



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the South Bay Soccer Referee Association

Serving the Soccer Community since 1976



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Edited by: Jonny Joseph and Alan Siegel

September 2022

Notes from the Board

Exciting News!!

AYSO United has selected SBSRA to officiate their USYS National League Elite 64 boys' soccer games. The games will take place at LA Harbor College in October and November, with six games scheduled over three days.

Beverly Hills Adult Soccer program will be returning in February 2023 and will play through May. We are negotiating a new contract and we are expecting a significant increase in our Match Fees.

We were successful in negotiating a significant increase in Match Fees for our ECNL/ECRL games that we officiate for the LA Breakers.

Referee Fee Schedules

Following many updates received from leagues and negotiations with certain clubs and others, our Referee Fee Schedules have been updated and posted on our website – thank you Rick. While great care has been taken to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the schedules, please work with Team Managers and Coaches in the event of discrepancies. Always have copies of league rules with you to refer to for these and other details.

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 mostly 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 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 **to the assignor** by email on the same day as the game, by attaching a scan (in PDF format, preferably) or a picture of the report.

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>.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph

Vice-President: Steve Morgan

Secretary: Kiku Annon

Member-At-Large: Stephen Resnick

Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman



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 which association/league/organization we want to work for on specific days is perfectly fine. However, 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!**

Training Opportunities

The following training opportunities are coming up and all members are encouraged to attend as many of them as you are able.

CORE Training at North High

The next training is scheduled for October 18, 2022.

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 the 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 ambitious to rise to the elite level of Cal South refereeing.

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, Considerations for Match Analysis, 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 dues 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 October 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 New Member Initiative (NMI) program.

New SBSRA Member Training

Date: Tuesday, October 25, 2022

Time: 6:03 pm (1 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**.

We require a **minimum of 10 new members** to accept the Arbiter invitation to present the class, please accept the invitation at your earliest opportunity to do so.

Cal South Monthly In-Service Webinar

On Wednesday, September 21, Michael Radchuk, who recently was the referee for Real Madrid vs Juventus at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, presented an informative 1.5 hours on **Match Decisions and Positioning**. If you missed it, be sure to watch the recording and take the quiz on the Cal South Referee webpage to get credit.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR OR TO VIEW 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.

Other Cal South Offerings - 2023 New & Recertification Courses

For those who are interested in becoming Mentors, Assignors, Coordinators, or upgrading your Referee Badge and taking a Fitness Test.

As applicable, Zoom links are included below, however, candidates need to register for your selected courses on the Cal South Referee Website under the "Classes & Clinics offered" tab (<https://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/calendarlist.asp?calguid=&eventtab=current>).

Assignor/ New Assignor Course (Virtual)

Saturday, October 8, 2022 8:00 am - 11:00 am Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82326242447>

(No make-up course available)

Regional Referee/ Grassroots Elite Course (Virtual)

Saturday, November 5, 2022 8:00 am - 11:00 am Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81253038888>



Regional Futsal/ Futsal Grassroots & Beach Referee Course (Virtual)

Time: November 30, 2022 7:00 pm Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86214270533>

(No make-up course available)

Referee Coordinator Course (Virtual)

Saturday, December 10, 2022 8:00 am - 11:00 am Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85850906686>

(No make-up course available)

Final Make up: Regional Referee/ Grassroots Elite Course (Virtual)

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting - <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84339602872>

Fitness Test- All Categories (National, Regional, Grassroots Elite Men & Women)

Friday October 7, 2022 Hawaiian Gardens 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Saturday November 12, 2022 Hawaiian Gardens 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Saturday December 17, 2022 San Diego 9:00am - 1:00 pm (Make up)

Fitness Test - (National Referee/ Regional to National Upgrade only)

Saturday July 8, 2023 Hawaiian Gardens 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Monthly Membership Meeting

The next Monthly Membership Meeting will take place on **Wednesday, September 28, 2022**, starting at 7:03 pm at our regular location at North High School Cafeteria.

Note that this is on Wednesday this month, not the usual last Tuesday of the month.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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 in any USSF-sanctioned games that we do. If any doubt, 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 **USSF Supplemental report form**, on the SBSRA website, must be used (**NOTE – we no longer use the Cal South report form**),
- 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 USSF 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**.” It is 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 a supplemental report, so he is informed when the league calls him.
- **Submit the supplemental report** to our Member-At-Large (MAL) and the applicable Assignor (who assigned the game) who will review the report and possibly suggest edits.
- Following submission of the incident report to the MAL, please call him/her 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** (which may not be required for all red cards), the card(s), together with copies of the match report and supplemental 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 on our professionalism** as individuals and as a referee association.

Monthly Referee Quick Tip

This monthly Referee Quick Tip is about teamwork:



Always enter and leave as a team! We will often arrive at a game location at different times (at least ½ hour before game time). Do not wait in your car, please go to the field right away. Other than that, we should enter the field together, come off at halftime and after the game together and, most importantly, leave the venue together. After the game, referees are vulnerable to confrontation with parents and other spectators. It is best if we are all together should this occur.

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

From the Office of the Treasurer

Please be reminded:

- 1) **Address Changes** - Provide me with your change of address at the same time that 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 we can ensure the applicable league is billed for the ref fees that would have been paid on the field and that the referees are paid the fees owed to them.
- 4) If you have not done so previously, please submit your W-4 form.

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.” Thank you to Jeff Ford who is wrapping up the assessment for the two-year period ended June 30, 2022 before he assumes his new position as our Treasurer.

Monthly Membership Meetings

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. Please try to attend the meeting and read the newsletter every month - this is how we share important information with all of our members.

Approval of Minutes

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



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, August 30, 2022

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.
2. Approval of July Meeting Minutes - Dave Martin moved for approval, seconded by Bill Yee, approved by acclamation.
3. Blake George (SoCal) spoke about SOCAL initiatives for the 2022-2023 season:
 - a. zero tolerance for dissent by parents and coaches,
 - b. teams on opposite sides of the field,
 - c. looking to implement a linking of games in a system so that changes can more easily be tracked,
 - d. team managers have been directed to be "the adult on the field"
 - e. Members asked questions about the following:
 - i. uncertified officials, as were seen last season,
 - ii. parents sitting all along the sideline or just on one half,
 - iii. incomplete rosters seen last year.

Gabriel noted his anticipation of Blake's value-add to the game scheduling process.

4. Cal South Training - Preparation for the new club season - Gabriel discussed the new club season which starts 9/11/22. We will have many games suitable for USSF upgrade assessments and for referees who want to work on improving their skills.

Gabriel displayed the SOCAL and CSL match reports and discussed the important fields and how they need to be completed. All members need to load the CSL app and use it! After scanning the bar code on the match report, refs need to rate the teams, coaches and sidelines. This is very important!

To be able to be assigned games, members must be on the Cal South ROL, and active in Arbiter - with a mobile (not home) telephone number, a recent head-and-shoulders picture, current home address and realistic mileage limits.

SafeSport certifications don't automatically populate for AYSO and Cal South. If members complete the certification for one organization, we need to send the certificate of completion to the other organization.

Approximately 40% of the first weekend's games are on Saturday and rest on Sunday. Youngers are mostly on Saturday and olders on Sunday. Constantly check to ensure your blocks are up to date and try not to change them early in the week when most assigning is done. Accept or decline games within 12 hours. Check that match reports are properly transmitted when using the CSL App as it sometimes crashed with Android phones last season.

Please write numbers not tally marks for the score (e.g., "2" not "II").

SOCAL games in Arbiter won't include the names of the teams but members can identify them by looking up the games on the SOCAL website by field location, date and time of each game. The completed match report needs to go to the home team coach, after sign off from the referee and visiting coach. Coaches no longer need a minimum certification to coach teams in SOCAL, only a SOCAL card is needed. A member suggested that SOCAL include ref fees on the roster/match report form.



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Refs need to look professional, wear SBSRA dry-fit shirts to the field and decide jersey color with teammates there. If you need a long-sleeved under shirt when it gets colder, ensure sleeves are the same color as the uniform. For Single Ref assignments, ensure that you call the Single Ref call-in number 1-4 hours before the game time. Use Google Maps to obtain specific field directions and time to travel, and view fields using satellite images to determine parking and entrances to the field. Mechanics during games are important to establish and maintain credibility. USSF mechanics videos should be watched periodically as refreshers -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMWy_AZg4_I (Referee Signals) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYQWSeNAIyk> (Assistant Referee Signals).

In SOCAL, all small-sided games will be 30-minute halves (some are still 25 minutes for other leagues, mostly CSL). Three copies of the match reports/rosters are to be provided by the home team. Before the game, refs need to check teams, ensure teams are on opposite sides (home team chooses sides, parents not behind ARs).

After the game, refs need to get signatures from each team and return ID cards.

Gabriel also noted the Cal South Fitness tests on Oct 7th, Hawaiian Gardens, or Citrus College on Nov 17th for National candidates and recertifications.

5. Board Member Vote - Treasurer - Warren Howell proposed a hand vote to affirm Jeff Ford as Treasurer. Without objection, the membership voted by acclamation for Jeff Ford as Treasurer. Congratulations Jeff and thank you to Bruce for a great job for 6 years as the prior Treasurer!
6. President's Report:
 - a) Board Meeting Report - August 2022:
 - Reviewed tax returns which were approved for filing by the Board subsequent to the meeting,
 - Discussed the progress of the Biennial Informal Review of the Association's Financial Records, which is almost complete,
 - Received an update of the payment of membership dues for 2022 - 2023 Membership Year, we are close to the amount budgeted for the year already!
 - Discussion of Referee Fees by Customer and the need to increase certain customers whose fees are lower than other similar leagues,
 - Assigning matters were discussed and voted on by the Board after the assignors left the meeting,
 - Future membership meeting dates and potential guests were discussed. The September membership meeting will be on Wednesday, September 28 due to Rosh Hashanah,
 - We approved Returning Member and New Membership Applications. We have received 11 New Member Applications since July 1!
 - Arbiter renewal, number of members on ROL and SafeSport Refresher issues were discussed.
6. New members John Vandemore, Chris Ramirez, George O'Gorman and Peter Saxton introduced themselves.
7. Members were reminded to pick up checks for July games refereed, badges and coins if needed.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.



Warren's Howellers and Some Things to Think About

Agony and Ecstasy on the Pitch

It was a warm State Cup Sunday afternoon in Bakersfield some years ago, with a dozen or so SBSRA Member referees on the scene keeping order. To no one's surprise, that included the trio of **Gabriel "Mario" Goldsman**, **Surendra "Dr. Kama" Menon**, and the **Large Member**. This referee team was at one soccer field or another every weekend it seemed and would do hundreds of games over a number of years together.

On this day, because of the large number of games and balmy weather, our heroes were having a game off to rest and regroup before more matches later in the day. As the break started, Gabriel was approached by a younger Soccer Mom, who seemed friendly, energetic, and was dressed appropriately for the warm weather. Not to put too fine a point on it, Gabriel was all too willing to discuss soccer rules and whatever else was on her mind. Their conversation went on for quite a while, until it was time for the referee team to get ready for their next game. Still explaining the finer points of the Beautiful Game (or something), Gabriel reached for a tube of SPF15, since he was showing quite a lot of pink/red sunburned skin after the long weekend, as were most of the SBSRA Members. Squeezing a generous double handful of cream into his hands, Gabriel applied enough to cover his whole face in one motion.

Alas, rather than sunblock, he had picked up a tube of Ben Gay, and the caustic chemicals therein attacked his sensitive sunburned facial skin, resulting in screams of agony and a panicked search for relief. Seeing a water faucet nearby, he sprinted to the same, at a speed that had been unseen up to that point of the tournament. Sadly, the water he splashed on the offending area, rather than helping the situation, caused some kind of chemical reaction, only making things worse and causing howls of agony that could be heard throughout the venue.

However, Gabriel was not the only one risking serious injury. Surendra, having witnessed the whole episode, was seen nearby rolling around on the ground in an uncontrolled state of hysterical laughter. The two of them presented quite a sight and several bystanders rushed over to see what was going on and to lend a hand. After some efforts and ministrations, order was more or less restored, and it was time for Gabriel to lead the way to the field for the next match. Nevertheless, rather than looking like an experienced referee ready to preside over a game, with his multi-colored skin blotches and various facial swellings, he looked more like someone ready to join the Zombie Apocalypse. Surendra was also not quite ready to officiate - although he was headed in a more or less northerly direction, he was doing so using a zig-zag pattern, as his continued giggle-fits prevented him from walking a straight line. The L.M. was also in attendance, offering loud comments for everyone to hear along the way.

Another Reason Not to Wear Your Whistle on a Lanyard (from Referee magazine)

".... Video of the incident (at a boys' high school game in Minnesota) shows **Philipp Lokken** shout at the referee and throw a bag of popcorn on the court. The referee then ejects Lokken from the gym. As he leaves, he approaches the referee and yanks on the referee's lanyard, tearing off the whistle...."



This Could Get Ugly



You Won't Hear Me Disagreeing (attributed to **Zack Nally**)

"Like many employers are learning right now, raising the pay is the only sure way to attract new talent. In the same way winning makes problems go away in sports, money makes all the other challenges of being an official go away. If you want more officials, pay up. That's the only real solution and one that's needed right now to avoid a debilitating problem that is only going to get worse."

Quotes of the Month

"People start to count on you to be the voice of reason, and you will even be paid for using good sense" (attributed to **Holiday Mathis**).

"None of us have a whistle in our hand and a badge on our chest. So it's a waste of time to discuss and to argue." *LAFB coach Steve Cherundolo, declining to talk about the officiating after his team's loss in Dallas (September 2022)* **[EDITOR'S NOTE - Smart Man!]**

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