



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



Written by: Jonny Joseph

May 2021

Notes from the Board

Exciting News

We are excited to share with you that we have signed a 5 year agreement to provide referees for adult games at Aviation Park in Redondo Beach for South Bay Sports (SBS). SBS approached us to enter into this agreement to provide referees for their 7v7 program (50 minutes) on weeknights (Monday – Friday) and 11v11 games on Sundays (90 minutes). They did not solicit any other associations, citing our being a Cal South affiliated association and our positive reputation in the soccer community.

SBS has also become affiliated with Cal South and has plans to host a “Super League” to be held at their site from August 2021 through June 2022. It is envisioned that it will consist of two leagues – one to be played on Saturdays and one to be played on Sundays. The winner of these two leagues, possibly following playoffs, will go on to compete in another tournament featuring winners of other leagues.

Needless to say, this is a great coup for us! Aside from providing us with games in our backyard that will qualify for Cal South upgrade assessments, this will provide us with challenging games for those who really want to test their refereeing abilities. We also anticipate that having this league will be a draw for other ambitious referees to join our Association.

The leagues will start play during the week of May 23, so please check your blocks, especially for the evenings (Games will begin at 7:00 pm and end at 10:00 pm), so that our assignors will know if you are available or not.

Other Leagues

We have recently submitted proposals to an AYSO summer program and for the futsal league beginning in September. We have also learned that the Manhattan Beach 7v7 league is planning to restart games on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning on June 22. Zog has restarted play with just one league in Los Angeles and is staffing that with its own referee(s). El Segundo’s fields have been used extensively by youth sports and they are hoping for a restart of their adult soccer leagues soon after June 15. South Bay Peninsula Soccer League (PSL) has set September 12 as their target date for restarting their leagues.

Despite reaching out to other adult and youth leagues, we have not heard back from any of the others not mentioned in the paragraph above. Nevertheless, as described above, we can expect to have many games throughout the next few months until the traditional youth season starts after Labor Day. Rest now!!

Clarification of Pre-Game Activities

To clarify instructions previously shared with you:

Player IDs – SoCal allows pictures of player IDs if the ID card is not available. If the player is not eligible to play due to a prior red card, the league will penalize the team.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph

Vice-President: Steve Morgan

Secretary: Jack Desemone

Treasurer: Bruce Ashton

Member-At-Large: Tim Martinez

Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman



Coin Toss – no Coin Toss for SoCal, Coin Toss required for CSL, but no coaches are to be present and only one captain per team, no handshakes.

The Referee Team

We often speak of “the Referee Team,” but what does it mean? To me, it means many things, here are some of them:

- We are in “this” together – 3 individuals are put together by the assignor to officiate a game, this makes us a team
- At the field, we should be perceived as team by the players, coaches and spectators, this means we support each other on and around the field,
- We enter the field together, we leave the field together and we leave the game location together, whenever possible,
- We are currently experiencing a severe referee shortage. Accordingly, there have been and will continue to be times when less than 3 referees are scheduled on one or more games. If you are one of those assigned with less than two colleagues then embrace and be thankful for another referee who offers to help you out by officiating with you. We recently had a situation where only two referees were assigned to a game. A third referee, whose assigned game had just ended, offered to stay and help out with the next game. The offer was declined. Anyone who needs an explanation as to why this was not appropriate, was just flat out wrong, should please reach out to any board member to have this explained! If you are ever in a situation with an incomplete referee team and someone offers to stay and be on the game with you, be grateful, very grateful!!

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place on June 29, 2021. As CDC guidelines have changed recently, we are cautiously optimistic that we may be able to hold our first in person meeting in almost 18 months. There are details to be worked out and, of course, we need to determine the membership’s appetite to meet in person. Look out for a survey announcement for us to gauge our level of vaccination and willingness to meet in person. We are considering a dual approach to the meeting – in person attendance and the ability to participate via a Zoom call. If we are able to do this, we also have to ensure we can conduct board position elections and any proposed Bylaw Amendments votes in accordance with our Bylaws.

Monthly Membership Meeting

To join us for the May 2021 Membership Meeting, **Tuesday, May 25th @. 7:33 pm**, please use the following Zoom information:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83643926659?pwd=SGFJclFOUS8rcU9VRFdsZnU0VUh3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 83643926659 Passcode: 652402

Phone: 1-669-900-6833 One Tap Mobile: +16699006833,,83643926659#,,,*652402#

Please be reminded this is an opportunity to nominate candidates for Treasurer and Vice-President and the last opportunity to propose Bylaws amendments for voting on at the AGM in June.

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 April Membership Meeting minutes are included below and will be presented for approval at the next Membership Meeting (see details above).



SBSRA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 27, 2021 Via Zoom Conference

1. Call to order - the meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm.
2. Approval of March 2021 minutes - proposed by Kiku Annon, seconded by Tim Martinez, approved by acclamation. Michael Hinz requested that the F&W be distributed earlier than the day before the monthly membership meeting, so the membership can review it with adequate time before the next meeting. JJ replied that that was his goal each month to get it out earlier but that had not been happening lately.
3. State & National Cup - Gabriel Goldsman introduced a presentation in preparation for State & National Cup by discussing what it means to be a Professional Referee. GG reported that he received reports that some SBSRA referees did not present a professional look at the games to which they had been assigned.

The Professional look includes arriving at the field with; clean and pressed uniforms, clothing with only approved logos, no undergarments showing, and hats worn properly.

GG went over what it means to "Act Professionally." This includes; greeting the coaches, confirming the game details with the coaches, and when talking to the referee crew, do it discreetly as one never knows who may be listening.

The details of State & National Cup 2021 include:

- This will be a smaller tournament than in prior years as we are just emerging from a long hiatus.
 - Each referee association may only receive one field per day.
 - Starting on May 1st with small age group at Silverlakes. SBSRA was assigned one field.
 - State Cup will probably go through June 15th.
 - Important items to watch for at State & National Cup:
 - a) Make sure you have the Tournament Directors contact information.
 - b) Arrive at least 60 minutes before your assigned kick off time.
 - c) Check Roster very carefully. Make sure you have the correct sheet.
 - d) If you are required to do a Supplemental Report, take a picture of it and send it to the Member at Large.
4. Treasurer's Quarterly Report - BA presented his Quarterly Report for March 2021. Cash flow was approximately \$100K less than last year, but that had no impact on the bottom line. The only disbursements over \$100 this quarter were for the financial review, member insurance, telecommunications, and Cal South Training. Accounts receivable included \$100 still due from El Segundo, and \$1,754 due from SoCal and CSL for forfeited games and assigning fees. Accounts payable consist of Cal South training costs and amounts owing for SoCal and CSL forfeited games payable to some members and assigning fees payable.



5. New Membership Year:

- Returning Membership Application - JJ each member must complete a RMA for Board consideration. While it is rare for us to decline an application, last year 4 members were declined. The form will be published on our website during the next month or so. He reminded members that RMAs and the payment of annual dues is by no later than July 1, 2021.
- Annual Dues - JJ reported that following a very detailed budget analysis at the most recent Board meeting and following a year in which we continued to pay necessary expenses without any revenue, the Board is pleased to announce that annual dues for the 2020/2021 season will be the same as it was for the 2018/2019 season - \$100 for returning members. For new members who joined in the 2019/2020 season and will join for 2020/2021, there will be an additional \$40 for Admin and other one-time costs as in prior years. JJ also noted that certain other associations take a percentage of every referee fee collected by their members but our obligation ends at \$100 for the year. This is based on a very austere budget and we expect to be able to continue to run an organization that serves its members and continues to strive for greatness in all that we do.

6. Board Meeting - April 2021:

- Futsal - JJ reported on the results of the member survey regarding the possibility of SBSRA providing officiating services for a new city-run Futsal league starting in September 2021. Details of the survey results were included in the April Flag & Whistle newsletter. Based on the level of interest shown, the Association will submit a proposal to provide these services. Members would be required to get certified for Futsal to be eligible to be assigned to these games. Veto Galati inquired if it was youth or adult. JJ said that it was an adult league. GG said that the training would be done in-house at a later date.
- Association inclusiveness - Following an initiative presented to the Board earlier in the year by Jack Desemone, the Association has added verbiage to the "About Us" section of the website to reflect the diversity of our membership and to encourage all that they will be welcome in our Association. The first line of that section now includes "that welcomes diversity and inclusion amongst our."

7. Cal South ROL:

- SM reported that SBSRA currently has 101 members on the ROL. In addition, there are 40 members that submitted a RMA, but have not completed the Cal South requirements as yet. SM had reached out to these 40 referees and 12 expressed interest in returning in the fall.

8. Board Elections:

- Open Positions - JJ reported that pursuant to the Bylaws, the positions of Treasurer and Vice President are up for election at the AGM in June. If anyone is interested, they should contact a JJ or any other board member to learn more about the positions and the level of commitment required for each one.
- Nomination of candidates may be made at the next meeting and through the AGM. Candidate statement will be included in the June Flag & Whistle ahead of the AGM.



JJ also noted that the AGM is another opportunity for Bylaw amendments to be voted on by the membership and that proposed amendments need to be submitted in writing for consideration before the May Membership Meeting.

9. CORE Training - GG reported that Cal South is planning to restart training in July. Cal South has been using Hawaiian Gardens for training and testing purposes but they are still planning on using our own N. Torrance HS venue for CORE in July.
10. Other Business:
 - i. Other Leagues -JD reported that the El Segundo Adult League will not start before June 15th. JJ asked Veto if he had heard back on whether Zog had set a start date, Veto had not heard anything further but will follow up.
 - ii. JJ reported that he did an analysis of the types of games that we receive from our leagues. He stated that over 50% of the games are 13U and younger.
 - iii. COVID Tiers -Tim Reynolds spoke about the possibility of LA County going into the Yellow Tier and what that means to our association. Tim shared a link in the chat box for the members to obtain additional information.
 - iv. Annual General Meeting - JJ reminded the membership that the AGM will be in June and was hoping it could be in person, given the LA county move into the yellow tier, but is undecided at this time.
 - v. Historic Belmar Park Parking - JJ reported that this is a new field location being used by CSL and that parking is very difficult there. Street parking is impossible. There is a vacant lot at the now boarded up bowling alley on Pico and there is a Santa Monica city-operated paid parking facility to the north of the field. In accordance with the guidelines, the Board decided to extend the policy of SBSRA reimbursing for parking which maxes out at \$5 per day on the weekends. Members are reminded to submit their requests for reimbursement to our treasurer with their receipts.
 - vi. Grassroots Elite - GG reported that a few members took and passed the fitness test on April 24th - congratulations to them!
 - vii. Assigning for this weekend - GG informed the membership that he had still not received the SoCal schedule for this weekend so asked everyone to be patient. It would be helpful if more than 50% of our 101 active members could open up their availability for the weekend.
11. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.



Peek Inside An Assigner's Notebook

By Jim Corpora

Referee Magazine

March 30, 2021

While I have officiated since 1975, I have also served for 22 years as a high school softball assigner and 14 years as an NCAA Division III college football conference coordinator. For much of that time, I have kept an “assigning notebook.” What follows are my observations and thoughts as they pertain to what I have learned and what I recommend officials do to enhance their careers.

- All officials think and believe they are better than they are (I am a prime example). In reality, all officials make some mistakes. The axiom that no perfect game has ever been officiated remains applicable to every sports official at every level. The key is to strive for continual improvement.
- Far too many officials no longer study and read their rulebooks (*Law Books in soccer*). While video is a great teaching tool, it will never fully replace studying and knowing the rules. An official not knowing the rules puts the assigner in an indefensible position.
- Among other things, officiating should transcend race, gender, ethnicity, financial status, etc.
- The degree of camaraderie between officials varies greatly from sport to sport. Football officials tend to have the greatest camaraderie of all officials, probably in large part due to the size of a typical football crew.
- The best officials are the ones who are obsessed with excellence. The truly outstanding officials are always thinking about their sport. They rehash plays and are always seeking additional knowledge.
- The fact is some officials are not as accomplished as other officials. That is true at all levels in every sport. I am fine with that, as long as an official makes a legitimate effort to be the best he or she can be.
- An unfortunate trend is newer officials wanting to advance before they are legitimately ready for the next level. Officials need to learn the art of officiating. That takes most folks quite some time. While videos, podcasts and the like can accelerate an official's advancement, officials learn best by officiating.
- Officiating is not for everyone. That should be obvious, but many people believe anyone can officiate. Your next-door neighbor thinks he knows as much as you do about officiating. Obviously, that is totally untrue.
- I believe there is a strong correlation between the amount of understanding and knowledge of the sport officials have and their performance. The more officials know about a sport, the better their chances of success. It is critical that an official understands the game.



- Too many officials are unwilling to accept when it's time to step off the field. At some point, every official will take off the stripes for the final time. Surely, that is often a very difficult decision. Ideally, every official would like to make that decision for themselves and not have someone else make it for them.
- If you think you've been assigned to a low-level game, screw it up and watch how big it just became. Some games are "bigger" than others — but every game matters. Excellent officials adopt that approach entirely.
- It is imperative officials are keenly aware of the time (not necessarily on a clock, but juncture of the game) and the score. Those two items dictate coaching tactics. For example, in softball, it is very probable that a team will bunt with a runner on first base with no outs in a tie game in the bottom of the seventh inning. That is less likely in the bottom of the first inning.
- The best officials strive for continual improvement. There is always something to learn and improve upon. To be sure, perfection is impossible; however, I do believe excellence is an attainable and realistic goal.
- Humor has a definite role to play and it must be balanced. Officiating should be challenging and fun, but it is not funny. Find humor where you can, but maintain professionalism.
- The best officials are almost always the best prepared. Just as in anything else, there is a direct correlation between preparation and performance.
- If the primary reason you officiate is for the money, you will never be as good as you can be. That said, all officials should demand their compensation be commensurate with the service they are providing. I believe the amount officials are typically compensated at the collegiate and high school levels is far short of what they deserve.
- I strongly believe multi-sport officials can learn a great deal from each sport that will benefit them in their other sports. That is especially true when it comes to slowing down and timing.

Anyone disagree with any of that? Gabriel would love to hear from you if you do.

Warren's Howellers and Some Things to Think About

The last report we received was that Warren could be found in Texas. It has not been determined whether he was forced to go there or went willingly. As a result, Warren's Howellers are replaced by Jonny's Jokes this month. We are hopeful Warren will be back next month. You might hope so even more after the following:

So my new girlfriend plays soccer professionally

I think she's a keeper!

Why is Cinderella not good at soccer?

Because she always runs away from the ball.

Where's the best place to shop for a soccer uniform?

New Jersey.

What time is it when an elephant steps on your soccer ball?

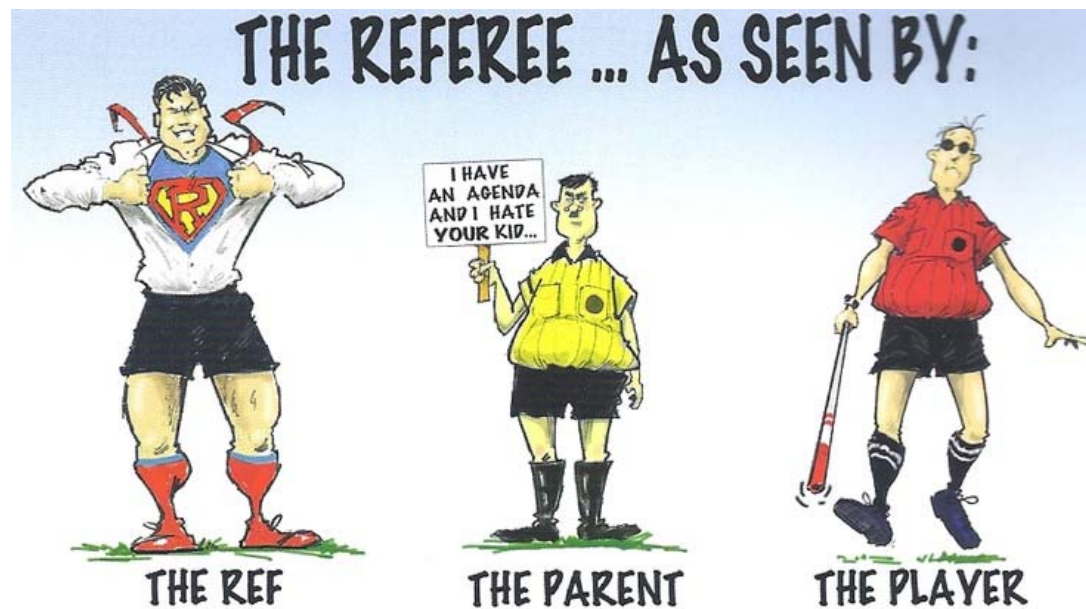
Time to get a new ball!

Why do so many Americans play soccer?

So they don't have to watch it on TV.

What's the difference between a referee and a terrorist?

You can negotiate with a terrorist.



And the grand finale.....

What happens to soccer players who go blind?

They become referees.

Thought of the Month (Martin Luther King, Jr)

“The time is always right to do what is right.”

----- Still 😊 Smiling? -----



******* This is an unpaid Commercial Announcement *******

Are you looking professional when you step onto the field?

Are you wearing a plain black hat without any logos?

Are you wearing the correct two striped socks?

Are your shorts still black, with no stripes or other decoration and the appropriate length?

Do you have the three primary “traffic light” shirt colors – yellow, green and red?

If the answer is no to any of these questions then you may wish to contact our own Manny Fineberg to get what you need:

Part of being professional is looking the part. Crisp, appropriate uniforms convey authority and seriousness.

Good quality socks and nicely fitted shorts are essential. Both are available and value priced from Pro-Ref (Manny Fineberg).

Our new shorts are examples of excellent quality, real comfort and great features.

Everyone seems to love them. Some refs like wearing them for everyday use.

Size range: S - 3XL

They feature elastic (flat), drawcord waistband, 2 deep side pockets and a clever zippered back pocket.

Cost: \$26.00, in stock for immediate shipment.

Total cost: \$26.00 plus tax \$28.47 and flat rate shipping of \$4.00

Contact Manny: 213-215-5454 by text,
refmanny@gmail.com or manny@csasportswear.com

