



The Flag and Whistle
Newsletter of the South Bay Soccer Referee Association
(Formally known as Soccer South Bay Referee Association)
- Serving the Soccer Community for over 47 Years -

March 2020
PO Box 1613, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Editors: Jonny Joseph/Michael Hinz
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: Jonny Joseph
Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman

Notes from the President

The Board hopes this copy of the Flag and Whistle finds you and your family in good health. We look forward to being able to see everyone out on the pitch or at a SBSRA event as soon as possible.

We are trying to keep everyone posted in regards to soccer related information and I hope the communications from Steve, Gabriel, and I are providing some value. As soon as we hear something relevant we try to get it out to you without filling up your email unnecessarily.

With the interest of our member's health and wellbeing in mind, we sent out a membership survey asking if you would be interested in attending the April 28 GMM online. Following a great, positive response, we will hold the April General Membership Meeting online via Zoom. The meeting will include Cal South Training, for which we have obtained approval from Cal South to count towards your annual Cal South Training requirement. If you have not responded to the survey, please do so as Zoom can only host 100 people. Accordingly, we will be limited on a first-come-first-served basis, so please reserve your spot by completing the survey today. **You can find the link to the April GMM survey at the top of the SBSRA Home page (<https://sbsra.org/>).** If you do not reply to the survey you will not be able to access the ZOOM meeting. Reminder - Zoom can only host 100 people so please reserve your spot by completing the survey today.

Cal South has announced that there will not be any RPD in April or May, so please stay tuned for status on the June RPD.

I would like to thank all the different members who contacted me with their ideas, suggestions, or comments on how the Association is going. I appreciate hearing from you. If you have an idea and have not shared it please do not hesitate to give me a call or send me an email. My contact information as well as the contact information for all of the Board Members is on the SBSRA website (<https://sbsra.org/association/board-of-directors/>) and in Arbiter, under "LISTS" and "Officials."

There was no GMM in March and therefore there are no March GMM Minutes. However, the minutes of our January and February General Membership Meeting will be on the agenda for approval at the April General Membership Meeting and are included below.

The Board encourages all our members to follow the guidelines outlined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Please take care of yourselves and your family and friends as we all manage this situation.



**SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2020
North High School, Torrance, California**

Board Members in Attendance: Steve Morgan (Vice-President), Jonny Joseph (Secretary), Bruce Ashton (Treasurer), Chris Nevil (Member-At-Large), Gabriel Goldsman (Assignor)

1. Meeting Called to Order – 7:33 pm.
2. Approve November GMM minutes – Bill Raventos proposed acceptance of the minutes as presented, Byron Eguchi seconded and approved by acclamation.
3. New members – four new members introduced themselves and were warmly welcomed.
4. New Member Orientation/Training class was not held today as our training director could not make it. Future classes for all new members will be held before every General Membership Meeting at 6:15pm, beginning in February.
5. Brandon Stevis and Karen Callado, one our former members, have upgraded to **National Referee** - Congratulations!
6. Referee Professional Development (“RPD”) training will continue at North High School, beginning in February. **Please sign up on the Cal South website and accept the SBSRA Arbiter events when they are sent out. RPD will be renamed CORE and will be required for Grassroots and Regional Referees. Details will be made available by Cal South in due course. The training will continue to consist of two parts of an hour each – physical and classroom instruction.**
7. Veto Galati represented SBSRA at a Coast Soccer League (“CSL”) meeting for clubs and referee associations. It was announced that SBSRA was recognized as one of the top 3 Referee Associations in 2019. This is the second year in a row that SBSRA has been named as a top three Association by CSL. In addition, The follow SBSRA members were named as 5 Star referees as rated by CSL team managers:
 1. Bryan Lopez
 2. Surendra Menon
 3. Craig Breitman
 4. Tim Reynolds
 5. Ramon Pulido
 6. Erol Thompson
 7. Ben Wakefield
 8. Tim Flores

Congratulating to these referees and the entire SBSRA membership for another great CSL year.

CSL also spoke about the Albion Cup incident and the intent to keep each team and their respective spectators on opposite sides of the field at CSL games.

In summary, SBSRA officiated 599 CSL games and our referees were rated in 415 of them (>67%), which was a much higher percentage than the number of games rated for other referee associations. Accordingly, more referee associations were rated than had been rated



previously.

CSL noted that out of 18,000 games that took place just 210 of them had incidents involving teams, referees or spectators. While that is a very small incident rate, the league is serious about reducing it even further. To that end, for the second year in a row, teams and referees have been informed that they will not be allowed back to CSL next season.

Thank you to Veto for representing SBSRA at the meeting and for his report.

8. SM reported that a new State Referee Administrator, Juan Guzman Jr., has been appointed by Cal South and we expect that we will learn of his intentions for the referee community going forward shortly.
9. In lieu of monthly Cal South training (dark in January), Gabriel Goldsman reviewed the Cal South Competition Rules and Paperwork requirements.

The following feedback was provided from the first weekend:

- Expectation is for referees to check in at least one hour before their first games,
- We expect our members to look professional,
- Know the Laws of the Game!
- In the event of a send-off, keep calm, be professional and keep the player's card. In addition, GG emphasized the following:
 - Attend the Cal South briefing,
 - Know your game time duties,
 - Obtain team rosters and ID cards,
 - Ensure team rosters, game reports are completed properly,
 - Prepare supplemental reports, if necessary for:
 - Serious injury,
 - Send off.

Remember to take a copy and send to Member-at-large!

- Attend Cal South debrief.
10. BA presented the treasurer's financial report for the year ended December 31, 2019, which may be found on the Association's website. He also noted that Forms 1099 would be sent to members with earnings over \$600 for the year and commented on California Assembly Bill #5 which mandated that individuals formally paid as non-employees may now be required to be paid as employees. BA had reached out to Cal South but had not spoken with anyone and The National Association of Sports Officials ("NASO"), who stated they were looking into how this new law might impact on referees and umpires in California.
 11. SM reported that the Association had reviewed the Registered Officials List ("ROL") and identified 127 SBSRA members that had recertified with Cal South for 2020 and are able



to be assigned by the association. 26 members are "Inactive" or "Not Ready" on Arbiter as they had not appeared on the ROL. SM urged these 26 members to recertify with Cal South ASAP to get onto the 2020 ROL so they can be eligible for assignments in 2020.

12. State Cup has begun.
 - a) Due to the incident at a recent Cal South tournament, Cal South has changed several policies for Cal South tournaments
 1. Spectators now sit on the same side as their teams.
 2. Cal south wants a meeting between the Referees and Coaches at the center circle before the start of the match.
 3. Zero tolerance of spectator/coach misconduct.
 - b) As done in the past, if you want to work the "Olders" in a few weeks you need to work the "Youngers" now.
 - c) Members who work the "Youngers" will be at the top of the assignor's list when the "Olders" are being assigned.
13. Cal South has scheduled Entry Assignor & Assessor Course on 2/2/2020.
14. Fee Schedule will be updated on our website for 2020 within the next few days. Print out a new copy and carry it with you to the fields to ensure you are paid correctly.
15. League Status:

J-League has shut down after 25 years. Thanks to Veto for being the POC for this league for the last several years. We communicated to the J-League that if they restart or have tournaments we are here to serve them again.
16. The meeting concluded at 9:15pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at North High School in Torrance at 7:30 pm.



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2020
North High School, Torrance, California

Board Members in Attendance: Steve Morgan (Vice-President), Bruce Ashton (Treasurer), Chris Nevil (Member-At-Large, Gabriel Goldsman (Assignor), Taidgh Simpson (Training Director)

1. Meeting Called to Order – 7:40 pm.
2. Approve January GMM minutes – As the draft minutes had not been made available to the membership, this was tabled for the March General Membership Meeting.
3. New members – the following new member applicants introduced themselves and were warmly welcomed - Jamil Zraikat, Justin Knoll, Guillermo Martinez, Devin Webb, Steve Hannant and Jorge Valdivia
4. New Member Orientation/Training class - Taidgh Simpson explained the orientation process and provided details of the session held earlier in the evening.
5. Cal South Training - SM introduced Cal South instructor Wayne Merrick who explained the new Cal South Referee Coach (formerly Assessor) and Instructor certification process. The training session included videos illustrating various situations involving challenges, ball handling, offside and penalty kick decisions. Members were asked to make choices using the Considerations as a basis for their decisions. Training also included referee positioning, using various video clips.
6. Registered Officials List (“ROL”) - SM reported that there are still some members who have yet to finish requirements to appear on Cal South ROL. SM stressed that members MUST be on the ROL and also have their Arbiter account up to date in order to receive assignments.
7. Fee Schedule - An updated Fee Schedule is now available on the SBSRA website.
8. League/Competition Updates:
 - a. State Cup has begun and due to an incident at a recent Cal South tournament, Cal South has changed several policies for Cal South tournaments:
 - i. Spectators now sit on the same side as their teams AND on the opposite end of the pitch from the AR,
 - ii. Cal South requires a meeting between the Referees and Coaches at the center circle before the start of the match,
 - iii. Zero tolerance of spectator/coach misconduct.
 - b. As done in the past, if you want to work the "Olders" in a few weeks you need to work the "Youngers" now. Members who work the "Youngers" will be at the top of the assignor's list when the "Olders" are being assigned.
 - c. Miraleste Middle School league was a success. Thanks to your participation the School has indicated that they want us to support them again next year.
 - d. El Segundo City League - Veto Galati (Co-Assignor for Weekday/Weeknight games) reported that based on our performance in their A League, which we



covered this past fall season, we have now obtained the B League. So we now have a total of 3 A League games and four B League games each Friday. As requested by the League, opposed to their previous referee association, SBSRA assigned different referees every week and they never saw the same referee more than once during the regular Fall Season. We intend to continue this with the addition of the B League but they will be treated as separate leagues and some referees may get both an A League and a B League assignment. VG also stressed that referees who wish to work the El Segundo League must also give some availability for the MB 7v7 and Zog weeknight leagues to be considered for ES assignments.

9. LA City Business License (BTRC) - Members wishing to work the Mar Vista and Penmar Leagues, paid directly by LA City Parks & Rec, must renew their BTRC by the end of February to avoid penalties.
10. Board Member Reports:
 - a) Assignor - GG commented on SBSRA performance at State Cup. Younger referees impressed the Cal South Ref Coordinators and GG got good feedback from some of the PRO & MLS referees at the site. But some of our experienced refs had issues. GG noticed some problems with foul recognition and gauging the temperature of the game. We need better game management.
 - b) Treasurer - BA discussed AB5 (CA independent contractors/employees) and noted there is an amendment before the State Legislature that will exempt youth sports officials. More information will follow as it progresses.
BA also asked that all members notify him of any changes in their contact info (phone numbers, mailing addresses) even if they change it in Arbiter. The accounting system for SBSRA is separate from Arbiter and he needs to be informed of any updates in member contact info to facilitate check payments and 1099 purposes.
11. Input from Members -Dave Martin noted parking issues he's experienced for the Sunday Beverly Hills League (at Beverly Hills High School). With other events going on at the same time parking is inadequate and refs (and teams) are having to park as far away as Roxbury Park, then walk to the fields. GG said that either he or CN (League Point of Contact) will discuss this problem with the league to seek a resolution.
12. Bylaws Committee - Sue Pascoe reported that, led by Jonny Joseph, the Bylaws Committee is considering various amendments to clarify bylaws. One area the committee is exploring is term limits for Board Members. Sue took an informal poll to gauge interest in board term limits to bring member feedback back to the committee.
13. The meeting concluded at 9:20 pm.

Thank you to Veto Galati for recording the minutes of the meeting.



Given the current situation, we provide you with an uplifting article recently published in SoccerToday (<https://www.soccertoday.com/top-10-great-things-about-being-a-soccer-ref/>):

As Randy has written below, during this downtime because of the COVID-19 pandemic, let's think about what is so great about being a soccer referee?

TOP 10 GREAT THINGS ABOUT BEING A SOCCER REF

RANDY VOGT, SoccerToday, APRIL 14, 2020

Can You Name Some of Them?

Soccer News: Randy Vogt has officiated more than 10,000 soccer games over the past four decades. During this downtime because of the COVID-19 pandemic, why not think about what is so great about being a soccer referee?

We're all having to take a break from refereeing right now because of the Coronavirus COVID-19. I miss refing so much that the three dreams I remember during the past few weeks were all about officiating.

So Here Are My Top 10 Great Things About Being a Soccer Referee:

10. Refereeing looks good on a resume, particularly if you just graduated from college. When I graduated from **Parsons School of Design** in 1984, I thought that I was going to set the advertising world on fire (which never actually worked out exactly that way). But first, I needed to get my first job and had a problem filling up one page on a resume with such little experience. So I added refereeing, and that I had officiated professional games, to the bottom. Turns out that there was an entry-level opening at Manhattan ad agency Sudler & Hennessey, I sent my resume, the boss showed it to a State Referee there who told him, "Hire Randy. Refereeing at such a young age shows maturity." Also, referees can earn good money for college!

9. You learn to remain calm at all times, even if everybody else is negative and upset. Being calm is a very good personality trait to have.

8. You start speaking in foreign languages. The more foreign language words you can speak on the field, the less dissent you will receive in that tongue as players and coaches will be unsure what you understand and what you don't.



7. You earn some money on the side. Although for nearly every ref in the United States, refereeing is our avocation and the extra money from officiating is nice, although a few top refs have been able to make it their vocation. For younger folks, referees can earn good money for college!

6. You learn that it's not about you but about them (the players). This is a wonderful attitude to have. Referring above to #7, those who make it about the other person and not themselves will always find work, even much more so than the people who are solely focused on making a living.

5. You learn to manage people. Another thing that is so helpful for that weekend referee earning a living from Monday to Friday as he or she can transfer the items learned in managing players, coaches and even officiating colleagues to the corporate world.

4. You are your own boss and go directly to the customer. There are no intermediaries whatsoever, you sink or swim based on how you do, and you also decide when you can ref in working with assignors.

3. You get (or stay) fit. I have to do a great deal of cardiovascular training, particularly now being 57 years old, to continue to be able to stay up with much younger players in running up and down a soccer field. And all that training has resulted in excellent physicals with my Primary Care Physician, who has said a few times that “you’re going to live to 100.”

2. You expand yourself by leaving your comfort zone. Where there is a risk, there is often a reward. In every game officiated, refs leave their comfort zone as they could be confronted by angry or unhappy players, coaches, and spectators. For those who are able to get through the first couple of years when many new refs quit because of verbal abuse, there is much reward and great satisfaction in working with players and coaches in producing a fair and controlled game.

And the Number One Great Thing About Being a Soccer Referee:

1. You meet the greatest people. So many are my friends, including my closest friends, are players, coaches and fellow referees. Seemingly every few weeks, I am warmly stopped on the street by somebody who remembers that I refereed their game when they played way back when, often calling me by my name, and it feels great to be remembered and know that I have made a positive difference in a person's life.

Do you have anything that you would consider greater about being a soccer referee? Share with our Secretary and we will include your **Greatest Things About Being a Soccer Referee** and we will publish some of them in the next Flag & Whistle.