



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



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 Edited by: Jonny Joseph

April 2021

Notes from the Board

We're Doing Great!!!!!!

We take this opportunity to recognize and thank our members for an impressive return to refereeing after, an almost to the day, 12 month break from all activity. Through the weekend of April 17 - 18, we have officiated at just over 450 games, without any referee service issues and just a few minor items that were cleared up without much of a fuss.

Our good work is being noticed and we are receiving good feedback and compliments on our contribution to a successful return to play in our area.

An analysis of the games covered from March 20 – April 18 follows:

<u>Players'</u> <u>Birth Year</u>	<u>Game</u> <u>Count</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Cum</u> <u>%</u>
2001	1	0%	
2002	4	1%	1%
2003	8	2%	3%
2004	17	4%	6%
2005	22	5%	11%
2006	28	6%	17%
2007	53	12%	29%
2008	72	16%	45%
2009	78	17%	62%
2010	56	12%	74%
2011	44	10%	84%
2012	50	11%	95%
2013	24	5%	100%
	457	100%	

It is noteworthy that more than half of our games (55%) are for kids born more recently than 2008, i.e., under 13 or younger. Only 11% of our games have been for players 16 or older.

Board of Directors

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



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We are off to a bit of a slow start, in terms of the number of our referees who have been active each weekend, given that we have almost 100 referees who are members and are on the Cal South Registered Officials' List ("ROL"). The last few days of referee assignments we have had only less than 50 referees who were assigned to be the center referee.

The number of games, referees assigned and ratio of referees to games for each day of games officiated to date is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u># of Games</u>	<u># of Refs</u>	<u>Ratio of Refs to Games</u>	
3/20/2021	30	25	0.83	
3/21/2021	61	43	0.70	
3/27/2021	66	40	0.61	
3/28/2021	61	39	0.64	
4/3/2021	22	21	0.95	Easter Weekend
4/10/2021	69	49	0.71	
4/11/2021	67	48	0.72	
4/17/2021	81	49	0.60	
4/18/2021	49	33	0.67	
	<u>506</u>			

We really need more members to make themselves available to help ensure we can continue to provide excellent refereeing services to our two youth leagues at this time - Coast Soccer League ("CSL") and SoCal, (formerly "SCDSL"). Ideally, we want to get closer to a ratio of one referee per game as that allows us to assign 3 referee teams to 3 games, thereby avoiding overloading referees with games.

Please be reminded of the following as we head into this weekend:

1. Print the applicable league's rules and have them with you at the field,
2. 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.
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. 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,
5. Download the **"CSL Referee" application** to be able to submit the postgame report electronically. In addition to completing your match report online, be sure to submit a picture of the match report through the app. If done this way, there is **no need to mail in** the paper copy,
6. 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,"
7. Be at the field, ready to begin **at least 30 minutes before the scheduled kickoff time** (especially for the first game of the day),
8. Seek out your referee partners when you arrive at the game location, don't just hang out until the last moment before the game starts,
9. Ensure you have the mobile phone number of your partners and the assignor(s), in case you need to reach either of them. Please keep your phone on and on our person until all partners have arrived,



10. Dress professionally:

- Wear the correct jersey, shorts and socks,
- Wear the correct badge - USSF badge for SoCal, CSL and other Cal South sanctioned games,
- Arrive at the field wearing your SBSRA shirt, a plain black t-shirt or polo style shirt,
- No t-shirts with logos or slogans, dirty or torn shirts, and no sleeveless shirts,
- Avoid revealing skin or underwear in public when changing shirts,
- If you choose to wear a hat, please make it plain black with the only logos being USSF or Cal South, and wear it with the peak facing the front in the standard way.

11. Conduct yourself professionally:

- Greet people formally and with a smile as you make your way from your car to the field,
- Set up away from team benches,
- Resist distracting referee team that is officiating the game in progress,
- Seek out the team manager(s) and coaches of your teams to introduce yourself and to initiate obtaining paperwork and referee fees,
- Check in the team as required by the applicable league,
- Obtain and check 3 game balls,
- If prior game is running late, conduct a coin toss before the field becomes available to you,
- Avoid engaging in horseplay or loud and obnoxious bantering with referee teammates,
- Enter the field of play, leave the field of play and leave the game location after the game as a team, if at all possible.

When you send a text message via your mobile phone, include your name at the bottom so the recipient will know who you are.

Resumption of Play and New Opportunities

For a number of weeks now, see statistics above, we have been officiating CSL and SoCal games and this past weekend, we resumed working ECNL games following the LA Breakers obtaining a local field. We have been contacted by a few of our other customers who are working on resuming their soccer activities. We have also been provided with two opportunities to propose our services to expand our reach.

To gauge the interest of our membership in officiating futsal games, we asked you to all to complete a survey. The results of the survey are as follows:

	#	%
Responses Received	44	100
“Yes” to all 4 questions asked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interested, - Available, - Willing to attend training, - Willing to pay Cal South dues 	21	47.7%



	#	%
Minimum Fee desired by the 21 “Yes” responders:		
<u>2 Game Set</u>		
- \$20	3	14.3%
- \$25	2	9.5%
- \$30	13	61.9%
- \$35	3	14.3%
<u>Single Game</u>		
- \$20	2	9.5%
- \$25	5	23.9%
- \$30	7	33.3%
- \$35	7	33.3%

As a result of these survey responses, we will provide a proposal for our services and let the members know of the result when we learn it. It is our understanding that this futsal league will start in September of this year.

Cal South In-Service Training

The most recent In-Service Training was offered this past Wednesday, April, 21. If you missed Cal South’s session in March, it can be viewed at:

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

A link for April’s training has not been provided yet.

Monthly Membership Meeting

To join us for the April 2021 Membership Meeting, **Tuesday, April 27th @. 7:33 pm**, please use the following Zoom information:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83971646930?pwd=VzdpbTRzUHNhM1JFYWxkNzdFQzRBZz09>
 Meeting ID: 839 7164 6930 Passcode: 722194
 Phone: 1-669-900-6833 One Tap Mobile: +16699006833,,83971646930#,,,,*722194#

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 March 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 April 27, 2021 at 7:33 pm.



SBSRA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 30, 2021 Via Zoom Conference

1. Call to order - the meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.
2. Approval of February 2021 minutes - proposed by Sue Pascoe, seconded by Kiku Annon, approved by acclamation.
3. Our First Weeks' Back - Although the return to play got off to a fairly slow start - just 91 CSL and SoCal (formerly SC DSL) games two weekends ago and 127 games between the two of them this past weekend, it was a good return.

The membership was congratulated on a magnificent effort and turnout. All of the referees he saw out there looked good - professional and in reasonably good shape given our layoff of just over 12 months.

Very few issues were reported back to us, mostly mistakes in scheduling by SoCal. We did however have a few instances of referees not knowing the rules of the respective leagues, in particular regarding game fees and playing time. Gabriel is going to talk more about our pre-game, which starts earlier in the week of our games, right until kickoff.

This will be followed by Chris Nevil who will review post-game responsibilities.

GG expressed his appreciation to all those who made themselves available for the first two weekends. He noted that there were a few challenges with respect to the age brackets of some games and advised the members that when in doubt check with the coaches.

4. In-House Training:
 - Pregame Preparation - Pregame doesn't just start when we get to the field:
 - a) Open your blocks on Arbiter to be able to get games.
 - b) Ensure you have left sufficient time for you to be able to receive assignments. An hour or two is not sufficient.
 - c) Be honest with your availability, we understand you do other things also.
 - d) Once you have been assigned games:
 - Accept games as soon as you see your assignments for the first time. We can see when you have viewed the assigned games.
 - Check the field location, if you have not been there before, get directions and view the field online so you can see where to park and where the entrance is,
 - know the level of the teams, the match duration and the game fees,
 - make a note of your partners' phone numbers.
 - e) Historically we emphasized getting to the venue at least 30 minutes prior to kick off. However, currently Covid protocols may require extra time to get into the venue. So we suggest that you plan to arrive at least 45 minutes before the scheduled kick off time.
 - f) Check players in and talk to coaches to confirm game details (game length, substitution rules, age group, heading and build out line rules application (if younger age group), etc.). Currently SoCal wants coaches to hold onto the player and coach ID cards, CSL wants referees to check players' IDs as before.



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- g) Call referee partner(s) to determine their location if they are not at the venue 30 minutes before kickoff.
- h) Carry rules of the league to which you have been assigned.
- i) Call GG if there are any issues ASAP.
- j) When you are assigned as a Single Ref, remember to call in at least one hour and up to four hours before kick-off.
- k) When you have finished your games, please observe whether the complete referee team has arrived for the next game. If they are short, please wait a few minutes to see if they need help.

Mark Gordonson asked about the protocols regarding the wearing of masks at games. GG stated that we are obligated to follow the protocols of the field owner and the league for whom we are officiating the game.

JJ asked GG to provide guidelines in the case of a referee who is late for his/her game and a referee from the prior game stands in for the absent referee. GG stated that unless the late referee has communicated with GG or the rest of his team, if the assigned referee arrives 10 minutes or more after the scheduled kick off time then the substitute referee may complete the game and retain the game fee.

JD asked about the coaches' license required by each league. GG refereed the membership to the leagues' rules to ensure that we are all aware of the coaches' licensing requirements.

– Post-game Responsibilities - Chris Nevil led the discussion "How to finish the games properly." The takeaways from the session include:

- a. Game is over, hopefully it went well, and now we need to complete our responsibilities well.
- b. Leave the field as a team, all three together, just as you would have entered the field.
- c. After the team has left the field, find a private place so you can fill out the paperwork uninterrupted.
- d. If coach/manager approaches you right after the game has ended, politely request a few minutes and space, if necessary, to complete the match reports.
- e. We usually require a manager or coach to sign the match report.
- f. Keep a copy of the match report or take a picture of it if an extra one is not available.
- g. All ID cards, if provided to us pursuant to league rules, need to be returned except for cases of Violent Conduct against a participant, coach, referee or anyone else.
- h. If you felt hostility during a game, and a coach appears unhappy with you, it is a good idea to have the AR, who was on the opposite side to that coach, to ask the coach sign the paperwork.
- i. Don't invite or encourage questions or discussions about events during the game.
- j. If asked by anyone "Who are you?" we are only obligated to provide the last four digits of our USSF number.
- k. Once we are done with the game and all paperwork, best practice is to leave the field as soon as possible as a team. Don't linger at fieldwork or in parking lot. Our formal authority ends when we leave the field.
- l. Post-game debriefs are done best away from the fields, conference calls are a good alternative.



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- m. Match Reports:
- For CSL games, we should all be using the “CSL Referee” app,
 - We need to rate each team for sportsmanship, etc. and insert comments as needed,
- n. Misconduct Reports:
- These reports are required for any red cards, serious injuries (paramedics called or player taken to emergency room/hospital), game termination or other serious situation,
 - Take a picture of the Match Report, prepare the Cal South incident report the same day or at least within 24 hours.
 - Use simple language, and stick with the facts (who, what, when, where).
 - The Cal South incident report form is on the SBSRA website.
 - Include the facts of the incident only:
 - **Who** was involved? The player’s name, number and team.
 - **What** happened? Don’t speculate, just note what you saw.
 - **When** - date and time, point in the match.
 - **Where** - venue and specific location on the field.
- Note there is no “**Why**.” Not our job to speculate on why someone did what they did and we should not include a diagnosis of the injury, even if we have the ability to do so.
- Submit the incident report to our Member-At-Large who will review the report and possibly suggest edits. Once approved by MAL, submit report to the Assignor (and Co-Assignor if the game was assigned by the Co-Assignor).
 - The Assignor will submit the final report to the applicable league.
 - If you have kept ID cards, the card(s), together with copies of the match report and incident report must be sent to the applicable league administrator by the end of the first business day (likely Monday) following the game.
 - The importance of this process cannot be stressed to strongly, these reports are really needed by the leagues and everything we do needs to reflect our professionalism as individuals and as a referee association.
 - The report also protects us all from potential litigation.
- o. In response to questions asked by members:
- The coach has a right to ask to see your Referee card only when doing the player check-in **before the game begins**. At any other tem, we are only obligated to provide the last 4 numbers of our USSF ID.
 - Do not use abbreviations, only use language used in the Laws of the Game to describe the applicable misconduct.
 - Regardless of league we are refereeing and/or badge we are wearing, we must use the Cal South provided incident report.
 - If there is a misconduct to be reported, good idea for the Center Referee to check the identity with the Assistant Referees.
 - Following submission of the incident report to the MAL, please call him to ensure it has been received if you have not received an acknowledgement of receipt within 2 hours.
 - Any **MAJOR incident** on or at the field requires an incident report. This includes fights on or off the field and coach issues.
 - Call the Assignor, GG, after any game that requires an incident report so he is informed when the league calls him.



5. Board Meeting Report - the following topics were discussed at the March, 2021 Board Meeting:
 - SBSRA Training Session-JJ informed the membership that we have a new insurance carrier and that forms are on the SBSRA website should anyone need to file a claim.
 - Referee Sanctions-JJ discussed his Referee Sanction (RS) proposal. JJ reported that he has spoken to some members and attempted to explain that he created the document to be transparent. Michael Hinz asked why the document is needed, since it pertains to less than 5% of the membership. MH also brought up that most of the items on JJ's document are covered in the guidelines and bylaws. JJ said that the RS would be an addendum to the guidelines.
 - Dues-JJ reported that the board discussed the possibility of having the 2021-22 dues in the \$80-100 range. JJ mentioned that it would cover 16 months of expenses.
 - CORE Training (formerly RPD)-JJ reported that during the Board Meeting GG informed the Board that Cal South would use SBSRA for 5 CORE sessions starting in May. Other CORE sessions would be held at Hawaiian Gardens.
6. Membership:
 - Returning -JJ reported that 70% of the membership have done all of the prerequisites to be able to ref during 2021.
 - New -JJ introduced; Victor Varadi, Todd Hays, and Servando Berna as prospective new members.
7. Cal South ROL - SM reported that 50 members attended the Zoom meeting. That is just over 50% of the total membership. SM feels that more members should be attending the meetings. SM also reported that 95 SBSRA members are on the Calsouth ROL.
8. Association Undershirts - Manny showed new SBSRA shirts that he has for the members. If any members are interested in purchasing them, they should contact Manny directly.
9. Association Contribution Opportunities:
 - Director of Mentoring.-
 - Social Media volunteer - 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 -
 - Steve Resnick noted that a few games were not as they were listed in Arbiter. GG said that the ref should check with the coaches and accommodate what they want, and adjust the game fees accordingly.
 - JD reported that he has spoken to the City of ES. They are waiting for LA County to enter the orange tier before they look into starting the league.
 - JD reported that at Campus ES, the City requires all spectators need to watch the games from outside the fence. Also, at ESMS, the spectators sit opposite the AR and along the fence. Team Managers handle their spectators, it's not a referee responsibility.
 - There was a discussion about getting Coaches/Team Managers to sign off on the Match Reports. The conclusion was to let the Coach/Team Manager where you will be, and have them come to you after the game.
11. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.



6 Things Never to Say to a Coach

Referee Magazine (December 4, 2020)

You will say all kinds of things when you're having a conversation, conference, discussion, talk, debate or heated exchange with a coach. But are there some comments that should never come out of your mouth. Some time ago, *Referee Magazine* asked subscribers in a "Your Call" survey what not to say. Some things are an obvious no-no, such as foul language.

Here are some of the other things your peers suggested are off limits. If you're currently using any of the following in your "conversations" with coaches, you might want to "eject" them from your dialogue.

1. "One more word and you're out of here!"

It's the classic overused phrase that needs to go away. Toss any other useless threats from your coach interaction vocabulary as well. What happens if the coach comes back with a compliment just to test you, or comes back with "word"? Are you prepared to eject the coach for that? Probably not. That's why "one more word" is worthless at best, and adding fuel to the fire at worst. Don't commit yourself to an action. It's a no-win situation.

2. "Shut up."

Now that's an example of adding more gasoline. It's antagonistic and unprofessional. Coaches should be allowed to have their say. If they cross the line and say something that warrants a reaction, use your tools within the rules — such as a warning, caution or send off — to "shut up" the coach. That's the professional approach. That should be your approach.

3. "You're wrong!"

If you don't tell a coach he or she is wrong, that doesn't mean you don't think or know, in some cases, that the coach is wrong. It simply means you don't say it, because it won't lead to a positive result. Suggesting the coach is "right" all the time isn't the answer either. Explaining what happened on a play or why you called what you called will let the coach know he or she is wrong (or right) without saying it. Sometimes telling the coach, "that's not what I saw," or "I had a different view" serves to mitigate the situation and allows both parties to move on.

4. "Are you serious?"

Sometimes what comes out of the mouths of coaches is so far-fetched and ridiculous that you want to question their mindset. But that is not the right approach. Coaches often have a big stake in the outcome of the game, and as a result, rational thinking can be lost at times. Assume they are serious. Keep your sense of humor about you and don't take some statements too seriously and you'll survive and thrive on and off the field.



5. “That’s not my call.”

Officiating is a team sport, just like any of the others. You and your partners are in it together, so you need to act like it. That statement can be taken to mean two things: “My partner is to blame,” or, “I saw what happened, but decided not to call it.” Both are bad. While it may not have been a call in your area, there are plenty of things you can say without shifting the negative spotlight on your partner. If you did see the play and could have helped your partner call something he or she missed, it’s your fault for not doing it. Getting the play right is your number-one priority.

6. “It’s just a game.”

You may argue, “It *is* just a game. Coaches shouldn’t act as if it is a life-or-death situation.” No one is suggesting that some coaches don’t need to learn some perspective. The key is that it’s not your job to teach it to them, and that phrase isn’t the way to teach that, anyway. You might as well be saying, “Who cares? I don’t,” because that is how it is going to be interpreted. Games are important to the coaches and participants, no matter the level or sport, and that isn’t going to change. Just as officiating is important to you. Respecting the game and the participants is important, whether or not it is reciprocated.

Conclusion

OK, the list can go on and on. Maybe you’ve heard other no-no comments come out of your fellow officials’ mouths or your own that shouldn’t have. What you say can make or break your career. So remain calm and in control during talks with coaches, and think before you speak. That will help eliminate a good percentage of problems.

Lastly, keep your conversations quiet and private. The visuals are not good when referees raise their voices at coaches from the middle of the field, even if the coach is yelling at the referee.

Warren’s Howellers and Some Things to Think About

Warren remembers:

On a serious note, long-time referee **Larry “Broken Chair” Stern** passed away this month. He was an SBSRA Member for many years, starting in the 1980’s, if I am not mistaken. He served on the Board at various times as Past President, Assignor, Training Director and President. He was also my mentor starting in 1999 when I joined SBSRA, as he attempted to help me improve my skills. Always a gentleman and a fun guy to have around, he got his nickname when the chair he was sitting on unceremoniously collapsed at a Board meeting, putting him on the floor in an undignified posture. We had many, many games and meetings together, and he also gave me my “Large Member” and “Bluto” monikers (the stories of how that happened will be provided upon request).

That's One Way to Get Your Point Across



This is a Sight That We Would Rather Not See (from Referee magazine)

After (Italian Serie A) team Catalina was awarded a direct free kick near the top of the penalty area, four Catalina players positioned themselves 5 yards in offside positions. They formed a side-by-side wall and were directly lined up between the ball and Torino goalkeeper **Matteo Sereni**.

All four players dropped their shorts toward their knees, distracting Sereni. As Catalina's **Giuseppe Mascara** started his run-up for the free kick, the players scattered out of the line of sight and Mascara scored.

Catalina's chief executive **Pietro Lo Monaco** told Italian radio, "(Is this) a trick? I wouldn't say so. It's up to the referee to decide if it should be penalized, otherwise I don't see where the problem is."

Former Italian referee coordinator **Paolo Casarin** called the move "unsportsmanlike and in bad taste. It's a trick that should not be tolerated anymore by the referees."

Thought of the Month (Hanlon's Razor)

"Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity"

----- Keep  Smiling -----