



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

April 2015

P.O. Box 10466 Torrance, CA 90505

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www.ssbra.org

President: Michael Hinz

Vice-President: Bruce Anderson

Secretary: Veto Galati

Treasurer: Steve Brandon

Assignor: Bill Cook

Training, Mentoring, & Assessments:

Member-At-Large: Chris Nevil

Kirk Jackson

Notes from the President –

Sorry for a longer than normal Flag and Whistle but with By-Laws proposals and Board nominations, there is lots to communicate.

With that said the 1st and most important thing to communicate is how SSBRA is working to help one of our fellow association members, Mike Clifford and his family. As reported by Johnny Joseph during the last few SSBRA general membership meetings (see minutes), Mike Clifford's has been dealing with critical health issues and has been in a coma. He has recently been moved to Westside Healthcare where visits are possible.

To help Mike and his family SSBRA is going to establish a Mike Clifford Fund –the Board is working with our Web Master to develop a process where any SSBRA member can donate his or her referee fees to Mike and his family from matches which referees receive payment by check from SSBRA. This includes matches from MB7v7, Lawndale, and most of the summer tournaments. More details on the SSBRA lead Mike Clifford Fund will be communicated shortly.

SSBRA also encourages referees to donate match fees from matches which referees receive payment directly from the clubs on the field. Since these match fees do not “pass through” SSBRA, Jonny Joseph has agreed to act as the point of contact for these donates. Jonny's email and phone number can be found on the SSBRA membership roster.

The Board hopes all our members will give what they can to help Mike.

SSBRA Membership - The SSBRA Board would like all our members to join us in welcoming our 3 newest members **Steve Ingraham, Christopher Sandoval, and Chase Wood**. These three new members bring the total new member count for the 2014 – 2015 season to 38 and the total number of USSF/Cal South certified referees to 145. The Board is proud to say that SSBRA now has 28 more Cal South certified referees than last year.

Advanced Referee training - 20 SSBRA referees attended the April 2015 SSBRA sponsored Referee Professional Development (RPD). The next RPD is scheduled for May 19, 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 May 6, 2015 there are 41 referees signed up for the class with 22 of them being SSBRA members. In addition, all Grade 6 and Grade 7 need to attend at least 3 RPDs to maintain they Grade so please sign up at the following link; <http://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/event.asp?calid=6986707&eventtype=RPD>.

Note: We have been told that the RPD courses qualifies for the newly announced CSL “No Victory Without Honor” - Referee Program.



SSBRA Board nominations - At the April General Membership meeting nominations for Treasurer and Vice-President were received. In addition to the two incumbents, **Treasurer -Steve Brandon** and **Vice-President - Bruce Anderson, Larry Stern** was nominated for Treasurer and **Warren Howell** was nominated for VP. Since these elections are an important part of how the association operates, I asked all four candidates to write up a short message as to why they wanted to join the Board so their messages could be included in the April Flag and Whistle. The candidate's messages are listed below.

Comments from Candidates -

Comments from VP Candidate #1 - Bruce Anderson (Incumbent);

When asked last summer to serve as SSBRA's Vice President, I was pleased to join the new Board as we shared common objectives for the association. We wished to see SSBRA's prominence in Southern California improve and continue to grow, increase membership, see more members upgrading and attending RPD, and to seek ongoing improvements in formal assessment and ranking processes. In achieving these objectives, we hoped to earn more matches and more competitive matches for our association members, and help ensure we provide the best possible service to our customers.

A year later we have 145 Cal South Certified Referees, up from 117. We grew the number of USSF grade 6 and 7 Referees by 210% from 11 to 35. As of May 2014, more than 24% or almost one in every four SSBRA members hold a USSF Grade 7 or higher. We have hosted 6 monthly RPD sessions with an average of 30 SSBRA members in attendance and SSBRA-hosted RPDs are attended by more referees than any other RPD session. Cal South is now recommending our association to referees, we had more games to assign at State Cup than we could cover, and more and more SSBRA referees are being asked to work matches at the National Cup level. We stopped discounting Friendly match fees and our referees are now being paid full match fees with the clubs paying for the assignor fees instead of having that money pulled from the referee's fees. We also have SSBRA Business cards and SSBRA compression shirts to advertise the association at matches, tournaments, and events which has been proven to bring in business. Finally, we've conducted formal assessments for over 24 referees and we improved the ranking process and are involving more members in the process to insure the most accurate results.

Wow, Bruce, you did all that? No, of course not. This is a team effort and I am proud to have been a member of the Board during this transformative period.

There is still much to do and I hope you will come out to vote and I hope you will allow me the opportunity to continue to serve you as your Vice President.

- Bruce

Comments from VP Candidate #2 - Warren Howell;

I am running for the honor of serving as Vice-President in order to help our Association and Members continue their efforts to improve in the future, to ensure that SSBRA is successful going forward, and so that it continues to be something we are all proud and happy to be a part of. The keys to this include:

- *Listening to and implementing the Member's wishes so SSBRA can be shaped into the kind of Organization they want it to be*
- *Recruiting new Members, both less and more experienced*
- *Attracting a variety of games for the whole spectrum of our Members to officiate according to their interests and goals*
- *Providing continual training for our youth, and for all Members, as we constantly improve*
- *Making sure that we are an inclusive 'fun' group that all of us want to participate in.*

Please come out and vote at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday May 26.

Thanks,

Warren Howell



Comments from Treasurer Candidate #1 – Steve Brandon (Incumbent);

SSBRA Members,

The Board and various members have requested I run for reelection, which I have elected to honor.

- During my tenure as Treasurer, I have maintained financial records appropriately as evidenced by prior and the most recent financial review.*
- I believe in full and fair disclosure and as Treasurer have worked to provide detailed accounting and reporting to the Board and membership regarding SSBRA's financial activities.*
- I have also worked to enhance the annual tax reporting to certain members by providing detailed payment summaries. Further, I've protected member's social security numbers by providing 1099Misc's electronically.*
- Lastly, I have digitized and created a recovery process for all of SSBRA's financial records and information, including the Quicken accounting system, for security and data retention.*

I'd be honored to be your Treasurer once again.

Hope to see you on the pitch!!!

Steve Brandon

SSBRA (Your check is in the mail) Treasurer

Comments from Treasurer Candidate #2 – Larry Stern;

Note: Larry Stern elected not to submit a message.

As the SSBRA President, I encourage all SSBRA Members to come to the May Meeting and vote on the candidates.

By-Laws proposals – In addition to the nominations, three By-laws change proposals were also discussed at the April meeting. These proposed changes are listed below in the meeting minutes. **As the President, I encourage all SSBRA Members to come to the May Meeting to vote on the By-Laws proposals.**

April General Membership meeting – Following the nominations and by-laws proposals, the other main topics covered at the April meeting included general SSBRA business, an update on Mike Clifford, and the monthly Cal South Training. Details can be found in the draft meeting minutes listed below. An official copy of the minutes can be obtained from the SSBRA Secretary once they are approved by the SSBRA membership at the May meeting.



SSBRA Membership Meeting – Minutes (Draft) **April 28, 2015 7:30 – 9:30 PM North HS Library**

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

Michael Hinz Opens Meeting: MH opened meeting at 7:35 PM asking for motion to approve minutes of February 2015 General Meeting. Motion made by Alan Sampson, seconded by Bill Yee and accepted by acclamation.

New Member Introduction: New applicants introducing themselves were Chris Sandoval, Steven Ingraham and Chase Wood.

Lawndale League Rules: MH announced that website updated to show amended Lawndale rules.

Single Match Call In Protocol: MH & BC reminded members that they must call in one to four hours before EVERY single refereed match, no matter what the league.

ELECTION NOMINATIONS: MH opened nominations for two offices up for election at May AGM.

1. Vice President: Bruce Anderson (Incumbent) nominated by Steve Resnick, seconded by Maria-Grazia Ascenzi. Warren Howell nominated by Larry Stern, seconded by Ed Beverly.
2. Treasurer: Steve Brandon (Incumbent) nominated by Bill Yee, seconded by Barry Giberman. Larry Stern nominated by Harry Ross, seconded by Tony Amalfitano.

Veto Galati stated that in addition to the above nominations, ballots will also include an additional line to enable members to vote for write-ins or for any last minute nominations at the AGM.

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS: The following proposed three bylaws amendments were discussed:

1. Introduced by Michael Hinz amend Section XIII, Article L as follows: Was:

L. The Board of Directors shall choose a non-Board member(s) to perform an informal review of the Associations financial records on even numbered years.

Recommended Change:

L. The Board of Directors shall choose a non-Board member(s) to perform an informal **assessment** of the Association's financial records on even numbered years. **The results of the assessment will be made available to the Membership.**

** Note: Michael Hinz stated that this proposal is based on a recommendation from the 2014 financial review;

2. Introduced by Michael Hinz to amend Section IV, Article D-3, as follows: Was:

Probationary members must attend a BOD approved field workshop (training) as scheduled by the BOD. This workshop will occur within one year of joining. A member who does not attend the scheduled workshop will remain a Probationary member but will be moved to the bottom of the assignment list until she/her attends the workshop. If the member does not fulfill this requirement within the year, BOD may elect not to accept that member in the next year. A probationary member may request an extension from the BOD due to unforeseen circumstances.

Recommended Change:

Probationary members must attend a BOD approved field **orientation/training** workshop as scheduled by the BOD. This workshop will occur within one year of joining. A member who does not attend the scheduled workshop will remain a Probationary member **and may** be moved to the bottom of the assignment list until she/her attends the workshop. If the member does not fulfill this requirement within the year, BOD may elect not to accept that member in the next year. A probationary member may request an extension from the BOD due to unforeseen circumstances.



3. Introduced by Jonny Joseph to amend Section I as follows: Was:

The name of the organization shall be: Soccer South Bay Referee Association.

Recommended Change:

The name of the organization shall be: South Bay Soccer Referee Association.

**Note: David Lacey advised that we needed to check CA Secretary of State list to be sure that proposed name is available. He volunteered to check and get his findings to VG.

AVAILABILITY TO MULTIPLE ASSOCIATIONS/TURNBACKS: MH opened discussion on SSBRA members giving availability to multiple associations stating that we independent contractors and are free to work with any association. Discussion ensued on fact that some of our members appear to be turning back games they've already accepted when offered games by other associations/assignors. This practice creates problems for Bill Cook and is not acceptable. Steve Resnick stated that once we accept games we should honor that commitment. Tony Amalfitano suggested that perhaps we should consider fining members who turn back assignments. General consensus is that we should not turn back games already accepted in order to do other games. Also, if we accept non SSBRA assignments after giving Bill availability, we should immediately notify Bill that we are no longer available for those same dates/time slots. It is up to us to keep our availability, or lack thereof, updated. Gabriel Goldsman said times have changed and that there are more games and less referees. He suggested that one possible solution would be for associations to use a common assigning system, rather than those own individual systems, thus giving assignors access to accurate availability information. Gabe said that the most obvious solution would be to consider switching to the Arbitrator system since that is the most commonly used.

Mike Clifford: Johnny Joseph took the floor to report on fellow referee Mike Clifford's health issues. Mike is in a coma and has been moved to Westside Healthcare, (1020 S. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019 – tel#: 323-938-2451). Jonny also reported that the medical community while not fully understanding how the brain works and recovers from injury, is in agreement that the more stimulation the brain gets the greater chance it has for recovery. Simply speaking to him, his hearing a familiar voice, etc., can help. Please visit him if you can. Discussion then ensued on how individual SSBRA members could contribute funds to help cover the costs of Mike's healthcare. It was suggested that perhaps those willing to help could donate a CR payment (or more) from the upcoming Galaxy Tournament in July by asking notifying our treasurer to withhold payment for game(s) and contribute directly to Mike. Board will discuss best way to handle this. Jonny also stated that anyone wishing to make direct contributions or wanting additional information speak to him after the meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK:

Kirk Jackson: Kirk reported that many new members attended the recent Orientation and that assessments of new members will continue. He will work on setting up next new member Orientation session.

Bruce Anderson: (reported by Kirk and Michael Hinz in Bruce's absence)): Bruce is still working out details on the make-up of the Ranking Committee. Three spots from general membership yet to be determined from among the many expressing interest. Three board spots filled: Bruce Anderson, Kirk Jackson and Bill Cook. Bruce intends to have rankings completed before the start of the season in September.

Bill Cook: Still no word from other associations on helping with their tournaments. We will need all hands on board for the Galaxy Tournament. Bill says that the tournament will be bigger this year and that he expects appx. 35 fields with upwards of 500 games. He will be asking for advance availability so that he may determine how many fields we can cover and how many we will need to ask other associations to help us cover.

Chris Nevil: Chris stressed that ALL send-offs require a USSF Incident Report, as do injuries. When in doubt on an injury, to be on the safe side, send a report. All reports should be sent immediately to Chris. Chris also reported that although we had 634 sign-ups for the April RPD, only 33 attended. If you sign up, please attend.



Steve Brandon: Checks for recent tournaments and Manhattan Beach in the mail. Still waiting for payment from Lawndale League. If you have parking receipts, please see Bill after the meeting (tonight) for cash reimbursement.

Veto Galati: Nothing new to report. Please go to member log-in on website and update profile information. Also, please be sure that you have a secure password.

WEBSITE: Michael Hinz thanked Rick Roberts for the fine job he is doing as our webmaster. Also, expired domain name issue from earlier today had been fixed. We are working with owner of domain name to transfer ownership directly to SSBRA. MH also suggested that we send any suggestions for website improvement directly to Rick.

SPRING CUP: BC said that Spring League season had been completed and that SPRING CUP play has now begun. It is very important now check the Spring Cup link (on our website) once Bill announces that assignments for a given period have been issued. You will not receive email from our system for Spring Cup assignments

CAL SOUTH TRAINING: At 8:25 Cal South Instructor Gabriel Goldsman took the floor. Session focused on urgency and proper procedures for handling head injuries. Cal South training session ended at 9:15 PM.

Meeting concluded with raffle. In addition to ref supplies several home baked loaves of bread were raffled; thank you Ed Beverly for supplying the bread.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting (AGM). To be held Tuesday May 26, 2015 at 7:00 PM – Tony's Pizza. 5544 W. 119TH St., El Segundo, CA (corner of Aviation Blvd. & 119TH St.).