



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

March 2021

Notes from the Board

We're Baaaaaaack!!!!!!

In the February 2021 Flag & Whistle and at the February Monthly Membership Meeting, we shared with you all that we have plenty notice now to start getting ready to return following positive changes in the rates of Covid infections and the relaxation of state limitations on communal activities.

WOW!!!!!! How wrong were we?

Within no time at all suddenly we were back. In that connection, our special thanks go out to our Assignor Gabriel Goldsman for putting together a Return to Play session for us all at Columbia Park and for scheduling last week-end's games with very little notice. Getting that many games (more than 90) fully staffed was not easy to do but with your help, Gabriel did a great job! Thank you also to Steve Morgan for arranging for us to use Columbia Park and AYSO Region 16 for accommodating us.

Congratulations go out to all of our members for providing high quality refereeing to two of our important customers – Coast Soccer League (“CSL”) and newly rebranded SoCal, formerly Southern California Developmental Soccer League (“SCDSL”). The weekend went by with very few issues noted and no service failures on our part. However, we always have room for improvement. Please note the following as we head into our second weekend:

1. When you have been assigned as a “Single Referee,” make sure you call in at least 1-4 hours before kickoff time. The number is 310 955-9905, then select “1,”
2. Be at the field, ready to begin **at least 30 minutes before the scheduled kickoff time** (especially for the first game of the day),
3. Check the date, time and location of your assigned games the night before and just before you leave home for your game(s),
4. Ensure you have the mobile phone number of your partners and the assignor(s), in case you need to reach either of them,
5. Any possibility you will be late and/or are running late? Let your partners and the assignor know. Consider doing that the night before if you know you have to get from one field to another,
6. Download the **“CSL Referee” application** to be able to submit the postgame report electronically,
7. Print the applicable league’s rules and have them with you at the fields.
8. Google your field the night before your game if you have not been there before so you will know exactly where it is, where to park and how to get in.
9. When you send a text message via your mobile phone, include your name at the bottom so the recipient will know who you are.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph **Vice-President:** Steve Morgan **Secretary:** Jack Desemone
Treasurer: Bruce Ashton **Member-At-Large:** Tim Martinez **Assignor:** Gabriel Goldsman



Returning Members

We are proud to share with you that approximately 70% of our last year's members have returned to refereeing with their Cal South certifications in place. This compares very favorably to Cal South as a whole which has only $\pm 45\%$ retention at this time. We should all be proud of what a great group we have!

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 so we have time to consider it before we restart.

Leagues' Resumption

As many of you know, CSL and SoCal (formerly SCDSL) resumed play on the weekend of March 20 and 21. We also have received communication from a few of our other customers. They are working on resuming their soccer activities and we can expect an increase in games available to us in April and May from the others. We also expect CSL and SoCal game counts to increase as LAUSD schools reopen beginning in mid-April

Cal South In-Service Training

We will have a brief presentation as part of our **March 2021** Membership Meeting. If you missed Cal South's session earlier this month, it can be viewed at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ubbrZkCpPIQcoGxtB83TaBhgbFs1dV8v/view>

RETURN TO PLAY

For the latest on RETURN TO PLAY guidance, please visit <https://calsouth.com/coronavirus/>.

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 join us for the March 2021 Membership Meeting, **Tuesday, March 30th @ 7:03 pm**, please use the following Zoom information:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83305514259?pwd=eG1kSTJzbTc3VjB5QURyRStBR0xwdz09>

Meeting ID: [833 0551 4259](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83305514259?pwd=eG1kSTJzbTc3VjB5QURyRStBR0xwdz09) Passcode: [031148](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83305514259?pwd=eG1kSTJzbTc3VjB5QURyRStBR0xwdz09)

Phone: [1-669-900-6833](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83305514259?pwd=eG1kSTJzbTc3VjB5QURyRStBR0xwdz09), One Tap #: [+16699006833,,83305514259#,,, *031148#](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83305514259?pwd=eG1kSTJzbTc3VjB5QURyRStBR0xwdz09)

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 February 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 March 30, 2021 at 7:03 pm.



SBSRA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 23, 2021 Via Zoom Conference

1. Call to order - the meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.
2. Approval of January 2021 Membership Meeting minutes - proposed by Kiku Annon, seconded by Sue Pascoe, approved by acclimation.
3. Cal South Training - Our own Chris Nevil led the discussion on Law 12 "Match Moments of Truth." Main takeaways from the session included:
 - i. What are the considerations that apply?
 - ii. What is the position of the referee with regards to the play?
 - iii. When calling a foul, consider the temperature of the game?
 - iv. What degree is the foul; careless, reckless, excessive force?
 - v. Small fouls can have big consequences.
4. Board Meeting Report - the following topics were discussed at the February, 2021 Board Meeting:
 - i. SBSRA Training Session - JJ informed the membership that he has been in contact with Torrance Unified School District, they have begun to issue youth sports permits and have invited SBSRA to apply for field permits if we wish to do so, the indoor facilities are still unavailable at this time. An on-field SBSRA training session will be set when there is a definite start date for games.
 - ii. Referee Sanctions - JJ presented the proposed Assignor's Referee Sanction chart. It will be behind the membership login firewall for the members to be able to refer to. Since it will be some time before we are on the field again, members have adequate opportunity to review the chart, ask any questions and offer any suggestions. Members brought up the following issues; will there be due process, what will the fines be, aren't these situations already included in the Guidelines, and clarification as to returning games sanctions when there is a block or no block.
 - iii. Current Membership Meeting Attendance - JJ noted that 74 members are in attendance at this meeting.
5. Returning Membership-JJ asked the members present that are not on the ROL why they haven't done so. The general consensus was that there hasn't been a compelling reason to do it, and is it worth it to do it now when next year's badge can be obtained starting in June 2021. JJ also emphasized that Cal South needs time to process returning members, and it could get backlogged when games resume.
6. Cal South ROL - SM reported that 61 SBSRA members are on the current Cal South ROL. It is important that SBSRA members who still need to complete the required certifications to be on Cal South's Registered Officials List (ROL).



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7. Return to Play update - JJ reported that Cal South sent out a communication on February 23, 2021 stating that youth sports will start late March or early April. SBPSL will resume games starting in September.
8. SBSRA Masks -JJ reported that people that have washed the masks gave them good reviews. Manny Fineberg presented merchandise (electronic whistles, uniforms, shorts, etc.) that he has available for the members and announced a 5% discount for our members on all their orders.
9. Open positions- JJ reported that the association is looking for a Director of Mentoring and a Social Media Volunteer. Interested members should contact JJ.
10. Other Business -
 - i. DSL - GG reported that SCDSL has left Cal South and is now affiliated with US Club Soccer. This move takes approximately 30% of the teams from Cal South. A discussion of who will referee US Club games followed. GG could not give a definitive answer, but believes they will contact SBSRA for services.
 - ii. SBSRA Leagues - Michael Hinz asked if SBSRA has been in contact with the city leagues we service. JJ responded that the various league Points of Contact would be reaching out to their respective leagues soon.
 - iii. JJ noted that it was reported to him that Aiden Plunkett's father had passed away. Members were encouraged to reach out to Aiden to express their condolences.
11. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm.



Do you prepare for each of your games properly?

The Power of Preparation - 6 Ideas to Ponder

Georgia Athletic Officials Association

Preparing for a game has many different meanings, and we all have our own routines that make us comfortable. The power of preparation is something that we can often take lightly and can result in a catastrophic outcome. Here are a few things that you may already do, but this can serve as a friendly reminder before your next game:

Before Game Day Preparation

So much of the work happens before you ever make it to the game. One thing that will prepare a contest official more than anything is a **solid knowledge of the rules**. This may take years to master, but one thing is for sure, this happens before game day. Another area we want to master is mechanics. Make sure that you have solid understanding of mechanics and rule knowledge and you are certain to improve your performance.

Be on Time

Being rushed into a pregame meeting because you got hung up at work or caught in traffic will frazzle even the most seasoned arbiters. Make sure you prepare the best you can to overcome unforeseen events that will happen. **[SBSRA note – plan to be at your field, ready to start, at least 30 minutes before the scheduled kick off time.]**

Engage in the Conversation

Talk to your referee team during the pregame. Ask questions. Give answers. This will improve the communication your crew has during the competition and will improve trust during the critical moments. Talk after the game about what went well and what could have been done better. Self-reflection should take place after every game we do.

Find Some Quiet Time

This is hard and seemingly rare. Find a minute or two to turn off the commotion in life and lock into what you are about to do. Be silent and truly think about what is about to happen. Close your eyes and see the players and the ball and the coaches. See it all unfolding before the game starts. This will eliminate your adjustment period and allow you to start strong.

Have a Conversation with a Mentor

This is a sure way to improve your preparation before a game. It's also good to have a conversation with a mentor after the game. Mentors have a way of making things simple. It is your job to listen and apply the good suggestions you are sure to get.

Prepare Your Game Bag Early

Do this the night before or several nights before. Make certain that your essentials are packed and you have backups of what is critical.

There are many other ideas to add to this small list, however the power of preparation is a very real thing. Do your part and prepare, the players and the coaches will thank you!

Ok, maybe they won't, but you will perform better and enjoy yourself more.

Warren's Howellers and Some Things to Think About

Uhoh.....



Caption of the month competition?



Is the referee thinking "tell someone who might care?"

What's your call?



If it is “Red Card,” then the referee in this game agreed with you!

Thought of the Month (Translated from the Finnish)

“Make someone happy every day, even if it is only yourself”

Now that’s a good way to finish!

----- Keep 😊 Smiling -----