



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



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

May 2022

Notes from the Board

Returning Membership Applications (RMAs)

Following the Board’s approval of the annual budget, Annual Dues for the 2022 – 2023 SBSRA Membership Year were set as follows:

Returning Members	\$ 90
New Members	\$ 130

At this time, the period for submitting RMAs is now open. If you wish to return as a member for another year, please do the following:

1. Submit a RMA, <https://sbsra.org/association/rma/>. Please note we have added a couple of questions about our other officiating activities. This is for information only and will not be a consideration for reacceptance of anyone as a member of SBSRA,
2. Submit payment using PayPal, check or by deduction from tournament fees, <https://sbsra.org/association/paypal/>. Note, any dues not received or deducted by July 31 are subjected to a late fee of \$20.

Members who brought in another member are eligible to receive a free year of membership pursuant to our New Membership Initiative (NMI) program, following receipt of the new member’s dues for the subsequent year. NMI recipients should receive notification of their eligibility soon.

SafeSport

Members have received email notifications that their certificates would be expiring soon. One needs to ensure the refresher course is being taken (for longer term members this is likely the “Third Refresher”) and not the initial course. Although it is not difficult to complete, it requires an hour or so to complete. Not all members received a reminder email, but it needs to be done before the current one expires to receive games. To check if you need to complete a SafeSport refresher, please check your certificates in your Cal South profile.

Professionalism

SBSRA Logo T-shirt

Please be reminded that SBSRA logo t-shirt (short or long sleeves) for all members who submitted their orders will be available for pickup at our next membership meeting on May 31.

Additional orders can be placed in August/September.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph
Treasurer: Bruce Ashton

Vice-President: Steve Morgan
Member-At-Large: Tim Martinez

Secretary: Jack Desemone
Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman



Match Reports

Our referee duties do not end when we blow the final whistle. We usually need to complete a match report. This is usually in the form of a printed document provided by team managers. We need to be aware of league requirements and ensure we comply with them.

In particular:

1. For all ZogSports games, submit scores by email within 24 hours **to the assignor**, including date, field, game times and team names in your email.
2. For all SBPSL games, complete the Line-Up Cards with match result, misconduct, and all other information requested. Ensure the names and jersey numbers of carded players are legible. Retain the SBPSL ID card of all players and Managers sent off. Submit completed Line-Up Cards by email on the same day as the game **to the assignor** by attaching a scan (in PDF format, preferably) or a picture of the report to your email.

For more details about the completion of any match reports and the reporting requirements for all of our leagues, please visit our competitions page at <https://sbsra.org/competitions>.

Futsal

As previously reported, we will begin to provide Futsal Referee Services for the next LA Galaxy Sports Center Futsal league session on June 6 through August 29. Youth and Adult games will take place Monday – Friday, approximately 10 - 15 games each day on 4 or 5 courts/fields. For more information, please visit <https://sbsra.org/competitions/futsal/>.

All Referees MUST have attended one of these training dates and certified with Cal South to be able to officiate in this league.

Additionally, as previously communicated, members are required to be available and to officiate other mid-week games to be assigned Futsal games.

Availability and Blocks

All members have an obligation to minimize the number of times we decline games after we are assigned. As independent contractors, we all are entitled to accept assignments wherever we can get them. However, in fairness to all assignors; Gabriel and Veto here, and others elsewhere, we are all requested to block the days that we are unavailable to the applicable assignor(s) ahead of time. Choosing who we want to work for on specific days is perfectly fine, waiting to see which games you are assigned and then declining the less favorable ones is simply not acceptable. The extra work it creates for the assignor, is more than most of us can imagine. **Please block ahead of time!**

Off-Season/Quiet Time

Say what?!?! Despite what many may think, we are hugely busy – over 100 games each weekend. We need everyone to be available! Please open your blocks with reasonable mileage limits.



New Ratings System

Observations/Evaluations are underway! We have begun to implement the new system and a number of referees have already been observed. Our Vice President, who is responsible for the Ratings of Members, will be reporting on progress and the results of the evaluations, in a general way, not of individual members, at our monthly General Membership Meeting.

As with any new system, we have had some challenges but we are continuing to work on this to create an effective and transparent system.

Training Opportunities

The following training opportunities are coming up and all members are encouraged to attend as many of them as we are able to do:

CORE Training at North High

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

7:00pm – 9:30pm

Please sign up any time before the course and future course, at no cost, at

<https://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/calendarlist.asp?calguid=&eventtab=current>

What is CORE?

Center of Referee Education (CORE) is a program established by Cal South State Referee Committee (SRC). It is open to all USSF certified referees. It consists of physical trainings & lectured meetings for referees who are looking to be at some point be at the elite level of Cal South.

Emphasis is placed on both physical fitness and classroom instruction. Referees attending this event are expected to come prepared with material for physical fitness (i.e.: tennis shoes, whistle, cards, flags) as well as material for classroom (i.e.: FIFA Laws of the Game, Guide to Procedures, paper and pen).

While these trainings are for referee self-development, please note that Regional or Grassroots Elite certification or recertification require referees to attend at least 5 CORE trainings per year. The same requirement applies to instructors and assessors.

New Referee Training at North High

Do you want a year's free membership of SBSRA? Do you know of anyone who wants to be a referee?

Please let them know of the next opportunity to attend Cal South's next New Referee Training:

Tuesday, May 17, 2022

7:00pm – 9:00pm

Ensure they include your name on their SBSRA New Member Application,

<https://sbsra.org/association/nma/>.



Cal South Monthly In-Service Webinar

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

7:00pm – 8:30pm

Guest Speaker: **TBD**

Topic: **TBD**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THIS WEBINAR](#)

Please be reminded that after viewing the presentation, live or recorded, one must take the Review (Quiz) to receive In-Service Training credit.

New SBSRA Member Training

Tuesday, May 31, 2022

6: 23pm (1:10 hour before monthly membership meeting)

This training is required for all new SBSRA members to become full members of our association. All referees, new and with prior referee experience are required to attend so we can share all the details of how to maximize your enjoyment and experience as a referee in **our organization**.

Monthly Membership Meeting

Our next in-person, monthly meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, in the **Cafeteria** at North High School, starting at 7:33 pm.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Please be reminded that this is an important meeting as nominations for 3 Board Positions and proposed Bylaws Amendments will take place at this meeting.

Two Person (Whistle) 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** unless you have been assigned by one of our Assignors to be on a two-man crew.

Conversely, if you have been assigned as a **TWO-PERSON REFEREE CREW** for **non-USSF-sanctioned games**, please honor the assignment regardless of what your assigned partner may say. If there is an issue, please contact the appropriate assignor – Gabriel for weekend games and Veto for weekday games.



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.

Monthly Referee Quick Tip

Following is this month's Referee Quick Tip. Members are encouraged to submit quick tips that work for them for consideration for future issues.

What did I forget?

Have you ever arrived at game assignments with all the large items – equipment bag with your shirts, AR flags, various body-parts braces, hydration, snacks, sunscreen, a chair, protection from the sun etc.,



only to discover you have left your little bag at home? You know, the bag with coins, whistles, badges, referee wallet/book with your match notes and cards...

Bruce Ashton confesses this has happened to him. The solution? He has another small bag with the items listed above in his car at all times – glovebox, trunk, wherever makes sense. Be like Bruce!

Do you have a quick tip to share? If so, please email it to President@sbsra.org.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 28. There are several items to be decided on and important matters relating to the AGM:

- 1) Location, location, location - as voted on by you the members in attendance at the April General Membership Meeting, we will hold the AGM at a restaurant, within close proximity to North High, to be determined.
- 2) Board Elections – every year, we have multiple Board Positions up for election. This year there are three positions we will be voting on:
 - a. President,
 - b. Secretary
 - c. Member at Large

Each position requires a certain level of diligence and continuing time investment to be effective throughout the two-year term. The time demands are different for each position vary from time to time but greatly exceeds the time needed to attend the 2 monthly meetings – Board and General Membership. We have a relatively small board, and each member must be a fully contributing one for our Association to run effectively and efficiently.

Following is more detailed information about the duties of each of these candidates:

- a. President,

What the Bylaws say:

- a. Perform the duties incident to this office and such other duties as may be required by law. He/she shall be the Association's official public spokesperson.
- b. Administer the business of SBSRA with the collaboration and consent of the BOD.
- c. Preside at all meetings of the Membership and of the BOD.

In reality:

In addition to the duties specified in the Bylaws:

- a. Be the primary Association contact for the following:
 - i. Existing Members and Potential Members,
 - ii. Existing Customers and Potential Customers,
 - iii. Cal South,



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- b. Respond to “Referee Requests” submitted through the SBSRA website,
- c. Provide Support to all Board Members to ensure all duties are carried out in the best interests of the Association,
- d. Negotiate and administer all new opportunities to provide referee services to the soccer community in consultation with the Board and ensure all agreements are properly documented and signed off.

b. Secretary

What the Bylaws say:

- a. Prepare draft agendas for Membership Meetings and Board Meetings for review and edits by the Board one (1) week before each meeting and distribute the final agenda to the Board at least thirty-six (36) hours before each meeting,
- b. Take minutes and maintain a record of the minutes of all meetings of the BOD and the Membership for a minimum of seven years, as required by law.
- c. Provide draft Membership Meeting minutes to the Board for review 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.
- d. Provide draft Board Meeting minutes to the Board no later than seventy-two (72) hours after each meeting for review and comments by the Board.
- e. Provide revised draft Board Meeting minutes to the Board including the comments received from Board Members no later than thirty-six (36) hours before the subsequent Board Meeting for approval by the Board at that meeting.
- f. Maintain an up-to-date roll of all members, including Membership Status, Membership and Cal South Training Meetings attendance.
- g. Review bylaws and other organizational documents to ensure continuing relevancy.
- h. Perform such other duties incident to the office as may be assigned by the BOD, or as required by law.

In addition to the duties specified in the Bylaws:

- a. Communicate decisions of the Board to individual members and membership applicants.

c. Member at Large

What the Bylaws say:

- a. Serve as the member representative to the BOD for concerns, questions, and suggestions regarding Association operations, including the design and conduct of surveys to obtain member feedback.



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- b. Process all applications for membership in the Association received from prospective members and members wishing to renew their membership for the forthcoming Membership Year. Following deliberation and decision of the BOD, process membership applications and communicate the results to each applicant.
- c. Represent any member who appeals a BOD decision to a Grievance Committee, if requested by the member.
- d. Receive and review, in cooperation with the Assignor, all USSF or other match reports generated by SBSRA Referees for all Red Cards (Send-offs), serious injuries, game terminations or other unusual match incidents.
- e. Approve all match reports and forward the reports to the applicable party, as deemed appropriate by the BOD.

The Member-at-Large may not vote on members' disciplinary matters.

In addition to the duties specified in the Bylaws:

- a. Maintain an archive of all supplemental reports received and transmission of reports to the applicable leagues,
- b. Maintain and distribute an inventory of SBSRA items, e.g., badges, coins, t-shirts, law books.

Might you be interested in making our Association even better than it already is? If so, contact any of the incumbents or other Board Members to find out more about the specifics of each position.

Board candidate nominations are requested at our May meeting with Members-In-Good-Standing voting at the AGM.

- 3) **Bylaws Amendments** – There are several opportunities for Bylaws amendments to be made. Any proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to the Board prior to the May General Membership Meeting and is voted on at the AGM.

From the Treasurer

Please be reminded:

- 1) **Address Changes** - Provide me with your change of address at the same time as you make the change in Arbiter,
- 2) **Cash checks** received from the Association for games you officiated in a timely manner,
- 3) **Forfeits** - Notify the applicable Assignor and me within 24 hours of forfeited games. This way they we can ensure the applicable league is billed the ref fees that would have been paid on the field and that the referees are paid the fees owing to them.

Membership Meeting Minutes Approval

Included below are the April Minutes for Membership approval at our next meeting.



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

North Torrance High School, Cafeteria

Board members present: Jonny Joseph, Bruce Ashton, Gabriel Goldsman, Jack Desemone, Tim Martinez

1. Call to order at 7:33
2. Approval of March 2022 MM minutes Rick Roberts motioned to approve the March Minutes, Steve Resnick seconded the Motion, approved by acclimation.
3. SBSRA Training – Free kicks, back to basics. Highlights of the training are as follows:
 - a. IFK - Make sure your arm is up.
 - b. DFK - When there are at least three defenders in the defensive wall, the opponents must be at least 1m/1 yard away from the wall.
 - c. High kicks with contact are a DFK, possibly SFP. Otherwise, it's an IFK for Dangerous Play. Remember, there is no foul "High Kick!"
 - d. Ceremonial - Kicker needs to ask for 10 yards to create a ceremonial kick.
4. Treasurer's Report
 1. Financial Reports for the Quarter ended March 31, 2022 are on the website
 2. Address Changes - same message as the last three months. Please inform the Treasurer in addition to making the change in your Arbiter profile.
 3. Cashing checks - same as the last three months. Please deposit them in the bank ASAP!
 4. Forfeit reporting procedure - Referees must notify the applicable Assignor and Treasurer preferably the same day as the game or within 24 hours. This way they we can ensure the applicable league is billed the ref fees that would have been paid on the field.
5. President's Report
 - a. Board Meeting Report – April 2022
JJ reported that the following matters were discussed at this month's Board Meeting, many of which will be talked about in more detail in this meeting:
 - i. Launch of the New Rating System,
 - ii. Futsal – League start will be June 6 at LA Galaxy Soccer Center here in Torrance. We have a Futsal page in the "Competitions" section on our website with a lot of information and links to help us get going with this exciting new league for us. We had 52 members attend training during this past week and Gabriel will talk about that a little more.
 - iii. AGM - JJ asked the membership if they had a preference for the type of meeting to be held. For example, we had a food truck in 2021 and previously held our AGMs at pizza places. Following a hand vote, it was decided to return to a restaurant setting. Members were then invited to suggest locations that were central for all members (near North High). Jack Desemone suggested Metro Café, in El Segundo, the membership liked the idea, JD will follow up on the food to be served and a budget to determine if this is feasible for us.
 - b. Annual General Meeting
 - i. Location and Dinner - see above
 - ii. Board Elections - President, Secretary, Member at Large - see above



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- iii. Bylaws Amendments - JJ reminded the Membership that any proposed changes must be submitted, in writing, prior to/at the May meeting according to the Bylaws.
 - c. New Leagues – Futsal at LA Galaxy Soccer Center in Torrance starts on June 6 and ZogSports returned on April 24 at Santa Monica College. We were successful in increasing Zog match fees from \$30 per game to \$45 per game!
 - d. New Member Introductions - There were no new members.
 - e. SafeSport Refresher – JJ reported that he completed the Third Refresher course after receiving email notification that his certificate would be expiring soon. It was easy to do but requires a good hour or so to complete. Not all members received a reminder email, but it needs to be done before the current one expires to receive games.
6. Vice President’s Report – In SM’s absence, JJ presented SM’s report:
- a. New Ratings System Update
Last week the Ratings Team, led by Steve, held their first Zoom meeting of observers to discuss and review their written observations for referees conducted over the prior two weekends,
 - i. Number of Members Observed
 1. Observed 12 members
 2. Created a Dropbox to share observations
 - ii. Post-Game Debriefs
 1. Find 3 positives to discuss
 2. Find 3 opportunities to improve
 - iii. Next Steps – Meeting scheduled for next week to start discussing the rating impacts of the observations
 - b. Cal South ROL – we have 122 SBSRA members on the 2022 ROL
7. Assignor’s Report
- a. CORE - GG reported that there was a record attendance of over 100 people at the April training! In addition, he noted there were 27 attendees at the New Referee Training which So Cal holds simultaneously on the same field. GG noted that Juan Guzman, State Referee Administrator publicly thanked SBSRA for securing North High for these important training sessions.
 - b. Futsal Training - GG reported that we had 52 attendees at the trainings held over the past week. We are working with the LAGSC to schedule a scrimmage that our members can observe and discuss the league rules after the game.
 - c. Tournaments - Memorial Day weekend we will assist another association with referees for a tournament, and SBSRA will be the host association for a tournament on the weekend of July 23rd and 24th.
 - d. Reporting Scores – GG reported that he is not receiving scores for Zog games and SBPSL match reports. The CR needs to scan the SBPSL match report, preferably in PDF format, and send them to the Assignor on the same day as the match. Also, GG reminded the membership to pull cards (depending on the league requirements) and do supplemental reports, especially for SBPSL.
 - e. Accepting Assignments - GG reported that he has experienced many times where people will sit on games, i.e., after the games are assigned in Arbiter, members will open Arbiter but not accept or decline the games, and then return them late. When you receive the games, please accept or decline them without delay.
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- f. Blocking Leagues - It was brought up that Arbiter does not allow members to block leagues. GG said that if you don't want to work a certain league, send him an email. Arbiter does allow one to block the following:
 - i. Sites,
 - ii. Teams
 - iii. Partners
 - iv. Travel Limits
 - v. Postal Codes
- 8. Other Business – Members were invited to get SBSRA jersey badges and coins from TM and JJ had Law Books and Dry Fit shirts for those who had ordered them.
- 9. Meeting adjourned at 8:47.



Warren's Howellers and Some Things to Think About

Warren may or not be in town but he has submitted his material for the next 4 issues of the Flag & Whistle so we can all sigh with relief now.

Large Member Busts a Move

Long, long ago in a galaxy far, far away (well, actually in Culver City), the referee known as the **Large Member** was assigned the center of a BU14 match. Pleased to be there, he blew the whistle to start the game, and began to enjoy watching the competition and the skill of the players, while casually strolling around the pitch.

After a while, an attack was quickly reversed, and the L.M. unexpectedly found himself way too close to active play. So, he started back-pedaling as fast as he could to get out of the way. But his worst fears came true anyway, as before he could get very far, the ball was kicked with full force right at him. Using an athletic spin maneuver while moving backwards, not unlike a pirouette one could see performed by the Bolshoi Ballet troupe, he was able to get out of the way before the ball could touch him. Alas, the move required more athletic ability than the L.M. possessed, and he hit the ground, well, like a sack of potatoes.

Upon landing, he executed a graceful barrel roll, and was able to keep active play in view. This was from an unusually low angle, as by that time he was lying on his belly like a reptile. It is a different perspective, and he made a mental note to recommend this as something the current Training Director might want to explore. Luckily, while in this position, it was not necessary to whistle for any infractions. After a few moments, the L.M. was able gather himself and spring to his feet in a gazelle-like manner, and the match continued without interruption.

The whole thing must have been spectacular, as he could hear one coach yelling "The ref is down! The ref is down!! Oh my God!!!" among other comments from the spectators while he was in a prone position. Remarkably, this same coach called out a question as to the L.M.'s health after he arose, Phoenix-like, from the pitch.

At half-time, a couple of the parents came over to politely ask after the well-being of the L.M. and opined that his back would be sore the next day. Since it was already hurting like hell, he agreed with their prediction, and was then seen searching his referee bag for pharmaceuticals. While both of his A.R.'s gave him high marks for the barrel roll and recovery, the rest of the SBSRA Members on the adjacent field were not as sympathetic to his plight in their comments as he would have wished. In any event, that match, and the one he had after it, were completed without further incident.

Here is a Referee Who Knows How to Make a Point



Quotes of the Month

"Remember not only to say the right thing in the right moment, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment." (attributed to **Benjamin Franklin**)

"Relax and have fun. It's the key to your well-being." (attributed to **Holiday Mathis**)

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