



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

June 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 previously brought in a New 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

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.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph	Vice-President: Steve Morgan	Secretary: Jack Desemone
Treasurer: Bruce Ashton	Member-At-Large: Tim Martinez	Assignor: Gabriel Goldman



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. This is still needed even if there is a Zog staff member at the field
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>.

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!**

Futsal

Our Futsal Officiating has gotten off to a great start at the LA Galaxy Sports Center Futsal league with approximately 30 games per week. Youth and Adult games take place Monday – Friday, mostly 4:00 – 7:00 (Youth) and 8:00 – 10:00 (Adult) each day on multiple courts. We trained more than 50 referees in April and if there is sufficient interest, we may offer training for additional referees later this year. For more information, please visit <https://sbsra.org/competitions/futsal/>.

As previously communicated, members are required to be available and to officiate other mid-week games to be assigned Futsal games, which are amongst our most generously paid games.

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

Dark for June due to the Youth Regional Tournament

Please sign up any time for future courses, 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 in July at North High School at the same time as the CORE training.

Ensure they include your name on their SBSRA New Member Application, <https://sbsra.org/association/nma/> so you can benefit from our NMI program.

Cal South Monthly In-Service Webinar

Date: Wednesday, June 15

Time: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Guest Speaker: **Esse Baharmast, FIFA World Cup and Olympic Referee, Instructor, and Assessor**

Topic: ***Mastering Handball Offense***

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THESE WEBINARS](#)

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, July 26, 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**.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on Tuesday, June 28, 2022, starting at 7:03 pm. We have tentatively reserved Tortugo Brewing Company in Inglewood (thank you for the recommendation Rak Kapoor) and the Chicken King Food Truck, to be confirmed shortly.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Please be reminded that this is an important meeting as Members-in-Good-Standing get to vote for 3 Board Positions and proposed Bylaws Amendments:

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 and 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. Board Members may not be a member of another Cal South approved referee association while serving as a Board Member of SBSRA.

For detailed information about the duties of each of these candidates, please refer to the May 2022 Flag & Whistle.

Candidates for the 3 Board of Directors' positions up for election this year and their candidate statements are as follows:

President

Jonny Joseph

Whew, what a two year period it has been since you showed your faith in me to lead us!



The Flag and Whistle

June 2022

In July 2020 we were on hiatus due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. In late March 2021, restrictions were lifted by various parties and we sprung back into action. At that time, our membership that was included on the Cal South was just 88, approximately 40% of our pre-Pandemic numbers. This created a huge challenge for our Assignors who rose to the occasion and provided the referees needed for players to play.

As an Association, we can be proud of our many accomplishments during these two years, including:

- * Almost 7,500 games officiated,
- * Membership Count included in Cal South's ROL at the time of writing this of 122, approximately 80% of our pre-Pandemic number, compared to Cal South's approximately 55%,
- * Recruitment of 37 new referees for our association,
- * Negotiation of significant increases in referee fees for returning and new customers,
- * Addition of the following new customers:
 - o South Bay Sports – Adult 11v11 and 7v7 leagues,
 - o Manchester United Tournament,
 - o DPL and NPL Teams,
 - o California Regional League (CRL),
 - o Seazons Sports,
 - o Torrance Unified School District – Middle Schools League,
 - o Los Angeles Galaxy Futsal – Adult and Youth,
- * Implementation of new Membership Rating System,
- * Varied guests for presentations at our Monthly Membership Meetings,
- * Sound financial position after providing relief to our Membership by suspending annual dues for the 2020-2021 Membership Year,
- * Reducing Annual Dues to \$90, from prior dues of \$120, per membership year.

I look forward to the opportunity to build on these accomplishments and grow our Association for the benefit of all of our members and our local soccer community.

I would appreciate your support and vote to continue doing so.

Secretary

Kiku Annon

Aloha, I am Kiku Annon and I am running for the position of Secretary of our South Bay Soccer Referee Association. As a referee, I actually behave counter to my natural reticence as a hard core introvert. However, years of presenting my work before large groups while also learning the craft of refereeing has brought me to this. Even MORE counter to my innate reluctance to stand out, I am doing this. I believe that my many (many) years in this association will benefit our group and I also believe some diversity on the Board could help. By that, of course, I mean someone with a full head of hair. I figured since I was a minority in the association why not at least be a larger percentage minority. If elected, I will be 20% of the Board.

I would be honored to serve our association and if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me via email or text. Mahalo for your time.



The Flag and Whistle

June 2022

Warren Howell

For those of you who do not know me, I have been a Member of the Association since 1999. I have served on the Board for about 14 years in various capacities, the last 5 years of that time as President, and have refereed over 3500 games so far.

It is critical that SBSRA remains flexible and responsive to the changing times and the evolution of the soccer world in Southern California, in order to stay current and even lead the way. One thing that has not changed much is the basic mission of the Association, which is to procure plenty of the type of soccer matches that each of our Member referees want to officiate. To do this, the Members hire the Board to get the job done, and to handle the boring administrative stuff that no one is interested in.

I would be honored to help out and serve as Secretary.

Warren Howell

Member-At-Large

Stephen Resnick

Colleagues,

I am running to become Member-at-Large so I can help our association continue as the most respected referee association in Southern California.

In addition to my many years as a member, I have volunteered to help when I saw a need, which includes leading an ad hoc committee in a complete revision of the by-laws.

My past officiating activities included a position as treasurer of a referee association (no longer active). I have also officiated college (with assignments in the NCAA tournament), and high school. Currently, I continue to volunteer for AYSO.

Some of my additional background information includes experience as a Community Leader. I am president of my homeowners association, elected to the Westwood Neighborhood Council, and on the board of other community organizations.

I have every confidence that I can make a positive impact on our association.

Thank you.

Stephen Resnick

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Bylaws Amendments – The following proposed amendments were submitted in writing to the Board prior to the May General Membership Meeting, as provided for in the bylaws, and were discussed at that meeting:



1) Assigning (Proposer: Michael Hinz)

Reason for change: This proposal addresses both the issues with the lack of Referees available to cover matches and the fact that Soccer Referee fees are too low.

Current Language: None.

Proposed Language: Whenever a SBSRA Assignor has to turn back matches to leagues or tournaments etc. because there is not enough Referees to cover all the matches, the Assignor will turn back matches based on the Referee fees as follows. With all things approximately equal, travel distance, match age level, etc., the Assignor will turn back the matches which pay a lower rate before turning back matches which pay at a higher rate. This also means the Assignor will accept additional matches if the fees are higher than the fees of other matches. If the Assignor has to turn back matches because they were received too late to be properly assigned, those match turn backs are exempt from this requirement.

2) Finances (Proposer: Michael Hinz)

Reason for change: This proposal addresses the fact that SBSRA is a 501(c)(4) Non-Profit but it is operating with a "profit" that has resulted in it now having "cash on hand" of ~\$22,000 as of end of the 2021-2022 year) after paying for all Association expenditures. Since all Association expenses are paid for by the yearly Membership dues, the Association does not need nor should it have excessive "cash on hand." (Note: the \$22,000 figure is based on the latest 2022 financial reports available to the membership) With 150 members paying \$100 in membership dues the Association has an operation budget of ~\$15,000. This means the Association should have "cash on hand" of no more than ~\$7,500 above its yearly budget and expenditures not \$22,000 which equals a 2/3rds reduction in excess cash. Note: This means there could be ~\$14,500 in excessive cash for the start of the 2022-2023 season which would basically cover most of not all of the 2022-2023 membership dues.

Current Language: None.

Proposed Language: The Association shall not accumulate more "cash on hand" than 50% of its yearly expenditures/budget. When the Association accumulates more cash on hand than 50% of its yearly budget after accounting to all expenditures, the Board shall reduce the membership dues for the next year to reduce the Association's assets to no more than 50% of the next yearly budget. Excessive cash on hand should be returned to the Membership.

3) Annual Dues (1 of 2) (Proposer: Michael Hinz)

Reason for change: This proposal addresses the issue that the Association needs more members to volunteer for Board positions and its Membership supports this small token of appreciation for the work the Board does for the Association..

Current Language: None

Proposed Language: As a token of appreciation, current Board Members both Elected and Appointed, with the exception of the Assignors who receive payment for their duties, do not have to pay the annual membership dues while in office.



4) **Annual Dues (2 of 2)** (Proposer: Michael Hinz)

Reason for change: This proposal provides an additional initiative for members to volunteer for the President position and recognizes all the time and effort the President has to put in to properly run the Association.

Current Language: None

Proposed Language: Past Association Presidents do not have to pay annual membership dues as long as they remain a Member In Good Standings.

5) **V MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES TO BOARD MEMBERS A.** (Proposer: Jonny Joseph)

Reason for change: To encourage new members to join the Association ahead of the next membership year and to recognize the economics of doing so at that time.

Current Language: Annual Membership Dues, as listed in the SBSRA Guidelines, are payable for the Membership Year, July 1 to June 30 of the following year. There is a one-month grace period for payment, with late fees payable thereafter.

Proposed Language: Annual Membership Dues, as listed in the SBSRA Guidelines, are payable for the Membership Year, July 1 to June 30 of the following year. There is a one-month grace period for payment, with late fees payable thereafter. New Membership Applicants whose New Membership Applications are approved in June shall be accepted as members for the remainder of that year and the following year provided that they pay membership dues for the following entire membership year.

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. This month, Gabriel Goldsman offers the following:

Don’t be Late!

I am cautiously optimistic we all have had the misfortune of arriving late for an appointment or some other engagement that required a timely arrival. How do we feel when that happens? Frazzled? Stressed? Angry with yourself for being late? Distracted?

I think we can all agree that this is not a good frame of mind to be in just before a game. So what can we do to avoid being late? Here are some suggestions:

- Check your gear the night before to make sure everything is in good order,
- Ensure you have the right field address (Arbiter provides the precise address),
- In addition to the field address, ensure you know the exact location of the field you are assigned to (there can be multiple fields at one address),



- Plan your trip ahead of time by obtaining directions and estimated time of trip at the time you will be driving using a website or phone app,
- Add some “just-in-case” time for traffic delays,
- Plan on being at the field, not just the address, 30 minutes before kick-off time by allowing time to get there from your car.

Despite best efforts, one can still run late. Make sure to communicate any **arrival issues** to your partners ASAP (as soon as you know). Similarly, if one of your team members is not there 20 minutes before kickoff, reach out to them. **Avoid last minute surprises!**

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

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.

Biennial Informal Review – The bylaws provide that an informal “assessment of the Association’s financial records will be performed every two years, covering the prior two year fiscal period. The assessment will be performed by one or more non-Board members, recommended by the Treasurer and selected by the Board.” For more information, please see our bylaws, **XIII Informal Assessment of Financial Records**. If you have a financial background and are interested in performing this review, please contact our Treasurer at Treasurer@sbsra.org. Aside from serving the membership in a meaningful way, you will be compensated with a few dollars for your time and effort!

Monthly Membership Meetings

Membership Survey

To maintain our high standards of refereeing, the Association provides two vehicles to share information and instruction with our members – this Flag & Whistle monthly newsletter and our monthly membership meetings.

In an effort to improve attendance at our monthly meetings, we want to identify the days and times that are most convenient for our members. To assist us with this, please complete our survey (at least one response is required for each question but multiple responses are requested for some of the questions) using the following link:

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

Approval of Minutes

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



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 31, 2022 North Torrance High School, Cafeteria

1. Call to order at 7:37
2. Approval of April 2022 MM minutes Rick Roberts motioned to approve the April Minutes, Steve McCall seconded the Motion, approved by acclimation.
3. SBSRA Training - Coaches & Referees Together. JJ introduced Carl Dickson (Sand and Surf Club Director) and Sean Lockhart (Fram Club Director) as guest speakers. Highlights of their comments were as follows:
 - a. Youth soccer in Southern California is too fragmented with too many leagues.
 - b. One way to get refs and coaches on the same page is to introduce yourselves before the game. Ask the coach how is their team, and if they know the other team. It will give you a feel for how the game will go.
 - c. As much as we would like to feel that clubs are their for the youth players, the reality is that this is a business trying to make a profit.
 - d. Generally speaking, the coach does not want to engage with the spectators and will expect the ref to handle unruly spectators.
4. Treasurer's Report
 1. The Balance Sheet and Income Statements for the quarter ended March 31, 2022 were displayed and the Treasurer presented his Financial Reports for the Quarter ended March 31, 2022 which are available to members on the website
 2. Volunteer for biennial accounting review - BA invited members to step up to volunteer to perform the review. JJ explained that the procedures to be performed are included in our bylaws.
 3. Dues Payments - BA reminded the membership that annual dues can be paid via; Check, PayPal, or deductions from ref fees for games paid by SBSRA. If dues are paid after 7/31/22, there is a \$20 penalty.
 4. Cashing checks - same as the last three months. Please deposit them in the bank ASAP!
 5. Address Changes - same message as the last four months. Please inform the Treasurer in addition to making the change in your Arbiter profile.
 6. Forfeited Games Reporting Procedure - Referees must notify the applicable Assignor and Treasurer of any games that are forfeited, preferably the same day as the game or within 24 hours. This way we can ensure the applicable league is billed the applicable ref fees.
 7. Parking - If you pay for parking at Historic Belmont Park, or any other location, submit your parking receipt to BA so he can bill the league.
5. President's Report
 - a. JJ reported that the following matters were discussed at this month's Board Meeting:
 - i. Futsal - League starts on June 6 at LA Galaxy Soccer Center here in Torrance. We have more than 20 referees who have been registered by Cal South.
 - ii. Forfeits - JJ reported that he contacted the So Cal league to request that responsible teams be charged a \$10 fee for forfeited games. The reason for this request was that in the prior six months over 45 games were forfeited. Forfeits



- create an extra burden on our Treasurer who must provide details for billing purposes and must allocate amounts to be paid to the applicable referees.
- iii. Parking at Historic Belmar Park - JJ had also requested So Cal to advise who would be paying the referee parking costs at this venue. As So Cal stated "not the clubs," we billed Co Cal for referee parking costs. It remains to be seen if So Cal will pay for parking.
 - iv. Requests for Referee - JJ reported that in recent weeks we have had many requests for referees that we have had to turn down due to the far distance from our membership (City of Chino Hills) and due to insufficient referees to officiate for last-minute game requests.
 - v. Members-In-Good Standing - JJ reported that 54 members were in good standing and 10 more would qualify if they were in attendance at this May meeting. Approximately 15 probationary members could become full members and potentially MIGs if they completed the remaining 1 or 2 requirements to become full members.
- b. Annual General Meeting:
- i. Location and Dinner - JD had pursued the possibility of having a sit-down dinner at a restaurant. JJ offered the membership the following options to be able to stay within our budget:
 1. Sit-down restaurant with each member contributing \$15-20 each,
 2. A food truck on location,
 3. Return to a pizza venue as we did two or three years ago.Rak Kapoor suggested a bar in Inglewood where we could have a food truck. JJ called for a hand vote of the members as to which of the 3 options were preferred. The food truck, followed by the pizza venue were the two top choices.
 - i. Board Elections - JJ called for nominations for the Board Positions up for election this year. The following nominations were received:
 1. President - Jonny Joseph,
 2. Secretary - Kiku Annon, Warren Howell,
 3. Member at Large - Steven Resnick.JJ thanked everyone for the nominations and the nominees for accepting their nomination. JJ reminded each candidate:
 1. Board Members may not be a member of another Cal South Referee Association,
 2. Candidates are invited to submit candidate statements for inclusion in the Flag & Whistle for publication the following week.
 - ii. Bylaws Amendments - The following proposed bylaws amendments, submitted in writing prior to the meeting in compliance with the bylaws were displayed on the screen and discussed by the membership:
 1. Whenever a SBSRA Assignor has to turn back matches to leagues or tournaments etc. because there is not enough Referees to cover all the matches, the Assignor will turn back matches based on the Referee fees as follows. The Assignor will turnback the matches which pay a lower rate before turning back matches which pay at a higher rate. This also means the Assignor will accept additional matches if the fees are higher than the fees of other matches. If the Assignor has to turn back matches because they were received to late to be properly assigned, those matches turn backs are exempt from this requirement.(Proposed by Michael Hinz)



2. The Association shall not accumulate more "cash on hand" than 50% of its yearly expenditures/budget. When the Association accumulates more cash on hand than 50% of its yearly budget after accounting to all expenditures, the Board shall reduce the membership dues for the next year to reduce the Association's assets to no more than 50% of the next yearly budget. Excessive cash on hand should be returned to the Membership. (Proposed by Michael Hinz)
 3. Current Board Members both Elected and Appointed, with the exception of the Assignors who receive payment for their duties, do not have to pay the annual membership dues while in office. (Proposed by Michael Hinz)
 4. Past Association Presidents do not have to pay annual membership dues as long as they remain a Member In Good Standings. (Proposed by Michael Hinz)
 5. Annual Membership Dues, as listed in the SBSRA Guidelines, are payable for the Membership Year, July 1 to June 30 of the following year. There is a one-month grace period for payment, with late fees payable thereafter. New Membership Applicants whose New Membership Applications are approved in June shall be accepted as members for the remainder of that year and the following year provided that they pay membership dues for the following entire membership year. (Proposed by Jonny Joseph)
- b. New Member Introductions - Asher Collar introduced himself and was warmly welcomed by our members.
 - c. SafeSport Refresher - JJ reported that members will not be eligible for games if their SafeSport certification expires. Once completed, SafeSport automatically updates the member's Cal South certifications.
6. Vice President's Report:
- a. New Ratings System Update:
 - i. SM reported that details are still being worked out as this is still new and due to the lack of games, the number of observations completed are still 12,
 - ii. Common recommendations and positives noted will be shared in future.
 - b. Cal South ROL - we have 122 SBSRA members on the 2022 ROL. The new certification year will open on July 1, 2022 and there will be a 2023 ROL for those who renew with Cal South after July 1 also.
7. Assignor's Report
- a. CORE - GG reported that there won't be a CORE session during the month of June due to the Regional Tournament.
 - b. Futsal Training - GG reported that 22 of our Members are on the Cal South ROL for Futsal and that games will start next week. Veto provided a brief league update, noting that the game schedules had not been received yet.
 - c. Tournaments - SBSRA will be the host association for a tournament on the weekend of July 23rd and 24th, details to follow.
8. Meeting adjourned at 9:32.



Warren's Howellers and Some Things to Think About

The Good Old Days Were Not that Great After All

A recent comment from one of the SBSRA Members reminded some of us that, to many of our younger folks, the world did not exist before the advent of cell phones and the internet, or even if it did, nothing was going on while humanity awaited their invention.

But even SBSRA was doing business back then, as we can attest. In the late 1990's, some guy called the **Large Member** joined the Association, and soon found himself serving on the Board. The SBSRA process then, using PC's, was to print out a blank availability sheet every month for each Member, then print out the monthly newsletter, and stuff both into envelopes, which were mailed to each referee. Keep in mind that the envelopes were hand-addressed, and peel-backed stamps were not invented yet, so moisture was required to attached postage and seal the envelope.

Upon receiving their letter, each Member would hand fill their availability, stuff it in a hand-addressed envelope, and mail it to the assigner. The assigner took the resulting mountain of paper, added the game schedule (on paper) to the pile, plus a side order of referee ranking list (this was a secret list arrived at in an unknown way, which results were known only to the assigner), and did the assigning for the week, also keeping track of which teams had seen which referees lately, who wanted to always work together, who never wanted to work together, and in the case of tournaments made schedules to allow for car-pooling among folks who lived close to each other. Then he would print out a copy of the entire schedule for each referee on his personal word processor (soccer was a weekend-only affair in those days), hand-highlight each copy with a yellow marker with the specific referee's games, stuff them in envelopes, and mail them out.

Then the real fun began, as changes/turnbacks would come in, the assigner would spend every Friday night on the phone contacting the referees and giving them their real schedules. This required the Members to all sit at home on Friday nights near their phones, which were all landlines - some of which were even "rotary phones," meaning that instead of buttons, there was a disk on the phone with finger holes in it that could be used to twirl the disk to indicate the number one wanted to call (you can Google it).

Editor's Note – something like this Warren?





The L.M., being somewhat tech-savvy (he would later take an early retirement after 36 years working in computer programming), started pushing for changes, and proposed that the Member roster (kept on a spreadsheet) have a column added for email addresses, which were coming into vogue. There was strong opposition to this idea, with many meetings filled with shouting and arm-waving, the main objections being that the Secretary did not want to do the extra work, the expanded roster might go into 2 pages long which would complicate mailing it out, the amount of paper flowing would not be reduced, and referees did not have email addresses anyway. Months went by, and eventually the L.M. prevailed, and the gathering of Members email addresses began, with many of the less-progressive Members adding to the shouting and arm-waving. After a time, those Members with email got the monthly newsletter that way via an attachment, to the relief of many.

Not knowing when to leave well enough alone, the L.M. then proposed that yet another column be added to the roster, this time for cell phone numbers. More shouting and arm-waving ensued, for the same reasons as given in the last argument. But the assigner liked the idea of being able to contact the referees quickly, even when they were not at home, and the collection of cell phone numbers began, with more shouting and, well, you know. In the end, all this proved to be too much for the long-time Secretary, and he resigned in a huff, leaving the L.M. to take over the Board position. It was not too long after that that a rudimentary web-based assigning system was obtained and a SBSRA website was created.

So, one can assume that the days of paper sent through the mail were over, right? Well, not exactly. Many of the long-term Members were reluctant to embrace the new technology, as resistance, shouting and arm-waving continued. Little by little though, most of the Members toed the line, but there were a few holdouts. Several of them, in fact, never did go electronic (incurring a higher annual dues amount), and the L.M and assigner continued to print and mail paper for them for as long as they belonged to the Association. The last of these was the late **George Heggie**, whose passing marked the end of all the paper. Nowadays, if you are a SBSRA referee wanting games and do NOT have internet access, you are SOOL. (s - - - out of luck).

This Can't Be Good





You Make the Call



Quotes of the Month

For those Struggling to Find the Right Balance during Matches

"While action is favored, too much busyness ruins the mood. Temper activity with lackadaisical daydreaming." **(attributed to Holiday Mathis)**

"If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you," **(attributed to Rudyard Kipling)**
... then you should become a referee!

----- Keep 😊 Smiling! -----