



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



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

October 2021

Notes from the Board

Rising to the Occasion

This association comprising its members and assignors have really risen to the occasion to provide excellent service to our Los Angeles area soccer community.

While we cannot pretend to know what other associations are doing, the breadth and depth of games and leagues that we officiate for currently is quite remarkable:

<u>USSF Affiliated Youth Soccer</u>
Coast Soccer League (CSL)
SOCAL (Formerly SCDSL)
Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) & Elite Clubs Regional League (ECRL)
Development Player League (DPL)
<u>Unaffiliated Youth Leagues</u>
Season Sports - Long Beach Soccer League
YMCA Leagues - Culver City, South-East Rio Vista, West Valley
<u>Adult Leagues</u>
El Segundo 7 v 7
Manhattan Beach 7 v 7
South Bay Sports 7 v 7
ZogSports 7 v 7
South Bay Peninsula Soccer League 11 v 11
South Bay Sports 11 v 11

Whatever a referee's appetite is, we offer the games she/he has a preference for doing. Members should share this information with our assignors, but we have a wide range of games that need coverage and they may not be able to give us what we want on a continuous basis. As members of an association, we all must be willing to pitch in and do games that may not always suit our preferences as they all deserve referees.

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 which we explained in this newsletter last month. However, we take this opportunity to remind you that the following will limit the games you get:

- Low mileage limits,
- Blocks of times on the weekend,
- Availability of only one day on the weekend.

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 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.

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, October 26 at 7:03pm. Please be reminded that attendance in person at North High School is the only option as Zoom will no longer be available.

To conform with LA County requirements, please ensure that a mask is worn, covering the nose and mouth at all times during the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you!

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

The most recent CORE training at North High was held on October 19th and was very well attended by SBSRA members and others. The last training for this year is on November 16th. Please sign up any time, at no cost, for this session

<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:



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- 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.

Two Person Referees

IFAB and USSF prohibit the use of the two-person referee system. While many of us may use this system for high school and middle school games, it may not be used by any USSF-sanctioned games that we do. If any doubt, unless assigned to do this by one of our assignors, please **DO NOT USE THE TWO-PERSON REFEREE SYSTEM**. Despite multiple communications in this regard, we continue to experience members do this.

Membership Meeting Minutes Approval

Included below are the August Minutes, which were also included in last month’s Flag & Whistle, for Membership approval. However, due to the timing of the publication of this newsletter, we will be unable to vote on the approval of the September 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



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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.



SBSRA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 28, 2021

North Torrance HS and via Zoom Conference

Board members present: Jonny Joseph, Bruce Ashton, Gabriel Goldsman, Tim Martinez. (Absent: Steve Morgan, Jack Desemone).

1. Call to order – JJ called the meeting to order at 7:07
2. Approval of August 2021 Minutes - JJ noted that due to a recent change in the Bylaws and the publishing of the draft minutes later than the prescribed date we are unable to approve the August minutes. JJ offered opportunity for discussion of the draft minutes but none ensued.
3. Cal South Training - JJ reminded members that to get monthly training credit, members must go online and complete the Cal South video training and quiz. All Cal South certified referees must complete at least 5 training sessions each year to be recertified for the following year.

JJ introduced Gabriel Goldsman for this month's session. Topic for this month was free kicks. GG stated that free kicks have recently been mismanaged by many referees and provided tips and techniques for managing free kicks better.

GG stressed that for any Cal South/USSF affiliated 11 v 11 games the two-man (dual system) is NOT PERMITTED.

4. Board Meeting Report (September 2021): JJ reported the following:
 - i. Directors E&O Insurance – following Board due diligence, we identified an alternative insurer (same one providing our liability insurance) for almost 50% of the prior insurance premium and the coverage was changed commencing September 30, 2021.
 - ii. Following Fram's selection of SBSRA to be their Development Player League referee association, they recommended us to Santa Monica Surf who requested that we provide referees for their girls' DPL home games for 2021 – 2022. Two significant wins for us!
 - iii. League resumptions were discussed; Beverly Hills had planned to resume this month but have now postponed to "next season," actual dates to be advised. SBPSL and El Segundo resumed successfully earlier this month. We have plenty of games for all!
5. Cal South ROL – JJ reported that we have almost 120 members on the ROL, including a few new members and we have approximately 8 inactive members who could return soon.
6. New Members – No news members or member candidates identified themselves.
7. New Member Recruitment - As noted in the Flag & Whistle that went out recently, it is clear from the statistics presented that we do not have sufficient referees for the number of games made available to us to assign. Indeed, we have begun to return certain field locations in our service area for this reason. On behalf of the Board and in particular the assignors, JJ thanked those members who have come out every weekend, doing multiple games each Saturday and Sunday, in many cases more than some would prefer, to support the association .



However, this is not sustainable, providing us with two choices – continue turning back games or recruit more referees. Turning back games will hurt us in the long run so recruiting new referees needs to be a priority. While some of us may be comfortable and have the time to just talk to people at the fields, we have created a recruiting flyer that can be hand out to recruit new referees. We recommend that these be given to team managers and coaches for them to duplicate and provide to their players’ families to recruit new referees. The file will be emailed to all members to print out to take to the fields with them.

Joe Robelotto suggested that meet with the various leagues we cover and solicit their help in recruiting.

8. Assignor’s Report - GG received the complete So Cal schedule about midnight last night and is working on this weekend’s assignments still. GG also stated that if our refs work for other associations in the morning, he will not assign them games in the afternoon because he doesn’t want to set them up to fail or get injured.

GG emphasized that coaches need to understand that we are there to help them so they need to help us too by cooperating. GG also stated that our policy is ZERO tolerance for poor coach and spectator behavior.

9. Member-At-Large Report - TM discussed supplemental reports, stressing that we need to keep them simple, limited to the facts. Reports need to be submitted in a timely manner – hopefully on the same day. TM also requested that members copy Gabriel on emails containing the reports.

TM asked members to help any new referees that they recruit by ensuring that they provide references with contact information on new member applications. If they do not provide references; he cannot submit their applications to the Board for approval.

10. Single Game call in reminder - JJ stated this is a critical procedure to ensure we have no referee service failures on single referee games. A service failure occurs when we don’t have at least one referee at an assigned game. Historically, the assignors have given members who have not called in and are not reached an hour before kickoff some leeway but due to recent near misses, replacement referees will now be called earlier.
11. Treasurer’s Report - BA reminded the membership to cash their checks promptly and to advise him of address changes. Address changes made in Arbiter are not forwarded onto the treasurer! JJ apologized for not having checks for distribution this month, BA to mail in the morning. JJ noted that checks to members totaled almost \$50,000 this month!

12. Other Business:

- i. SBPSL Vaccination Requirements - GG reminded the membership that PSL is requiring all players and referees to be vaccinated. All referees wanting to work PSL games must go to our website and attest to their vaccination status.
- ii. SBS 7v7 & SBPSL Match Reports - JJ noted that reports for both of these leagues must be photographed and sent to Gabriel by email right after the games have concluded before leaving the fields.
- iii. Zoom vs. In Person Membership Meeting Attendance - Michael Hinz opined that the Board did not have the ability to decide that to maintain Member-In-Good-Standing status, attendance of a minimum of three of those meetings must be in person. To impose this requirement on the Membership would require a Bylaw amendment. JJ stated that the Board had discussed the issue and concluded that the Board decision was simply a clarification of the Bylaw requirement that attendance at a minimum of five Membership Meetings was required to be a Member-In-Good Standing, amongst other requirements. BA stated that Bylaws could not anticipate every issue and that the Board had the ability to interpret our Bylaws in the event that they did



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not specifically cover an issue. Further, the Bylaws could only be changed on a few occasions during each Membership Year which may not be often enough to address certain issues. JJ stated that the Board would reconsider the matter.

Next Meeting: October 26, 2021, 7:03 PM, North High Library.



The following article was adapted slightly for publication here.

Why am I not progressing as a Referee?

Is it politics or something else?

By: Brendan Mullarkey and Christian Rivas

February 1, 2021

So, you have taken the course to become a referee and you have been officiating at the same level for the past 3 years. You notice that your fellow referee who has only been officiating for two years is officiating at the adult level and a high youth level in your country. You get upset because you have been officiating longer than the other official but this official is receiving better assignments.

So what's the deal?

You think to yourself this Referee is a good friend of the assignor and the assignor "favors this Referee over me!"

It's POLITICS! Just the way it is! It's unfair! There's nothing I can do about it, right?

Well to answer this question we first have to answer what is it POLITICS?

POLITICS: Politics is the set of activities that are associated with making decisions in groups or other forms of power relations between individuals, such as the distribution of resources or status.

So what do I do as a referee to advance and move up the ladder?

Before diving deeper there are a few things that are a given for any referee who wants to move up and become to go to referee for good games.

I asked my friend Gregory for some advice on the topic and this is what he said:

"You have to attend referee meetings, not be last in and first out, not sit in the back, and not ignore people you have reffed with recently. You have to build a network of referees you can call friends and create a reputation as being on-time, dependable, agreeable, and knowledgeable"

"The games you get are equal to the effort you put in to earn them, assignors are not mind-readers, and they don't have your life problems on a rolodex card file to check before assigning your games. Communicate with them early, often, clearly and friendly - they will return that in abundance"

Takeaway - Attend meetings, build a reputation and network of refs, put in the work and communicate with your assignor.



Assignor's Point of View

Now from the assignor's point of view, their job is to match referees with matches that they are qualified to referee along with other variables. What does an assignor look at before you get assigned to a match?

- Are you available for games that week?
- Are you willing to travel to faraway locations?

For some Referees in the midwest, a three-hour journey to and from the game site is considered normal while other referees in Cities like New York City, Chicago Los Angeles a 10-minute drive to the game is considered normal. When former FIFA Referee Terry Vaughn lived in Iowa, he traveled every weekend to Chicago to get the experience of officiating Adult games. Are you willing to travel to places far away to go to those big tournaments or even do a set of adult games?

Takeaway - If you are not willing to travel that extra mile for that game there will be referees that do and get the better games it's not because of politics, it's because they put in the effort.

Are you able to take constructive criticism and advice?

Although it can be hard at times, taking feedback from people who are more knowledgeable than you is very important in order to progress and having an open and positive mind is a part of that. No matter how big or small the advice may be.

A good example of this is from my friend at Referee POV who said that he got frustrated with one of his mentors because he would do many things right and his mentor would point out the one thing he did wrong.

These are little things like:

- Not holding your arm straight all the way up during an indirect free kick.
- Do you arrive at your games early and inspect the field?
- Do you treat every game like it's the most important of your career?
- Do you arrive at your game in neat and proper attire?

Are you wearing the correct uniform e.g., USSE, NISOA or Adidas and do you have the three primary colors?

Wearing a long sleeve black undershirt with a yellow or green short sleeve referee shirt looks unprofessional. If you're serious about refereeing, invest in some new shirts. (Extra Tip: If your buying USSF Shirts I recommend getting the PRO kits instead of the economy)

You think that this may be a little issue with the black long sleeve shirt with the yellow or green short sleeve shirt. As you go up the ladder either in Grade or the level of Competitions that you will be



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officiating these things get back to the assignor and the assignor may be required to remove you for not wearing your uniform in a proper manner.

Whatever you do, **DO NOT WEAR A HOODIE!** US Soccer now allows black caps to protect the Referee from skin damage. Plain black, no logos or print please!

One rarely sees referees in the top flights of their respective country wearing hoodies or caps although, one notable exception was when an EPL AR wore a baseball hat because he was having sun glare issues.

Takeaway - Don't be the referee that gets removed from the roster because you failed to comply with the dress code.

Are you willing to properly enforce the Rules of the Competition (ROC)?

Now what do I mean by "willing to properly enforce the ROC?" Let me give you an example: The rules of a local league say that "The Home team must have Corner Flags and No Cones or the game will not be played"

Some leagues might say "play the game and put the Law 1 violation into your match report." While other leagues will say "NO CORNER FLAGS NO GAME! NO EXCEPTIONS! As the referee, you must do your best to work with the home team to resolve the issue but if you cannot you must enforce the ROC! Both coaches may agree to play the game without the corner flags, but you must enforce the ROC of that league. Some referees can be very relaxed or "understanding" but here's one of many issues that may arise:

The coaches agree to play the game without corner flags, problem solved right? The losing coach can take a picture or a video of the field without corner flags. Then the league that handles the protest can order a "Replay and the officiating team can be fined the game fee and/or the officiating team can be suspended" and possibly dropped from the roster for the rest of the season or permanently removed from that higher level league or even a grassroots league.

Takeaway - Although inconvenient you must enforce the ROC because "the people in the blazers determine your future as a referee, AR or 4th official."

Are you making sure that the goals are secured firmly into the ground?

This is a part of your duties as a referee as listed in LAW 1 but, in some places like New York it is a law that goals must be secured firmly into the ground. Countless player have been killed or severely injured because a goal was not secured and the crossbar or post hit the player. There are even organizations like Anchored for Safety who try to build awareness about the dangers of unsecured soccer goals.

Takeaway - Get ready to not only be sued for everything you have but get ready to be criminally charged with involuntary homicide due to severe negligence if you don't ensure goals are properly secured.



Are you willing to learn more about the game and refereeing?

- Do you study the laws of the game and keep up with new law changes?
- Do you have a good attitude out on the field?
- Do you work on your fitness so you are ready for when your game comes on the weekend?
- Are you doing everything possible to improve as an official, get those better assignments and referee better games?

Takeaway - Be honest with yourself next time you decide to moan or make excuses for not getting the games you want or "deserve."

I'll leave you with a tip from a friend of a friend named Mike:

"The cliff notes - refereeing IS A JOB and if you want to do anything but the scrub games or fill an empty whistle slot, you MUST treat it with the same seriousness as a true career job. You don't get promotions in the corporate world by only doing the bare minimum."



Warren's Howellers and Some Things to Think About

Another last minute submission from Warren this month, which is included below:



"Don't worry, I Got It."

This Can't Be Good (recent news item)

A Brazilian footballer is facing a charge of attempted murder after kicking a referee in the head and knocking him unconscious.

William Ribeiro was arrested after attacking referee **Rodrigo Crivellaro** during a match on Monday in Venancio Aires, in Brazil's southern Rio Grande do Sul state. Ribeiro, who was playing for Sport Club Sao Paulo, attacked Crivellaro at the beginning of the second half of the match between Sport Club Sao Paulo and Guarani-RS in the Rio Grande do Sul state's second tier.

Referee Rodrigo Crivellaro was taken to a local hospital from the stadium unconscious in an ambulance. After examination and observation, he was discharged on Tuesday. "I don't really remember (what happened). My refereeing colleagues told me that I gave him a yellow card. He punched me in the face, I fell to the ground, got kicked, and passed out," Crivellaro told a local radio station.

Quote of the Month (attributed to John McEnroe)

"The older I get, the better I used to be."

----- Keep 😊 Smiling! -----