



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

June 30, 2013

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

Editor: Warren Howell

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	Member-At-Large: Chris Nevil	

MOST OF SSBRA BOARD MISSING, UFO ABDUCTION NOT TO BLAME ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS ARE READY TO START IMPORTANT DEADLINE IS ALMOST HERE FOR ALL MEMBERS

The SSBRA Members rolled in for the June meeting, expecting a plethora of pearls of wisdom from the Board. Alas, most of the Board was nowhere to be seen – **Warren “Bluto” Howell, Ralph “Worst Ref in Town” Quiroz, Steve “Check in the Mail” Brandon and Bill “Call Me” Cook** all being absent for one reason or another. However, there was no need to panic, as a mass kidnapping was ruled out, and our current Training Director and former President **Larry “Broken Chair” Stern** jumped in to led the meeting, as he has done many times in the past, while current Secretary and Member at Large **Chris “Not So Large Member” Nevil** took notes and Members-elect **Veto “Jersey” Galati and Michael “Ranker” Hinz** helped out as needed.

After introducing new Member **Enrique Zelaya**, Larry shared with everyone that Warren’s health issues were now behind him, and he will continue to take care of the web-site, newsletter and Facebook, with contributions welcome. Larry then mentioned that the two new Board Members take office on July 1, the same day that Members are expected to have paid their yearly dues. He then reminded us that the appointed positions of Assignor and Training Director would be made at the July Board meeting and ratified at the August meeting, and told that the Board had divvied up liaison positions to the various leagues. Then there was some discussion about the new

ranking system, that is really more or less the old grid method that will be led by Michael. Michael is also working on a revision to the Association guideline document. Larry asked that we get accurate availability to Bill, including travel restrictions, and then, proving he is far less long-winded than the current President, he turned the floor over to Michael.

“Ranker” then said something or other about how the rankings would work, answering questions from **Vasilios “Biker Dude” Sakellariadis**. **Manny “Soccer-one” Fineberg** then showed us, once again, that he has the best equipment in town, at the best prices too. Not to be outdone, Chris Nevil encouraged all of us to upgrade and attend clinics in a constant effort to improve our skills. Larry decided to speak about the importance of the training sessions, and Veto asked that everyone review and update their info on the roster.

Speaking of training, our own **Gabriel “Mario” Goldsman** then took over and presented an outstanding session on goalkeepers. He started by reminding us that it is a myth that a goalkeeper can never be touched, they are allowed/required special uniforms, have special privileges and can be called for fouls that apply only to them. They also require special handling by the referee, because of all this.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, June 11, 2013 (Michael Hinz was also present)

- A new Member’s application was accepted, and a potential new Member was discussed
- Two problem Members were discussed and several options to handle the situations were created
- Chris got the Member at Large materials, will handle badges and coins. Veto will get the Secretary stuff later, WH will continue to write the newsletter
- Need to take out Ralph and add Michael as approved check signers (WH and Steve will continue to be approved also)
- Michael and Veto are doing the heavy lifting on updating the guidelines and eventually amending the bylaws, with the rest of the Board enthusiastically sharing their thoughts too
- Customer liaisons will now be Bill (PSL, J-league, CSL, Spring league), Steve (SCDSL), Larry (Lawndale), and Chris (Beverly Hills)
- A long discussion about training, rankings, another association, future games, summer plans, availability and budgets then went on till the small hours of the morning, at which time everyone was too tired to continue and the meeting was adjourned

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JULY. THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE CAFETERIA OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, 3620 182ND ST. (AT YUKON - SEE SSBRA.ORG FOR DETAILED MAPS). THIS IS THE LAST MEETING BEFORE THE HEART OF THE CLUB AND ADULT SOCCER SEASON BEGINS. ON THE AGENDA WILL BE ANNOUNCEMENTS ON THE VARIOUS LEAGUES AND FIELDS SSBRA WILL BE COVERING THIS FALL, DETAILS ON HOW EACH OF THE LEAGUES WANT THEIR GAMES HANDLED, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DIRECTIONS FOR THE LABOR DAY TOURNAMENTS, INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LATEST PROCEDURES, A TRAINING SESSION AND THE CHANCE TO CATCH UP WITH YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS AFTER THE JULY BREAK.

This Seems a Bit Harsh (Albert Einstein)

“Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe.”

Refereeing Young Children: More Teacher than an Enforcer (Part 1) (Submitted by Ralph Quiroz)

By **Randy Vogt**

When I started refereeing in 1978, young kids games were 11 vs. 11. I was paid \$6 per game, or \$4 if I refereed with a partner. Being given responsibilities and some authority while running up and down a soccer field was probably the best job that a teenager could have. Nearly all new referees will be given young children's games when starting out.

In the 1990s, these games were switched to small-sided games to give each player more touches on the ball. Although this helped their development, it also helped the development of referees as they had fewer players to watch when officiating the game. With fewer players, it also limited the number of spectators -- usually family members -- watching the game. This is very important as the adults are the main reason for disciplinary issues in young kids' games.

To some adults coaching or watching young kids' games, the game in front of them is as important as the World Cup final. These way too serious adults appear to be living vicariously through their child and either need to learn to calm down or their child eventually quits playing. Unfortunately, these adults also have a dramatically negative impact on refs who we are trying to retain and develop.

Most adults in the younger age groups know little about soccer and the only games they have seen are their own kids' games. Some adults with these age groups also believe that soccer is a non-contact sport. Their perception of what should be called and the reality of what should be called are two very different things.

Not knowing much about soccer, they will argue the direction of a throw-in as much as a penalty kick decision. As challenging as it might be, referees are never to talk down to anyone.

For problem coaches, as the field is small, I have found that cheating my position a bit toward the coach's touchline works well as it gives you a somewhat similar angle to the coach and you are right there so if the coach dissents, you will hear it.

Coaches appreciate when you let them have their say but their commentary about officiating cannot be continuous. Certainly, refs cannot allow that to happen throughout the match and retain control of the game. Most youth leagues encourage refs to give a dissenting coach a caution and refs will need to do this to control the situation. Should the coach continue to complain, the ref needs to use the red card.

With problem parents who are not coaches, many youth leagues require the coach to control the parent. In that case, the ref is to seek the help of the coach. If the parent continues to yell, the coach receives a yellow card for the parent's behavior should that league's rules mandate it.

Regarding soccer's only complex rule, offside is enforced in some young children's games and not in others while a modified version is used in other leagues. It's important for the ref to know that league's rules before officiating and take a cell phone and appropriate phone numbers should a question come up.

Some leagues will let a young player take an illegal throw-in over again which I think is a good move. The ref

should tell the player what was done incorrectly before the second attempt.

Especially in young kids games, very brief explanations should be given after some decisions (to help players, coaches and spectators understand what is happening) and handling fouls should be not be whistled unless they are very obviously deliberate.

It's important that with handling that is not deliberate, the ref should indicate by a quick verbal commentary that the play has been seen and is not a foul as it's not deliberate. That should keep the adults quiet as one of the few rules they are aware of is handling is against the rules but most don't realize that it has to be deliberate to be whistled.

For clean tackles, the ref should indicate it's fair by pointing to the ball and, if that does not get the point across, the ref could always say the challenge was fair.

The referee should not be too officious and is more of a teacher than an enforcer in most young children's games. It's important for the ref to know the rules but equally important how they should be applied. Refereeing from Law 18 (common sense) as much as Laws 1 to 17 will serve the referee well in young kids' games.

Thought of the Month (attributed to Gautama Buddha)

“Holding onto anger is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die.”

Sometimes You Just Have to Talk it Over (Recent article)

In week 13's Play of the week, PRO Training & Development Manager **Paul Rejer** examines the teamwork used by PRO officials.

During the Sporting Kansas City versus Houston Dynamo match in week 13, referee **Drew Fischer** awarded a PK to Houston, which was eventually overturned after some teamwork between the officials at the match.

Paul explained: "During a game of soccer, there are three teams involved - the two clubs and the match officials.

"At PRO we are encouraging a team ethic between our officials. Referees cannot work in isolation and they have to empower their ARs and fourth official to give them the authority and the confidence to assist at all times.

"This was highlighted in this week's Play of the week, which came at Sporting Kansas City v Houston Dynamo, when referee Drew Fischer awarded a PK to Houston Dynamo for what he believed was a foul challenge by **Oriol Rosell** of Kansas on **Brad Davis** of Houston.

"His team of match officials immediately informed him that he was incorrect. Instead of immediately changing his decision, which would have lacked credibility, Drew wisely decided to have face-to-face dialogue with his nearest AR, **Kevin Duliba**.

"This was done for various reasons, but mainly to give himself that valuable thinking time, to allow the players to calm down, and also to gauge how confident Kevin was with his thoughts. It was important at this stage that Kevin was positive and decisive when providing Drew with advice.

"Finally the correct decision was made, and it was all due to teamwork. I am sure that Drew would have preferred

to make the correct call in the first place but he will appreciate the fact that his team-mates assisted him in eventually making the right decision."

"Remember, there are three teams on a soccer pitch at all times, and solid teamwork is as important to the refereeing crew as it is to the competing clubs."

He Should Have Been a Referee (attributed to Albert Einstein)

"A clever person solves a problem. A wise person avoids it."



These Members look like they are having a good time at the Cerritos tournament (Submitted by **Barry Giberman**)

Quote of the Month (attributed to Albert Einstein)

"Anger dwells only in the bosom of fools."



These Guys Look Like They are Waiting for the Dinner Bell (May AGM)

I am Starting to Detect a Theme Here (attributed to Albert Einstein)

“The difference between genius and stupidity is; genius has its limits.”



Members Pay Close Attention to the Sage Words of the Board (May AGM)

This Guy Never Knew When to Shut up (Albert Einstein)

“Common sense is the collection of prejudices acquired by age eighteen.”