaws to see what we'd have to change
- July Bd Mtg = July 20th
- FW spotlight on old/young refs

BOARD MEETING: July 20, 2010

- Toast Ralph as new VP
- No New apps
- Warren went over highlights of meeting with Peter Mikkelsen on July 19, 2010
 - Really good
 - Discussed how to become a FIFA ref
 - Discussed some of the World Cup games/calls
 - Lots of SSBRA refs were there (check out the pictures below, I'm sure you'll recognize a few faces)
 - We'll send Peter a SSBRA patch and try and keep him as a contact so when he's back in town we can try and get him as a speaker
 - He should be back next year, WH will keep in contact with him
- Manny's Dues
 - Bd unanimous decision to waive Manny's dues because he contributes so much to SSBRA and he doesn't even do games
 - Steve will send him a check refunding his dues with letter that board has elected to waive his dues for his continued contribution to SSBRA
- Reappointment of Bill and Larry: 1st agenda item at August meeting
- Tournaments
 - Potential New tournament in Santa Monica in August, but not sure yet
 - Force Tournament
 - Bill went to the Force board meeting and they've signed up with us for the January Tournament – second week of Jan, 25 fields
 - Our first big tournament
 - Ages – Through U14
- "Bad Boys" – 4 in the first 19 days of July
 - Dealing with Bad Boys
 - In the first 19 days of July, 4 refs were no-shows or late, we need a better solution
 - Point – to make sure SSBRA doesn't miss games and look bad in front of customer because refs don't show up on time, or just don't show up at all
 - **Solution: single ref games (aka one ref only)(only (Aviation, Crossroads, Village, CSL single ref games)**
 - **Call Bill ½ hour (30min) before the game to let him know your status – i.e. at the field, on the way, etc**
 - **If Bill doesn't hear from you 30min before game time, you will be replaced and/or fined and suspended if necessary**
 - **This "Single Ref Game Call 30 min Before" policy goes into effect Monday, July 26, 2010.** Bill will send email about this
- Steve
 - End Fiscal Year Report
 - Append report, post-closing entries, postage, petty cash

- \$3,664.67 at June 30, 2010 plus Manhattan Village \$7,300
- End year – net approx \$400.00
- Breakdown basically even for the year
- We have the cash flow and reserve we need to pay checks quicker and we're not making money which is good
- Not including Aviation, we had about \$80,000 for the year
- Collecting dues
 - Dues are trickling in and tournaments are coming so dues can be deducted from tournament checks (not partial dues are not deducted from checks – all or nothing re deduction of dues from checks)
- Financial Audit
 - Scheduled for sometime later this year – will know more in August
 - T. Mallen to do audit
- Cal South Invoice: only provided 8 months of instruction, not 10. Waiting approval of invoice
- August Board Meeting - May time it for after the CSL meeting
- North High – permit re-signed by Warren
- Cal South President's Meeting: Ralph and Steve to go July 31
- Vince
 - Discussed RM approval status for all refs and status of USSF certification of SSBRA members – this is the last Vince is dealing with it. If you don't let him know now, you're on your own to figure this out.
 - Discussed issue of not having cards/id's at Aviation and lack of staff at Aviation to police requirement for ID cards → WH to write letter to Dennis
- Larry
 - August 28th training at North
 - Idea: Do we want to get a list of people who want to upgrade and put info together and possibly offer advanced training?
 - Idea for Flag and Whistle: Profile older and younger refs
- Ralph
 - Important that members know they can communicate with the board as to any issues/problems they may have with other refs. Ok to report difficulties
 - Will discuss this at august meeting



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An Evening with Peter Mikkelsen

Posted By [Jason Sholl](#) On July 21, 2010 @ 4:00 pm In [World Cup 2010](#) | [2 Comments](#)



Peter Mikkelsen polls attendees with a show of hands at the SoccerOne Peter Mikkelsen Referee Event at the Veterans Memorial Park in Culver City, CA on July 19, 2010. (PROREFEREE/Jason Sholl)

CULVER CITY, CA – Over 125 referees attended a special presentation by FIFA dignitary Peter Mikkelsen on July 19, 2010 in Culver City, CA. Sponsored by SoccerOne (www.soccerone.com) with a generous meeting space, refreshments, and a raffle for referee supplies, the event came on the heels of the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Mikkelsen shared insights from his spectacular career as a FIFA Referee and his latest experiences on the FIFA Referee Committee.

Peter Mikkelsen lives in Copenhagen, Denmark and began officiating as a hobby in 1975 at age 15. He entered the ranks of the Danish Premier League when he was 23 years old and became Denmark's youngest FIFA Referee in 1985 at age 25. In 1990 at age 30, he became the youngest referee selected to officiate at the World Cup in Italy. This was followed by the 1992 EURO Championship in Sweden, 1994 USA World Cup, and the 1996 EURO Championship in England. He retired from officiating international soccer in 1998 and served as a FIFA Referee Instructor from 1998 to 2006. Since 2007, he continues to serve FIFA as a member of the Referee Committee.

Throughout his presentation, Mikkelsen highlighted his delights and misfortunes in his career. He highlighted a moment in the Italy 1990 FIFA World Cup in the semifinal match between Italy and Argentina. Peter was the assistant referee along with Michal Listkiewicz of Poland and referee Michel Vautrot of France. Fifteen minutes into extra time, he witnessed Argentinean midfielder Ricardo Giusti elbow Roberto Baggio. He signaled the foul and communicated to Vautrot to give a red card to send off Giusti. Argentina continued the match with 10 men and overcame Italy to earn a spot in the championship.

GOAL LINE TECHNOLOGY

In Europe, Mikkelsen is famous for the 1996 EURO match between Romania and Bulgaria where

a goal for Romania was not awarded after the ball clearly crossed the goal line. It is the exact same situation that England forward Frank Lampard faced at this year's FIFA World Cup in South Africa. Needless to say, Mikkelsen became the expert on goal line technology in the years since his match.

He shared insight on the technology Adidas has pitched to FIFA over the years. A chip is implanted into the game ball and signals the referee's watch when the ball completely crosses the goal line for a goal. The referee still has to blow the whistle and make the call for a goal to be allowed. The first few shots into the goal signaled the referee's watch that a goal was scored. When other shots missed or hit the side netting, the device incorrectly signaled a goal had been scored. After several tests by Adidas, FIFA abandoned a technology solution while hundreds of other companies continue to plead to demonstrate their products. He is optimistic that there may be a product in the future that gains FIFA approval.



Peter Mikkelsen gestures to attendees at the SoccerOne Peter Mikkelsen Referee Event at the Veterans Memorial Park in Culver City, CA on July 19, 2010. (PROREFEREE/Jason Sholl)

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANTS

Mikkelsen supports the idea of additional assistant referees to help with fouls in the penalty area and observe if a goal has been scored. There still could be trouble if the additional referee is screened from play or out of position. The Europa League test program with additional assistant referees will continue into 2010-2011 along with the upcoming UEFA Champions League season.

THE ROAD TO THE WORLD CUP

Mikkelsen continues his third year serving the FIFA Referee Committee and was fresh from the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa. In great detail, he explained the process at FIFA for the preparation, selection and assignment of referees at the World Cup.

The Referee Committee prepared their referee selection after the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany. They selected 50 trios consisting of a referee and two assistant referees to work together over the next three years. FIFA developed an electronic training platform to track and monitor the progress of these officials and the various tests they had to successfully complete. The program also included psychological, mental, and energy training components. If any one of the members of the trio failed the requirements, the entire trio would be eliminated from World Cup consideration.

One of the new requirements is English proficiency in order to communicate during the match. FIFA also wanted to see referees complete the twelve-minute fitness test in 12 laps with the minimum passing score of 10 laps. Physical tests were performed by each confederation to allow the best performance to be recorded. In addition to the physical tests, FIFA monitored the performance of these referee teams within their Confederation at the Olympics and at FIFA Youth World Cups. In the fall of 2009, FIFA began to reduce the number of trios based on results from the training program. The final selection of 30 trios took place in February 2010. One trio was dropped just before the World Cup, resulting in four teams from the AFC, three from the CAF, six from CONMEBOL, four from CONCACAF, two from the OFC and ten from UEFA.



Peter Mikkelsen outlines his officiating career at the SoccerOne Peter Mikkelsen Referee Event at the Veterans Memorial Park in Culver City, CA on July 19, 2010. (PROREFEREE/Jason Sholl)

regardless of their assignments or length of stay in South Africa. This year's 30-day salary for a FIFA Referee or Assistant Referee was \$50,000.

LIFE FOR WORLD CUP REFEREES

Officials were housed at a resort outside Pretoria, South Africa for the entire World Cup. Each day consisted of physical and technical training, mental preparation, energy management, massages, spas, rest and recovery. The referees were required to see every game at the local Pretoria stadium or on live television. All the referees attended group debriefings using DVD and self-evaluations.

When Mikkelsen attended the 1990 FIFA World Cup in Italy, officials were all paid the same salary of \$2,000 for their work in the entire tournament. Everyone served equal status regardless if you officiated five games or none. In the 2010 FIFA World Cup, officials were still paid the same

REFEREE DECISIONS

The FIFA Referee Committee tracked all the referee decisions in the tournament and was pleased with the progress since the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany.

This year's tournament had 142 goals correctly awarded and 3 goals incorrectly allowed. Thirteen goals were correctly disallowed for offside – a 100% accuracy rating. Two goals were incorrectly disallowed. The overall correct percentage of referee decisions was 96.95% and 3.05% incorrect, an extremely small margin of error when compared to the number of follies by players.

Out of 658 shots on goal, 5 resulted in goal line decisions made by assistant referees. Four were correct, and the one incorrect decision occurred in the Germany/England match when Frank Lampard's shot crossed the goal line, but was scooped out by German goalkeeper Manuel Neuer. As a result, FIFA sent home Uruguayan referee Jorge Larrionda and his team.



Attendees ask Peter Mikkelsen some questions during a break at the SoccerOne Peter Mikkelsen Referee Event at the Veterans Memorial Park in Culver City, CA on July 19, 2010. (PROREFEREE/Jason Sholl)

There were 60 penalty area incidents in this World Cup. Fifteen penalty kicks were awarded correctly by the referees – another 100% accuracy rating. Forty-five incidents in the penalty area did not result in the referees awarding a penalty kick. Forty of these decisions were correct, but five were incorrect and should have been awarded.

Despite the excessive media attention on yellow and red cards, there was a reduction in game misconduct from the previous World Cup. At the 2006 FIFA World Cup in Germany, there was an average of 4.8 yellow cards and 0.44 red cards per match. This year's averages were 3.7 yellow cards and 0.26 red cards per match.

MIKKELSEN'S FUTURE

At the conclusion of the 2010 FIFA World Cup Final, Mikkelsen flew from South Africa to Los Angeles, CA to join his family on vacation. He is married with a teenage son and works for the Human Relations department at F-Group, a leading retail electronics chain in Denmark. On occasion, he picks up his whistle to volunteer as a referee at his son's soccer games.

The FIFA Referee Committee will begin the process over the next three to six months to identify and invite FIFA Referee teams to begin training for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

Recent headlines about additional assistant referees in UEFA Europa League and Champions League raise speculation that there may be bigger referee teams or additional game assignments if the program is approved for the World Cup.

Peter Mikkelsen will likely continue his Referee Committee service for international soccer and the advancement of high-level officiating. He plans to share future video training components and FIFA Instruction to help raise the education and experience level of referees worldwide.



Attendees applaud and thank Peter Mikkelsen for his presentation at the SoccerOne Peter Mikkelsen Referee Event at the Veterans Memorial Park in Culver City, CA on July 19, 2010. (PROREFEREE/Jason Sholl)

View more photos from this event: <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=235656&id=155412031517&l=547766d60c>

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Football, Futbol, or Soccer???

It's football to you, soccer to me

By [Martin Rogers](#), Yahoo! Sports jul 1, 16:33 EDT

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JOHANNESBURG – No matter how much the United States continues to emerge as a competitive World Cup nation, there is little doubt that the international perception of American soccer will always be doused with suspicion. The roots of calling the beautiful game "soccer" started in a surprising place.

Why? Because Americans don't even call the sport by its proper name, of course. They don't call it "football." They call it "soccer." In the USA, football is that game that dominates winter Sundays and features Lycra, helmets and men so large they should come with their own zip code.

Elsewhere, football is football. The round-ball sport, the beautiful game, with its biggest prize to be handed out here on July 11. Soccer? Pah, a silly American term created by a nation that has its own national obsession.

No country has been snottier toward the USA's use of the term "soccer" than England. Before the Group C opener between the two sides in Rustenburg, the Sun newspaper even ran a spoof front page urging Fabio Capello's side to win the "soccerball world series."

But let's take a halftime break here.

Coupled with their team's humiliating exit from the World Cup it might be another rude awakening to the Brits that soccer isn't an American term, it is actually an English one. And it isn't some modern fad that shows disrespect to the world's most popular sport, it dates back to the earliest days of the game's professional history.

Indeed, until the last few decades, even Englishmen would routinely refer to their favorite pastime as soccer, just as often as they would say football. Clive Toye, an Englishman who moved to the U.S. and became known as the father of modern American soccer, bringing Brazilian legend Pele to play for the New York Cosmos, takes up the story. "Soccer is a synonym for football," said Toye, who helped launch the North American Soccer League in the late 1960s. "And it has been used as such for more years than I can count. When I was a kid in England and grabbed a ball to go out and play ... I would just as easily have said: 'Let's have a game of soccer' as I would use the word 'football' instead. And I didn't start it."

To trace the origin of "soccer" we must go all the way back to 1863, and a meeting of gentlemen at a London pub, who congregated with the purpose of standardizing the rules of "football," which was in its infant years as an organized sport but was growing rapidly in popularity. Those assembled became the founding members of the Football Association (which still oversees the game in England to this day). And they decided to call their code Association Football, to differentiate it from Rugby Football.

A quirk of British culture is the permanent need to familiarize names by shortening them. "My friend Brian Johnston was Johnners," said Toye. "They took the third, fourth and fifth letters of Association and called it SOCCer. So there you are." So forget that English condescension and carry on calling it soccer, safe in the knowledge that you're more in tune with the roots of the sport than those mocking Brits.



The Name of the Game

by [Hendrik Hertzberg](#) July 12, 2010

Do Americans hate football? Not regular football, of course. Not football as in first and ten, going long, late hits, special teams, pneumatic cheerleaders in abbreviated costumes, serial brain concussions—the game that every American loves, apart from a few, uh, soreheads. Not that one. The other one. The one whose basic principle of play is the kicking of a ball by a foot. The one that the rest of the world calls “football,” except when it’s called (for example) futbal, futball, fútbol, futebol, fotbal, fótboldi, fußball, or (as in Finland) *jalkapallo*, which translates literally as “football.” That one.

The question arises now—as it has arisen periodically for eight decades—on account of the World Cup, the quadrennial global tournament of the sport that goes here by the name of soccer. “Soccer,” by the way, is not some Yankee neologism but a word of impeccably British origin. It owes its coinage to a domestic rival, rugby, whose proponents were fighting a losing battle over the football brand around the time that we were preoccupied with a more sanguinary civil war. Rugby’s nickname was (and is) ruggie, and its players are called ruggers—a bit of upper-class twittery, as in “champers,” for champagne, or “preggers,” for enceinte. “Soccer” is ruggie’s equivalent in Oxbridge-speak. The “soc” part is short for “assoc,” which is short for “association,” as in “association football,” the rules of which were codified in 1863 by the all-powerful Football Association, or FA—the FA being to the U.K. what the NFL, the NBA, and MLB are to the U.S. But where were we? Ah, yes. Do Americans hate it? Soccer, that is?

Here’s one plausible answer: we don’t. The non-haters include the nearly twenty million of us who stayed indoors on a balmy Saturday afternoon to watch Ghana join England, Slovenia, and Algeria on this year’s list of countries beaten or tied by the United States in the World Cup. We were disappointed—Ghana won, 2-1, sending our team home from South Africa. Still, 19.4 million, the number registered by the Nielsen ratings service, is a lot of people. It’s not just more people than had ever watched a soccer game on American television before. It’s also more people than, on average, watched last year’s World Series games, which had the advantage of being broadcast live in prime time. It’s millions more than watched the Kentucky Derby or the final round of the Masters golf tournament or the Daytona 500, the jewel in NASCAR’s crown. And we don’t just watch. We *do*. An estimated five million grownups play soccer in these United States on a regular basis. Kids are mad for it, especially little ones. More American children play it, informally and in organized leagues, than any other team sport.

Soccer may be an import, as is our entire nonaboriginal population, but it’s well on its way to becoming as American as pizza, tacos, and French fries. (And motherhood: Sarah Palin notwithstanding, “soccer moms”—a term introduced to the political world in 1996, by a Republican consultant—are the proverbial key demographic.) Of course, soccer has its challenges here, many of them owing to its relative newness in the arena of American commerce. The enthusiasm of toddlers and post-toddlers is all very well, but, if that were enough to do the trick, Nike would have a division devoted to dodgeball. Compared with its established rivals, big-time soccer is ill suited to televisual exploitation. The game’s continuous, almost uninterrupted flow of action denies it a steady supply of intervals for the advertising of beer and the fetching of same from the refrigerator. The expedient of selling space on the players’ bodies—plastering their uniforms with corporate logos from neck to navel—is less than fully satisfactory. Also, the soccer pitch is vaster than the gridiron or the diamond, and the choreography of the game demands the widest of angles. On TV, the players are tiny—a problem for those as yet unequipped with enormous high-def flat screens.

Do Americans hate soccer? Well, some of us dislike it immoderately—not so much the game itself as what it is taken to represent. This spring, anti-soccer grumbling on the political right spiked as sharply as the sale of those great big TVs. Back in 1986, Jack Kemp, the former Buffalo Bills quarterback turned Republican congressman, took the House floor to oppose a resolution supporting America’s (ultimately successful) bid to host the 1994 World Cup. Our football, he declared, embodies “democratic capitalism”; their football is “European socialist.” Kemp, though, was kidding; he was sending himself up. Today’s conservative soccer scolds are not so good-natured. Their complaints are variations on the theme of un-Americanness. “I hate it so much, probably because the rest of the world likes it so much,” Glenn Beck, the Fox News star, proclaimed. (Also, “Barack Obama’s policies are the World Cup.”) What really bugs “silly leftist critics,” the *Washington Times* editorialized, is that “the most popular sports in America—football, baseball, and basketball—originated here in the Land of the Free.” At the Web site of the American Enterprise Institute, the *Washington Post* columnist Marc Thiessen,

formerly a speechwriter for George W. Bush, wrote, “Soccer is a socialist sport.” Also, “Soccer is collectivist.” Also, “Perhaps in the age of President Obama, soccer will finally catch on in America. But I suspect that socializing Americans’ taste in sports may be a tougher task than socializing our healthcare system.” And then there’s G. Gordon Liddy. Soccer, Liddy informed his radio listeners, comes from Latin America, and first we have to get into this term, the Hispanics. That would indicate Spanish language, and yes, these people in Latin America speak Spanish. That is because conquistadores who came over from Spain—you know, tall Caucasians, not very many of them—conquered the Indians, and the Indians adopted the language of their conquerors. But what we call Hispanics now really are South American Indians. And this game, I think, originated with the South American Indians, and instead of a ball they used to use the head, the decapitated head, of an enemy warrior.

Liddy’s guest, a conservative “media critic” named Dan Gainor, responded cautiously (“soccer is such a basic game, you can probably trace its origins back a couple of different ways”), while allowing that “the whole Hispanic issue” is among the reasons “the left” is “pushing it in schools around the country.”

Do we hate soccer? That depends on who we think “we” are. One of the things that Franklin Foer’s charming book “How Soccer Explains the World” explains is how soccer, along with its globalizing, unifying effects, provides plenty of opportunities for expressions of nationalism, which need not be illiberal, and for tribalism, which almost always is. The soccerphobia of the right is tribalism masquerading as nationalism. One in four of those twenty million viewers of the U.S.-Ghana match was watching it on Univision, America’s leading Spanish-language network. The three others were—well, who knows. Liberals, probably, or worse. Enough. A yellow card is in order here, maybe a red one. Soccer may never be “America’s game” (though it’s already one of them), but America is game for soccer. We’re the Land of the Free, aren’t we? Can’t we be the land of the free kick, too?

Read more http://www.newyorker.com/talk/comment/2010/07/12/100712taco_talk_hertzberg#ixzz0xfhYUyRQ



Some advice on positioning. . .

Refs on top of the action: How to position

By Randy Vogt

Friday, July 16, 2010

The referee's diagonal that he or she runs goes from corner flag to corner flag.

Actually, a referee who strictly adheres to this diagonal will miss seeing a number of fouls. I like to think that the referee's positioning isn't a diagonal as much as it is a modified version of a half-open scissor -- corner flag to corner flag and penalty arc to penalty arc. The referee is not a slave to this positioning, but it is a rough guide to follow, especially for the newer referee.

I have seen many youth soccer games when the referee made an important call -- sometimes correctly, sometimes incorrectly -- and loud dissent followed since the ref was 40 yards away from the play. I have seen just as many games in which the call was completely missed by an out-of-position referee.

Just as with phones, long-distance calling can be very expensive. The preventive officiating technique is to be fit enough and to hustle each game so that you are close to the play.

Teams are much more likely to dissent from referee decisions when the ref is far away than with the same decision when the ref is 5-10 yards from the ball. After all, presence lends conviction.

Should you blow the whistle for a foul in which you are too far from the infraction, continue running to the point of the restart. You will appear to be closer to the play than the ref who simply blows the whistle and stands there.

During the course of the game, you might encounter 1-2 players on each team who are causing problems. Modify your diagonal so that every time one of these players receives the ball, you are less than 10 yards away. Players rarely commit fouls when the referee is right there.

The Assistant Referee's Position

During normal play for nearly the entire game, the assistant referee's position is parallel with the second-to-last defender. The first defender is almost always the goalkeeper.

It is very challenging for new assistant referees to have the discipline to stay with the second-to-last defender instead of watching play develop 40 yards upfield, especially when the ball is in or near the other penalty area. Half the challenge of being an assistant referee is having the discipline to be exactly in the correct position.

For example, should the other team take possession of the ball and launch a long pass to your half, you will know if the player running toward the ball is offside by being parallel to that second-to-last defender.

Should 21 players be in the other half of the field with only the goalkeeper in your half, the assistant referee's position is not with the second-to-last defender in this instance but at the halfway line.

Another exception to being parallel with the second-to-last defender is when the ball is closer to your goal line than the second-to-last defender is. Your position would then be parallel to the ball.

Other exceptions are during the taking of a corner kick and penalty kick. The assistant referee's position both times is at the goal line.

On a corner kick, the assistant ref is behind the corner flag.

On a penalty kick, the AR is at the intersection of the 18-yard line and the goal line.

Summarizing, the referee's perfect position can vary but the assistant referee's position almost always needs to be exactly in line with the second-to-last defender except with the situations noted above.

How Officials Position Themselves as a Team

Watch professional games and concentrate on the officials, paying special attention to their position and signals.

You will notice that referees like to keep the ball between them and an assistant referee. It's easier to officiate a match when there are two relatively close views, from different angles, of play around the ball.

You'll also see that referees often jog when play is in midfield, such as in or by the kickoff circle, and the ball might be 15 yards away. But referees sprint to get closer to the ball when it is in one of the "hot areas" such as in or by the penalty area or by the benches.

The penalty area is hot since it's by the goal and important goal-scoring opportunities happen there. The area in front of the benches is hot as coaches and substitutes have a close view of play by the touchline and will probably be upset should you miss something against their team.

(Randy Vogt has officiated over 7,000 games during the past three decades, from professional matches in front of thousands to 6-year-olds being cheered on by very enthusiastic parents. In "Preventive Officiating," he shares his wisdom gleaned from thousands of games and hundreds of clinics to help referees not only survive but thrive on the soccer field. You can visit the book's website at <http://www.preventiveofficiating.com/>)

Post your response to the public Youth Soccer Insider blog.

See what others are saying on the Youth Soccer Insider blog.

FEEDBACK: Send comments to letters@socceramerica.com. Please include your first and last name and hometown.

Friday, July 16, 2010



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**SSBRA
TREASURER REPORT
MEMBERSHIP MEETING June 29, 2010**

SSBRA's Checking and Savings accounts were reconciled for the month of May 2010. In addition, the transaction registers for Petty Cash and Postage Stamps accounts were prepared as well.

SSBRA's dues collected thru May 31, 2010 are as follows:

SSBRA 2010 Dues		
	<u>Count</u>	<u>Fees</u>
Regular Dues	158	\$ 9,480.00
Youth Referees	24	\$ -
Honorary Members	10	\$ -
Waived Dues	2	\$ -
New Member Waivers	17	\$ -
Prior Year Carry Over	19	\$ -
Totals	<u>230</u>	<u>\$ 9,480.00</u>

The cash and related account balances as maintained by the Quicken database are summarized below.

SSBRA Cash Balances		
	<u>5/31/2010</u>	<u>6/28/2010</u>
Checking	\$ 4,997.42	\$ 2,506.16
Savings	501.97	501.97
Petty Cash	80.00	72.00
Stamps	23.32	10.56
Totals	<u>\$ 5,602.71</u>	<u>\$ 3,090.69</u>
Advances:		
Manhattan Bch	\$ -	\$ 3,640.00
J League	136.00	-
	-	-
Total Adv.	<u>\$ 136.00</u>	<u>\$ 3,640.00</u>
Checking	\$ 5,133.42	\$ 6,146.16
Savings	501.97	501.97
Petty Cash	80.00	72.00
Stamps	23.32	10.56
Adj. Totals	<u>\$ 5,738.71</u>	<u>\$ 6,730.69</u>

Initial Spring League payments were advanced for Manhattan Beach as summarized below:

Manhattan Beach Spring 2010		
<u>Category</u>	<u>Cks Issued 05/08/10</u>	
Games	123	
	\$	Cks
Referee Fees	\$ 3,567.00	39
Assignor Fees	307.50	1
Treasurer Fees	61.50	1
Postage	15.84	n/a
SSBRA Payment Totals	<u>\$ 3,951.84</u>	<u>41</u>
Billed To Manhattan Beach	<u>\$ 3,997.50</u>	
Net Surplus to SSBRA	<u>\$ 45.66</u>	

SSBRA
TREASURER REPORT
BOARD MEETING
July 27, 2010 **REVISED**

The Checking and Savings accounts were reconciled for the month of June 2010. In addition, the monthly transaction registers for the Petty Cash, Postage Stamps and Referee Advances were prepared as well.

The cash and related account balances as maintained by the Quicken database are summarized below.

SSBRA Cash Balances		
	6/30/2010	7/19/2010
Checking	\$ 3,036.06	\$ 4,836.56
Savings	502.05	502.07
Petty Cash	68.00	68.00
Stamps	48.84	21.56
Totals	\$ 3,654.95	\$ 5,428.19
Advances:		
Manhattan Bch	\$ 3,640.00	\$ 2,015.00
J League	-	-
	-	-
Total Adv.	\$ 3,640.00	\$ 2,015.00
Checking	\$ 6,676.06	\$ 6,851.56
Savings	502.05	502.07
Petty Cash	68.00	68.00
Stamps	48.84	21.56
Adj. Totals	\$ 7,294.95	\$ 7,443.19

SSBRA dues paid thru June 30, 2010 total:

SSBRA 2010 Dues		
	Count	Fees
Regular Dues	159	\$ 9,540.00
Youth Referees	24	\$ -
Honorary Members	10	\$ -
Waived Dues	2	\$ -
New Member Waivers	17	\$ -
Prior Year Carry Over	19	\$ -
Totals	231	\$ 9,540.00

June was a busy month for issuing checks as noted in the summary below. Notably, payments for Manhattan Beach resulted in a net loss of \$63.54 due to credits for referee no shows. In short, Manhattan Beach was given credit for assignments that referees missed.

SSBRA
TREASURER REPORT
BOARD MEETING
July 27, 2010 **REVISED**

Manhattan Beach Spring 2010		
Category	Cks Issued 06/08/10	
Games	\$	Cks
		115
Referee Fees	\$ 3,335.00	40
Assignor Fees	287.50	1
Treasurer Fees	63.00	1
Postage	18.04	n/a
SSBRA Payment Totals	\$ 3,703.54	42
Billed To Manhattan Beach	\$ 3,640.00	
Net Surplus to SSBRA	\$ (63.54)	

Bruins Classic - Cks Issue June 27th		
	\$	Cks
Referee Fees	\$ 3,418.00	39
Parking	\$ 80.00	n/a
Treasurer Fees	\$ 50.00	1
Postage	\$ 2.64	n/a
2011 Dues	\$ (1,320.00)	n/a
SSBRA Payment Totals	\$ 2,230.64	40

Seal Beach - Cks Issued June 3rd		
	\$	Cks
Referee Fees	\$ 1,592.00	21
Stamps	\$ 7.92	n/a
Treasurer Fees	\$ 27.50	1
Parking	\$ 48.00	n/a
SSBRA Payment Totals	\$ 1,675.42	22

Eagles Classic - Cks Issued June 26th		
	\$	Cks
Referee Fees	\$ 1,579.00	19
Assignor Fees	\$ -	n/a
Treasurer Fees	\$ 25.00	1
2011 Dues	\$ (120.00)	n/a
SSBRA Payment Totals	\$ 1,484.00	20

June marks the end of SSBRA's fiscal year and me serving two full years as SSBRA's Treasurer!!! The economy clearly had an impact on the number of Tournaments available this past year. Nevertheless, approximately \$80,500 flowed thru SSBRA's coffers this past fiscal year!!! Further, the net cash flow for the year was a positive \$403.74, which means SSBRA closely matched its cash inflows/outflows.

The following **REVISED** financial reports for June have been attached:

- Income and Expense Comparison by Category for 2008/2009 vs. 2009/2010 - YTD
- Income and Expense Comparison by Category for 2008/2009 vs. 2009/2010 - Monthly

REMINDERS

PHONE NUMBER(S) TO KNOW

Soccer Phone Line Number	(310)316-0808
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GAME ASSIGNMENT LINKS

SSBRA Assignment Link	http://ssbra.org/list.php
CSL Assignment Link	http://www.coastsoccer.com/referees/
Spring League	http://www.scheduleetc.com/soccer/referee/default.aspx?id=ss10
Spring Cup	http://www.scheduleetc.com/soccer/referee/default.aspx?id=ss10cup

PROCEDURES TO REMEMBER

Forfeits: Game Fee Collection	<p>For any State/National Cup, Spring League or CSL game when there is a forfeit or a no-show, we DO NOT collect game fees from either team.</p> <p>Instead, Bill files a no-show report with the League and the League pays SSBRA and SSBRA reimburses the referees.</p>
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FYI: Just in case any of you are interested in this offer, it ends on Labor Day.

What Our Fellow Soccer Referees Are Saying About Preventive Officiating:

Glen Boehmer:

“Preventive Officiating is a must read for referees of all levels, and a helpful tool for coaches to learn the details of how a game is officiated.”

Jose Munoz:

“I have been refereeing for nearly 30 years and I learned a lot by reading Preventive Officiating.”

Paul Yonick:

“I’ve been refereeing for 10 years, I’m also an instructor and I found many new points that I’ll use in the future. How the author explains his past experiences and relates them with the particular rule was excellent. It made me think of my own games and how I would have dealt with that situation. This excellent book is the Laws of the Game with a little twist.”

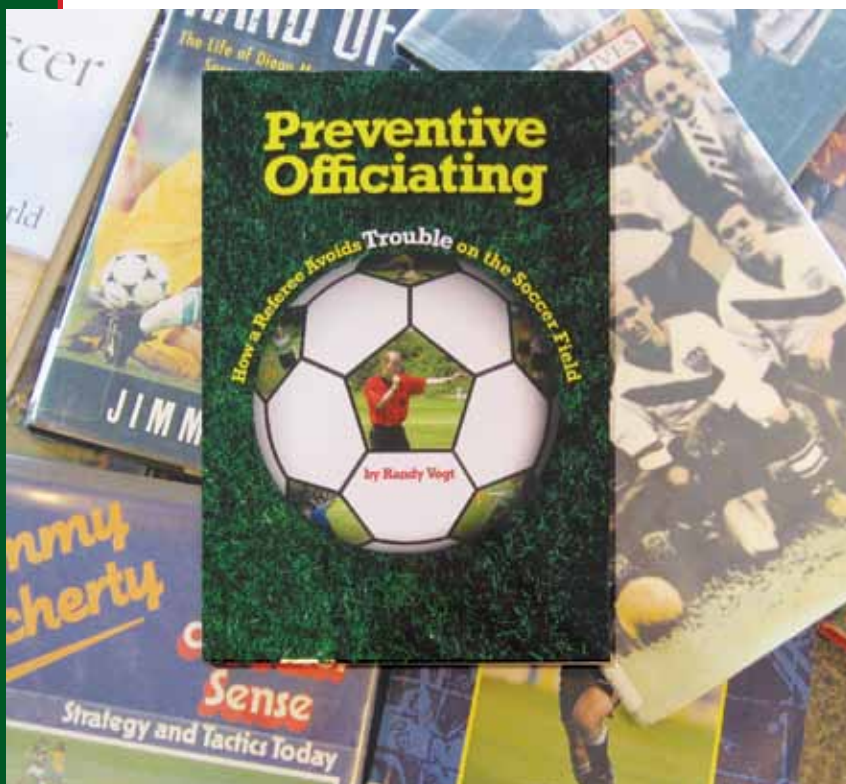
Robert Dempsey:

“I could not put Preventive Officiating down as the stories about the game situations were so entertaining!”

Author Randy Vogt has kept a record of every game that he has officiated during the past 32 years so he knows that he’s officiated over 7,700 games, from pro games in front of thousands to six-year-olds being cheered on by very enthusiastic parents. Randy has received many awards and has officiated in a few of the globe’s great soccer stadiums.

Special summer sale of \$8.00 per book (nearly 50% off the cover price) ends on September 6.

Buy ‘em by the bunch and give to your friends as refs across the United States are doing!



Mail a \$8.00 check today made out to Randy Vogt to:

Mr. Randy Vogt
3 Hillside Lane North
Syosset, NY 11791

Randy will gladly send you an autographed book and pay for the postage too.

The \$8.00 discount applies to group sales (such as for referee classes) year-round.

For more info about the book, log on to www.PreventiveOfficiating.com