



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

Nov 2015

PO Box 1613, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Editor: Michael Hinz

www.ssbra.org

President: Michael Hinz

Vice-President: Bruce Anderson

Treasurer: Bruce Ashton

Secretary: Veto Galati

Member-At-Large: Chris Nevil

Assignor: Valle Altobelli

Training: Armando Quiroz

Mentoring & Assessments: Donat Mckenley

Notes from the President

The Board wants to say **Thanks for a great 2015 Fall season** and wants to wish everyone a **Merry Christmas**, a **Happy Hanukkah**, and a **Safe and Happy New Year**.

The Board is please to announce that SSBRA will remain the Referee Association of record for the LA Galaxy South Bay Coastal Classic Tournament which is one of the largest in Southern California. LA Galaxy is planning on hosting over 180 teams and more than 550 matches in July. As we have done in the past, SSBRA will team with other Referee Associations to ensure that we provide LA Galaxy with the best possible referee coverage possible.

Steve Resnick has brought up a Safety concern related to Coaches and Spectators who stand close to or on the touchline and the Board wants to pass that concern on to all SSBRA members. While the Technical Area is at least 1 yard back from the touch line and the Spectator's area is normally 1 more yard back (2 yards from the touch line) both Coaches and Spectators often set up or move up to the touch line during the match. Since the Assistant Referee has to pay so much attention to the play and players on the field, collisions can occur between the AR and Coaches or Spectators and this could result to injury to the AR or others. Please make sure you monitor your touch line and remind the coach and spectators that they need to remain back from the touch line so you can do your job properly without the risk of injury to anyone. The Board suggests that you talk to the coach about this before the match and throughout the match if required. As the Board continues to meet with all our customers in our unending efforts to drive strong customer relationships, we will bring up this safety issue so our customers can help communicate the safety issue throughout their organizations and help reduce the injury risk for everyone.

New Board Appointments

As discussed at the November General Membership meeting, the Board is pleased to announce the following board appointments. Please join the Board and the members who were at the November meeting in thanking Steve and Kirk for years of service and thanking Bruce, Armando, Donat, and Valle for stepping up to fill the open positions. Per the SSBRA By-Laws, the second year of the Treasure position will be re-voted on at the 2016 AGM. The other positions are reappointment by the Board every year after the AGM.



Due to his other outside responsibilities, Steve Brandon had to step down as Treasure and Bruce Ashton has been named as the new SSBRA Treasure.

When Steve Brandon told the Board that he needed to step down by the end of the year, the Board talked to several members about the position and decided that Bruce Ashton would be a great Treasurer and a great addition to the Board. Bruce is a CPA and has many years of financial experience. Bruce also conducted the last financial audit for SSBRA so he is familiar with SSBRA's financial records which have allowed him to take over without SSBRA losing a step.

Kirk Jackson steps down and Armando Quiroz named the New Director of Training and Donat McKenley named as the Director of Mentoring & Assessment.

When Kirk Jackson informed the Board that his other non-SSBRA related responsibilities were preventing him from continuing to serve on the Board, the Board decided to take this opportunity to fill the two positions Kirk was filling with two separate members. Armando Quiroz was named as the Director of Training and Donat McKenley was named the Director of Mentoring & Assessment. Armando is currently a USSF State Referee (Grade 6) and was a in the USSF National Referee program for several years. Armando has also held a Cal South Instructor certification and has extensive experience in training and instruction.

Donat McKenley is currently a USSF Grade 7 Referee and was a National Referee in the Jamaican Football Referee Association for 24 years. Donat received several awards while serving in the Jamaican Referee Association as a Parish Representative, National Parish League Referee, National Premier League Referee, and a High School Football Competition Referee.

Valle Abotibelli has been named as the SSBRA Assignor

Valle Abotibelli has replaced Chris Nevil as the primary SSBRA Assignor. Valle has assigning experience while a member of another organization and has been a member of SSBRA for eight years. Valle is a Cal South certified Assignor and is very comfortable with the Arbiter assigning system. Chris Nevil and Veto Galati will continue to assist Valle with both technical support and assigning activities.

Referee Professional Development (RPD)

There are no Referee Professional Development (RPD) sessions for December or January The next Referee Professional Development (RPD) will be on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at North High School. As soon as Cal South posts the classes on their Website Training page we will let everyone know. You can keep checking the Cal South Website at; <http://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/event.asp?calid=6986707&eventtype=RPD> or use the link on the SSBRA Training page to find out then the 2016 RPDs are posted and to sign up.

Nov General Membership Meeting –

The Draft minutes for the November meeting are shown below. These minutes will be voted on for approval at the January meeting.



DRAFT SSBRA Membership Meeting Minutes

SSBRA Membership Meeting
November 24, 2015 7:30 PM
North HS Library

Board members present: Michael Hinz, Bruce Ashton, Veto Galati, Chris Nevil, Valle Altobelli & Armando Quiroz (Absent: Bruce Anderson and Donat McKenley).

Michael Hinz Opens Meeting: MH opened meeting at 7:40 thanking everyone for their help with a great season. SSBRA covered over 1700 matches and 4000 slots.

MH then asked for motion to approve minutes of October 2015 General Meeting. Motion offered by Jack Desemone, seconded by Larry Savell and approved by acclimation.

BOARD POSITIONS: MH announced that Steve Brandon is now CEO of Honda Federal Credit Union and Steve felt that he had to step down as SSBRA Treasurer. MH thanked Steve in absentia for his long service to the board. When Steve arrived later in the meeting MH thanked him again and this resulted in a round of applause from the membership. Bruce Ashton has been appointed by the Board to fill this position. Per Bylaws, the remaining one-year of this term will be up for election at the AGM in May.

MH also announced that Kirk Jackson has stepped down as Director of Training/Director of Mentoring & Assessment. The Board has appointed Armando Quiroz (Training) and Donat McKenley (Mentoring & Assessment).

MH then introduced Valle Altobelli as the new Assignor. Valle has assumed the primary assigning responsibilities.

UPGRADES: MH announced that Michael Takeda had completed his requirements and just obtained his Grade 6 State Referee badge.

New Member Introduction: New applicant Edwin Cruz introduced himself to the membership.

MIKE CLIFFORD: Bruce Ashton reported that he visited Mike Clifford last week and said tht he is doing much better. Bruce then passed the basket one last time for donations to the fund.

CAL SOUTH TRAINING: At appx 7:55 PM Cal South Instructor Gabriel Goldsman took the floor, beginning with a series of questions and a subsequent training session focused on a general review of the laws of the game. Gabriel closed the session at appx. 8:40 PM thanking SSBRA for stepping up and hosting RPD clinics. He further said tht this has been good and has raised SSBRA's profile in the refereeing community.

2016 RECERTIFICATION: MH encouraged members to complete their 2016 Cal South requirements ASAP and reminded us that as of January 1, 2016 they will not be assigned to games until their name appears on the Cal South 2016 ROL.



GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS: Good news is that SSBRA has been selected as the official referee association for the 2016 Galaxy Tournament. Bad news is that we lost the recently completed UCLA tournament to Long Beach SRA. MH said that all of our referees are independent contractors but once they provide availability, they should not give availability to other associations/assignors for the SAME time period. Once games are assigned based on availability given to assignor, declines and turn-backs (to accept games from other associations) are unacceptable.

PENDING PAYMENTS: MH stated that Brea Tournament checks have been issued and are in the mail. Also, Manhattan Beach checks are being processed.

BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK:

Chris Nevil: CN thanked Kirk Jackson for helping with the assigning during the fall season and thanked Valle Altobelli for her efforts in training and quickly getting up to par. He also said that forfeits will be billed to leagues and paid by SSBRA when funds are received. He is currently working on that billing. Chris also asked that Incident/Misconduct reports be filed in a timely manner. We want to get correct info to the leagues ASAP (and **before** we hear from them) so please get reports in to Chris quickly.

Veto Galati: Veto asked that everyone be sure to add their photo to the Arbiter profile if they haven't done so already. He suggested that members just use the same photo they sent to Cal South for their IDs and to drag it into the Arbiter profile. VG also asked that members review the telephone numbers in Arbiter profile and be sure everything is accurate and marked "public." He also suggested that they make sure their cell number shows as the first number as this is what other refs will use to contact them on game days. Finally (as weekday assignor) VG asked members to be sure and accurately block weekdays and nights if you are not interested in weekday/night games.

Armando Quiroz: Armando stated that his goal is to make SSBRA a *university for referees* by providing good training which stresses professionalism in mechanics and procedures. He said that he had worked with CAFLA in implementing similar training procedures. He wants us to make a good first impression when stepping onto the field. He says he wants SSBRA be recognized by everyone for our level of professionalism in refereeing.

Other board members Valle Altobelli and Bruce Ashton passed on the opportunity to speak.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next Meeting: January 26, 2016