



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



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

November 2022

Notes from the Board



We are thankful for having a great group of referees in our association and for the soccer community that we support. We wish you and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving. Please share our gratitude to those who are close to you and allow you to spend as much time as you do refereeing soccer and enabling players in our area to play the Beautiful Game!

Although the club season is mostly completed for the high school age players, we will continue to have many games that require referees so please ensure your blocks are up to date through year end, ensuring you have blocked off dates when you are on vacation or otherwise unavailable.

In particular, we can look forward to the following:

- For those who officiate Futsal, LA Galaxy Soccer Center will hold a one day tournament on December 10th,
- There will be two State Cups this year – one administered by Cal South, expected to comprise mainly of Coast Soccer League Clubs and one administered by SOCAL, expected to comprise mainly of SOCAL clubs. We anticipate that the games will be played at Silver Lakes (SOCAL) and various locations in Southern California (Cal South). We will share the details as they become available and our assignor will reach out to us to determine the level of interest in officiating at each tournament.
- In late January and early February we will provide three referee crews to Miraleste Middle School.

The Association continues to referee games in December, albeit a lower level of activity than the prior three months but we do take a break with no membership meeting or Flag & Whistle during this month.

We look forward to seeing you in 2023!!!

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph
Treasurer: Jeff Ford

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

Secretary: Kiku Annon
Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman



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), **our Member-At-Large 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!**

Honesty

Our assignors' job is complex and they spend a significant amount of time assigning games each week. Periodically, we have members turning back (declining after receiving the assignment) games for various reasons. A common reason is games from another assignor that the member prefers. In many of these cases, we learn about the other assignments and know that any reason given for turning back our association's games is not the truth!

This is not acceptable. Please pick up the phone and call the assignor to discuss your situation. They will work with you to make you happy and will not deny you the opportunity to referee a better game.



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 January 17, 2023.



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, November 29, 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 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 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, November 29, 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 hot conditions:

If you are assigned to officiate multiple games on a day that is expected to be very hot, in particular if the games are on artificial turf, bring a change of shoes and alternate each pair between games. Your feet will be very appreciative of your efforts to keep them cooler.

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.

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



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, October 25, 2022

1. Call to order at 7:05
2. Approval of September Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve by Tony Calandra, seconded by Sue Pascoe, approved by affirmation.
3. Cal South Training - Player management by Gabriel Goldsman.
A video of a foul and how the AR and Center did not appear to be dealing well with the aftermath was shown. A discussion about the game management of the Center and the AR and what they could do better in such situations followed.

Another video was shown with multiple clips of higher level (some FIFA), professional referees "managing" players in several matches. GG noted the following:

- a) How each referee handles any situation depends on the referee and her/his personality. To be successful you have to know yourself and the best way to approach players. Each situation is different and the referee needs to know what works best for them.
- b) A referee is a "judge" and needs to be fair, players all need to be treated fairly no matter what the past history might be.
- c) Referees must not over react.
- d) Referees need to provide the balance to keep the games safe no matter what, given that both teams want to win and sometimes win at all costs.
- e) Referees should have positive attitudes and react with the proper sense of urgency that the situation needs.
- f) Communication is needed throughout the game, both verbal and nonverbal. Try to settle upset players, encourage frustrated ones, be sure to check on injured players with some urgency and sign that you care.
- g) Sideline management of coaches and spectators is essential because they affect the players' behavior.
- h) Try to get the coach on your side, before using the tools of ask, caution, dismiss, if necessary.

A third video was shown with a coach yelling at the referee and the referee being mostly calm in his interaction with the coach. Sometimes giving a coach time to calm down might be the right thing to do.

A fourth video was shown about spectators on the opposite side of the field from the coach being rowdy. Always deal with the coach/manager only, not spectators.

4. Treasurer's Report: Jeff Ford
 - a) Financial Statements and Actual vs Budget Report for the First Quarter:

Balance Sheet

At September 30, 2022, Accounts Payable \$17,000, Accounts Receivable \$21,000, \$600 of which was past due but has now been collected. We had \$26,000 in Cash which was sufficient to pay all payables to vendors and referees.



Profit & Loss Statement

Referee Fee Income for the quarter ended September 30, 2022, totaled \$102,000 (a 50% increase from last year primarily due to Futsal and the Cerritos Tournament), offset by the loss of one tournament in Walnut. Overhead expenses totaled \$3,600 (up from last year, due to Arbiter fees going back to normal), with total income over expenses for the quarter of \$8,000.

Actual vs Budget

Through September 30, 2022, we budgeted for income over expenses to be \$8,400 and we are at \$8,300. We strive to balance the budget and set annual dues, not to accumulate money. Expenses are spread throughout the year but the majority of our income usually is received in the beginning of the year. So we are right on track!

- b) Informal Report on the Association's Financial Records - SBSRA association's financial situation is in good shape. Slight discrepancy in 2021 tax returns. Since the tax returns we file are only informational in nature, this discrepancy, at the end of the day, had no bearing at all on SBSRA's finances. PayPal fees caused some members Form 1099 to include the PayPal fee as income. Revenue grew in 2022 over 2019 (the last year on record unaffected by the pandemic) by nearly 70% from \$153,000 to \$258,000.

5. President's Report:

a) Board Meeting Report - October 2022

- i. Futsal Tournament - LA Galaxy will hold a one day tournament on December 10. Games will be 25 minutes, no half time. Youth players only and it could go on all day. Referee fees remain \$60 per hour, two matches instead of one.
- ii. Match Fees - We are continuing to work on increasing our fees to bring all leagues in line with those who have already been increased over the last few months. In response to a member's question, it was confirmed that the SBPSL referee fees will increase after January 1, 2023.
- iii. Other associations poaching SBSRA members - JJ had 2 lengthy calls with the NOCRA President, with a good exchange of ideas regarding the payment of tournament fees for referees and limiting the assigning of referees to members of our associations only. Just prior to this meeting, the NOCRA president advised that they were aware that certain referees had not paid annual dues but were assigned games at El Camino College.
- iv. Zog Sports - New season, they wanted to split refereeing with one referee from SBSRA and one in-house referee. After discussion the Board agreed that we should continue to require Zog to only use SBSRA members for that league and that SBSRA cannot split referee assignments for various reasons. JJ communicated the decision to Zog and is awaiting their response.
- v. New Member Application form changes - On a go-forward basis we will request prior associations and assignor contact information to improve our background check process.

- b) SOCAL Forfeits - SOCAL has done a better job of scheduling this season and the number of game forfeits seems to have decreased. SOCAL is now requiring us to provide reasons for forfeits when we bill referee fees for these games. Usually they include - no teams, only one team, or field was unavailable. When members send emails to the Treasurer and Assignor to inform them of a forfeit, please include the reason for the forfeit.



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- c) SBPSL Match Reports - referees doing these games need to make pdf copies of the match reports and email them to John Moody as soon after the game as possible. There are free apps available for mobile phones to make this process more efficient. Please let us know if you need help with that.
 - d) Other:
 - i. CSL Reporting - CSL recently sent us statistics of referees submitting match reports and team ratings. We sent a note to those referees who had not submitted reports and/or did not rate teams. Turns out some members did not have the app on their phones. Please ensure you have the app and submit match reports and team ratings using the app after each set of games.
 - ii. Whittier Games - JJ asked members if anyone would be interested in refereeing midweek games in Whittier from January through May of next year. Three members indicated an interest. This may not be enough for us to assign these games.
6. Vice-President's Report:
- a) Cal South ROL Update - 138
 - b) SafeSport - Is an independent entity that neither SoCal nor SBSRA can control. The certificate is good for a calendar year from the last date that we complete the most recent instruction. Some members have received notices of background check expirations. These can be ignored for SBSRA purposes (there may be other reasons why members are receiving these notifications).
4. Secretary's Report:
- a) SBSRA Membership Report
 - i. Full Members - 99
 - ii. Probationary Members - 29
 - iii. Members Not on ROL - 10
 - iv. Honorary Members - 2
 - v. Total Members - 140
8. Assignor's Report:
- a) Cal South Update - The number of games will start to decline once high school season starts. Members have worked very hard this club season (see statistics in October Flag & Whistle) and we only had two service failures. In response to a member's question, it was noted that forfeits were down from prior season. SOCAL's new procedure of confirming games every Tuesday with our Assignor was mentioned as one reason for that.
- In January there are going to be two State Cups - SOCAL and Coast Soccer League (CSL). Fitness test on November 12 for those trying to upgrade to Grassroots Elite, Regional or National. You need to register ahead of time to participate. SBS finished their 11v11 season and will be redoing their field in early to mid-November.
9. Member-At-Large's Report:
- a) Supplemental Reports: 52 submitted to date
 - i. USSF Format - Members must use this form only, revised form will be available on SBSRA website shortly
 - ii. Timely Submission - Please send the report to Stephen Resnick only within 24 hours of the match, same day if possible.



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- iii. "Just the facts," using LOTG language, avoid opinions, conclusions or any other unnecessary language.
 - iv. Separate Report for each send off in a single incident, or other incidents in a match is required.
- b) Coins, Badges are available after the meeting.
10. Other Business
- a) Bruce Ashton - Bruce thanked the membership for their support and cooperation during his 7 years as treasurer. He noted how much he enjoyed being a Board Member, which involved a lot of work for all of those on the Board.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.



Warren's Howellers and Some Things to Think About

Don't Mess with These Guys!

A particular Saturday some years ago found **Gabriel "Mario" Goldsman**, **Surendra "Dr. Kama" Menon** and the **Large Member** doing the honors at an Orange County soccer pitch. This was of course no surprise, as this trio was at one field or another every weekend it seemed back then, officiating hundreds of games together. They were just coming off the field after refereeing a set of J-League games that had gone extremely well, laughing, joking and in high spirits, planning to stop at a Starbucks or something on the way back to the Westside to relive the events of the day while pontificating about their own wonderfulness. In those days the Japanese community would rent out the whole of Garden Grove high school on Saturdays and hold ethnic classes for the youngsters, while the young men played their soccer matches on the athletic fields.

These were always exciting, skilled and hard played games, with SBSRA Members keeping order (even with a significant language barrier). On the way to the parking lot, the LM and GG stopped to use the facilities before starting the long drive back, while Surendra waited his turn outside. Just then trouble arrived! A young man rushed over and yelled in broken English at Surendra "tell them to stop what they are doing immediately and come out right now!" Naturally Surendra declined his request, which seemed to raise the whiner's ire all the more. When GG and LM emerged a few minutes later, he started screaming that those facilities were for boys only, and grownups were not allowed. Looking around, the LM pointed out that:

- The word "MEN" was painted permanently over the entrance door,
- There was a hand-drawn poster taped to the door itself with a picture of a clearly male figure,
- Now that they knew the rule, they would not use the facility again.

This just set off the whiner on a new rant, perhaps in an effort to intimidate our trio or make them cower at his verbal onslaught. But if he thought this would work against our crew of experienced soccer referees, he was to be sadly disappointed. Getting nowhere with his aggressive attempt to bully these long-time friends, he played his ace-in-the-hole, threatening to call "security." Unimpressed, our heroes invited him to do so, he made a quick cellphone call, and in a couple of minutes there arrived another guy, whose appearance suggested he was just some random dude hanging out around the school. But closer inspection revealed he had a badge pinned to his shirt with the word "Security" engraved thereon. After a quick talk with the whiner, the Sheriff started in on a rant aimed at our heroes, who stood their ground, with a lot of shouting, arm waving, pointing, and repeating of the three points above taking place. This lasted quite a while, but eventually everyone got tired of it all and our SBSRA Members continued their walk to the parking lot.

This is just for our assignor:

Why will the 2022 world cup in Qatar be so cold?
No Chile in it.

You Make the Call...



Have you heard about McDonald's new World Cup-themed burger? It's called, "The Qatar pounder."

He Has a Point...



"So your parents never fly into a rage and scream at the ump. You can't let that affect your game."

Quote of the Month

"Don't wait. The time will never be just right!" (Napoleon Hill)

----- Keep 😊 Smiling! -----