



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

January 2015

P.O. Box 10466 Torrance, CA 90505

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www.ssbra.org

President: Michael Hinz
Treasurer: Steve Brandon

Vice-President: Bruce Anderson
Assignor: Bill Cook
Member-At-Large: Chris Nevil

Secretary: Veto Galati
Mentoring & Assessments: Kirk Jackson

Notes from the President –

The SSBRA Board would like to welcome our 13 newest SSBRA members to the Association. This brings the new member total since the 4th Quarter of 2014 to 23 members. Let's all keep up the recruiting efforts. The 13 newest members are (in alphabetical order); [Travis Bell](#), [Craig Breitman](#), [Craig Collar](#), [Geoff Falk](#), [Ricky Herrera](#), [Robert Icsman](#), [Angel Jimenez](#), [Giovanni Ponciano](#), [Angelina Ponciano](#), [Kevin Ritchey](#), [Andrew Rogerson](#), [Jared Syverson](#), [Marcelo Trindade](#). As stated at the January meeting, the Board is pleased to see the Association continue to grow and attract new members but we need to continue to grow our association to meet our customer's increasing demand for referees. If you know an experienced Referee who is USSF and Cal South approved, please give her/him an application. If she/he is approved for membership, you can get a waiver for your dues next year per the SSBRA New Member Incentive plan.

At the January General Membership meeting (see minutes below), the Board reviewed a proposal to supply referees to the City of Bell for their Youth Soccer program which starts in April. The Board requested input from the membership in regards to both its member's interest taking on the additional work and their ability/willingness to support all the matches in the City of Bell, especially the weekday evening matches. The Board took a straw vote at the meeting and more than half of the ~83 members raised their hands indicating that they were in support of the proposal and would be willing to referee the weekday evening matches in Bell. After the straw vote, it was recommended that the Board conduct a survey of all SSBRA members and the Board agreed. The Board has put together a short 2 question survey that will only take only a few minutes to complete. The Board needs all SSBRA members to complete the survey so we have a complete understanding of where our entire membership stands on this proposal. We will need 6 Referees to cover all the weekday evening matches and another 8 referees for the weekend matches. **Please take the next 3 minutes to fill out the survey at following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F6GMHDV>.**

The first 2015 SSBRA sponsored Referee Professional Development (RPD) is scheduled for Tuesday February 17, 2015 starting at 7:00 pm. RPD is the best opportunity for any and all referees to obtain high quality physical fitness training and classroom instruction so your board encourages all SSBRA members to attend the class. As of February 3rd, 2015 there are 25 referees signed up for the class with 14 of them being SSBRA members. In addition, all Grade 6 and Grade 7 need to attend at least 3 RPDs so please sign up at the following link; <http://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/event.asp?calid=6986707&eventtype=RPD>.



The other main topics at the January meeting involved proposed By-Law changes which per our By-Laws are to be voted on by the General Membership at the February General meeting. Details of the proposals can be found in the meeting minutes listed below.

(Draft) SSBRA Membership Meeting – Minutes

January 27, 2015 7:30 PM - North HS Library (Note: The Official January minutes can be obtained from the SSBRA Secretary after they are approved by Membership vote at the February General Meeting.)

Board members present: Michael Hinz, Bruce Anderson, Veto Galati, Chris Nevil, Kirk Jackson, Bill Cook (Absent: Steve Brandon)

Michael Hinz Opens Meeting: MH opened meeting at 7:35 PM asking for motion to approve minutes of November 2014 General Meeting. Motion for approval made by Alan Sampson, seconded by Bob Slater and approved by acclamation.

New Member Introduction: Newly approved applicants introducing themselves were: Marcelo Trinidad, Craig Breitman, Craig Collar, Robert Icsman, Travis Bell, Kevin Ritchie, Giovanni Ponciano and Angelica Ponciano. Additionally Oscar Villasenor and Javier Cerventes introduced themselves as referees planning to submit membership applications in the near future.

Upgrades: MH stated that SSBRA now has 33 USSF Grade 6 and Grade 7 referees with more than 22 of them just completing their upgrades in late 2014. MH asked all members who have become USSF Grade 7 referees to stand; this was met with a hearty round of applause.

Single Referee Game Procedures: MH reviewed call in procedure for single referee games, stressing that members can call in as early as four hours in advance of start time but no later than one hour prior to scheduled game time.

Member Behavior When Not Refereeing: MH asked members who attending games in a capacity other than referee (player, parent, spectator) to refrain from criticizing or commenting on referees working those games and suggested that any complaints or suggestions be addressed privately to the board.

Question from the floor: “Two members” asked why all members must now be USSF certified to receive SSBRA assignments and who made that decision. MH explained that this was not a board decision but a bylaws change, presented and discussed at the September 2014 General Meeting and approved by a vote taken among all members attending the October 2015 General Meeting. The bylaw change became effective from January 1, 2015. After continued discussion, mainly from Ralph and Reggie MH again reiterated that this is a bylaw and current SSBRA policy: All referees must be USSF certified and appear on the Cal South ROL (Registered Officials List) to be assigned games from SSBRA. “One Member” asked if there would be refunds for members that did not wish to obtain USSF certification and MH said that we would have to discuss the matter.

City Of Bell Proposal: MH informed membership that we received a request from the City of Bell to submit a proposal to referee their youth soccer match season that runs thru next October. (This will overlap with SCDSL and CSL seasons in Sept. & Oct. but there will be less games in Bell as this will be playoff time). He explained that due to distance and start times of weeknight matches, we need input regarding membership



interest in covering these matches before we submit a formal proposal. MH then went on to explain the financial details of the proposal we intend to submit and polled membership to gauge interest. At least 25 referees indicated that they would be willing to cover the weekday single games. When asked if the board should proceed with the proposal, a majority of the members raised their hand in assent. Sue Pascoe asked how Bill Cook felt about potentially having to staff these games in Sept. & October in addition to our normally busy club schedule; BC replied with a “no comment.” It was then suggested that Chris Nevil send out a survey to members for a more accurate gauge.

Archie Sherman (MB 7 v 7 League): At appx 8:15 MH introduced Archie Sherman from the City of Manhattan Beach Parks & Recreation Dept. Archie addressed us, expressed his satisfaction, and was effusive in his praise of how SSBRA is handling these games. Archie informed us that the league is working to issue player ID cards in the future and this announcement was met with enthusiastic applause from the membership. Archie then fielded questions from the floor. Several members expressed their concern that the AYSO and club teams were not clearing the field in time for the 8 PM P&R game starts. Archie replied that their use permits state that they must be clear of the field by 7:55 PM and that he will reemphasize this with AYSO & club teams. He also mentioned that league rules state that the home team is responsible for setting up the goals if they have been moved. Chris Nevil asked Archie about how we should handle situations where teams do not have the minimum required number of players (by gender) to start a match. Archie said that we should try to get both teams to agree to play the match anyway. MH suggested that perhaps the rules should be amended to reflect this. Archie once again thanked us and gave us a box of various MB P&R T-shirts as gifts for our members.

Bylaws amendments: MH then presented two proposed bylaws amendments for discussion prior to a vote at the February General Meeting. These amendments were projected onto the screen so that everyone could read them. Both amendments deal with enabling members who cannot attend the May AGM to have a voice in the election of officers. The two proposals are as follows:

a. By-Law proposals

i. **– Sue Pascoe**

1. Elections of Officers

- a. Members who are unable to attend the May meeting, may request to vote by e-mail or mail. The completed ballot must be returned prior to the May meeting.
- b. Two appointed members at large will count all ballots (including e-mail, mail and those cast at the May meeting). If there is a tie for an office, a vote-off will be taken at the May meeting. Only those in attendance will be eligible to vote to break the tie.

ii. **– Veto Galati**

1. Elections of Officers

- a. Members in good standing who are unable to attend the May AGM may request, with valid reason and subject to board approval, to vote by mail. Absentee ballots must be mailed to the PO Box prior to the meeting. No email ballots will be accepted. Any member that wishes an absentee ballot must send an email request – including reason- to the secretary at least seven days in advance of the AGM and a ballot will be emailed to the member to print and mail to the PO Box. All absentee ballots must be sent to the SSBRA P.O. Box listed on our website via US Postal service mail. Ballots that do not arrive at the PO Box by the day of the meeting will not be counted. In the event of a tie, a run-off vote will be taken at the AGM. Only the quorum of members in good standing present will be eligible to vote in any run-off. ***Note: A quorum of 25% of members in good standing must be in attendance for business to be conducted at the AGM. Absentee ballots will not be considered as part of the count for the necessary quorum.

After both proposals were presented Sue Pascoe took the floor to say that she objected to the second proposal because it did not include an email provision and required a valid reason for absentee vote. She said that she had left her proposal deliberately non-specific to enable broader interpretation. Veto Galati then took the floor to express his thought that bylaws by nature should be specific and not leave gray areas. He explained that he wrote the proposal so that, as per Sue's suggestion, voters that cannot attend the AGM may still vote, but at the same time, would fit the specific format of our bylaws. Also, the amendment should not discourage AGM attendance but merely accommodate those with valid reasons. We still must have a quorum present at the AGM to hold elections and email ballots would not be included in that account. VG also stated that the board is looking for a new venue for the AGM that will be more centrally located to encourage higher attendance.

Several members offered various opinions and ideas. MH stressed that we MUST have a quorum present. David Martin then commented that under California Law all non-profit organizations must have an annual AGM, must elect officers and must have quorum at the election.

BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK:

Chris Nevil: CN took the floor and thanked members for their RPD attendance and suggested that we sign up online to attend the February RPD we are hosting at North HS. He also stressed that ALL USSF Incident reports be sent to him, NOT DIRECTLY TO THE LEAGUES. He asked new members to see him after the meeting to obtain their SSBRA patches.

Kirk Jackson: KJ announced that we are shooting for Saturday Feb. 7 for our New Member Orientation & Training. Details to follow.

Bruce Anderson: Bruce urged members to attend the Cal South Symposium on Feb. 1, noting that full attendance at the symposium on this day would satisfy all South 2015 training requirements of five Cal South Training Sessions.

Bill Cook & Veto Galati: Both said they had nothing to report.

No Cal South training this month. No raffle.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 24, 2015 at 7:30 PM – North High Library.