



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



Written by: Jonny Joseph
Edited by: Jonny Joseph and David Martin

July 2021

Notes from the Board

We go again...

Welcome to the new SBSRA which began on July 1, 2021. Your Board Members are very excited for this year for many reasons, including:

- Return to a full referee schedule (see more below),
- Redesigned and reinvigorated referee rating system,
- Resumption to in-person meetings and training in the **Library at North High School on 182nd Street in Torrance**, while continuing to offer the opportunity to attend some meetings using Zoom,
- Many new Association members who have joined us over the last few weeks with multiple applications being received each week,
- Plans for the introduction of a new mentoring program, particularly focused on new and less experienced member referees.

Watch this space for more information as the year progresses.

In the immediate future, we have the following tournaments to look forward to:

- July 24th and 25th – Eclipse Tournament, Camarillo,
- July 30th and 31st, August 1st - Silverlakes Summer Showcase, Norco,
- August 7th and 8th – FCMU Cup, Walnut (Olders),
- August 12th - 15th – Figo Tournament, Lancaster,
- August 14th and 15th - FCMU Cup, Walnut (Youngers)
- August 21st and 22nd - TBA.

In addition, we have two of our adult leagues providing games during the week and weekends in Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach. We have also been informed that the Beverly Hills and El Segundo leagues are expecting to be back in mid to late September, just a few weeks ago.

So we have plenty to keep us busy until the traditional youth leagues – So Cal, CSL and ECNL – start in September also. While all of us get to take a bit of a break during these summer months, we need to appreciate that our assignors, Gabriel and Veto, are busy 12 months around the year. So ask yourselves – have you hugged an assignor today? Thanks guys!

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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Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27 at 7:03pm. We are pleased to once again offer members the ability to attend in person at North High School or with Zoom as follows:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84867012682?pwd=NklCOFEwdEovdEY1eVVMSFgzY3p6UT09>
Meeting ID: 848 6701 2682 Passcode: 799582
Phone: 1-669-900-6833 One Tap Mobile: +16699006833,,84867012682#,,, *799582#

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

More Good News!

In last month's Flag and Whistle we reported that we were also in discussion with a tournament, which will be holding games over two weekends in August. We worked with the tournament to accommodate their budget but did not compromise on the referee fees that your board felt was reasonable for all of us and we were successful in bringing this new tournament to SBSRA. While some of you may know the story, we are appreciative of Servando Berna, whose refereeing performance was noted by the tournament director at another venue. After his games, he was approached by the director who shared their disappointment with the referee association who were at their tournament the last time they played in 2019. Servando provided the relevant contact information and voila, we are their new association. Do well on their two weekends and they have a Thanksgiving tournament later this year that we could be retained for also.

Well done Servando and the rest of his team that was with him that day. It goes to show that we never know who is watching us out there. Give your best effort, remember "good enough" is really not good enough, let's always strive for excellence by putting in the effort and trying to do the best we can.

Supplemental Reports

Please be reminded that whenever we have serious situations, a supplemental report is required:

- The **Cal South Supplemental report form**, on the SBSRA website, must be used,
- The report is required to be prepared ASAP, **within 24 hours** for **all serious situations**, including:
 - **Red cards, serious injuries** (paramedics called, player taken to emergency room/hospital), attended to by the trainer in some cases or **game terminations**, etc.,
- Take a **copy of the Match Report** to prepare the Cal South incident report,
- Use **simple language** and include the **facts of the incident** only:
 - **When** – date and time, point in the match.
 - **Where** – venue and specific location on the field.
 - **Who** was involved? The player's name, number and team.
 - **What** happened? Don't speculate, just note what you saw.

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.



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- **Do not use abbreviations**, only use **language in the Laws of the Game** to describe the applicable misconduct.
 - **Call the Assignor**, after any game that requires an incident report so he is informed when the league calls him.
 - **Submit the supplemental report** to our Member-At-Large (MAL) and the Assignor (and Co-Assignor if the game was assigned by the Co-Assignor) who will review the report and possibly suggest edits.
 - 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**.
 - **Following review and approval** of the report by the MAL and Assignor, the **Assignor or SBSRA Board Point of Contact for the applicable league submits the final report** to the applicable league.
 - **If you have kept ID cards**, not required for all red 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 strongly enough! These reports are really needed by the leagues and everything we do needs to **reflect our professionalism** as individuals and as a referee association.

Covid Vaccinations

While many of us have been vaccinated, along with 70% of LA County, the Delta variant seems to be causing a small uptick of cases. As always, be vigilant about the requirements of local authorities and tournaments at which we officiate. As reported last month, one of our leagues that is expected to return in September has expressed concern whether referees assigned to their games will be vaccinated. They have implemented their own procedures to only allow vaccinated players to play.

To be clear – SBSRA is not contemplating vaccinations as a requirement to be a member. However, we are assessing the situation to enable us to continue to provide excellent service all of our customers. It is likely that those referees who wish to be part of this league's program will be required to provide us with proof of vaccination.

Membership Meeting Minutes Approval

As the draft May Membership Meeting minutes were not approved at the AGM they are included below, along with the AGM minutes, and will be presented for approval at the July Membership Meeting.



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SBSRA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 25, 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 Sky Rosenstein, seconded by Sue Pascoe, approved by acclamation.
3. Treasurer's Report - BA reported that significant activity in April included the payment of the assignor's fees, billed to CSL and SoCal the previous month. BA also reported that he has spoken to the bank regarding the receipt of annual dues from members using Zelle, and is continuing to pursue this possibility to make it easier for members to make their payments.

BA spoke to the membership on what to expect when getting paid by SBSRA; BA strives to get the checks out within 30 days, and when the member receives the check to please cash it ASAP.

BA asked the members that have joined during the last two years to submit a W-9 form. BA suggested that members could submit two electronic copies - one with all details filled in without Social Security Number and a separate form with just the SSN to protect their data. BA reminded the membership that if their mailing address has changed, to send him the new address. Address changes in Arbiter are not communicated to him. Veto reinforced that it is up to the member to make sure that the Treasurer gets their updated addresses.

4. SBSRA training - Chris Nevil presented the following two topics:
 - Sideline Management - CN emphasized that it is up to the referee to ensure the coaches control the behavior of the sidelines. CN showed video clips of spectators' and coaches' behavior. The membership discussed various methods on how to handle such situations. A point of emphasis was when the AR has an issue with a spectator, the CR should be brought in immediately to speak to the coach calmly.
 - Mass Confrontation - CN showed video clips of players congregating with the potential of a fight breaking out. The main takeaways were for the referee team to remain calm, establish the triangle of control, deescalate the situation, and remember that player safety comes first. Handling mass confrontation must be discussed thoroughly by the referee team during their pre-game discussion.
5. Membership Applications - JJ reported that the updated Returning Membership Application is on the website, and everyone, who is planning on returning, needs to fill one out for consideration by no later than June 30. Membership in the Association is not automatically renewed - the Board considers and votes on all applications received. JJ also welcomed new member applicant Tyler Peltier, who introduced himself.
6. Respect for fellow referees - JJ reminded that everyone in the Association is to remain professional and should speak positive about fellow members only, or say nothing at all. This is really important when speaking with people outside of our association, especially coaches and club administrators.



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7. The customer is (almost) always right - JJ brought up that we should be flexible when the coaches want to alter league rules (e.g., substitution rules). Michael Hinz and Servando Berna raised concerns that we are not fulfilling our duties by deliberately disregarding the league rules because the coaches agree on changing certain league rules. Opinions were shared that we need to respect the Laws of the Game and that making Laws of the Game changes at the field were not appropriate. It was noted that the current season is unique in that the leagues are being somewhat less formal and strict with their league rules (different to Laws of the Game) and that most variances related to player safety and an effort to reduce the physical stress on the players. Other modifications for duration of the game (minutes per half) and water breaks in hot conditions were discussed. In some cases the referee has the discretion to make changes and in other cases we want referees to exercise good judgement to work with coaches for the good of the game and the players, especially youth players. Player safety and welfare must always be the prevailing paradigm. A lengthy discussion ensued and JJ said that he would contact the applicable league (ECNL) to request clarification on what can be changed and what needs to be enforced.
 8. Membership Dues - JJ reminded the members that no dues were charged for the 2020/21 season. For the 2021/22 the dues are \$100, the same as they were for the 2018/19 season. For members that joined after the 2019/20 season, an additional \$40 is due even though they only need to complete a Returning Member Application.
 9. Board Meeting Report - May 2021-JJ reported that the board discussed items on the membership meeting agenda and the forthcoming SBS league which started between the board meeting and tonight's meeting.
 10. Flag & Whistle - JJ encouraged the members to read it each month. JJ noted that it has answers to many questions that come up during the monthly membership meetings, which makes the meetings unnecessarily longer. The newsletter contains serious and humorous content for the pleasure and fun of the membership.
 11. Annual General Meeting:
 - i. Date -JJ reported that the meeting is planned for the last Tuesday of June, June 29th, as is our custom.
 - ii. Location - Expected to be in-person, site to be determined with Zoom attendance offered also, if possible.
 - iii. Bylaw Amendments - Michael Hinz proposed a Bylaw change that was read out to the members and shared on the screen, as follows (additional proposed language in red font and highlighted in yellow):

VII ELECTED OFFICERS

4. Secretary:

- c. Provide draft Membership Meeting minutes to the Board for approval no later than seventy-two (72) hours after each meeting and provide final draft minutes to the Membership no later than one (1) week before the subsequent Membership Meeting for approval by the Membership at that meeting. **If the minutes are not made available to the membership one (1) week before the meeting, the approval vote will be delayed until the next Membership meeting.**



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- iv. Board Nominations - JJ explained that serving on the SBSRA Board was more than just a 2 hour commitment to attend board meetings and a 2 hour commitment to attend membership meetings each month. Each Board Member spend numerous hours each month on Association business between meetings. With respect to the two positions that will be voted on at the AGM, the treasurer is constantly handling payments and receipts on behalf of the Association and the Vice President is charged with maintaining the ratings of our members, a job that will require considerable time this upcoming year. Having explained the commitment needed for these two board positions, JJ called for candidate nominations:
 - a. Treasurer - Veto Galati nominated Bruce Ashton, Tony Calandra seconded and Bruce accepted the nomination.
 - b. Vice President - Jack Desemone nominated Steve Morgan, Tim Martinez seconded and Steve accepted the nomination. Chris Nevil nominated Steve Resnick, Kiku Annon seconded and Steve accepted the nomination.
 - v. Michael Hinz noted that board candidates could be nominated right up until the voting begins. JJ emphasized that while this was accurate, the candidates benefited from being nominated ahead of the meeting as candidate statements would be included in the Flag & Whistle at least 1 week prior to the AGM. In addition, our webmaster, Rick Roberts, needed time to set up the electronic voting. Any late nominations would have to be included in the electronic vote as "write in" candidates. It was also noted that according to the Bylaws, proposed Bylaws' amendments have to be presented in writing at the prior Membership Meeting. Accordingly, no further Bylaws amendments could be submitted.
12. Other Business- JJ reported that a number of our members have received notification from Cal South that they need to complete SafeSport refresher before June 1st to remain on the ROL. Although the estimated time to complete the refresher was stated to be 15 minutes, it had taken him about 20 minutes to complete it earlier that week. Certain members had reported technical issues on the SafeSport site but others had completed it without any problems. A direct link to the SafeSport site has been added to our website home page for the ease of reference for our members.
13. Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.



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SBSRA Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, June 30, 2021

North Torrance HS and via Zoom Conference

1. Call to order - the meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm.
2. JJ welcomed the members who were physically present at North HS, and the members that attended via Zoom, noting this was the Association's first in-person meeting in 16 months.
3. JJ presented "State of the Association" statistics which included:
 - Association membership numbers,
 - Leagues serviced since the resumption of soccer after the pandemic in late March 2021,
 - An overall analysis of games officiated, and
 - Numbers of referees in action as a ratio to number of games per day.

The Association recognized the following members (number of games) who stepped up and did the most games since the resumption of play:

- Greg Sirbu (88)
- Barry Giberman (86)
- Jorge Reyes (85)
- Omar Gomez (85)
- James Marsella (84)
- John Hough (82)

Those who were present received an SBSRA collared-shirt kindly donated by Manny Feinberg, of CSA Sportswear.

Presentations of SBSRA appreciation plaques were made to former President Michael Hinz and former Member-at-Large Chris Nevil for their years of service to the Membership and the Board.

4. Assignor and Cal South Report - GG provided an update on the tournaments we expect to officiate over the summer and Cal South's plans for resuming the CORE training program. It is expected that more venues will be used and the sessions will comprise two groups - Regional referees and aspiring Regionals and Grassroots referees who want to continue participating in monthly training.
5. Board Positions' Election -JJ explained that the position of Treasurer and VP are up for election. JJ reminded the members that Bruce Ashton was nominated for Treasurer and Steve Morgan and Stephen Resnick were nominated for VP.

JJ asked if there were any other nominations for either position. No additional nominations were made. Each candidate was given an opportunity to speak.

6. Proposed bylaws Amendment - JJ read out the proposed bylaws change that was presented in writing at the May 2021 Membership Meeting.



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7. The Vote - Rick Roberts then instructed the members on the voting procedures, provided the URL and the voting password and the voting was opened.

While the voting was taking place, new member, Nick Webster, shared information about Cal South's Adult Soccer Program and entertained the membership with a story about a coaching experience and how he met Cal South's State Referee Administrator.

Voting Results - Rick Roberts provided the results of the vote to Tim Martinez who announced that Bruce Ashton was unopposed for the position of Treasurer, Steve Morgan retained his position of Vice President, and the proposed bylaw change had been approved.

8. Treasurer Announcements - BA reported that he had checks from May, and reminded the Membership to anticipate a 30 day turn-around when SBSRA pays the ref fees. BA also notified the members that should their Association's Annual Dues not be paid by July 1st, they would be deducted from future referee fees payable to the member. In response to a question, JJ emphasized that not paying dues by July 1st does NOT preclude a member from being assigned games, but not completing a Returning Member Application by then would preclude a member from being assigned games.
9. The meeting adjourned at 7:43pm and the members went out to the parking lot to enjoy a food truck dinner.



Aptitude v Attitude

As adapted from an article by George Demetriou in Referee Magazine (April 17, 2021) to be more applicable to soccer.

The attitude officials have when they walk onto the field will determine in part the success they may or may not enjoy in officiating that day. Attitude is likely most often thought of as a disposition or feeling with regard to a person or an object ranging from extremely negative to extremely positive. It certainly is that but, according to Carl Jung, the founder of analytical psychology, attitude is a “readiness of the psyche to act or react in a certain way.” That perhaps states the greatest value the concept has for sports officiating. Here are some brief thoughts on various aspects of officiating that may spur you to delve deeper into whether your attitude is a help or hindrance.

The Game.

We all know games are not created equal. Games can be stratified a number of ways: the level of competition, the existence of a rivalry, the impact on the standings, the anticipated competitiveness, etc. Very few will admit publicly that prep sub-varsity games are more organized practice sessions than they are true games — stats or records are not usually kept. Mentioning that to the proud mother or grandfather will get you in the Hall of Shame. To the player vying for a spot on the varsity roster, it’s thus far the most important game of his life. Officials who walk onto the field with the attitude that the game is trivial and not worth their best effort are likely to learn all about a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The Coaches.

Coaches are, of course, individuals. An official may know a coach well, by reputation or not at all. If there has been a problem in the past, either one way or mutual, it’s best to find a different game to officiate. It’s a good idea to do an attitude check on coaches in general. Like anyone else, they can be passionate and some are very difficult to work with. Dealing with volatile, disgruntled coaches is part of the territory.

During the first half of a game, an assistant referee had made a call for unsporting behavior by a player. The assistant referee sought out the player when the first half ended and gave him a stern lecture while wagging a finger in the kid’s face. During halftime, the referee gently pointed out the ills of the assistant’s approach, “Coaches don’t like officials who chew out their players. It might be better to simply wave the flag and call the foul.” “I don’t care,” came the abrupt reply. “All coaches are a-holes.” That was the assistant referee’s last season. Apparently he realized he didn’t have the skills to deal with people for whom had no respect.

The Official’s Role.

A bad attitude is perhaps what gets more officials in trouble than anything else. Officials must understand the role they have been hired to play and most importantly, understand when they are about to do something outside their purview.

The preceding incident is an example of an official going outside his jurisdiction, as is the following, which occurred before certain equipment rule changes. The assistant referee observed two players with taping on their socks; one used a different color than the rest of the sock and the other had multiple striping. Both players were asked to remove them by the assistant referee and when they re-entered the game with the tape still on, the referee stopped play. Instead of asking them to step off the field and correct their socks, the referee told the coach that each player would have to sit out until later. The coach objected and the unyielding official ended up ejecting the coach.



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The flag.

Your use of the flag is clearly part of the role assistant referees see ourselves in, but can be a major factor and deserves special mention. Many officials who don't progress simply don't understand the flag is merely one of the tools at their disposal. It is not a panacea for every possible infraction of the Laws of the Game. As official, we can be the judge, jury and executioner if need be, but setting out to prove that is likely to worsen the situation. Using the flag to show an assistant referee knows the Laws of the Game or is paying attention to the game is the wrong reason to do so. Rather, follow the instructions given by the Referee in the pre-game on an "as-needed-basis."

Officiating performance.

Playwright Oscar Wilde, commenting on a poor audience response to one of his plays, claimed, "The play was a success, but the audience was a failure." Like Wilde, you cannot advance if you cannot accept your share of the responsibility when things go wrong. You also won't progress if you ignore or conceal mistakes and don't learn from them. No one is perfect, but that's not a reason to not strive for perfection. Constant learners are resilient; they know when they push the edge, it can become the bleeding edge, but they don't hesitate to keep trying.

Officials should be our own harshest critics. They are most likely to know what caused the error. Was the play not totally observed? Or was a law misapplied? Some efforts will fail due to factors outside your control.

We all make mistakes, hopefully not too many in any one game. The referee may have to announce a call that was different to the one that was called initially. It may appear as if he had changed the call. So be it; sometimes we have to just acknowledge we have made an error and that all that could be done at that point was to get it right.

Warren's Howellers and Some Things to Think About

Warren is away again, must be nice, eh, so we have some material for us to enjoy from "Pulled off at half-time":

- "It was like the referee had a brand new yellow card and wanted to see if it works." Richard Rufus
- "I never comment on referees and I'm not going to break the habit of a lifetime for that prat!" Ron Atkinson
- "This referee's so poor, I would have been cautioned for just getting off the bus." Norman Hunter, Leeds United and England great, member of the 1966 World Cup winning squad
- "Not only has he shown Junior Lewis the red card, but he has sent him off." Chris Kamara

In the "huh" section...

- "Football today would certainly not be the same if it had not existed." Elton Weisby (who is he?)

But at least we have this...

- "Referees, like most of us, are human beings." Football Against Racism chief Piara Power

Keep  Smiling!