



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

October, 2011

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

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www.ssbra.org

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TIME TO RECERTIFY!!!

GENERAL MEETING: OCTOBER 25, 2011

We were directed to line up, sign up, and pay up to take the recertification test when we first arrived. I was in the line when the meeting began so I missed the opening remarks.

Warren informed us that his laptop was stolen so ignore any weird emails you may get. He then told us that there would be no raffle in October, but there would be one in November.

Manny brought a few things too: Socks, whistles, cards, but didn't have jerseys. He did tell us, however, that whatever we want, we can get at SoccerOne.

Larry then reminded everyone about the new member clinic on October 29 at North. Steve wasn't at the meeting. Vince then took the floor and reminded everyone that reports should go to him and that reports are required for injuries and violent conduct and that the players' names need to be included in the reports. Ralph didn't have anything to say.

Bill then took over. He still has CSL books if anyone needs them and informed us that we're doing a good job of covering all games, but noted that he had to do some as well to ensure full coverage. He then informed us that the UCLA tournament is coming up the first week of November and that the thanksgiving tournament has been canceled because not enough teams signed up.

Ed Beverly then made an announcement – apparently he found someone's glasses in his bag and wanted to know if they belonged to anyone.

Then, Gabriel took over to administer the Cal South recert exam.

WHAT THE BOARD'S BEEN UP TO:

BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 19, 2011

- No new apps
- Bad Boys
 - o Discussed and determined ways to approach
 - o Issues still with refs wearing long pants
- Discussed some instances with the LAPD at some of our soccer games in LA
- North HS will be open for the following
 - o October 25, 2011 – Recert test – 50 questions
 - o October 29, 2011 – New member clinic
- Bylaw review – November
- Website Reforms
 - o WH to tell Lee to change wording so says USSF reports should be sent to the member at large, not Bill
 - o Data purge = still ongoing
- Discussed application acceptance
 - o So far we have been accepting all – with and w/o any experience
 - o Issue = lots of people have no experience reffing and that makes it tough to assign them to games
 - o As of Oct. Bd meeting = about 15 refs with no experience
 - o We're doing lots of games every weekend and covering them, so perhaps we can be more selective with regarding to who we take on and not have to take on so many refs without experience
 - o Ralph's thoughts
 - Perhaps we can implement some sort of training/mentoring program where refs with little to no experience can be observed and/or mentored. This way we don't lose on out refs that – even though they have no experience – are good
 - We can perhaps compensate the mentor/observer too
 - Perhaps do this for about 12 games, with different mentor/observers each game
 - o Board liked this idea
 - o Need form letter to explain this mentor program that we can send to applicants who are accepted on this basis
 - Explain = probationary period for a minimum of 12 games
 - o May also need a feedback sheet
- Next Bd meeting = at Steve's
- Ralph will check with Vince to find where the electronic flags are
- Dues – Steve sent a list to people who still had to pay
- Bill
 - o We've had some good games and few complaints

- Has had emails from coaches and parents re safety issues, but it appears to be an issue with coaches in DSL ignoring safety concerns. Warren to contact DSL re this – perhaps DSL needs to send a directive to the coaches
- Expressed frustration with constant DSL schedule changes
- Larry
 - 7v7 training feedback
 - Ralph overheard positive discussion about this
 - Raised awareness re rules = different at different leagues, on different evenings
 - New member clinic reminder
- Steve
 - Not much.
 - All tournaments paid
 - Single game checks will be in mail soon
 - Figuring out a Pateadores check
 - Steve will check if he billed PSL

A NOTE ON CASTS

First, I want to strictly segregate our opinions about what is in the best interests of the player from what is safe. No, I also would never allow one of my kids to wear a cast in a game (although, fortunately, none of them ever had a broken arm.) But that's a separate decision from what is or is not safe as player equipment.

It is In the Opinion of the Referee and that means the referee on this game today on this field. I don't care about that mythological referee of the last game. If you can't stand the heat of telling a player that their cast is unsafe, how do you expect to stand up to an appeal for a red card when one of their teammates is injured? Come on, people. This is part of the job. Not the most enjoyable part, I will grant you, but it comes with the territory. It helps if you know in advance what you are going to do when this question is raised. Ad hoc decisions tend to get swayed by sorrowful looks or angry reactions, which leaves you looking weak and easily swayed even before the game has started.

Note that we are, of course, talking only about USSF/FIFA affiliated games here, since NFHS has specific standards about padding which, if met, allow the athlete to participate, by rule, no doctor's permission required (now.)

I will also suggest that you remind the player, assuming either the rule or your judgment allows them to play, that, if they hit someone with it, they're done, maybe with a plastic flourish. "Do you feel....lucky?"

So now my story. Actually, a story from a friend who is now a USSF Referee Inspector. Back in the old days, ODP players from the various states were selected for the Regional team by how they performed in some tournaments. In other words, it was critical for your ODP and potential college career to play and play well in the two or three evaluation tournaments. So he's going to referee a game in such a tournament and a player comes to him before the game with a cast, all padded up and everything. He says "Sorry, no casts." "But it's all padded and safe!" "No casts, period." "Look, I'll show you it's safe." (can you see where this is going? LOL!) He then clonks a teammate on the head with the cast, knocking the teammate unconscious! Do you think their coach was a happy camper? No. He's just lost not one but two of his players, moments before the game. The moral of the story: No casts!!!

It's actually easier to do the right thing 100% of the time than it is to do it 98% of the time.

- Patrick Duffy





In addition to judging action along the touchline, assistant referees should help the referee with game management by reading the match. Then the assistant can share that knowledge at halftime. NISOA referee Taylor Shiroma, Maple Valley, Wash.

‘ASSIST’ MEANS MORE

Assistant Referee Duties Aren’t Limited to the Touchline

By Joe Bean

“Assist, not insist” can provide a new dimension to an assistant referee’s effectiveness. “Assist” means a lot more than calling a foul, indicating direction for a throw-in or making the offside call — a lot more.

Just ask Chris Strickland, a NISOA National Referee since 1994, an MLS official since 1996 and a FIFA assistant referee since 2002. Among his many career international matches: three CONCACAF Gold Cups, U-20 World Cup in 2003, 2004 Olympic Games, 2005 U-17 World Cup and the 2006 Men’s World Cup.

Strickland says the assistant

referee’s responsibilities aren’t limited to the touchline. “An obvious aspect of ‘assist, don’t insist’ is to help the referee during the run of play,” he says, “but it’s essential that the crew talk about the game at the half. We tell the referee what we’ve seen and heard during the game, especially if there is no way the referee saw it or heard it. Our objective is to decide how to solve problems we’ve seen during the first half and to agree on actions to help avoid problems that might develop during the second half. We have about seven minutes in the locker room to share our perspectives, observations, comments, input — whatever you call it — with the

referee, who then has to analyze what we’ve said and decide how, or if, to use it.”

Being able to bring that kind of succinct insight into the locker room at halftime is as challenging as it is essential, Strickland recognizes. It means doing “four or five things at once,” like retaining the specifics of an incident, play or call while fulfilling all the assistant referee’s mandated duties. At the professional level, Strickland explains, the task is made somewhat easier “because we know the teams and the players

and their playing styles. Our pregame usually focuses on the match-ups and intangibles that might affect play — this player was traded to this team last week or this game is critical to a team's playoff chances. Reviewing match-ups and styles of play helps the referee with positioning, for example, and it helps the assistants identify potential trouble spots."

As the first half unfolds, the assistant needs to read the game from at least four perspectives, Strickland says:

- "What's happening on the field? Is one team getting frustrated for some reason, so they're fouling more? At the half, we might suggest slight changes, if needed."

- "What's happening on the bench? If I'm the senior assistant, I can hear the coach; some yell much more often than others. If a coach who is usually very quiet says something, I might make note of that. At the half, we'll ask the fourth official what caused the coach to react as he did."

- "What's happening in the other half of the field? That is where I need to be looking where the referee isn't looking. On a corner kick at the other end of the field, I'll come to the fourth official near the halfway line. One of us watches play behind the referee and the other watches the near-post side. We want to make sure no portion of the field is uncovered. At the half, we can tell the referee about something he couldn't see."

- "I watch my side of the field when the play is in front of me. At the half, I might encourage the referee to pay more attention to one of the match-ups we talked about in our pregame."

That's a lot to do while running up and down the line, Strickland concedes. "Realistically, can I listen to the coach, get the offside call right, call fouls and make mental notes all at the same time?" he asks. "No. I have to read the play and prioritize. I focus on what is most likely to happen next. On a breakaway, I know I'm not going to be making an offside decision, so my

priority is to focus on the possibility of a foul. I can't miss a send-off offense right in front of me because I'm looking for offside; that's just not acceptable."

When the second half gets under way, Strickland notes, communication among the crew is vital as a follow-up to the halftime discussion. "We have our headsets," Strickland says, "but the old standbys — a fist to tighten up, frequent eye contact, a thumbs up that sends a message to players, coaches and spectators — still work."

After the game, the crew returns to the locker room to spend several minutes reviewing the game's critical incidents and discussing specific calls and non-calls.

"Each of us gets a DVD of the game before leaving the stadium," he notes, "to watch before reviewing the game by phone with our crew and referee coach. We evaluate our performance as a crew, and as assistants, we want to see if we correctly assisted the referee at every opportunity."

Eight tips. Strickland offers eight suggestions to help you as an assistant referee on the field.

1. Give the referee reasons to have confidence in you. Arrive on time, in uniform, wearing the current year's badge and have your flags in hand. Don't wear the white cleats you had on during the game you just played.

2. Review the assistant's basic duties in your pregame: Offside is your primary responsibility. Go to the goalline. Help the referee, as requested, on the direction of throw-ins. Ditto for goalkick/corner kick decisions.

3. Be prepared to share useful information about the teams' records, playing styles or history with your referee crew.

4. Focus on offside. Stay square to the field and even with the second-to-last defender. Let the more experienced referee call fouls.

5. Learn to shift focus from the offside line to play or to the ball and vice versa.

6. If you make a call and the

QUICKTIP

Coaches, players and fans will say plenty during most games. Much is designed to do no more than vent frustration at a decision, such as an offside call. Understanding which comments or questions merit a response is a key to success. **More often than not, the right response will not be verbal.** You might nod your head, smile, glance at whoever said something, hold eye contact, shake your head or hold up a stop sign.

TOOLS

US Referee Connection

US Referee Connection is a website with a range of referee information, including the *Laws of the Game*, articles, videos, interviews and fitness content. Created by referee Francisco Davila a year ago, the website's goal is to serve the referees by

offering news and articles that will help them become better. "I'm a soccer player, a USSF referee, a referee instructor and assessor," said Davila. "So with all this background I try to bring the best information to my fellow referees." In addition to educational material, there is information about top referees in the U.S. and in the world. To check out the site, go to www.usrefereeconnection.com.



SIDELINE

Former UEFA Disciplinary Inspector Dies

Former soccer referee and UEFA disciplinary inspector Gerhard Kapl died July 25. Kapl was president of the Syrian Football Association and former vice president of the Austrian Football Association. Between 1969-92, Kapl refereed 40 international matches and close to 200 domestic games.

"Gerhard Kapl performed excellent services to football in so many ways and always stood up for our sport," FIFA President Sepp Blatter said.

SOURCE: FIFA

TEST YOURSELF

In each of the following, you are given a situation and at least two possible answers. You are to decide which answer or answers are correct for FIFA, NFHS or NCAA rules, which might vary. **Solutions: p. 69.**

1. Team A is awarded a corner kick. Prior to the ball going out of play, A12, A14 and B13 had reported to the scorer's table (or nearest assistant, if no scorer).
 - a. Neither team may substitute at that time.
 - b. Both team A and team B substitutes are permitted to enter the game.
 - c. Since it is team A's possession, only team A may substitute.
 - d. Normally, substitutions are permitted at any stoppage. Competition rules may vary.

2. A10 makes a play on goal, but the ball is kicked upfield by keeper B1 and intercepted by A7. A10, now in an offside position, makes no attempt to become involved in the next phase of play between teammates.
 - a. The referee does not declare A10 offside.
 - b. The referee declares A10 offside.
 - c. Being in an offside position constitutes an offense.
 - d. It is not an offense to be in an offside position until the attacker interferes with an opponent, interferes with play or gains an advantage by being in that position.

3. Attacker A8, while in an offside position, intercepts a pass from B3 to goalkeeper B1.
 - a. The referee does not declare A8 offside.
 - b. The referee declares A8 offside.
 - c. Being in an offside position constitutes an offense.
 - d. A8 cannot be guilty of offside since the pass came from an opponent, not her own teammate.

4. B5, in an effort to reach the ball that appears to be going to A8, extends her arms and makes contact with opposing A8. B5 comes away from the encounter with the ball.
 - a. Since that closely describes the foul of obstruction (impeding), the referee awards an indirect free kick to team A.
 - b. Since that closely describes the foul of holding, the referee awards a direct free kick to team A.
 - c. Since the action described seems trivial at higher levels of play, allow play to continue.

referee waves you down, don't let your ego get in the way. Be confident. Learn from the experience. At half or after the game, ask about it.

7. Recognize flash points or warning signs and help the referee succeed when those situations arise. It's a high-order skill that comes with time.

8. Make certain the referee is free to focus on what he or she needs to do on the field — not what you need to do on the line.

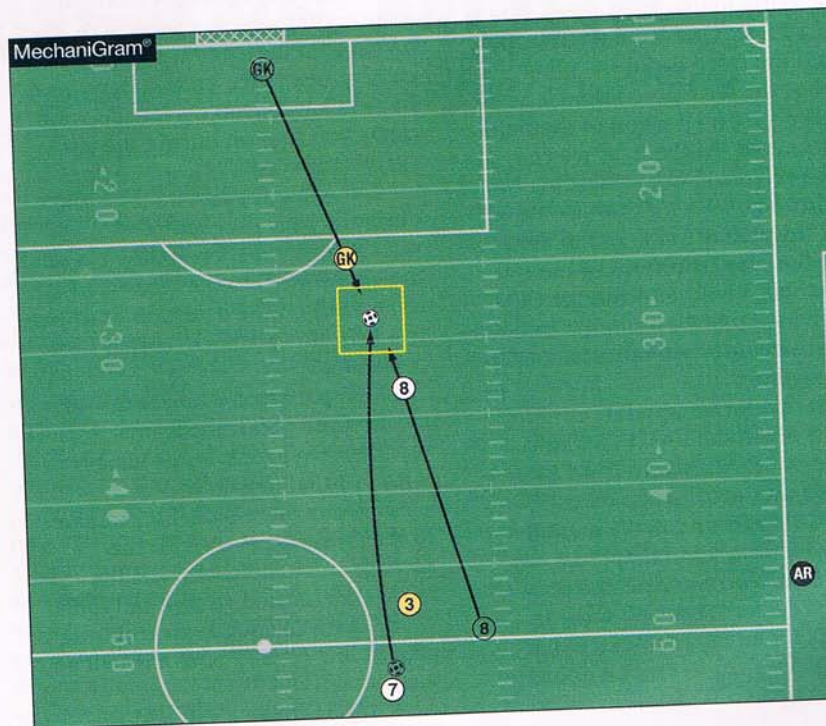
Joe Bean, 2008 Illinois High School Association Girls' Soccer Referee of the Year, officiates high school, college and indoor soccer and has refereed in four high school state finals. □

Use Quick Reference Points

When two players, separated by a great distance, are running in opposite directions, it increases the difficulty of the assistant's decision. Hence, proper positioning with the second-to-last defender is critical — as is the use of field markings.

Assistants should use *reference points* to help make offside decisions. Reference points can be grass cuttings/lines, stadium signage, field markings (top of the penalty area or American football lines) or other points like sideline marks.

In the MechaniGram, number 8 starts her run before number 7 makes the pass. The assistant referee uses the football lines to determine that number 8 was in an offside position the time of the pass. If either number 8 or the keeper will clearly get to the ball first, the assistant can decide offside or that number 8 did not interfere with play. But if the ball will fall equidistant between them (yellow box), the assistant should weigh player safety and raise the offside flag quickly to prevent a serious injury. □



SSBRA
TREASURER REPORT
BOARD MEETING
October 19, 2011

The Checking and Savings accounts were reconciled to the Western FCU bank statement for the month of September 2011. In addition, the Petty Cash, Postage Stamps and Referee Advances accounts were balanced as well.

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

SSBRA Cash Balances		
	9/30/2011	10/17/2011
Checking	\$ 7,206.67	\$ 2,683.00
Savings	7.49	7.49
Petty Cash	78.00	78.00
Stamps	28.16	12.32
New Member Deposits	(525.00)	(350.00)
Totals	\$ 6,795.32	\$ 2,430.81
 Advances:		
MB Josiah Nelson	\$ 29.00	\$ 29.00
Manhattan Beach	\$ -	\$ 2,730.00
Spring League Pmts	\$ (700.00)	\$ (700.00)
SCDSL	-	76.00
Total Adv.	\$ (671.00)	\$ 2,135.00
Checking	\$ 6,535.67	\$ 4,818.00
Savings	7.49	7.49
Petty Cash	78.00	78.00
Stamps	28.16	12.32
New Member Deposits	(525.00)	(350.00)
Adj. Totals	\$ 6,124.32	\$ 4,565.81

SSBRA dues paid thru September 30, 2011 total:

SSBRA 2012 Dues		
	Count	Fees
Regular Dues	110	\$ 6,600.00
Dues Owed	n/a	\$ -
Youth Referees	39	\$ -
Honorary Members	8	\$ -
Waived Dues	5	\$ -
New Member Waivers	17	\$ -
Prior Year Carry Over	22	\$ -
Totals	201	\$ 6,600.00

During September the following payments were made and consist of the following:

Manhattan Beach - Cks Issued 09/04/2011		
	\$	Cks
Games		114
Referee Fees	\$ 3,306.00	39
Assingor/Coord. Fees	\$ 285.00	1
Treasurer Fees	\$ 61.50	1
Postage	\$ 15.40	n/a
SSBRA Payment Totals	\$ 3,667.90	41
Billed to Manhattan Beach	\$ 3,705.00	
Net SSBRA Surplus	\$ 37.10	

Inc/Exp Comparison by Category - YTD - Q3 2011

7/1/2010 through 9/30/2011

Category	7/1/2010- 9/30/2010	7/1/2011- 9/30/2011	Amount Difference	% Difference
INCOME				
Int	0.32	0.00	-0.32	0.00 %
MEMBERS	2,697.00	3,488.00	791.00	29.33 %
NSFINES	112.00	0.00	-112.00	0.00 %
TOTAL INCOME	2,809.32	3,488.00	678.68	24.16 %
EXPENSES				
Uncategorized	0.00	0.00	0.00	INF
GAMES - ADULTS	0.00	0.00	0.00	INF
7 v 7	5.50	-177.40	182.90	3325.45 %
TOTAL GAMES - ADULTS	5.50	-177.40	182.90	3325.45 %
GAMES - YOUTH	160.36	10.00	150.36	93.76 %
TOURK	292.80	557.34	-264.54	-90.35 %
TOTAL GAMES - YOUTH	453.16	567.34	-114.18	-25.20 %
INSURANCE	575.00	575.00	0.00	0.00 %
MEET	752.46	444.61	307.85	40.91 %
POSTAGE-PRINTING	8.08	3.96	4.12	50.99 %
REIMBURSE	24.00	16.00	8.00	33.33 %
Supplies	103.89	75.00	28.89	27.81 %
TEL	108.00	108.00	0.00	0.00 %
Training	680.00	16.97	663.03	97.50 %
UNIFORMS	614.13	0.00	614.13	0.00 %
WEBSITE	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00 %
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,474.22	1,779.48	1,694.74	48.78 %
OVERALL TOTAL	-664.90	1,708.52	2,373.42	-356.96 %

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 refing)
Manhattan Village Rules	http://www.ssbra.com/html/competitions/mb7.html http://www.ssbra.com/html/competitions/mb7/7on7-Laws-of-the-Game.pdf

UNIFORM REMINDERS

Referees must carry at least **three different color** jerseys to all games. The board recommends the following:

- Gold
- Blue
- Red

Should you wish to bring more, the board recommends, in order of preference:

- Green
- Black