



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

April 30, 2014

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www.ssbra.org and Facebook

President: Warren Howell

Vice President: Michael Hinz

Secretary: Veto Galati

Treasurer: Steve Brandon

Member-At-Large: Chris Nevil

Assigner: Bill Cook

Mentoring: Ralph Quiroz

**TOURNAMENT DOES NOT COME A CROPPER DUE TO MEMBER EFFORTS
NOMINATIONS ARE MADE AND BYLAW CHANGES ARE PROPOSED
ONE MEMBER GETS ALL THE CREDIT, ANOTHER GETS ALL THE BLAME**

As usual, the library of North high school was filled with Members on the last Tuesday of April, all of which were enjoying the company of their fellow referees and the customary foofaraw (you can google it). With a bit of puling (google it), everyone eventually settled down and the meeting began. Right away **'Broadway Warren' Howell** started in telling the tale of the recent USC adult 7v7 tournament. This was an event waiting to turn into a disaster, with one 20-minute half per game, 5 minutes between games - with PK's needed to determine a winner in about half the matches anyway - limited room on the pitch to setup fields, no goals, etc etc. But SSBRA came to the rescue, with **Jonny Joseph** setting up the fields (using folding chairs as boundary makers, no less), finding goals from other venues, and doing what needed to be done to get the matches played. In addition to Jonny, **Terry Didelot**, **David Martin**, **Nouredine Miloud** and **James Altuner** (with Assigner **Bill 'Robo-Cop' Cook** waiving his fee despite spending hours helping the "organizers" and arranging referee payments himself) did what needed to be done to get the games

played. In the end the tournament guys went out of their way to compliment SSBRA for a job well done on a great tournament where a good time was had by all (!).

Warren then shared that our fellow Member and friend **Dave Dillard** had taken on the tedious job of going through the web-site and coming up with a long list of minor corrections and improvements. These have been implemented, and Warren was ready to take all the credit, while assigning the blame elsewhere if any of this met with disapproval. At that point new Member **Robert Osborne** was introduced to the crowd, told us a little about himself, and got the famous SSBRA welcome in return.

It was then time to talk about elections, which would be held at Lamppost Pizza again (see below for details). Bill then took over, and nominations for offices were made (see below - more nominations can be made at the May meeting too).

Michael ‘Waki Mike’ Hinz then presented amendments to the bylaws, explaining what they were about and reminding us that these would be voted on at the May meeting also (see below).

At that point **Manny Fineberg** started talking and told us all about the high-quality referee gear he had once again brought to the meeting, with a large number of Members taking advantage of the discount pricing and convenience of having the stuff delivered to North High.

Bill Cook took the floor, and mentioned an opportunity that had come up for referees being filmed for some kind of commercial. He then talked (with many comments and questions coming from the Members) at some length about the large number of ‘friendly’ games that have taken on a life of their own - somewhat as an alternative to the more traditional spring league - how they are set-up, pricing, venues, last-minute scheduling/changes, flexible formats, and so on. **Reggie Reginald** then told us the surprise news that the Lawndale games had all been moved to Rogers Anderson field for that week-end.

Chris ‘Not So Large Member’ Nevil told us about the good April turnout SSBRA had at the latest Referee Professional Development (RPD) session at Citrus College, with seven Members making the trek out there to take advantage of the excellent training and the chance to meet some Cal South folks. **Ralph ‘Worst Ref in Town’ Quiroz** then said some words about training and mentoring.

With **Veto ‘Jersey Boy’ Galati** unable to attend and **Larry ‘Broken Chair’ Stern** declining to speak, it was time for the Cal South training to begin. And so everyone started goggling (google it) our own Member and friend **Gabriel ‘Ben Gay’ Goldman**, who was the featured speaker of the evening. Far from being a panjamdrum (google it), GG is anyway a certified and knowledgeable part of the Cal South training team. He got right to it, leading a discussion on the importance of assistant referees in modern officiating, how they recognize, assess and decide on the the various situations that come up and on helping the referee. This included some slides, videos and lots of interaction with those present. After he was done, there was a raffle, and lots of goodies were handed out by **Steve ‘Check in the Mail’ Brandon**.

Nominations for Board Positions:

President: Warren Howell (incumbent) and Michael Hinz (current Vice President)

Secretary: Veto Galati (incumbent)

Member at Large: Chris Nevil (incumbent) and Larry Stern

SSBRA ByLaws Proposed Changes.

IV Members

C. 3. Attend *at least 5* membership meetings. (This aligns with C. 1. for training sessions)

D. 2. Delete “*and honorary*” (This correct the conflict with D. 4.)

D. 4. Add “*have the rights of full members but*” (This returns full rights to Honorary members which they had in D. 2.)

V Fees and Dues

Add section C. to address SSBRA Fees.

Update this section to document how Match fees are established and how they can be modified based on tournament, special events, etc.

Match Fees are determined in various manners as listed below based on the league and event. All fees are approved by the SSBRA BOD and documented on the SSBRA web-site.

1. *Match Fees for Youth Club associations (i.e. CSL and DSL) are determined by the applicable Soccer association.*

2. *Match Fees for the Adult Leagues (i.e. J-Liga, SBPSL, MB 7v7, BH 7 v7) are negotiated between SSBRA and the applicable league and approved by the SSBRA BOD.*

3. *Match fees for Tournaments are determined based on the specific tournament. Some tournaments have established fees and others are negotiated between SSBRA and the applicable tournament and approved by the SSBRA BOD.*

4. *Friendly Match fees will be based on the associated fee structure approved by the BODs. i.e. a Friendly CSL match fee is the same as the match fee for a regular season match. A discount may be applied to the standard fee structure with BOD approval.*

Update this section to document how Assignor fees are established and how they can be modified.

1. *Assessor fees are determined by the BOD on a yearly basis. Fees are documented in Board Meeting minutes.*

Update this section to document how Treasurer Fees are established and how they can be modified.

1. *Treasurer fees are determined by the BOD on a yearly basis. Fees are documented in Board Meeting minutes. These fees cover the Treasurer’s costs for printing, mailing, checks to members and maintaining SSBRA financial reports and archives.*

VIII Board of Directors

A. 1. Add a list of the Officers i.e. *President, Vice President Secretary and Treasurer Member-at-Large* (This clarifies the roles)

A. 2. Add duties for “Other Members” just like the Bylaws have for the Officers. (This clarifies the roles and responsibilities for all Board members.)

E. Quorum – Add “*including either the President or Vice-President*”

X General Meetings

D. Change “excluding” to “including”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, April 24, 2014

- Applications for Membership accepted for **Greg Waugh**
- Concerns with 2 Members were discussed and dealt with
- USC tournament payment issues were discussed and an action plan created
- Nominations and bylaw amendments will be taken at the monthly meeting
- After discussion, it was decided that the May election meeting will be held again at Lamppost Pizza
- Mentoring and training of Members were planned
- WH working on a bunch of web-site updates suggested by Dave Dillard
- Seven Members attended the latest Cal South RPD training, which is a good showing for SSBRA
- The next round of rankings are coming
- A long discussion on friendly fee structure took place

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE PARKING LOT OF LAMPOST PIZZA, 2955 ROLLING HILLS RD., TORRANCE 90505, (310) 325-4864. NOTE THE EARLY 7 PM START TIME AND THAT THIS IS THE ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING AND PIZZA PARTY HOSTED BY SSBRA (MEMBERS ONLY PLEASE), WHICH WILL BE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ELECTIONS INSIDE THE RESTAURANT. THIS IS THE DAY AFTER MEMORIAL DAY, AND THE BOARD REQUESTS THAT EVERYONE WHO CAN ATTEND DO SO, SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A QUORUM FOR THE ELECTIONS. UP FOR ELECTION ARE THE OFFICES OF PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND MEMBER-AT-LARGE. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS WILL ALSO BE VOTED ON. THERE WILL BE NO CAL SOUTH TRAINING AT THIS MEETING, BUT THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO SOCIALIZE WITH YOUR FELLOW MEMBER REFEREES, SO PLEASE PLAN ON BEING THERE.

Thought of the Month (Recent horoscope)

“Try not to identify so strongly with your mistakes. Just because you mess up sometimes does not make you a bad person.”

This is Probably NOT the Best Way to Handle On-Pitch Issues



10 Good Things For a Rookie, to Keep in Mind - and The Rest Of Us Too (by Patrick Indivero)

- 1 - **Be consistent and creative in your studies:** you have to know and understand the rules and mechanics
- 2 - **Invest in yourself and your future:** invest in the best uniforms and equipment you can afford
- 3 - **Find and rely on a mentor**
- 4 - **Befriend your assigner:** develop a professional yet congenial relationship with him/her
- 5 - **Present a positive attitude**
- 6 - **Focus on improvement:** your focus should always be on improvement
- 7 - **Demonstrate respect:** When you are challenged with disrespect, cruelty and lack of appreciation, take the higher road and shield yourself by displaying more effective people skills and behaviors such as respect, kindness and gratitude. Like Superman's response to bullets, let all the negative assaults bounce off your chest
- 8 - **Lead by example:** the instant you put on your uniform, you accept the responsibility of being a leader
- 9 - **Support your association**
- 10 - **Enjoy the experience**

Quote of the Month

"It is not possible to reason with unreasonable people"
- Vince Flynn

Let's Hope This Does Not Apply to the F&W



Being Armed With Cards Is Not Always Enough

by **Anne McCloy**

A Nashville man is facing some serious charges after an argument with a referee allegedly got out of hand Sunday night. According to arrest records, **Dillan Rodriguez** is accused of knocking out a referee after a player on his team received a red card, which is an ejection. The referee says he woke up a few minutes after being punched.

Police say the referee's face, lips, nose and hand were visibly swollen. Rodriguez was arrested Sunday night and is facing charge of aggravated assault.

That's What I'm Talking About! (submitted by **Scott Jarus**)

<http://funniestvideoalbum.blogspot.com/2014/03/what-if-nothing-is-impossible.html>

Just Another Evening of Family Fun at a Recent Manhattan Beach 7v7 Match

“At the 36th minute **Nolan Holly** received his first caution for dissent. At the 43rd minute Nolan Holly was fouled and he took out his frustration by tackling the lady from S.P (Sons of Pitches team) who fouled him. **Daniel Curtis** of S.P. then pushed Nolan Holly and yelled at him ‘that’s my wife you f***ing a**hole’ (*’s added by the editor). Nolan received his second caution and was disqualified. Daniel Curtis was shown the red card and disqualified. Note: Both players apologized to each other after the match.”

- recent incident report submitted by **Rudy "Choke-Hold" Chavez**

The Female Game

By **Carl P. Schwartz**

There are referees who don't enjoy working female games — they suggest those games are beneath" their skill. They show up late, don't run as fast, don't concentrate as much or don't give the same sharp signals. So, if you are a grizzled veteran or an up-and-coming hotshot with a disdain for female games, don't do the games an injustice by getting assigned to them.

But if you understand why it's fun to be assigned to female contests, then you understand the complexities of the sport. They are competitive — our women's national team is consistently among the top teams in the world. Top women's college teams are fantastic to watch.

Female games are often more tactical — they involve all 11 players rather than relying on the strength and skill of a few. There are subtle aspects to the game that require special attention. Just as in a men's game, if you don't take care of problems, the players will. Unlike the men's game, it's often a teammate that serves as the enforcer. Also unlike the men's game, the retaliation for an un-whistled "foul" might take place 20 minutes later.

You will also have greater opportunities to refine your positioning since the women's game rarely involves the long "kick-and-run" play which seems to have become standard in men's games.

Listen. Female players tend to be more vocal, and they send out warning signals to alert you to whistle more fouls or to start calling a specific type of contact. They are not "whining like a bunch of girls," they are helping you maintain match control!

Higher. Generically, fouls in male contests tend to happen lower — down at the feet, ankles and shins. Female tend to foul higher up — swinging hips, upper-body fouls, holding, pushing, unfair charges and name-calling (a foul, but misconduct.)

Don't bark. One of the more common mistakes that male referees make when dealing with female players is to loudly and publicly rebuke a player for an action. You run the risk of taking the player out of her game with a loud "bark" after her inappropriate play. That often works in a male game. Speak more softly in a women's game — mean what you say and say it convincingly — but keep it more private.

Respect. Respect players for the hard work they put into practice, into teamwork, into showcasing their skills. Do not let unfair play adversely affect their skills — things you might consider nit-picky in a male game. The best way to show your respect for female players is to work as hard as you would in a male game.

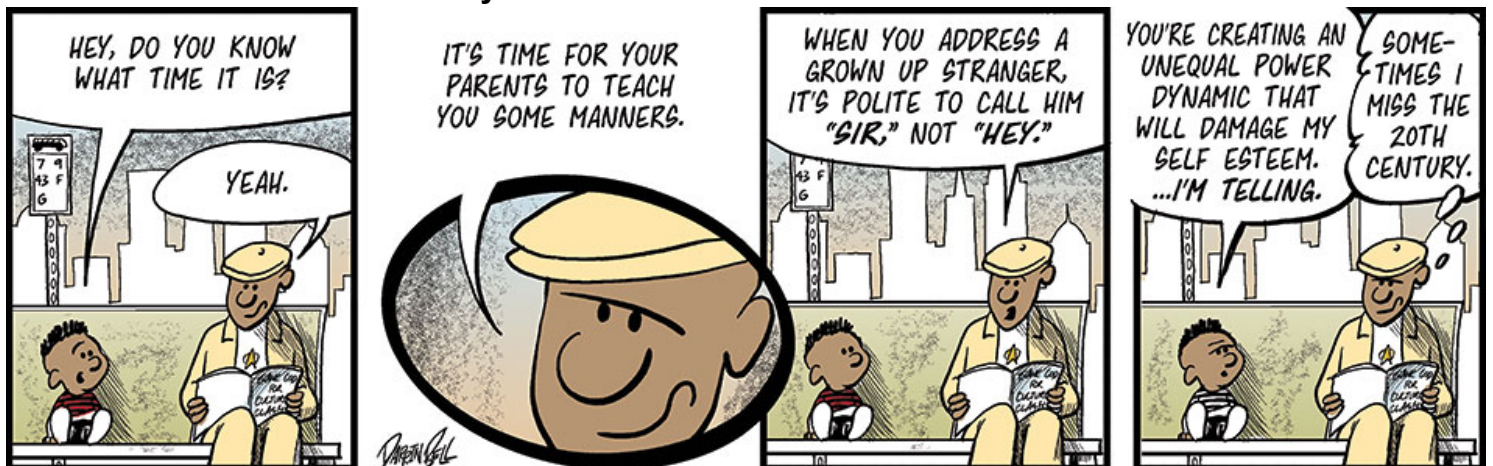
Carl P. Schwartz is Referee's soccer coordinator. He was a USSF and NISOA National Assessor, a State Instructor and refereed more than 3,800 games in the U.S., Germany and England.

Methinks There is a Problem Here (Recent Referee Magazine poll)

Responses to the question "How would you rate your skills among the peers in your officials association?"

----- 47% rated themselves in the top 10 % of their Peers
----- 32 % rated themselves in the top 25% of their Peers
----- 15% rated themselves somewhere else in the top 50 % of their Peers
--- 6 % rated themselves in the bottom 50% of their Peers

Sometimes I Feel The Same Way Too



Question of the Month (A youngsters coach during a recent match to referee the **Large Member**)

“Will every foul that happens in the penalty area result in a penalty kick?”

Dealing With Players (from My Referee magazine)

While officials have a fair amount of contact with coaches during a game, they are most often communicating v players. Here are some suggestions on how to keep those lines open.

1. Discreetly praise outstanding efforts. “I’ll congratulate players on good plays and try to encourage sportsmanship,” said **Walter Panek**, a football, baseball and softball arbiter from Wharton, N.J. Talking to players is part of preventive officiating. Players will often seem surprised that an official is really watching them even when they are doing the right thing.

2. Apply the Golden Rule, and think before you react. Do you do unto others as you would have them do unto you. It’s an effective technique that often gains surprising cooperation from players and coaches. Think about it. Are you more comfortable with a boss who tells you to “shut your trap” or with one who is considerate of your feelings? “I try to treat them like I would want to be treated if I were in their shoes,” said Hahn. “I answer any questions they might have, even if I think the questions are foolish. I always let them think that their questions are reasonable.”

“Being polite and treating others with respect usually is returned by the involved parties,” added **Michael Rolfes**, a four-sport official from Cincinnati. The issues of courtesy and respect were mentioned frequently by those whose opinions are included in this story: “Yes sir,” “No sir,” “Yes, young man,” etc. “Let (the players) know that as long as they are civil, they can come to you,” suggested **Jim Lapetina**, from Bloomingdale, Ill. “Give respect and you’ll get respect. It goes both ways.”

Retired official **Jerry Grunski** said officials should “avoid patronizing” coaches and players. “Never talk down to (them) and at the same time show (them) the utmost respect.” He added, “If a coach is pleading and cajoling, he should be listened to and a reply should be even-toned, logical and brief; no sarcasm, no put-downs.”

Noted **Richard Stein**, a four-sport official from Fairport, N.Y.: “Explaining to a player why I called a foul makes him understand what he did wrong.” But Stein draws a distinct line between players and coaches. “The less I talk to (coaches) the better. A coach is one animal before the game and another animal during a game.” NFL line judge **Bruce Maurer** lives in Dublin, Ohio. Maurer shared his personal six-step program for enhancing relationships with players and coaches. Here are the six techniques that Maurer said he “thinks, practices and applies.”

- You are there to defuse rather than incite;
- address team members and coaches as ‘Yes sir’ and ‘No sir’;
- talk low and slow;
- let your mind digest what your ears have heard;
- be a good listener;
- communicate, communicate, communicate.

3. Enjoy the experience, look interested and work hard. Former Illinois High School Association leader **Don Robinson** is convinced that officials, particularly those at the high school level, need to lighten up a shade or two. “They have to stop taking themselves all that seriously,” said Robinson. “I think we have to take the activities we’re doing seriously because it’s important to the coaches and the kids. But some officials need to back off a little bit and realize that it can be lots of fun. We’re not talking about life or death. For crying out loud, just relax and enjoy the experience. ... I think that the official who takes the game seriously, but not himself seriously, will be more likely to survive.” Players and coaches tend to respond favorably to officials who appear to be enjoying the experience, who show by their words and deeds that they are genuinely glad to be there and who do not try to steal the spotlight from the athletes.

“I do the best job I can to show a sense of an ‘I’m here for them, they are not here for me’ attitude,” related **Gary Frieders**, an official from Santa Rosa, Calif. Looking as if you belong in athletics also helps you sell yourself to players and coaches. It makes them feel as if they have more in common with you. “I made sure that I developed a strong (physical) appearance,” said **Crystal Nichols**, a basketball referee from Los Angeles. “I look healthy and have a strong, athletic build.”

4. Honesty is the only policy. Under no circumstances should you try to fib your way out of a dilemma. “Be totally honest in everything you do on and off the field,” implored **Jim Gilbert**, an official from Lindon, Utah. Others generally will appreciate your honesty — and go easier on you — if you willingly admit when you commit an error.

5. Use captains to help solve problems. Most team captains are chosen for that honor because of their leadership skills and because they are admired or respected by their teammates. Often, captains realize their leadership role includes a degree of responsibility for controlling, even disciplining their teammates. A savvy official understands those dynamics and can take advantage of them if need be. Basketball referee **Ron Martel**, from Bellingham, Mass., works hard to get the captains’ help, asking them to step in early if a confrontational situation seems to be developing. Players will often listen to their captains when officials’ comments are falling on deaf ears, he noted. One key to getting along with players and coaches is breaking down any perception of an adversarial relationship with officials. Like it or not, advised Grunski, the people in the dugout or on the bench often believe they must compete against the officials as well as the other team. “We can’t dismiss that from our minds,” he warned. Combating that perception is no easy task. But if you carefully follow the suggestions offered in this article, you will be taking several giant steps in the right direction. Experience shows that if players and coaches believe you are at least an “OK” person, they are also more likely to see you as an acceptable official. It’s simply human nature.

Think of your officiating career as a bank account. Every time you work, you make various “deposits” and “withdrawals.” Your goal should be to have a lucrative account. That will help give you added security (acceptance) and provide opportunities for new investments (advancement up the officiating ladder). The more goodwill you create and foster by getting along with players and coaches, the “wealthier” you become. You can take that advice to the bank. Guaranteed.

No Word On What Would Have Happened if the Referee Had Been Injured (Recent news article)

A Spanish soccer fan was charged with animal cruelty after throwing a dog at a referee during a match in southeastern Spain. The unarmed man took the animal from another spectator and threw it at the referee, who stood below the stands. The referee dodged the animal, which landed on the concrete. The man was fined 200 Euros (\$277), must pay veterinary bills, and the cost of the trial. He could have faced up to a year in jail had the dog been more seriously hurt.



That will leave a mark....

This Is No Way To Treat a President (Recent news article)

Soccer's governing body in Cyprus postponed all local matches for the first weekend in March after a bombing damaged the car of a top referee in the country. The move was less than a week before a friendly between the United States and Ukraine, which was moved from Ukraine due to the violence in that area. Police say an explosive device was placed on the hood of referee **Leontios Trattos'** car and it exploded in a parking lot outside his apartment. No one was hurt, but his car and another vehicle were damaged. Trattos is the president of Cyprus' referee association and has overseen international matches.

Let's Hope this Does Not Apply to SSBRA Policies (Attributed to **William Whitelaw**)

“Those who say that I am not in agreement with the policy are, rightly or wrongly, quite wrong.”



No reason to let a little moisture on the pitch postpone a Finnish match....

Maybe a Yellow Card Would Have Worked Better Here (Recent news article)

The soccer referee who sent off **Cristiano Ronaldo** in a match in Spain was suspended for a month. Spain's refereeing technical committee dropped **Miguel Angel Ayza Gamez** for a month in the wake of his performance when he showed a straight red card to Ronaldo. The report said Ayza Gamez will not be appointed to further Real Madrid matches this season.

Well Yes Actually, But What's Your Point? (Conversation at recent match)

Unnamed adult player: "Hey ref, what are the rules of this tournament anyway?"

The Large Member: "There really aren't any, so we will make them up as we go along"

Player: "But isn't that what you guys always do anyway?"

Qatar World Cup Investigation: Former FIFA Vice-President Paid Millions (Recent news article)

By **Claire Newell, Holly Watt, Claire Duffin, Ben Bryant, Alastair Good**

A senior FIFA official and his family were paid almost \$2 million (£1.2m) from a Qatari firm linked to the country's successful bid for the 2022 World Cup, The Telegraph can disclose.

Jack Warner, the former vice-president of FIFA, appears to have been personally paid \$1.2 million (£720,000) from a company controlled by a former Qatari football official shortly after the decision to award the country the tournament.

Payments totalling almost \$750,000 (£450,000) were made to Mr Warner's sons, documents show. A further \$400,000 (£240,000) was paid to one of his employees.

It is understood that the FBI is now investigating Trinidad-based Mr Warner and his alleged links to the Qatari bid, and that the former FIFA official's eldest son, who lives in Miami, has been helping the inquiry as a co-operating witness.

The awarding of the 2022 World Cup to Qatar was one of the most controversial decisions in sporting history. The intense summer heat in the desert nation has raised the prospect of the tournament being moved to the winter for the first time.

Who Can Blame Him? (Actual statement of a driver explaining an injury-free car accident)

“ I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law, and headed over the embankment.”