



**The Flag and Whistle**  
**Newsletter of the South Bay Soccer Referee Association**  
**(Also known as Soccer South Bay Referee Association)**  
**- Serving the Soccer Community for over 46 Years -**

June 2019  
PO Box 1613, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Editors: Jonny Joseph/Michael Hinz  
[www.sbsra.org](http://www.sbsra.org)

President: Michael Hinz  
Treasurer: Bruce Ashton  
Training & Mentoring: Taidgh Simpson

Vice-President: Steve Morgan  
Member-At-Large: Chris Nevil

Referee Coach: Taidgh Simpson  
Secretary: Jay Pignatello  
Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman

**Notes from the President**

1. The Board would like to thank all the members who attended the 2019 AGM in June. The results of the various items which required a vote are shown below:
  - a. Steve Morgan was voted in as VP and will serve another two-year term.
  - b. Jonny Joseph was voted in as the new Secretary and will serve a one-year term to complete the remainder of Jay Pignatello's term who had to step down for personal reasons. (A big thanks goes to Jay for all his help as Secretary over the last few years.)
  - c. All six of the proposed bylaws changes were also approved and the updated bylaws, including minor typo fixes, have been posted on the website. The guidelines have also been updated to keep them aligned with the bylaws and the updated guidelines are posted on the website also.

A thank-you also goes out to the other two candidates, Steve Resnick and Veto Galati who made themselves available to serve the membership.

After the business part of the AGM was completed, all the pizza that could be eaten was served. While the members enjoyed the pizza and drinks and the company of their fellow referees, the Association raffled off 40 referee jerseys and the remaining attendees, who did not win a jersey, received a pair of referee socks.

2. Since we were not able to host the June Cal South training, due to the AGM, the Board worked with Cal South to get permission to conduct both the June and July Cal South training sessions during the July GMM on the 30th. This means Cal South will cover two sessions of the new law changes and you can get credit for two months of training by attending the July meeting. With that said, we have agreed with Cal South to verify that only the members who attend all of both training sessions will receive credit for both sessions. If you come late or have to leave early you will only be credited for one session.
3. If you are one of the few members who have not paid your dues or submitted your Returning Membership Application, your Arbiter account has been changed to "inactive status" and you will not be able to receive assignments until your dues are paid and you complete your RMA. It's important for the Board to know the Association's membership numbers at this time, as we need to be able to determine our fall service capabilities for all our clients.



4. The Board has been working with both its current and new clients to continue to grow our business. As a result of a lot of hard work over the last year;
  - a. El Segundo Rec and Parks has selected SSBRA to supply referees for its Co-ed 7v7 league which plays on Friday nights. SBSRA will be covering four matches with one referee per game on one field on Friday nights starting August 9, 2019. This league pays \$50 per game at the field - \$47 for the Referee and \$3 for the assignor. The Board is excited about this new client and the additional opportunities it provides to our membership.
  - b. Based on the positive relationship SSBRA has been building with SBPSL over the last few years, we were just awarded a two year contract with SBPSL for all three of its Divisions. SSBRA is now providing all of SBPSL's refereeing needs for the Premier Division, Division 50 and Division 60.
  - c. We are currently working out the final details for a new YMCA 7 v 7 league on Fridays and Saturdays. We have already starting assigning referees to this new client as requested by the West Valley Family YMCA. This league appears to be very similar to the Culver City YMCA League.
5. The draft minutes for the June Annual Membership Meeting, which will be voted on at the July meeting, are included below. The May GMM minutes which were sent out in the May Flag and Whistle will also be voted on at the July GMM.



## SSBRA Annual General Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2019 7:00 PM – Tony's Pizza

Board members present: Michael Hinz, Steve Morgan, Bruce Ashton, Chris Nevil & Gabriel Goldsman (Absent: Taidgh Simpson, Jay Pignatello)

**Meeting Opened:** MH opened the meeting at 7:15 pm.

**Bylaws Amendments:** MH suggested that we first vote on the first five proposed amendments (all **except** for name change proposal) as 'no membership concerns had been identified by the Board in regards to them. The membership agreed and all five were accepted by acclamation.

**Name Change Amendment:** MH opened discussion to the floor and a spirited conversation followed, with points being presented on both sides of the issue. The discussions included some of the following concerns from those opposed to the change:

- when previously researched a few years ago, the name “South Bay Soccer Referee Association” had already been registered and was unavailable;
- a change in name will confuse our customers;
- the name is not as important as the acronym and SSBRA is the established and recognized name, why change it when it is not broke, even though it's acknowledged to be grammatically incorrect?

The discussions also included some of the following points from those in support of the change:

- The current name is grammatically incorrect. The proposed change retains the same words, just rearranges them to be grammatically correct. This adds credibility to the association. The current name may put off potential customers and new referee recruits as it reflects a group of people who don't know it's grammatically incorrect or just does not care. Also, all or most of our neighboring referee associations contain the words “Soccer Referee Association” at the end of their association names.
- It is recognized that some people are concerned by our possible loss of identity and a potential diminishing of our SSBRA brand, but this will be significantly mitigated by the following:
  - We will retain the "South Bay" phrase,
  - We are simply moving the word “Soccer” from the beginning to the middle,
  - We will retain the essentials of our current logo/badge and coin design.

Accordingly those that know our brand, will probably still associate "SSBRA" in their minds when they see our name or badge and those that are new to the name will not be wondering why "Soccer" is in the wrong place.

- To address concerns about the cost and effort to implement a name change, Jonny Joseph offered the following implementation plan:



Do the easy, inexpensive stuff first!

- Make changes to the website, e.g., URL, graphics, etc., change the electronic version of our badge, advise Cal South and request them to make the change on their website, change the name on contracts, insurance, etc. as they each comes up for renewal.
  - File the required forms with the State of California, Franchise Tax Board and IRS, which we need to do to correct inconsistencies between them now anyway.
  - Change the name on the bank accounts after receiving the appropriate paperwork from the Secretary of State.
  - Use up all the Association's checks, flipping coins and referee jersey badges and use the new name when ordering the next supply of inventory.
- MH and BA informed the membership that the name change will not create any legal problems or tax issues with government entities or insurance coverage. MH noted that SSBRA had already registered the SBSRA.org domain, in the event the name change was approved, and that anyone logging in to SSBRA.org will be automatically redirected to the SBSRA.org website.
- A hand vote took place and the name change passed with the membership voting in favor of changing the name to South Bay Soccer Referee Association.

### **BOARD ELECTIONS:**

**Treasurer:** Since Bruce Ashton was the only candidate nominated (and no other nomination were brought forward at the AGM) Bruce was elected by acclamation.

**Vice-President:** Steve Morgan and Steve Resnick were the candidates nominated for this position at the June General Membership Meeting (no other nomination were brought forward at the AGM);

**Secretary:** Jonny Joseph and Veto Galati were the candidates nominated for this position at the June General Membership Meeting (no other nomination were brought forward at the AGM);

A paper ballot vote was called for the VP and Secretary Board positions with the membership voting for Steve Morgan and Jonny Joseph.

All ballots were collected and counted by Bruce Ashton and David Martin.

**Raffle:** While ballots were being counted, a raffle was conducted with 40 lucky winners receiving new referee jerseys in the color of their choice, with the remaining members receiving a new pair of referee socks.

**2019/2020 IFAB Law Books:** Steve Morgan managed the distribution of the Law Books to all members in attendance.

**PIZZA:** The Business part of the meeting adjourned around 7:40 PM, pizza was served and a good time was had by all.

**Next Meeting:** July 30, 2019, at North High School in Torrance starting at 7:30 pm.