



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 and David Martin

September 2021

Notes from the Board

Sizzling!!!!

What a start to the season!

Sizzling was definitely the right word to describe our experiences at the tournament in Chino Hills over the Labor Day weekend when air temperatures were over 110F at times and field temperatures significantly more.

And how about the first three weeks of the USSF-Sanctioned youth leagues season!?!?!?

The following numbers tell the story:

| <u>Weekend</u> | <u>Number of Games</u> | <u>Games with >1 Referee</u> | <u>Games with Single Referees</u> | <u>Number of Center Referees</u> |
|----------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 9/4 - 9/5 | 43 | 25 | 18 | 31 |
| 9/11 – 9/12 | 185 | 64 | 121 | 60 |
| 9/18 – 9/19 | 188 | 83 | 105 | 64 |
| 9/25 – 9/26 | <u>165</u> | <u>69</u> | <u>96</u> | <u>61</u> |
| Total | <u>581</u> | <u>241</u> | <u>340</u> | <u>216</u> |

We have just over 110 referees in our Association. So the average percentage of referees who did games over the last 3 weeks is approximately 56% (62/110). However, it is pleasing to see that the Assignor has done a magnificent job with an average of .85 (185/216) referees per game with the ideal number being 1 (3/3) referee per game. The weekend of 9/18 – 9/19 was the most challenging with .77 (64/83) referees.

This followed a very busy tournament month of August, with almost \$50,000 in billing by SBSRA and payments to referees and our assignors in that amount which will be distributed in September.

Several members have expressed concerns about their lack of assignments, single referee assignments and single games per field location assignments. Many of us have no idea of the complexity of assigning so we will try to explain some of them here.

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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Total Number of Games Officiated by League from July 1 – September 26, 2021 follows:

| League | Number of Games |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Adults | |
| Manhattan Beach 7 v 7 | 113 |
| SBS 11 v 11 | 43 |
| SBS 7 v 7 | 364 |
| Youth | |
| So Cal | 367 |
| Coast Soccer League | 95 |
| Tournaments | 451 |
| Other | <u>93</u> |
| | <u>1,526</u> |

We do not decide which games we will be officiating. The leagues allocate the games to us and other Cal South-sanctioned referee associations. As one can see from the above table, the heaviest load of games we are getting on the weekends are from So Cal. So Cal have experienced a huge growth in their club numbers this season. So Cal appears to do all it can to accommodate their member clubs’ coaches. Many of these coaches coach multiple teams. Accordingly, it is not unusual for the first draft of game schedules to be revised by So Cal multiple times later in the week. This has created a lot of stress for our Assignor each week.

As a result of these late changes, referees have lost games they were assigned to or had the times and/or locations changed. Nothing we can do about that unfortunately.

Additionally, there are still many challenges obtaining field permits. It is not unusual for us to see games at the same locations with teams from CSL, So Cal and other field users for whom we do not provide referees, preceding and following each other. For this reason we are seeing many single games at locations that require a team of referees.

Please be reminded that as members of a group we are all expected to officiate at various levels from the youngest to the oldest, as appropriate, based on many factors which have been discussed before. It is not unusual for many of our members to be officiating adult 11 v 11 games one day and U-Littles with build-out lines the next day or next weekend. They all have their challenges and satisfaction from doing a good, professional job.

We hope this helps our membership to understand the difficulties that Gabriel has experienced each week so far. Feel free to reach out if you want further explanations.

Monthly Membership Meetings

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28 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/86730819800?pwd=czl0OU8yWk5pM3lsSU83TktDSVEyQT09>

Meeting ID: 841 5579 4852 Passcode: 417532

Phone: 1-669-900-6833 One Tap Mobile: +16699006833,,84155794852#,,, *417532#



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

We still have about half of the IFAB 21/22 Law Books which we will have at the September 28 meeting. So if you checked off the applicable box on your Membership Application or contacted us afterwards to request a book, please attend the meeting to pick up your copy.

CORE Training

At the moment, the only Cal South Center of Referee Excellence (“CORE”) trainings are being hosted by our association at North High School. At the September session there were attendees from as far away as Palm Springs and San Diego, in addition to a number of SBSRA members. The remaining CORE trainings scheduled at North High for this year are as follows:

- October 19th
- November 16th

Please sign up anytime, at no cost, for these sessions at <https://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/calendarlist.asp?calguid=&eventtab=current>.

Supplemental Reports

Due to ongoing challenges, we continue to provide the following guidance for all members:

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; 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; and,
 - **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.

- **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 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.

Membership Meeting Minutes Approval

Due to a recent change in our Bylaws, and the timing of the publication of this newsletter, we will be unable to vote on the approval of the August minutes. The draft minutes are included below for your review and will be presented for approval at the October Membership Meeting.



SBSRA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, August 31, 2021, 7:00pm North Torrance HS and via Zoom Conference

1. Call to order - the meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.
2. Approval of July 2021 Minutes - Steve Resnick motioned to approved the minutes as presented in the F&W, Bill Yee second, approved unanimously.
3. Cal South Training - Wayne Merrick spoke about Referee Positioning. Wayne highlighted the following:
 - i. Standard diagonal vs Dynamic
 - ii. Always be moving to get the best view of play
 - iii. Avoid the Risk Zone where one can get in the way
 - iv. Watch your position ahead of play
 - v. Maintain the Best View
4. Treasurer's Report - BA reported that members' dues are paid either by offsets against tournament fees payable by the Association or the member paid some other way. BA has referee fee checks that members can pick up after the meeting and reminded the membership that tournament checks are paid at the end of the month following the month in which the game(s) took place. BA also said that checks will have a breakout of the leagues/tournaments listed on a separate piece of paper. Members should check the details against their Arbiter schedules.
5. Board Meeting Report - JJ reported:
 - i. Tax returns for the year ended June 30, 2021 were approved by the Board for filing. BA noted that the returns have been filed
 - ii. Members need to attend at least 3 out of a total of 5 out of 10 required to be a Member-In-Good-Standing. This determines whether a Member can vote on Bylaws changes and Board elections each year. It does not affect game assignments. It's not intended to be punitive, rather we need members to be informed to make these decisions.
 - iii. South Bay Sports End of Season Report - JJ and the Assignors held a Zoom meeting with Dennis Fox of SBS to discuss our first season back with SBS. SBS was happy with our service, noting just one concern regarding the submission of misconduct reports. Going forward the following changes were implemented:
 - a) SBSRA designed a game report form for their 7v7 games as they do not use team rosters,
 - b) SBSRA set up an email address for SBS staff to inform us of red cards shown,
 - c) Referees are required to take a picture of the game reports to send to the Assignor before they leave the fields after their gamesIn addition, SBS was receptive to our suggestion to use a 4th official for their semi-final and final games and this was implemented successfully for their semi-finals this past weekend.
 - iv. South Bay Peninsula Soccer League - we previously reported that this adult league has implemented a policy that players must provide proof of vaccination to be able to be



registered for their upcoming season. The league made it clear they expect their referees to be vaccinated also. The Board decided that for our referees to be available to referee in this league we need to go on our website to affirm that we are fully vaccinated. This does not guarantee assignment to games in this league, but without doing this, one cannot be assigned to these games. This will be done on our website with a link to be provided in the SBPSL page in the Competitions section shortly. The Assignor and the President will receive an email every time a referee completes her/his form and only these 2 people and our Webmaster will have access to the list of referees who have completed the form. This list will be maintained in strict confidence!

- v. We renewed our subscription to Arbiter at a significantly reduced cost per member. Accordingly, our license is for more referees we have right now so there is no reason for us not to recruit more referees. We need more members! More about that later.
 - vi. Returning Membership Applications - all RMAs received since the last batch were approved were reviewed and discussed by the Board. One application was not approved and the applicant informed of our decision. A second application resulted in the Vice-President being tasked with discussing the Applicant's prior behavior and that any further non-compliance with Association guidelines or any other transgressions will jeopardize his continuing membership.
 - vii. Member Ratings - Ongoing conversations about implementation of a new ratings system. We will be proceeding with a limited number of very experienced referees and assessors/observers/mentors so that we can have a very robust and up to date ratings system. These "raters" will go out to watch us and meet with us for short debriefs after our games to provide us with constructive feedback as well as to quantify a rating for assigning purposes. Details to be finalized over the next few weeks.
 - viii. The Assignor presented his "Assigning Guidelines" document for Board approval, as required by the Bylaws. These will be presented, in brief, in a few minutes and will be available under the Members Section on the website.
 - ix. The Assignor provided a sneak preview of a New Member Integration Process that he is working on and will present to the Board at our next Board meeting.
 - x. The Assignor reported that tournament participation by our members was somewhat disappointing the last few weeks and SBSRA had to turn down or return fields as fewer members made themselves available to be assigned.
 - xi. A number of recent referee service failures and turn-backs of assigned games were discussed and appropriate action taken based on Assignor recommendations.
6. Assignor's Report - GG reported the following:
- i. Assignor Guidelines - Keep your blocks honest. There have been instances where a member will look at the assigned games but not accept them, then a few days later decline the games. When questioned, members provides excuses that are obviously made up. Set the blocks by Monday because games are normally assigned starting Tuesday for the coming weekend. With the exception of Board Members, members are free to accept games from other assignors. However, all assignors are united in their request that referees block all associations other than one in advance of games being assigned.
 - ii. CORE Training - 70 referees attended the first CORE training since the pandemic began at North HS last week. The future trainings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month and are listed in Arbiter and on the Cal South website. The next one is on Tuesday, September 21. If you are injured, you can attend the training, observe the field work and attend the classroom training to receive full credit.



- iii. Coast Soccer League is scheduled to begin on September 11 and SOCAL will begin most likely on September 18.
7. Upcoming Tournaments and New League Season
 - i. This weekend is our last weekend of tournaments - in Chino Hills.
 - ii. Most leagues will be restarting in September. Excited to announce that the Fram Youth Soccer Club, playing in the Development Players' League out of this facility, North High, has selected us as their referee association for all their home games!
 - iii. Other leagues that we expect to be returning for the first time since March on 2019 include SBPSL, El Segundo and Beverly Hills adult leagues.
 - iv. Coast Soccer League held an assignors' meeting last week. CSL shared that referee fees will be higher than the competing SoCal league, play will start on September 11th, match reports will include referee fees and game times applicable to each game. They are introducing a new program for younger players which will not require rosters and check-ins and will require that all players play at least 50% of the game. Referees not be required to monitor this.
 - ii. Get your rest now, we will be very busy soon!
 8. Referee Transgressions Document - Finalized by the Board and will be on the website later this week. To be clear, it is very rare that these are even needed as we have a great group that rarely needs disciplining. Considering we do over 5,000 games a year, having less than 10 situations is quite remarkable. Let's keep it that way! The document will be available under the Members Section on the website and will also be an appendix to our Guidelines which will be updated shortly.
 9. Laws of The Game books - JJ announced that those members who had requested a book could pick one up from Steve Morgan after the meeting. As always, Tim Martinez has badges and coins for those members who need them.
 10. New Member Introductions - JJ asked that any new members or prospective members introduce themselves and Hani Alameddine did so.
 11. Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.



Do you ever wonder to yourself, or aloud to your teammates “what the heck was that coach thinking?” Well perhaps this article may help to answer that question.

Coaches Mentality

Referee Magazine

July 26, 2021

Coaches and officials can have an adversarial relationship because of the primary difference between official's and a coach's mentality: Coaches care who wins and officials don't. Because coaches are “pulling for” their team, devising offensive and defensive strategies, plus keeping a keen eye on their individual players, they see the game through vision with a built-in bias. They want things to go their way and they want events to roll in their favor.

A COACH SPENDS HIS ENTIRE LIFE THINKING HE'S FIGHTING OFF ALLIGATORS. A REFEREE IS JUST ANOTHER ALLIGATOR.”

— JACK PARDEE, FORMER HOUSTON OILERS FOOTBALL COACH

As a consequence, coaches sometimes view officials' decisions as unfair. Also, at times their zeal leads them to take an adversarial stance in regard to officials. They feel they have to fight the officials as well as their opponents. In rare instances, some coaches even view their roles as a contriver and antagonist in relation to officials. They may howl, whine and plead in an effort to gain a presumed edge or favorable treatment from officials. A few coaches will purposely behave in a way which irritates officials, apparently believing that such antics will somehow work to their advantage.

Some coaches believe that officials are influenced by their own expectations. That is, if a team has a reputation for superior play and if that team has a lopsided winning record, it may receive “soft” or tolerant treatment by officials because their own minds have been programmed to expect a top-flight performance. Conversely, if a team's reputation (or coach's, too) is such that officials anticipate sloppy or dirty play, plus either a lackadaisical or belligerent attitude, then officials may respond in a way that presumes such a reputation to be manifest. “Expect trouble and you get trouble,” one saying holds.

That attitude also perpetuates an “us versus them” mentality. You will often hear coaches use phrases like, “We don't get the calls,” as if officials dole them out in biased fashion.

A main contention with some coaches is that officials aren't accountable. Coaches get fired if they don't win. They see officials as having no one to answer to when, in their mind, a call is blown. That is a typical lament from a frustrated coach: “If I foul up, I could lose my job. If an official goofs, the league says they're sorry and the official keeps the job. Sanctions and reprimands should result from bad calls.” Those who complain in that fashion generally don't have an understanding of the officiating process because there are checks and balances within officiating. Officials sometimes are subject to dismissal and can be dropped from leagues due to perceived shortcomings.



Another common complaint: Officials don't care as much because they are part-time. Coaches sometimes view officials as "weekend warriors" who really don't care. Most officials do indeed have full-time jobs and officiating is an avocation. The same is true for most coaches (except at the highest collegiate and professional levels). Some coaches "work the officials," as indicated. They try to gain an advantage any way they can to win, including intimidating or begging officials in hopes the next call goes in their favor.

Some coaches consider themselves astute manipulators, and every phrase uttered to an official, before and during a contest, has a calculated purpose. Frankly, their efforts are sometimes successful, because humans are prone to be influenced by propaganda and flattery. Watch how TV commercials and print ads act as sales devices. Many coaches have adopted the same persuasive techniques and are effective salespersons. Some consider "selling" to be a central feature of their jobs, which it assuredly is, at least as far as players are concerned.

Whether their psychological tactics work or not, coaches perceive them to work, meaning officials must deal with it. When coaches yell about a particular call, they almost invariably know the official is not going to change that call. They may think, however, that by making a scene about that call, the official might be sympathetic and look at the next call a bit more in favor of that team. They think mentally planting those seeds in an official's head works to their advantage later on.

Coaches often want things to be even because they think the other team is getting an advantage from the officials. That's a part of the "us versus them" mentality. From an official's perspective, when coaches beg for refs to call it both ways, what they're really begging for is an advantage. They're not interested in equality; they're interested in an official's performance tilted in their favor.

Trying to understand how many coaches approach their job may help you deal with delicate situations better. Understanding gives us context. However, that doesn't excuse their behavior. You can still dole out misconduct punishment; now you just may understand a little bit better why they earned that punishment.

Understand them better now? Me neither!



Warren's Howellers and Some Things to Think About

As we were going to print, we received a last minute submission from Warren which is included below:

A Good Plan (attributed to Brian Hall, USSF FIFA Referee):

"I once did a game with two Mexican teams. In the last minute, I called for a penalty kick that decided the game. All of a sudden, the team and crowd were running at me. "My car was cornered, so I ran into a market and hid in the fridge for 30 minutes. Now I always back my car into a spot for a quick exit."

----- Keep  Smiling! -----