



The Flag and Whistle
Newsletter of the South Bay Soccer Referee Association
Serving the Soccer Community since 1976



Written by: Warren Howell and Jonny Joseph
Edited by: Jonny Joseph

January 2021

Notes from the Board

Happy New Year!

This may be the new year with the most reason for optimism in a very long time. With vaccinations well under way, some of our elderly members have informed me that they have either been vaccinated or are scheduled for vaccination within the next week or so. Just a few minutes ago, we learned that the state of California has lifted its state-wide restrictions to allow counties to make their own virus mitigation decisions. While only a first step, it is one closer to our being able to resume playing. Additionally, after a number of days of increases, LA County is showing a steady decline in the 7-day moving average of new daily infections recorded.

Let's hope these positive trends continue and the rate of vaccination increases to create a safer environment and an ability to reduce restrictions sooner rather than later. We all have plenty notice now to start getting ready to return:

- Check your uniforms and equipment. Do they still look good? Black where they are supposed to be black and perhaps of greater concern, does everything still fit you properly?
- Are you physically fit to go out and do games?
- When did you last read the Laws of the Game?
- Have you submitted your Returning Membership Application form?
- Have you recertified with Cal South and taken the classes required?

See our feature article this month "Be Prepared for Officiating After Covid" below.

Returning Membership Applications

Thank you to all members who have submitted applications to renew our membership in the Association. As you know, membership renewal is not automatic and our Returning Membership Applications are subject to review by the Board each year. If you have not submitted yours yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Leagues' Resumption

The latest updates on three of our prominent leagues are as follows:

1. Coast Soccer League (CSL), as of January 15, CSL is hoping for a March/April 2021 date for resumption of their play, but remain subject to receiving field permits.
2. Southern California Developmental Soccer League (SCDSL) – no updates at this time.
3. South Bay Peninsula Soccer League (SBPSL) – no updates at this time.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph

Vice-President: Steve Morgan

Secretary: Jack Desemone

Treasurer: Bruce Ashton

Member-At-Large: Tim Martinez

Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman



Projecting start dates is very difficult given the various stakeholders involved and the unpredictability of the Covid-19 pandemic. We will continue to communicate updates as we become aware of them.

Cal South Updates

Congratulations to our own Gabriel Goldsman on his recently announced position at Cal South of Director of SRC (State Referee Committee) Events. In this capacity Gabriel is responsible for organizing all training, including CORE, fitness tests, in service training and maintaining attendance records for Cal South referees.

The next live Referee In Service Review Webinar will be presented in our **January 2021** Membership Meeting but all referees will need to take the quiz to receive Cal South In Service credit.

RETURN TO PLAY

For the latest on RETURN TO PLAY news, please go to www.calsouth.com and click on the **RTP** banner.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE – REGISTRATION

While the opportunity to do so “early” is no longer available, we continue to encourage everyone to register for all referee licenses for 2021. Due to resulting COVID challenges, Cal South has reduced staffing. To prevent possible delays of referee license process approval and badge distribution, everyone is encouraged to register and complete all requirements on the Cal South website, <https://calsouth.com/us/referees/>, as soon as possible.

Referee Masks

SBSRA masks were made available for everyone to collect at the location of their choice and almost all have been picked up. If you have not done so yet, please contact the applicable Board Member to schedule a mutually convenient time. Anyone wanting extra masks should contact Jonny.

Monthly Membership Meeting

To participate in the January 2021 Membership Meeting, **Tuesday, January 26^t @ 7:03 pm**, please use the following Zoom information:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85739199284?pwd=NnIQ1M4dngrMy9iQlBadVNwc1h2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 857 3919 9284

Passcode: 060949

Phone: 1-669-900-6833 or 1-253-215-8782

We look forward to seeing you then! If you cannot make a meeting, we do have a recording of the most recent meeting on our website at <https://sbsra.org/association/meetings/>.

Membership Meeting Minutes Approval

The draft November Membership Meeting minutes are included below and will be presented for approval at the next Membership Meeting. Please be reminded our next meeting is on January 26, 2021.



SBSRA Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, December 1, 2020 Via Zoom Conference

Board Members in Attendance: Jonny Joseph (President), Steve Morgan (Vice-President), Bruce Ashton (Treasurer), Jack Desemone (Secretary), Gabriel Goldsman (Assignor)

1. Call to order - the meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.
2. Approval of October 2020 MM minutes - proposed by Bill Raventos, seconded by Gabriel Goldsman, approved by acclimation.
3. Cal South Training - JJ noted that Cal South did not offer a monthly In Service Training during November. Members can still complete In Service Training offered in prior months by visiting the Cal South website at <https://calsouth.com/referee-in-service-training/>.

Our own Chris Nevil led the discussion on "Handball!" Main takeaways from the session include:

- i. Not using one's arms and hands is a fundamental concept in soccer, except for the goalkeeper,
 - ii. "Handball" only applies to attackers creating a goal scoring opportunity for themselves or a teammate,
 - iii. "Deliberate" is not a consideration, mere contact is sufficient,
 - iv. "Immediately" means without much intervening play.
4. Board Meeting Report - the following topics were discussed at the November 2020 Board Meeting:
 - Review of Financial Records - the initial procedures have been completed and a draft report reviewed by the Treasurer and President. We anticipate completion before the end of the year and a possibility that the report can be provided to the Board at the January Board Meeting,
 - Insurance Renewals - the Treasurer has been working with alternative brokers to enable the board to make a choice for our accidental medical and liability coverage for 2021 and we need to complete this process before we resume play. This means that we may allow our current policy to lapse as we do not need this coverage if we are not assigning games,
 - Bylaws - the bylaws were finalized with minor typo corrections, pagination and adding a contents page. The approved bylaws have now been posted on our website, together with prior versions going back to 2014,
 - Ratings Methodology - the Board discussed the inherent subjectivity of rating referees at any level and the need to identify objective factors that can be used



for this purpose. These would be identified under broad categories like Game Management, Punctuality, Appearance and Fitness.

- Current Membership Meeting Attendance - this is updated through the October meeting and can be found on our website at <https://sbsra.org/download/3095/>. Congratulations to the 41 members who have attended all four meetings thus far!
 - Referee Transgressions and Sanctions - an initial list of transgressions was presented for discussion. Each bad action was rated from 1 - 4 on a scale of seriousness with the applicable sanction determined based on how many times the member has transgressed. This will be refined and finalized shortly and made available to members behind the firewall to create awareness of the consequences of actions.
5. Returning Membership Applications - SM provided an update on the number of 2019/2020 members who have not submitted their RMA as of the date of this meeting.
 6. Cal South ROL - SM provided an update on the number of SBSRA members who still need to complete the required certifications to be on Cal South's Registered Officials List (ROL). SM reminded all members that the time to renew their Cal South memberships for 2021 is quickly running out.
 7. Return to Play update - with 2020 coming to end, Corona virus cases and hospitalizations at a peak, the Board anticipates a return to play to be towards the end of the first quarter in 2021 at the earliest. It may take a wide distribution of the Corona virus vaccine to happen before we can expect to be back on the field.
 8. SBSRA Masks - by now we hope most members have picked up their masks. If anyone would like to get additional masks, please contact JJ.
 9. Other Business - JJ expressed his thanks to all members for continuing to attend these meetings, participating in Cal South training and staying connected to soccer by watching games on television as much as possible. With no Membership Meeting in December, the Board wished the members and their families all the best for Christmas, Channukah and the Holiday season as a whole and are looking forward to seeing the members in 2021, hopefully in person before too much longer!

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.



Be Prepared for Officiating After Covid

By Jeffrey Stern

Referee Magazine

November 30, 2020

How will you feel when the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and the games resume?

Ecstatic? Relieved? Anxious? How about prepared?

We will be experiencing a new “normal” in many ways in the wake of the pandemic and that includes how we go about our officiating business. Whether you have jumped back in already or you have some more idle time before you get going again, there are some things to do and think about.

Obligations

Some state and local associations may have extended their cutoff dates for fees, registrations, exams, online rules presentations and other prerequisites. Check in with those entities before you miss any of those deadlines. It may seem counter-intuitive to pay dues when you’re not working, but the organizations that operate sports need to keep operating so we all have games to come back to.

Your local association may have had to make adjustments. If you used to meet at a school, that facility may not be available for a variety of reasons. The night and time may have changed as well. Check your chapter’s website or get in touch with someone in the know, then help spread the word to other members.

Assignments

Leagues may reconfigure their schedules and play a reduced number of games, which means fewer opportunities for officials. While the assigner will likely be happy to know you’re available to work, this isn’t a time to get greedy. Work will be important to lots of people, many of whom will be needing the income as much or more than you.

Be extra diligent about keeping your online schedule up to date so you don’t double-book yourself and assigners are confident you are available when you say you are.

Assignments accepted before the pandemic caused postponements and cancellations, may no longer be valid. Any game for which you have a contract may be canceled, rescheduled or subject to a time change. Assume nothing. Check often.

If you are furloughed from your regular place of employment at any point, check with the boss before you accept assignments that mean you’ll leave work early. That’s a good idea under the best of circumstances, but as businesses try to recover from the downturn, your presence at the job may be vital and may require extra work that could interfere with your officiating.



Fitness.

Unless you have your own fitness equipment, you've been idle for a while. Getting back into game shape is important, [but be smart about it](#). Don't try to catch up all at once. Ease back into shape or you'll hurt yourself to a point you won't be able to resume officiating.

Remember [little things that don't require a gym membership](#). Take the stairs instead of the elevator. Park farther away from the door of the office or the store.

If working from home and the easy availability of food caused you to stray from a healthy diet, get back on track.

Gear.

Lockdown or no lockdown, it's always a good idea to double-check your uniforms and officiating equipment. If the aforementioned snacking or previous wear and tear have caused your pants or shirts to no longer fit right or become shabby, replace them. Summer heat and humidity result in unsightly sweat stains on hats. Have one or two extra so you'll be sure to look sharp.

Education and study.

If you're one who loves to dig into the rules, being cooped up for an extended period means you had even more time to peruse the books. You're up to speed on the latest points of emphasis and interpretations.

Others, who are only reasonably diligent in their rules study, need to brush up, particularly on the most recent rule changes.

But if when the cancellations began you said to yourself, "Yippee! Finally, a break from having to read that (deleted) book," you have some major catching up to do. If you have already taken required exams, look them over again. Look up the ones you got wrong and cement those in your mind. There are any number of officiating bulletin boards and [online quizzes](#) that can help your rules knowledge any time, especially if your officiating mind has been idle for a while. You can also check out the [Referee Training Center](#), which has the world's largest collection of officiating training books, guides and videos

One bright side during the pandemic was the creation of podcasts and other educational offerings that sprang up. If you didn't take advantage of them during stay-at-home time, find them now and catch up. They will get your head back into the game and expand your overall officiating knowledge.

Emotions.

We're all going to react differently to the new world we'll be living in when the games resume. We need to prepare ourselves for how we approach situations and interact with others when we step back onto the courts and fields.



Depending on where you live, a great many people involved in the leagues and programs in which you work may have died or been affected by the virus. Some may have been fellow officials. Things may be a bit more somber than joyful, at least for a while, as those individuals are honored and remembered. When the games begin after any ceremonies, try your best to adopt a “business as usual” attitude while keeping the pain of others in the back reaches of your mind.

When the NFL ended its 2012 lockout of officials and the replacements were themselves replaced, the real officials were greeted as heroes - for a while. But before long, things returned to normal and the best football officials on the planet were booed, heckled and vilified in print, electronic and social media.

We may enjoy that kind of “honeymoon” period as well. Coaches and players may well be so happy to be playing again that they accept decisions the way we wish they always would. If you should enjoy that glorious peace in your games, enjoy it while it lasts. And don’t be surprised and disappointed when the bubble bursts.

This will be a tough road. It is hoped you and yours come through it OK. But it will end at some point and then let us, once again, be the best team on the field or court.

Jeffrey Stern is Referee’s senior editor.

He has officiated high school and collegiate football and umpired high school baseball.

Warren’s Howellers and Some Things to Think About

Some of us have more to learn than others (attributed to **Clint Eastwood**):

A good man always knows his limitations.

A personal (very) story:

A proud Member of SSBRA, who most know as the Large Member, was the happy C.R. for a GU14 match many, many years ago.

Near the start of the second half, after a series of quick passes and movements, the L.M. found himself face-to-face with an attacking player near the half-way line. She was moving rapidly, directly up field with the ball at her feet, at a distance of less than 2 yards. Ignoring his presence completely, she then kicked the ball with all her might, with the idea of sending it to a teammate in the opposing penalty area.

Alas, the ball only traveled about one yard before hitting the L.M. squarely in the, uh, well, uh, you know (they do not have this body part amongst the participants in the Women’s World Cup). All movement instantly stopped on the field, and the young ladies adopted a stricken expression on their faces, with the kicker herself particularly looking like she wanted to die from embarrassment.



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The field was mostly silent, except for some gasps and moans coming from various spectators, mostly the males, and players. More intense moans and groans likewise could be heard coming from the L.M., who at that moment was hoping for a quick death.

While no signal had been given to stop play, the players did so anyway on their own. This may have been because, though he proudly kept standing on his feet throughout, the L.M.'s posture suffered, as he was in a pronounced bent-over position rather than in his normal erect, dignified and alert pose. After some time, seemed like eternity to him, he was able to use arm gestures to indicate that play could continue, speech still being out of the question.

Slowly recovery did take place, and he was able to safely retreat to the center circle, where he mostly remained (still to this day), out of harm's way, for the rest of the match. Little was heard verbally from the players, nor the spectators, for the rest of the game, which ended without further incident and without permanent injury to any of the participants.

Referee needs to make a call? What do you think?



Quote of the month

What you believe you will achieve.

----- Keep 😊 Smiling -----