



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

April, 2011

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

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www.ssbra.org

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TIPS AND TRICKS FOR PROPER REFEREE AND AR POSITIONING A NEW LEAGUE

GENERAL MEETING: APRIL 26, 2011

Warren kicked off the meeting with some very good news, Rudy Chavez is feeling MUCH better and, to prove it, he was present at the meeting!

Warren then reminded us about SSBRA's facebook page and asked for SSBRA pictures to post. He then reminded everyone that ideas for the Flag and Whistle should be emailed to flagandwhistle@gmail.com. Active participation and contribution to our facebook page and monthly newsletter by the membership is highly encouraged.

Because of a few incidents that were reported to the board, it was important to make the following reminders:

- (1) Enforce the rules of the league in which you are refereeing. For example, in SBS – no shin guards = no play.
- (2) Control players' misconduct. We get in trouble when we don't call the fouls or, where warranted, issue cautions. It's important to handle misbehavior before it escalates and gets out of control. You can also call for help if you need it. And, if you feel its necessary, write a report as well.
- (3) Reports need to go to Vince. Not to the leagues and not to Bill.
- (4) Be polite, professional, and fair.

(5) Foul language – obscene language is not ok.

- a. What's obscene? Your definition of obscene controls. Keep in mind, lots of women and kids at these games and these games are held in residential areas.
- b. PSL, Manhattan Village, and Aviation: no "F" word at all

After the reminders, the new members got up and introduced themselves.

Then Warren reminded everyone that elections are in May and both the Treasurer and VP are up for reelection. With that, the floor opened to nominations for Vice President. Ralph was nominated by Vince followed by a number of seconds. Without any further nominations, a motion was made – and seconded - to close nominations for Vice President.

Regarding nominations for Treasurer, Vince nominated Steve, followed by a number of seconds. Steve then gave a speech "Sorry, didn't bring checks tonight" which, surprisingly, didn't result in a withdrawal of his nomination. There were no other nominations so nominations were closed and we went on to Bylaw proposals.

Lloyd proposed the following Bylaw Amendment:

Proposed Motion:

In addition to voting in person at meetings of the SSBRA, to allow members eligible to vote to not be disenfranchised, the vote may also be made on 1) a seconded motion or 2) an election for officers by the methods described herein. The absent member must have notified the board prior to the beginning of the mtg by email or in writing delivered to the post office box. This absentee vote will be in response to the electronic posting by the secretary to the member email address of record with the information regarding the proposed motion or proposed nominees if for a vote of office.

Votes cast by absentees are only valid for those persons notifying the board that they will not be at the meeting due to schedule conflicts of any type. Failure to notify the board prior to the beginning of the meeting, and no more than one month before the meeting, invalidates any votes cast using these absentee methods.

The absentee method of voting is:

1. Vote by email within one week of the electronically published posting. The vote must be received by the board electronically time stamped in the email by the end of the 7th day after the electronic published posting. Posting can be done by email including as an attachment to an email.
2. Vote by postal mail. The vote must be received by the board postmarked by the end of the 7th day after the electronic published posting.

Vito also had an idea about logging into see our assignments, but didn't formally propose anything at this time.

And, just a reminder, the May meeting will be held at Lamppost Pizza at 7pm on May 31, 2011. We'll vote, then go in and eat! For those that need the address: 2955 E. Rolling Hills, Torrance, CA. The address is also on the website.

Vince then took over to remind us that reports should go directly to him on a USSF match report form. After you've sent the report, Vince will contact whoever needs to be contacted and he'll follow up as required. Don't write the league or the board about an incident. Just send your reports to Vince and he'll take care of it.

Also he told us that there are still a few 2011 USSF patches out there and he's still working on getting them. If you don't have yours, contact him.

Ralph then took the floor to remind us that the only place where shin guards are not required are the Manhattan Village games. Otherwise shin guards are always required so if the players don't have shin guards on, they can't play. Also he reiterated that it's very important to know the rules of the league in which you are reffing. The rules differ from league to league and sometimes within the leagues themselves so make sure you know the rules. If you don't, ask another ref who's out there with you, or on the other field.

Larry then quickly informed us that the next new member clinic would be sometime in June. The dates still have to be confirmed.

Bill then told us that state and national cup were winding down. We've had some good games – over 100 in state and national cup. He then told us about the other tournaments on the horizon, including the J-League youth tournament on May 8, a friendly tournament to raise proceeds to help the Tsunami victims in Japan on June 11 (he'll be looking for about 12 refs to volunteer for this) with teams ranging from U9 to adults. Oh, and he wasn't sure about the Galaxy ticket dates yet for those who did the Galaxy Tournament.

Steve then told us, again, that he had no checks that evening. He says that the checks for the Eagles Tournament and the Manhattan Village checks are in the P.O. Box so the checks should be out soon. For the new members who went to the new member clinic, your rebate checks are in the mail.

Then it was time for the Cal South instructor, Paul Vernon, to take over and tell us about Referee and AR positioning.

He started by reviewing the basics: the best positioning incorporates the following:

- A) The Ref can see the ball;
- B) The Ref can see the AR;
- C) The Ref stays out of the way → don't take up a position players may need in the immediate vicinity of the ball; and
- D) Don't take up a position that's the same angle of one of your ARs
 - a. Sometimes the distance from the ball is not as important as the angle

Then he told us about the ball between (the R and AR) principal. The idea is to keep the ball between the R and the AR and demonstrated how this works in certain scenarios.

Another thing to think about when trying to figure out, as the R, where to position yourself, is to ask "where is the challenge going to be?" The idea is to anticipate where the challenge is going to be.

Positioning is especially important on free kicks. A LOT of goals are scored off of free kicks. Don't over think it. 70% of goals in higher leagues are scored from a restart.

Communication is very important. Remember to discuss in your pre-game how you want goals recorded. Who's going to record 1st, 2nd, and 3rd?

Other points to remember:

- On a PK, the AR is at the intersection of the 18yard line and the goal line.
- At kicks from the mark, the AR is at the intersection of the goal line and the 6yard line (because the AR doesn't have to worry about getting back to the touch line because the ball is not going to go back into play).
- At substitutions, the AR should manage the subs.
- Proper mechanics when signaling: stop, face field, eye contact, signal, drop flag when signal acknowledged.

WHAT THE BOARD'S BEEN UP TO:

BOARD MEETING: APRIL 19, 2011

- Congrats to Vince – he has a new grandson
- New Apps – reviewed and accepted
- Problem refs discussed – sanctions, suspensions, etc. issued as necessary
- **Reminder: all reports should go to Vince, not to league officials**
- Discussed website and changes that need to be made to website
- Vince – has 7 USSF patches left to get from Cal South based on the list he has
- Cal South will send instructor to April's general meeting, Larry will bring media equipment
- May = Election time: positions up for election = Treasurer and VP
 - o Location – Lamppost Pizza
- Bylaw amendments can be proposed at April meeting
- Ralph – need to reinforce eye contact is very important: Center Refs need to maintain eye contact with their ARs
- SBS Rules require shin guards.
 - o So if no shin guards, don't ref
 - o Bill will speak to Dennis about this
- Bill
 - o We got some pretty good state and national cup games this year
 - o Discussed reimbursing some refs for game fees for a last minute canceled game in San Bernardino
 - o Beverly Hills 7v7: haven't heard any bad news from them, playing full length of field, lots of running for 3 games
- Larry
 - o Need to pay instructors for SSBRA new member clinics
 - o Next clinic – probably June
 - o SB Force tournament – not sure when – Bill will check dates
- Steve
 - o As of 3-31-2011, including Manhattan Village, over \$4,000.00
 - o 209 Refs on roster
 - o Using Quicken online data backup system

BOARD MEETING FOLLOWING GENERAL MEETING

- Discussed website, Bill still having problems re assigning system

Quinonez Wilson with new WR for longest free kick - 83m

Video: Quinonez Wilson, keeper of the modest Sport Colombia team from Paraguay's Second Division scored the longest recorded free kick in history of 83m. The game was against Club Cerro Porteño PF

<http://www.sportpost.com/video/view/Quinonez+Wilson+with+new+WR+for+longest+free+kick++83m>



SCDSL: A New League

FAQ about new league, SCDSL

SCDSL, CSL ... Why is this a big deal?

It changes the way we play our fall league schedule, aligning us with a number of other clubs who share a similar philosophy about player development and the need to focus on the long term instead of short term results. The goal of the new league is “to allow all participating clubs to have the freedom to make decisions that are in the best interest of all their players and to place the league's priority first and foremost on true player development.”

What are some of the ways SCDSL will be different from CSL?

The differences will be most visible at the oldest and youngest ages:

- Rules designed so coaches can focus on teaching and players on learning intelligent soccer
- Different bracketing
- Chances to play ECNL and US Soccer Development Academy teams
- In-season showcase weekends
- No scores in U9/U10
- Less travel (an objective, not a promise)

There is more discussion of these points below.

Why did SBF elect to join SCDSL?

Primarily because the other clubs involved with the new league share our general philosophy about the best way to develop players, and because the new league will encourage rather than prohibit a number of actions that will allow us to focus on that goal.

Why will this be good for my kid?

The new league's rules will be more conducive to developing skills and learning the game versus the “win at all costs” environment created by the current rules. Coaches' focus and attention will be on the same principles. Coaches can potentially be more flexible with playing time and rotating of positions without pressures of winning only during league play. Over time, parents should be able to evaluate a club by year over year player development, the club's style of play, and its coaches' teaching abilities instead of how a specific team finished in its bracket or how well an individual coach recruited.

One of our coaches wrote that “I can say from experience that the pressure of coaching Gold at U12 and the effort to maintain your bracket status is not necessarily conducive to player development.” The new league is an attempt to refocus on the player.

This approach has been talked about for a long time and is used in other state associations and leagues ... it just has never had league-level support in Cal South. US Soccer and related organizations all encourage more time spent on development and less on winning and losing games, and this aligns us with them.

What about my kids' place on the ___ team?

The club will still form several teams per age group and those kids will still play for a year. Teams will remain balanced in terms of numbers ... a youngsters team won't carry 22 players. The coaching staff expects the amount of movement between teams to be fairly small and most players will train with and play their games with the same team all year.

How does this impact my child's playing time on any given team?

Coaches can potentially be more flexible with playing time and rotating of positions without the must-win pressures of league play.

Couldn't this make my kid and our teams less competitive?

We feel the opposite is true. If players have the chance to develop their skills by trying things out and learning from their success or failure, over time they will be more confident and skillful than kids who spend their formative soccer years avoiding losses.

What other clubs are involved?

The founding clubs are Arsenal, Beach, Chivas USA, Corona Eagles, Cosmos Academy, CZ Elite, Irvine Strikers, L.A. Galaxy, Laguna Hills Eclipse, Legends, Nomads, OC Revolution, Pateadores, PVSC Exiles, Real So Cal, Slammers, So Cal Blues, So Cal Infinity, South Bay Force, South Coast Bayern, San Diego Surf, United FC, and West Coast. Others have joined since.

Are we only going to play the other 23 founding clubs?

No, there are already more than 23 clubs committed to the new league, and more are joining. The 23 clubs took the first step together. Any club interested in participating in the SCDSL can submit an application that can be found at www.socaldevelopmentleague.com.

Will there be more travel because there are fewer clubs in the league?

Travel may be reduced because of bracket size and cross-divisional play. The other clubs are large and field a lot of teams, so it's unlikely travel will increase.

Former Premier teams won't have to travel to UC Irvine or San Juan Capistrano every weekend, but will play home and home and some showcase weekends.

How are teams bracketed?

The current plan is for two brackets, Tier 1 and Tier 2. SCDSL says "Within those flights, there may be an unlimited number of teams and they will play other teams within their tier based on geography. Teams will also have the freedom to schedule games with other teams in their Tier should they chose to do so."

Will USSDA/ECNL teams have their own brackets?

No. All non-USSDA/ECNL teams will have the opportunity to play USSDA/ECNL teams.

Will there be standings?

Not in U9 and U10, but older teams will compete for league and flight championships.

How will the competition levels be determined? How can we be certain that "gold" level teams will not be playing in blowout after blowout?

Clubs will submit a desired level of play for each team. There will likely be a committee that approves those requests, but the level will generally be at the discretion of each club. Clubs will be motivated to pick a "just right" level for their teams, so they don't get pounded every weekend but also so they don't win every game 4-0 and not improve.

Will there be promotion and relegation?

Yes, but it won't be mandatory. Teams in Tier 2 will have the ability to move to Tier 1 and non-performing teams in Tier 1 can be moved to Tier 2 if the club DOC and the league Technical Committee believe the move is in the best interest of the players' development.

What happens to the older teams that worked hard to get to Gold and Premier status?

There will still be a top tier that will consist of teams of similar quality.

The league will do some showcase weekends where one site will be used and large numbers of teams will play at that one site. This will provide players the same exposure to scouts and recruiters that they would have gotten in CSL Premier League, without the weekly travel to south Orange County.

Teams will still participate in other showcase events and tournaments, just as they have in the past.

What is the season?

September - early December. Fourteen games (8 home-and-home and 6 cross-conference). Once a month there will be "showcases" where teams come to a single location to play two games. These games will count in the standings.

What about other competitions (State / California / National Cup)?

Teams will still play tournaments and State / California / National Cup. SCDSL only affects fall league play (roughly September to early November, plus a proposed league tournament similar to League Cup).

I heard that we won't be part of Cal South ...

No. There are several leagues that are part of Cal South -- such as CSL, LA Futbol Circuit, Presidio in San Diego, and El Camino Real -- and SCDSL will be just one more. There is no requirement that there only be one league in an area, and LA Futbol Circuit and CSL already overlap.

I heard that there won't be fields ...

Clubs are responsible for providing fields for home games, just as they were under CSL. That has always been the club's job, not the league's. SCDSL has secured Rancho Capistrano, Oaks Blenheim (former home base for CSL Premier), and the two new facilities at Galway Downs (Temecula) and Silverlakes (Norco) for showcase weekends.

What happens to Coast Soccer League?

CSL will continue to exist -- we just won't play our fall league season games in it. Our teams could still play friendlies against CSL teams and will certainly face them in tournaments and State or National Cup.

I heard ...

Please contact your team's coach, manager, or _____ if you have any questions that haven't been answered here. Please be aware that all of this is new and some of it may change.

Goal.com has a detailed article that explains some of the back story.

Here are some additional questions and answers direct from the new league. Click here for them all:

Who is in charge of the league?

Founding clubs DOC's are in charge of all technical issues related to the game of soccer. Coaching Technical Committee consists of 2DA, 2ECNL, 2 non DA/ECNL and 1 at-large member.

Is there an Executive Board?

Yes. There is a nine-person Executive Board represented by Development Academy, ECNL, non DA/ECNL clubs. The Executive Board was elected by all participants from the Founding Clubs. Each Founding Club retains one vote per club and the Executive Board's main goal is to manage and administrate the SCDSL as well as be the checks-and-balance to the Technical Committee. The Executive Board will also be responsible for establishing the budget.

Are there any league forming documents (bylaws, constitution)?

This is a priority and the Executive Board and the Technical Committee will be working together to establish Rules and Bylaws.

Is there an agreement with any referee association to provide refs?

We are currently speaking to referee associations across Southern California. There will be a referee coordinator that will be charged with creating an accountability plan with all referee associations. This plan will also include referee assessments, referee education, mentoring and referee qualifications. Standards that are used in the DA and ECNL will be implemented to ensure the quality of the referees being used in the SCDSL.

Will the SCDSL provide a Spring Season component as well?

Yes

Compiled from discussions with SBF staff, and FAQs from SCDSL, Nomads, and Blues.



**Soccer South Bay Referee Association
Income/Expense Comparison by Category
7/1/2009 through 03/31/2011**

Category Description	7/1/2009 - 03/31/2010	7/1/2010 - 03/31/2011	\$ Difference	% Difference
INCOME				
Interest	\$ 4.20	\$ 0.42	\$ (3.78)	-90.00%
Membership Dues	6,295.00	4,379.00	(1,916.00)	-30.44%
Fines - Referees	315.00	210.00	(105.00)	-33.33%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 6,614.20	\$ 4,589.42	\$(2,024.78)	-30.61%
EXPENSES				
Checks & Bank Charges	438.97	79.99	358.98	81.78%
Audit	-	200.00	(200.00)	n/a
GAMES - ADULTS				
7 v 7 Leagues	405.94	(171.96)	577.90	142.36%
Men's Tournaments	33.89	53.36	(19.47)	-57.45%
Other GAMES - ADULTS	53.00	65.00	(12.00)	-22.64%
TOTAL GAMES - ADULTS	492.83	(53.60)	546.43	110.88%
GAMES - YOUTH				
Kid's Tournament	244.00	308.64	(64.64)	-26.49%
Other GAMES - YOUTH	501.16	349.84	151.32	30.19%
TOTAL GAMES - YOUTH	745.16	658.48	86.68	11.63%
Insurance	672.00	670.76	1.24	0.18%
Meetings	1,121.17	1,448.80	(327.63)	-29.22%
Stamps & Supplies	208.06	136.79	71.27	34.25%
Parking & Exp Reimbursement	691.00	243.00	448.00	64.83%
Postage	179.88	167.40	12.48	6.94%
Tax Notices & Reporting	408.71	382.11	26.60	6.51%
Telephone & Fax	324.00	324.00	-	0.00%
Training	744.87	1,079.37	(334.50)	-44.91%
Uniforms & Equipment	-	614.13	(614.13)	n/a
Web Site	150.00	970.00	(820.00)	-546.67%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 6,176.65	\$ 6,921.23	\$ (744.58)	-12.05%
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ 437.55	\$(2,331.81)	\$(2,769.36)	-632.92%



"I must admit, your explanation of the offside rule was spot on."

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.schedulesetc.com/soccer/referee/default.aspx?id=ss11
Spring Cup	http://www.schedulesetc.com/soccer/referee/default.aspx?id=ss11cup

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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HELPFUL LINKS

Cal South Website for Referees	http://www.calsouth.com/en/referees/
South Bay Sports Rules	http://www.southbaysports.com/rule.asp (go here to select the rules that apply to the day/league/venue you're reffing)
Manhattan Village Rules	http://www.ssbra.com/html/competitions/mb7.html http://www.ssbra.com/html/competitions/mb7/7on7-Laws-of-the-Game.pdf