



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

May 31, 2013

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

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www.ssbra.org and Facebook

President: Warren Howell	Vice President: Ralph Quiroz	Secretary: Chris Nevil	Treasurer: Steve Brandon
Assignor: Bill Cook	Training Director: Larry Stern	At Large: Vince Delmonico	

SSBRA ELECTION RESULTS ARE IN MEMBERS ARE FED, UNLIKELY STORIES ARE TOLD PLAYERS MAKE THEIR GUESSES ABOUT THE LARGE MEMBER

After waiting for a half hour or so, **Mike “9 Toes” Clifford** declared that by his count, a quorum was present in the parking lot outside Lamppost pizza at the annual general meeting in May. Not seeing any reason to doubt him, and with those present clamoring for the meeting to begin, things got under way. Alas, **Warren “Bluto” Howell** then started in with the usual blather about various topics, as he often does. He did announce that **Vince Delmonico** (who has retired from refereeing and moved out of the area) had been awarded lifetime honorary Membership in the Association, to the approval of all those there. More good news followed, as it was announced that **Glenn Zardes’** son was now a starter for the L.A. Galaxy, causing much shouting and applause from the Members. Showing that all news cannot be good news, Warren stated that the dues had been raised to \$75, beginning July 1. He then thanked **Rick Roberts** for helping with the web-site, and said something or other about the newsletter, Facebook, and assigning system. He then reminded us that policy is to NOT give out your name or other contact info to unauthorized folks at matches for safety reasons, but to refer them, if asked, to those in charge. He also reminded everyone to let our assigner **Bill Cook** know if you do not want to travel long distances for tournaments, and that Warren was holding the supply of SSBRA badges and coins for the time being.

Thankfully he stopped talking at that point and let new Member **Drew Mann** introduce himself, and Drew of course received a warm welcome from the crowd. **Larry “Broken Chair” Stern** told us that the next training session would be on June 29, and Bill talked about and answered questions relating to our recent tournaments.

It was finally time for elections, with all the terms of office beginning on July 1. A formal vote was held for the position of Vice President, but the other offices were elected by a voice vote, since there was only one candidate for each position. The results:

Vice President: **Michael Hinz**

Treasurer: **Steve “Check is in the Mail” Brandon**

Secretary: **Veto “How Did I Get Myself Into This?” Galati**

Member-at-Large: **Chris “Not So Large Member” Nevil**

A general stampede inside followed, where food was consumed, beverages were drunk, doubtful tales were told and a good time was had by all.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, May 20, 2013

- Talked about getting a new Member up to speed
- Discussed a problem with a referee at a recent game
- Need to create a letter to a rejected applicant
- Lots of games in May, including friendlies and tournaments
- **Ralph Quiroz** will run for VP after all
- Lamppost pizza reserved? Will follow-up with Steve
- Chris will bring ballots to the election
- Rankings on hold till after election of VP
- Warren told about an interesting call he received from a President of another SRA, and he also talked about the web-site and newsletter
- Warren will probably not be at the June meeting
- Need to re-assign customer service reps from the Board to the various leagues after elections
- The state of Manhattan Beach and Beverly Hills matches was reported and talked about
- Larry will hold training at North on June 29
- Various Members and training discussed

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2013 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, 3620 182ND ST. (AT YUKON - SEE SSBRA.ORG FOR DETAILED MAPS). FOOD AND BEVERAGES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE LIBRARY BY THE SCHOOL. THIS IS THE LAST MEETING BEFORE THE HEAVY JULY/AUGUST TOURNAMENT SEASON BEGINS (THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JULY). ON THE AGENDA WILL BE A TRAINING SESSION AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF OTHER EXCITING STUFF.

Quote of the Month (recent horoscope)

“It may seem unfair, but people will decide what kind of a person you are based on your punctuality and other aspects of your training.”



Our crew at the Cerritos tournament (submitted by **Barry Giberman**)

Thought of the Month (Referee magazine)

“See what you call and call only what you see. Period.”

What MLS Refs Got Wrong and Right (submitted by Ralph Quiroz)

By **Ridge Mahoney**

It's been another rough week -- counting last weekend's games -- for MLS referees, yet as always, there's been plenty of well-warranted criticism but painfully little praise to those who deserve it.

Six Wednesday games offered up some juicy tidbits for discussion.

Timbers coach **Caleb Porter** fumed after a late penalty kick enabled FC Dallas to tie his team, 1-1. Porter claimed a foul called on defender **Andrew Jean-Baptiste** was a classic case of selective officiating by referee **Juan Guzman**, reminding us that players are pushing and shoving each other all the time.

Yes, players grapple and grope each other on set plays, but this was an extreme case and not on a free kick or corner kick. During an FCD attack, **Blas Perez** initiated contact by shoving Jean-Baptiste with his outstretched arms several seconds before Cooper crosses the ball from the right side. In a strange dosey-do, defender and attacker lock arms and spin each other around as the ball sails past them and Perez winds up on the ground.

The best call here would have been a no-call, since Timbers keeper **Donovan Ricketts** collected the cross and both players were equally guilty once the wrestling bout ensued. However, it seemed Guzman saw only the end of the dance, with Jean-Baptiste's hands pulling Perez's jersey as the FCD forward toppled. Had he spotted Perez's double stiff-arm when the ball was played wide to Cooper, he could have blown the whistle right then and awarded Portland a free kick for a pushing foul on Perez.

A wild finish at Red Bull Arena provided great drama and, unfortunately for TV viewers, a badly botched interpretation.

Analyst **Shep Messing** couldn't untangle the sequence of events by which **Marco Di Vaio** banged a shot off both posts in stoppage time. Unfortunately, so mangled was the commentary that the eagle-eye assessment of assistant referee **Bill Dittmar** didn't rate a mention. So here it is.

The Impact had closed to within a goal at 2-1 on a Di Vaio goal early in stoppage time, and pushed downfield again a couple of minutes later in search of an equalizer. As a cross floated into the goalmouth, Di Vaio was a yard or so beyond the Red Bulls' back line in an offside position.

Though Di Vaio could have been construed to be in the play, a few yards away and not offside was **Hassoun Camara**, who got his head to the ball and nodded it square. The flag stayed down. To reach the ball as it bounced, Di Vaio dropped a yard or so back, and hit a remarkable left-footed shot that caromed off both goalposts and so excited the announcers they'd failed to spot that Dittmar had raised his flag as the ball was headed by Camara.

When Di Vaio struck the ball he was behind Camara and not in an offside position. But when Camara's head met the ball, Di Vaio was still a foot or so beyond the last defender, and Dittmar should be lauded for interpreting this nettlesome situation spot-on correctly.

Another late flurry on a ball looped into the penalty area livened up the final seconds of the Revolution-Real Salt Lake game, and referee **Jose Carlos Rivero** didn't handle it well. He called a handball on RSL's **Carlos Salcedo** even though the ball actually struck **Tony Beltran** on the arm, probably accidentally, and also sent off Salcedo for a second caution.

Salcedo did have his arm extended in the direction of the ball but didn't touch it before or after **Stephen McCarthy** lunged and missed **Juan Toja**'s cross. This play should be reviewed and Salcedo's red card rescinded. If it was a case of handling the ball, which is also debatable, Beltran is the culprit.

A rare occurrence followed: **Nick Rimando** saved **Saer Sene**'s penalty kick without violating the restrictions on goalkeeper movement before the kick is taken. He shuffled his feet along the line and when the ball was struck dived forward to turn it aside to preserve a 2-1 RSL win. Well done by Rimando, who had Sene sussed out from the get-go, and the officiating crew for not annulling a perfectly proper penalty-kick save.



That's the Sportsmanship I'm Talking About (submitted by Chris Nevil)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ok6eADKQVe8>

DOH! (Recent news item)

Major League baseball suspended the crew chief and fined all four umpires who botched a simple application of the rules...in a game between the Angels and Astros.

Angels Manager **Mike Scioscia** protested the ruling, which was later dropped when the Angels won. Crew Chief **Fieldin Culbreth** received a two-game suspension and crew members **Brian O'Nora, Bill Welke and Adrian Johnson** were fined. MLB acknowledged that "the rule covering pitching changes was not applied correctly by the umpiring crew." Baseball rules require a pitcher to face at least one batter before being replaced.

That Should Teach Them a Lesson (recent news item)

A game between AEK Athens (Greece) and Panthrakikos was abandoned when AEK fans chased their players off the field following an 87th-minute own goal.

Advantage - The Expanded Interpretation (recent memo from Cal South)

At the time this session was recorded there was a conflict between what was posted to the US Soccer website, what

was written in the 2012 memo, what you might have heard in the US Soccer video and what we (in CA South) have been instructed by our State Director Of Instruction, **Arturo Angeles** and the very latest up-to-date interpretations.

Here is what is important to note, the word "player" is removed for the purpose of Advantage. What you need, in order to consider the application of Advantage, is for:

An offense or infraction to have occurred
AND
For the ball to be in play

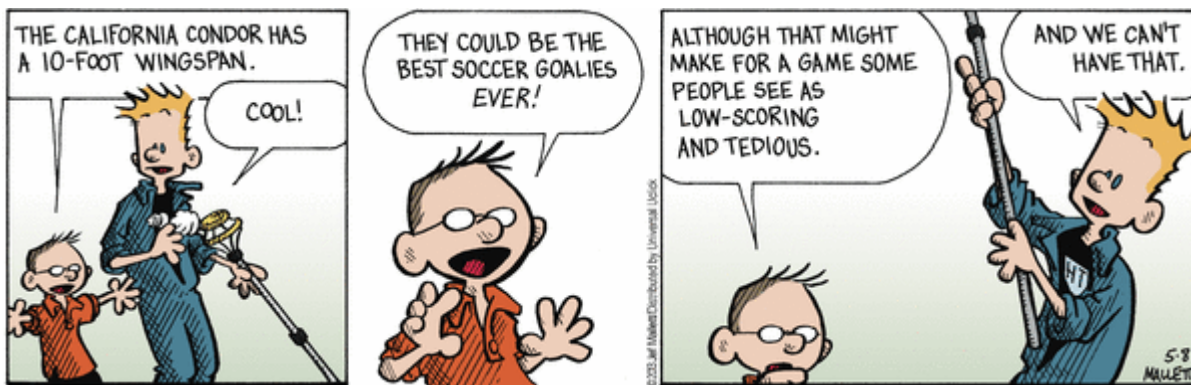
Additionally, during the session there seemed to be some confusion about what the memo and the directive are now allowing us to do. Here are some key points:

- Advantage is a Power granted to us, it is NOT a requirement, it is a tool to manage the game
- You allow Advantage depending on the situation, and these players, in this game, on this day
- Advantage often has a "wait and see" component to it
- The purpose of the broadened interpretation is to allow us the opportunity to apply Advantage considering the situation and what we need to do to manage this game and these players

This is How Some Presidents Do It (recent news item)

“I want to apologize to the entire soccer world for my remarks, but not to the referee.”

- **Ramzan Kadyrov**, the head the Chechen Republic and honorary Terek Grozny club president, exhibited how not to apologize. Kadyrov grabbed the PA microphone after Terek Grozny’s 0 – 0 tie with Rubin Kazan and called the referee a “donkey” and a “sellout.”



Can't We All Just Get Along? (recent news item)

After their team lost a match to Sunderland (England), Newcastle fans set fire to garbage bins in the city center and tried to incite brawls. One especially blotto fan punched a police horse.

The Factor of Human Error in Officiating

Editorial by **George Noujaim**

Cal South State Referee Administrator

Many of us enter into a number of prominent events in our lives picturing an ideal scenario for which we hope, long or even pray. Many people often enter school, college, marriage, parenthood, and even their professional careers with starry eyes and fairy-tale dreams. But, things don't necessarily always turn out the way we hoped. Even after years of training and experience, even the most practiced and prepared of us can make mistakes. At many points in our lives we all discover constantly that we, as human beings, are not infallible.

Soccer officiating has gone through an evolution during the past twelve months. While referees are a vital and absolutely necessary element of soccer at every level, the professional soccer leagues in America have exposed even our very best referees to a constant barrage of criticism, whether earned or perceived, which in turn is affecting the performance of many outstanding soccer officials.

Discussions regarding the effect of such criticism take place in all walks of life, but in the very public setting of a soccer pitch, it can prove devastating to the recipient. Even a top referee can suddenly feel abandoned by those who should care about them. In the worst case scenario, a referee who suffers unwanted feelings can descend into a deep depression, suffer a feeling of burnout and ultimately quit.

In the Cal South Referee Professional Development (RPD) program, referees are taught to cope with stressful situations. Levels of frustration are taught through classroom examples to establish self-confidence and to sustain a strong belief in self. The referee is more likely to interpret mistakes as failure.

"Success can only be achieved through some failure and introspection. In fact, success represents one percent of our work, which results only from the 99 percent that is called failure." said **Solchiro Honda**, Founder of Honda Motors.

It's important to realize that even outstanding referees are vulnerable to failure, but can often turn those mistakes into a stimulus for success. However, the feeling of failure combined with the threat of punitive actions can discourage and demoralize even the great ones.

Perhaps our leaders should defend the actions taken by referees and demonstrate their support with intellectual fortitude and public admonition of perpetrators of bad play. Maybe it is time for our leaders to develop an attitude that enables mistakes to turn into successes and follow these guiding principles:

- Accept the need to make mistakes
- Recognize mistakes as they occur
- Acknowledge fear of failure
- Admit the pain of defeat
- Turn failure into success

Mistakes must be viewed as symbols of innovation and indicators of creativity and productivity. It is through recognition of this that the strong shall succeed.

As **Gordon Forward**, President of Chaparral Steel, said, *"You've got to have an atmosphere where people can make mistakes. If we're not making mistakes, we're not going anywhere."*

Don't You Hate It When That Happens? (recent news item)

An MLS game between Columbus and D.C. United was delayed when the scoreboard at Crew stadium caught fire.

Those Pesky DOGSO Calls (recent article)

The Professional Referee Organization (PRO) is the organization responsible for managing the referee and assistant referee program in professional soccer leagues in the United States and Canada.

PRO Training & Development Manager **Paul Refer** reflects on two pivotal DOGSO cases in week 10's Play of the Week.

The law states that the criteria a referee must consider in cases of Denial of Goal Scoring Opportunities once he has decided that a foul challenge has taken place are;

1. The distance between the offense and the goal
2. The likelihood of the attacker keeping or gaining control of the ball
3. The direction of the play
4. The location and number of defenders

In the Sporting Kansas City against Chivas USA game, Chivas keeper **Dan Kennedy** clips **Paulo Nagamura** and, as the offense meets all of the above criteria, referee **Baldomero Toledo** correctly sends off Kennedy.

However, in the LA Galaxy versus Houston Dynamo game, Houston's Tally Hall fouls Galaxy's **Jose Villarreal** and referee **Allen Chapman** awards just a PK, which is correct. He considers the law criteria, where only points one and two are met. Criteria three and four do not apply, as Villarreal is moving away from goal and there are two defenders who would have been covering had he gained possession of the ball.

It is understandable that comparisons will be made between the two offenses, especially as they occurred on the same day. On this occasion, both referees made correct calls if you follow the above guidelines highlighted in FIFA's Laws of the Game.

The first offense matches all of the criteria of law, while the second offense matches two of the four requirements.

Another Quote of the Month (Joe Sheehan, Sports Illustrated)

“We no longer need (refs) who can win arguments. We need (refs) who can stay out of them.”

Players Make Guesswork Out Of the Large Member

A recreational tournament was being played in May, and the referee commonly known as the **Large Member** had the pleasure of being the 1-man official for a 3-game set of U7 players. Though it sometimes seemed handling the teams was a lot like heading cats, the first two pool-play games went off fine (and the L.M. did tie a shoe during one of these matches when requested to do so by a player). Then came a longer break before the consolation game, and there were a few minutes for idle chitchat before the kick-off of the final game of the day for that age group. A few players, having gotten to know the L.M. earlier in the day at the morning games and thus able to overcome their shyness, gathered round him and the following conversation took place:

- Player #1: Hey Mister, how old are you?
- L.M. (startled): Uh, well, how old do you think I am?
- Player #1: 100!

- Player #2: 107!
- Players #3: 99!
- Player #4: 1000!

By now most of the players from both teams were there, and the L.M. decided it was time for an impromptu contest. Holding up an English 2 pence piece, he told them that he would ask each of them how old they thought he was, and the one closest would win the coin. He then surveyed all the players, who were enthusiastic in voicing their opinions. In due course the L.M. rewarded a young player with the prize for the best guess of.....wait for it.....86!

After that the match started, and wound up ending in a 0 – 0 tie. Since a winner was needed, it went to PK's, and one of the teams eventually prevailed. After the ending ceremonies, with the score and who won already forgotten, all the players from both teams rushed over to the L.M. and asked him if he had any coins left to give away (he did). After they were all distributed, the L.M. retreated back to the referee area, and told the story to a couple of his fellow Members. The only question remaining, as **Bob Slater** helpfully pointed out, was if 86 years old was over or under.

There Seems to be a Fiery Pattern Developing Here (recent news item)

Boca Juniors drew 1-1 with River Plate in Buenos Aires, leaving Boca winless in 11 straight. Play was halted briefly after fans at Boca's stadium set off fireworks and security responded with water hoses.

Shoelaces Lead to Red Card (news article, New Zealand Herald)

Roda JC striker **Sanharib Malki** might be looking to order shorter shoelaces for future games after his current pair led to a red card in a Dutch Eredivisie League game this week.

The Syrian player was left tangled with ADO Den Haag striker **Mike van Duinen** when their shoelaces got caught while both players attempted to go for the ball.

Malki did the seemingly reasonable thing and tried to untangle the boots with a quick kick, but while it unhooked the players it also sent van Duinen to the canvas.

The referee saw this and showed Malki a straight red.

Another Thought of the Month (Referee magazine)

“In those gray-area moments *when a call is necessary*, do what is expected and make the call or ruling...”

I Hate it Even Worse When This Happens (recent news item)

A soccer referee filed a lawsuit against the national football federation of Kenya, claiming he was rendered impotent after an angry coach squeezed his testicles during a game.