



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



Written by: Jonny Joseph
 Edited by: Alan Siegel

October 2022

Notes from the Board

Operating at Capacity

Since the club season began after Labor Day, we have been operating at capacity. What does this really mean?

On a weekly basis, the demand for referees exceeds the supply that we and other associations can offer. This means that periodically we have to return games for which we cannot supply the appropriate referees to officiate. Accordingly, many may have noticed that we no longer officiate at certain venues that we used to be at on a regular basis. These locations are on the extreme edges of the territory we typically cover.

As a result of this excess demands, many of our members have been willing to do more games in a day than we should do or that they may prefer to do. Often these referees are commuting from field to field to ensure we cover all games. For the period from July 1 through October 16, the following 10 referees were assigned the most games, as CRs and/or ARs:

Jorge Reyes	164
Chris Nevil	136
Hani Alameddine	105
David Martin	104
Noureddine Miloud	100
John Hough	99
David Serrano	97
James Marsella	92
Barry Giberman	88
Gregory Sirbu	83
TOTAL	<u>1,068</u>

With a total of 4,262 CR and AR assignments, these 10 referees covered 25% of our slots! The next 25% of games were assigned to just 15 members (each of whom were assigned 58 or more slots), so 25 members are responsible for 50% of the games so far this season.

Many thanks to these 25 referees, especially the above 10 who have done the most games!

We have 138 members in Arbiter, of which 123 members are “Active.” During the past 3.5 months, 115 members have been available and assigned to games. Most weekends we only have 50 – 70 referees assigned to games. It goes without saying, that if the remaining 45 - 65 members did just a couple of games each weekend, it would reduce the burden greatly on those that are out there each weekend.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph
Treasurer: Jeff Ford

Vice-President: Steve Morgan
Member-At-Large: Stephen Resnick

Secretary: Kiku Annon
Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman



Appreciation

I think it is safe to say that many of us are grateful when those around us show appreciation for what we do. It was very satisfying to receive the following email from SOCAL this week:

"I have [supplemental] reports for these games in yellow below, thank you for making sure they were sent in.

Thank you again for another great week. Please express to your referees how much we appreciate them!"

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:

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 John Moody (jmomoods@verizon.net) and 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. **Please ensure the report is legible before sending it!**

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 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!**



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.

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 November 15, 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 (if we have sufficient number of signups)

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

[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>).

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)

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)

Saturday November 12, 2022 Beckman High School, Irvine 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm ([Click here](#) for Parking Lot/Track Field location.)

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 **Tuesday, October 27, 2022**, starting at 7:03 pm at our regular location at North High School Cafeteria.

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.

Monthly Referee Quick Tip

This monthly Referee Quick Tip is about managing a tight game schedule:

Check teams in as soon as possible!

Due to the lack of sufficient field space and the number of teams playing, our games often have tight schedules. Limited permit times and the absence of floodlights, together with decreasing amounts of sunshine available, results in a greater demand for game management. As professionals, we are expected to and need to manage the time between games to keep the games on schedule.

Referees are either arriving for a set of games, or are on the prior game, with check in required for the next game:

1. If you have just arrived at the field, **there is no need to wait for the game in process to finish!** At least 15 minutes before the scheduled kick off time begin to check the players in by obtaining the roster/match reports (3) from the home team coach or manager.
2. If you are refereeing the prior game, the CR of that game needs to complete the match report for that game. If one referee needs the bathroom, the remaining referee should begin the process by obtaining the roster/match reports (3) from the home team coach or manager. **There is no need to wait for a second referee!**

Please be aware of the time, the scheduled start time of each of your games and do what you need to do to keep it all on track.

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 informal “Assessment of the Association’s Financial Records” for the two-year period ended June 30, 2022 has been completed and will be discussed by the Board at our next monthly meeting. Thank you again to Jeff Ford for completing the report before he assumed his new position as our Treasurer. Thank you also to our prior Treasurer, Bruce Ashton, for working with Jeff to complete the assessment.

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 September General Membership Meeting Minutes for Membership approval at our next meeting.



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 28, 2022

1. Call to order 7:03
2. Approval of August Meeting Minutes: Warren Howell proposed approval, Dave Martin seconded it, approved by acclimation.
3. Cal South Training: Chris Nevil, Gabriel Goldsman
 - a. Zero Tolerance Drawing lines, hard/soft **Need a balance** between 0 -100 Spectators and coaches;

Coaches - we need to accept that coaches disagree once in a while, disagree respectfully (maybe talk to them), disagree in a public profane manner (several said it should be a YC) does it matter if you know them? If the coach causes disruption - you need to shut him down, if there is no replacement, does that matter? Try to work with the coach, scenarios presented.

Spectators - less authority for us to deal with grandstand yakking. Spectators making their usual comments, CSL and SoCal have a zero tolerance for spectator comments, **don't engage with spectators**, deal with Coach first

Coaches and refs both have a stake in coaches not getting sent off, no tolerance for racism by anyone, are we too concerned with being the center of attention when making decision about what to do? Work on being ahead of issues by being positive, but not TOO friendly. Need to focus on the game once it starts, not on sideline chatter or banter.

- b. Short Sided Games - 7 v 7 - offside is between buildout line and goal line. 8 yards for free kicks, no heading, keeper cannot drop kick. Once the ball is in play, even in the penalty area, attackers can move in from buildout line. Incidental heading, maybe stop, maybe not (consider injury to player, stopping an attack), drop ball if you do. For 9 v 9 games ask the coaches if they can head. Short-side rules are on web pages of Cal South and SBSRA
4. Secretary's Report:
 - a) SBSRA Membership Report
 - i. Full Members - 99
 - ii. Probationary Members - 26
 - iii. Members Not on ROL - 9
 - iv. Honorary Members - 2
 - v. Total = 136JJ noted that even though we have 136 paid members, this past weekend we had less than 90 referees who were assigned to more than 210 games the prior weekend, with referees having to do more games than we would like each of us to be doing.
5. President's Report:
 - a) Board Meeting Report - September 2022



- i. Biennial Review of Financial Records – completed by Jeff Ford and submitted to Bruce for his review. Following Bruce’s review it will be submitted to the Board for review with presentation to the membership to follow,
 - ii. Treasurer Position – Jeff Ford elected last month but could not take office until he had completed the Biennial Review. As this has now been completed, Jeff will assume his position effective October 1. Thank you to Bruce for 6 years of excellent work and for working with Jeff to ensure a smooth transition,
 - iii. The Board considered and approved our Errors and Omissions Insurance Coverage for the year. This is in addition to our Liability Coverage which covers us for our refereeing activities. This policy is customary and covers us against any issues that may arise from the governance of the Association,
 - iv. Backup Assignors – as many of you are aware, we have many games to assign each week, during the week and especially on the weekend when we have had over 200 games the past 3 weeks. As an Association, we are very fortunate to have two very conscientious and talented assignors but what would happen if they became unavailable? To protect us we have had two backup assignors (Chris Nevil and Steve Morgan) and we expect to have them both in place after the USSF training in two weekends’ time.
 - v. Other associations poaching SBSRA members – Assignors are approaching SBSRA members, who are not members of their associations, to assign them games. This is problematic, in particular because they are being assigned games in our area, primarily El Camino College, and if the refs decline those assignments they show as being blocked on Arbiter for our Assignors. GG has spoken to this assignor and the club that this mostly applies to about the situation but we need our members to be diligent about not accepting games from assignors if we do not belong to their associations. We have plenty of great games that need the best referees we can provide, there is no reason to take games like these. We are just hurting ourselves and other members if we accept these games.
- b) League News:
- i. JJ met with the City of Beverly Hills the prior week to discuss their upcoming adult leagues. Their plan is to run two seasons as follows:
 - i. February - May 2023, 8:00 - 2:00 on Sunday mornings, and
 - ii. September - December 2023, 5:00 - 8:00 on Sunday evenings.We are very relieved they did not have any plans to play during the last quarter of this year.
 - ii. GG and JJ met with LA Breakers to discuss ECNL/ECRL game fees. Very positive meeting with both sides sharing how the last minute game fee changes were a surprise for both of us. We were successful in obtaining the same fees paid by other clubs in the South West.
 - iii. Torrance Unified School District have come back to ask us to referee their middle school season again, this time during October and early November. Veto sent out an email recruiting referees earlier today so please let him



know if you are available. Priority will be given to those referees who also do high school as the rules are similar.

- iv. AYSO United has selected SBSRA to officiate their USYS National League Elite 64 boys' soccer games. There will be 6 games per day, on 3 dates already provided to us, at LA Harbor College in October and November. We got these games due to a recommendation from one of the head coaches at the club which demonstrates the importance and effectiveness of each of us being professional on every game we do!
 - v. We are really swamped with games and need everyone to contribute as much as possible. We understand that everyone has other obligations and reasons they cannot referee for 10 hours a day every Saturday and Sunday but hope that you will make yourselves as available as possible. Just this week, we turned away two soccer programs that were looking for referees. The greatest need for referees is Sunday mornings.
 - vi. Futsal is starting again. All evening, mid-week adult leagues are back.
- c) CSL 5 Star Referees - those of us who were able to attend one of the CSL Zoom calls earlier this month will have heard Bernie talk about the CSL App and how we get to rate teams, coaches and sidelines and team managers rate us.

For the 2021 season, out of a maximum rating of 5, our SBSRA average for 75 referees was 4.41 versus an average association rating of 4.35 - so our referees were rated above average.

In particular, a total of 17 Referees in our Association were awarded a perfect 5 star rating! That means that 23% of our CSL referees received a 5 star rating.

In addition CSL recognized certain referees as "5 Star Referees." To qualify one had to score "excellent" in 3 categories:

- i. 4.5 rating or higher,
- ii. Rate teams over 70% of one's games, and
- iii. Referee at least 6 CSL games.

Our "CSL 5 Star" referee referees are as follows:

- iv. Chris Nevil, Jorge Reyes, Nacho Lara, Misha Opstachuk, Rak Kapoor and Juan Rodriguez.

Two other SBSRA referees who have not renewed for this season were also recognized as "CSL 5 Star" referees:

- v. Stephen Hannant and Rafael Nahom.

Well done guys!

- d) Other:
- i. New Members/Potential New Members - as is our custom here at SBSRA, we invite new members or potential new members to stand up and introduce themselves and to share your soccer and/or your refereeing experience. Antonio Vinolas, Gabriele Ciampi and Diego Vinolas introduced themselves



- ii. Referee Fees Schedule has been updated several times over the last few weeks. The most current one is dated September 21 so please print it out, if you have not done so already, and take it with you to games. We have had one or two mishaps with referees looking up the wrong league (CSL and SOCAL are the most commonly mixed up ones) so please double check if team managers or coaches disagree with your amount.
 6. Vice-President's Report:
 - a) Cal South ROL Update - we have 129 members (out of 136) on the ROL, 2 former members are not certified but paid dues (cannot be a member if not on ROL).
 7. Assignor's Report:
 - a) New Season - Lessons Learned:
 - i. Had a game not covered (unacceptable, but we managed damage control with CSL due to good relations)
 - ii. Don't pull player or coach cards unless it is for violent conduct.
 - iii. Don't expect teams to be very early for early games.
 - iv. Call your partners if you don't see them or you are running late (not effective to text as they are most likely driving!).
 - v. If possible, stay to see if games after yours are fully covered.
 - vi. We had a SBPSL games challenge the prior Sunday morning which we were able to cover as some of our refs stepped up to help with little notice.
 - vii. All members need to please open your blocks.
 - viii. Confusion has happened with game locations, in particular LA Galaxy Center fields are across the street from the Futsal location not at the Dignity Health Stadium, although we do have games there from time to time.
 - ix. Single games are being managed as best as possible, let your partners know you might be late during the week once you have your schedule!
 - x. Check in teams if you are there early, no need to wait for team members or prior game to finish.
 - xi. GG is doing his best to manage games, but cancellations and changes happen - there have been many forfeits and instances of double coverage of games with other Association referees showing up also.
 - xii. A question was asked about SBS games as there have been many cancellations recently. Aviation Park's turf field is scheduled for replacement on November.
 8. Member-At-Large Report:
 - a) Supplemental Reports SR spoke about the supplemental reports, 21 reports had been submitted at this point in time, paramedics twice called, one instance of ref abuse, must use USSF form to create a supplemental report (no longer using Cal South form). Instructions are on our website and included each month in the Flag & Whistle newsletter. Must be in PDF form (not copied into email or saved as a Google Document, use official Law Book terms in the report, just the facts please. Call or email SR if you have questions.
 9. Other Business - if you have a 21-22 Law book, get the 22-23 law changes from JJ, coins and badges are available from SR. Sign in sheets are with KA for all attendees to get credit.
 10. Motion to adjourn by Steve Morgan, seconded by Veto Gelati Meeting Adjourned at 8:48 pm.
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Warren's Howellers and Some Things to Think About

Warren is MIA this month, he couldn't possibly be on vacation again, could he?!?!?!?

World Cut Soccer

A little old Brazilian lady was walking down the street dragging two plastic garbage bags. One bag had a hole in it and \$20 bills were flying out of it. A policeman stopped her and said, "Ma'am, you're losing a lot of bills from that bag."

"Darn!" she said, "Thanks for the warning. I'll go back and pick them up."

"Hold on there! Where'd all that money come from? Did you steal it?"

"Oh, no," she said. "My yard backs up on the stadium parking lot and, during tailgate parties, a lot of guys use my flower beds as bathrooms. So I stand behind a bush with my electric hedge clipper and when one is in mid-stream, I fire up the trimmer and say: '\$20 or off it comes!'"

"Wow. Good idea!" laughed the cop. "But what's in the other bag?"

"Well," said the little old lady, "not all of them pay up!"

No!! This is not acceptable treatment of a referee (Liverpool v Manchester City 10/16/22)



Consider which is more effective – an emotional response versus a reasoned response.

So my new girlfriend plays soccer professionally

I think she's a keeper!

I passed by the prison today and they were playing soccer on the field

I shouted "Pass the ball, I'm free!!"

Makes sense?



Watch the Game - Ref

A spectator at a local league match at Bransbury Park, Portsmouth kept up a constant barrage of insults and derogatory remarks directed against the referee.

Finally the referee could stand it no longer. He marched over to the sideline and, looking the noisy spectator squarely in the eye, shouted, 'Look here - I've been watching you for the last twenty minutes, knock it off!'

'I thought so', the spectator retorted loudly, 'I knew you couldn't have been watching the game.'

Quotes of the Month

"The future is not something we enter. The future is something we create." (Leonard I. Sweet, Theologian)

"The path to success is to take massive, determined actions." (Tony Robbins – Author, public speaker, life coach)

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