



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 -

September 2019
PO Box 1613, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

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www.sbsra.org

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Notes from the President

If you think you have been busy, you are right, SBSRA has covered 1,000 matches since the start of the Fall Season in September filling over 2230 assignments. The Board thanks each and every one of you for your hard work. THANKS!!!

While we have had a few issues, the Fall Season has been going very well overall, please keep this going! I'm also pleased to report that one of our newest clients, The City of El Segundo, has provided very positive feedback in regards to how their season is going. They have commented that they are receiving very good feedback from their players in regards to the Referee coverage for the "A" league this year. The Board is working with the City to expand our business with them next year and this type of feedback is exactly what is needed to help make that happen.

When it comes to the issues the Board is receiving comments about, most of them relate to the "easy" stuff. We have received more emails and comments from our clients this year than normal relating to SBSRA referees not following the league rules and every one of these situations could have been avoided if the referee in question had taken the time to read, or reread, the laws and rules applicable to the league he or she was working.

Examples of issues noted include:

- Allowing CSL players to exit on the other team's side of the pitch
- Allowing both CSL teams to sit on the same side of the pitch
- Allowing substitutions in SCDSL at any stoppage of play
- Not enforcing the no foul language rule in SBPSL
- Pulling CSL or SCDSL player ID cards for Red card
- Incorrect restart after play was stopped for an injury

The fact is, we have dozens of different clients and they all have different rules that we have to know, understand, and follow. Everything is on the SBSRA website... so please READ THE RULES for the league you are assigned before going to the pitch.



More concerning is that we have also had a few situations where the client has expressed concerns that our referees are not following the Laws of The Game (LOTG) when it comes to proper enforcement of fouls and restarts. While some players and coaches are still not familiar with the LOTG, the days are over when the referee is the only one on the pitch that knows the fouls, the correct enforcement of the fouls, and the correct restarts. While your Board tries very hard to support each and every member, it is even harder to back up a referee when it is clear that referee decided not to follow the LOTG when it comes to the proper restart or the proper enforcement of a foul. This is completely different from calling or not calling a foul based on "the referee's opinion" as that is up to each and every referee based on the specific situation during the match, but once a foul is called, the referee cannot decide to change the restart or decide to change the proper enforcement related to the foul.

Examples of these errors include:

- Incorrect restart after a free kick involving a violation of the new wall requirements
- Incorrect restart after play was stopped for an injury
- Incorrect enforcement of a DOGSO involving a hand ball foul
- Incorrect restart for a hand ball by the Goalie outside the PA

Please understand that the Board hears about all of these situations and each and everyone of them impacts our relationship with our clients. While we have worked on each one of these situations with our clients, continued issues like these, even though few and far between, will impact our ability to assign these referees to matches and no one wants that to occur.

We are still looking for a few more referees to join the Association, so if you know of any good referees please encourage them to join. You could get your dues for next year covered via the NMI if they become a SBSRA member.

There are only two more Referee Professional Development (RPD) trainings this year with the next one on Tuesday, October 15, 2019. Please come out and participate along with your fellow SBSRA members.

The next SBSRA General Membership Meeting (GMM) is on Tuesday October 29, 2019. The Board hope to see everyone at both the October RPD and GMM.

Thanks, again and keep up the great work!



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2019
North High School, Torrance, California

Board Members in Attendance: Michael Hinz (President), Steve Morgan (Vice-President), Jonny Joseph (Secretary) (By FaceTime), Bruce Ashton (Treasurer), Gabriel Goldsman (Assignor), Taidgh Simpson (Referee Trainer and Coach)

1. Meeting Began at 7:36 pm.
2. August minutes approval - Moved, seconded, approved without correction by acclimation.
3. 4 new and prospective members who had not attended a general membership meeting previously stood up and introduced themselves.
4. Cal South Monthly Training - Instructor Wayne Merrick presented Handling and Handball.
5. MH announced that Harry Ross had decided to retire after many years as a member of the Association and had served as president. As a token of recognition and appreciation Harry was presented with an Association t-shirt and coin.
6. MH noted that time may only be added for time lost due to injury, goals scored, substitutions, etc., in the games we do if there is time available. If games are scheduled back to back, we cannot add time for time lost.
7. Financial report - Balance Sheet and Income & Expenses Quarterly Report June 2019 presented by BA. The report can be read in conjunction with the financial statements on the website behind the members' login.
8. Referee Attire:
 - a) Need to arrive at the field wearing an Association shirt, USSF shirt or a plain black shirt,
 - b) No long legged items - sweat pants, yoga pants, sliding pants or leggings are not acceptable,
 - c) Clean shirts!
 - d) Black shorts and lack caps only
9. Everyone needs to know the current LOTG, rules and policies of each league
 - a) All Leagues - Red Cards, when must player/administrator cards be kept? Violent conduct or referee assault in USSF games only, SBPSL for any red cards.
 - b) We now officiate all SBPSL games, which may be new to some referees so it is imperative that if assigned to those games we need to know the specifics of their rules and policies, in particular:
 - SBPSL has new ID card requirements,
 - SBPSL wants dissent controlled,
 - SBPSL wants foul language controlled:
 - 1) Understand the difference between a public scream and an under the breath comment,
 - 2) Foul language in any language is still foul language,



1. SBPSL (D50 and D60) - slide tackles not allowed within 5 yards. This needs to be considered in addition to normal considerations of whether a tackle is a foul or not,
- c) All Leagues - Substitution rules,
- d) CSL - Referee pre game meeting with Team Captains and Coaches. If coach(es) won't come out then CR can note this in the match report (on the app or written on the paper report if it is being mailed in).

Do NOT express negative opinions about rules of competition to coaches, administrators, players or spectators. We are hired by leagues and cannot be undermining them!

Be mindful of the fact that if you express any opinions about anything to a coach or players especially where others are present and can hear, this can back fire on you or the Association (which you represent) resulting in unintended (not good) consequences.

10. Service failures

- a) Know where you are going - Arbiter has full address and a link to maps,
- b) Be on time = at least 30 minutes before scheduled kickoff time!

11. MH asked if there were any other issues experienced in the first two weeks:

- a) A member asked about additional people in the coaching area at SBPSL games. MH responded that if there is no problem, don't create one. If they are disruptive, deal with them,
- b) A member asked about adding time in CLS/DSL games. Michael said given the fact that we have a lot of back to back games on the same field, we usually do not have the luxury of being able to add a lot of time.
- c) A question was asked about using the CSL app. Others reported no issues with the app.

12. GG emphasized knowledge of the leagues rules:

- a) CSL - coaches and spectators of one team on one side, coaches and spectators of other team on other side,
- b) Substitutions - different for different leagues and ages. ECNL can only have 7 substitutions and no returns. DCSL, CSL - all different,
- c) Rosters - know what to do with them,
- d) Check-in - make sure late arrivals are checked in and on the roster,
- e) Coaches ID cards - Only A-E acceptable for DCSL, may get further clarification. CSL - all CalSouth 2019/20 licenses are acceptable,

13. GG discussed scheduling:

- a) Emphasized that members must make sure blocks are accurate as we are trying to schedule more than a week in advance,
- b) Do not change blocks after being assigned games!!!!!!!!!!
- c) No late cancellations, please, unless you really are unable to fill the assignments!! For games declined within 24 hours of the game, please call the Assignor so he can be aware ASAP!
- d) Be aware that assigning has its difficulties and challenges do your best to help with the process!



14. Adult Soccer Referee Association has requested nominations for life-time achievement awards.
15. Rankings committee - SM reported that a group of 5 members had met in accordance with the bylaws requirements to review the rankings. SM explained the rankings from 100 - 800 and the review process. SM thanked the 5 members who had participated. The feedback will now be reviewed by the Board and TS will be consulted regarding assessments that should be performed. There will be a follow up report on the assessment process going forward. Questions regarding the rankings were asked by members and answered by SM.
16. Bylaws committee - MH reported that initial volunteers identified, room for 1 or 2 more, will start work in October, work is advisory, membership ultimately votes on proposed changes. Anyone still interested in participating needs to contact JJ.
17. New member training class - Taidgh to set up a new member training class, hopefully ahead of the next General Membership Meeting.
18. Board speaks
 - a) CN - discussed game reports and the review process he performs. Requested feedback from the membership regarding ZOG and our referee fees which have not increased in the four years since we started providing them with referees. The Board asked members for their feedback on the issue and a discussion followed. MH asked the membership to think about the situation and send emails in with any other thoughts.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 29, 2019, at North High School in Torrance starting at 7:30 pm.



From NASO Association's ADVISOR Newsletter, Issue 55, July 2019

Professionalism

Professionalism on and off the field and court should be the goal for sports officials. As a result, it's important for local associations to promote a professional approach with their officials. We asked three local association leaders from various parts of the country — **Jason Alabanza**, president of the East Bay Basketball Officials Association in California; **Tim Tipton**, president of the Lanier Football Officials Association in Georgia; and **Glenn Koepnick**, president of the Tucson (Ariz.) Football Officials Association — for their input on how professionalism impacts their officials at games and meetings.

1. What do you expect of your members as far as professionalism at their games?

Alabanza: Professionalism is a high priority in our messaging to our members. It starts as soon as the assignment goes out with accepting the game in a timely manner to making partner contact in a timely fashion. This sets the stage for the level of professionalism on game day and arriving to the site at the agreed upon time frame, greeting personnel when arriving, effective pregame with partners, arrival to the court at the expected time, and communication with coaches throughout the contest. Being a professional in our field is the groundwork to a successful official.

Tipton: Professionalism is something an individual can control. We teach that first impression matters, therefore how you are dressed when you arrive and what your uniform looks like when you change in to it matters. Make a good first impression, period. Also, professional communication with coaches, players, administrators and crewmates is essential. All eyes and cameras for that matter can be on you. Don't say or do anything to end up on the news.

Koepnick: We expect them to dress professionally (no jeans, T-shirts, shorts, flip-flops), arrive promptly, and conduct themselves in a courteous and professional manner when meeting/talking with athletic directors, game management and/or coaches. They are representing the whole association while working games and are expected to keep opinions, emotions and attitudes to themselves.

2. What do you expect from your members as far as professionalism at your association meetings?

Alabanza: We expect all members to arrive early, come prepared with a paper and pen or take notes on an electronic device. Additionally, we expect members to contribute to group discussions and to respect others when speaking.

Tipton: Association meetings need a good moderator or teacher leading them — someone that keeps the agenda moving. We cut off negative talk or criticism and invite the person or persons to stay after



the meeting to discuss. We use a microphone so that keeps the crowd mumbling down and meetings run smoothly. It is a time for teaching and learning at most of our meetings, so being good listeners is important.

Koepnick: We expect them to arrive promptly, sit quietly and be respectful of those presenting or talking. While we encourage discussion, we do our best to conduct it in an orderly fashion. Of course, we expect them to mute their cellphones.