



**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

January 2023

## **Notes from the Board**



We wish all of our members and their families a very happy new year and all the best for 2023!

As is typical, the soccer year starts slowly for us in January but we do have the following to look forward to:

- Manhattan Beach 7 v 7 has resumed with referee match fees up from \$36 to \$45 per game,
- ECNL games begin this weekend,
- South Bay Pacific Soccer League (SBPSL) has begun with an increase in match fees from \$160 to \$180 per game,
- New Futsal season is already underway at the LA Galaxy Soccer Center,
- 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. Cal South tournament begins this weekend but with very few games within a reasonable travel distance,
- In late January and early February we will provide three referee crews to Miraleste Middle School for a short season,
- Season Sports begins a new league in Long Beach this weekend,
- Beverly Hills 7 v 7 program is scheduled to begin on February 26.

Enjoy the break while you can, for those not doing high school and middle school games. I hear they are short of referees too!

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### **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](mailto: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' jobs are complex, and they spend a significant amount of time assigning games each week. Periodically, we have members turning back games (declining after receiving the assignment) 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 February 21, 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.: IFAB 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 February 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, January 31, 2023 (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 those 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>).

### **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, January 31, 2023**, starting at 7:03 pm at our regular location at North High School Cafeteria.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## **Two Person (Whistle) Referee System**

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 starting games the right way:

It's kick off time. As the Referee, you scan the field to determine that each team has the appropriate number of players on the field (hopefully without counting with a pointed finger), the players (in particular the goalkeepers) are ready and the ARs are set. Once satisfied, you blow the whistle, click on your watch(es) and the game begins. Do you then check your watch(es) to ensure the clock is running? Could you miss a serious incident (a Moment of Truth) while doing that?

Consider starting your watch(es) a few seconds before starting the game, and ensure they are working properly before blowing your whistle to start. Simply add the few seconds that elapse before the ball is put into play when the half appears complete according to your watch(es).

Do you have a quick tip to share? If so, please email it to [President@sbsra.org](mailto:President@sbsra.org).



## **From the Office of the Treasurer**

Please be reminded:

- 1) **Address Changes** - Provide the Treasurer with your change of address at the same time that you make the change in Arbiter,
- 2) **Cash checks** in a timely manner that you receive from SBSRA for games you officiated,
- 3) **Forfeits** - Notify the applicable Assignor and the Treasurer 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) Please submit your W-9 form <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf> to the Treasurer. Everyone is required to do so by Federal law.

## **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 November General Membership Meeting Minutes for Membership approval at our next meeting.



## SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 29, 2022

1. Call to order at 7:05 pm
2. Approval of October Membership Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve by Scott Jarus, seconded by Dave Dillard, approved by acclamation.
3. Cal South Training - Stopping Promising Attacks (SPA) and Denying Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunities (DOGSO) by Chris Nevil - Chris discussed the DOGSO decision making process and red card/yellow card , then he went over the SPA criteria; often a tactical foul (speed, space, options), various DOGSO and SPA videos were shown and discussed. A SPA can develop into a DOGSO and possibly vice versa.
4. Treasurer's Report:
  - a) Year End Tax Reporting - Jeff Ford reported that he still needs Social Security numbers from a few members and newer members should check with him to ensure he has theirs,
  - b) Parking Reimbursements - Jeff Ford reminded the membership to provide him with parking receipts so he can reimburse them in a timely manner.
4. Secretary's Report:
  - a) SBSRA Membership Report
    - i. Full Members 101
    - ii. Probationary Members 31
    - iii. Members Not on ROL 7
    - iv. Honorary Members 2
    - v. Total Members 141
6. President's Report:
  - a) Board Meeting Report - November 2022
    - i. We discussed the payment of PayPal fees for members who pay their annual dues using PayPal. This year the Association was charged almost \$4 per PayPal payment, with the charge being absorbed by the Association. As many members pay dues through the withholding from game fees, it was decided that the PayPal fees amount in aggregate was manageable for the Association and we will continue to absorb that cost,
    - ii. Returning members who pay their dues late, after the grace period, pay a late fee of \$20. It has been our practice that applicants for membership who were previously members during the preceding 5 years, but were not members in the prior year, do not pay the late fee. The Board decided that we need to document this in our Guidelines,
    - iii. New Member Applications will now require applicants to provide contact details for their prior assignor whom we can contact to learn more about the applicant,
  - b) League News:
    - i. South Bay Sports - we were unable to get an increase in referee and assignor fees now, however fees are scheduled to increase in 2024, just 18 months away. Player numbers are down, they intend to reduce their team signup fees and they have just incurred significant cost to replace the turf on their field,
    - ii. El Segundo referee fees will increase from \$47 to \$55 per game, assigning fees will increase from \$3 to \$5 per game,
    - iii. Beverly Hills - we are discussing Covid-19 language that they have as standard language in their contractor agreements. The requirements are unmanageable for us so we are requesting that the requirements being asked of us are feasible. If successful, referee fees will increase from \$40 to \$60 per game, assigning fees will increase from \$2.50 to \$4 per game,



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- iv. Miraleste Middle School is returning for a small number of games in January and February and will be going to 3 referees per game, \$65 CR, \$45 AR (\$155 per game, SOCAL = \$120). Assigning fee increases from \$10 to \$12 per game.
- c) Other:
  - i. Disciplinary Report - This month we had one situation that required a fine for a referee who represented he was injured and was unavailable to do games for a two week period but we learned he had centered a game for another assignor in the middle of that two week period. Gabriel - went over that all we ask is that members be honest about their availability and reasons for declining games.
- 6. Vice-President's Report:
  - a) Cal South ROL Update - Members are signing up for 2023, Steve reminded people to sign up sooner rather than later, to avoid the last minute crush, to be eligible for State Cup in January,
  - b) Other - 1099 income advice, to buy uniform and other needs before year end, was given by Steve Morgan. Steve reminded the members to ensure they have their photos in Arbiter and that they are showing as "Ready" in Arbiter if they want games.
- 7. Assignor's Report:
  - a) Season End - The season is over, take some time off, January promises to be busy as the various leagues start back up. We had over 2,500 games this past season and we covered all but one game, we have had very few complaints about referees
- 8. Member-At-Large Report - Steve Resnick was unable to attend, accordingly Jonny Joseph reported:
  - a) Supplemental Reports - They have been getting better, more people are using the correct form, using the correct language and being more concise. A separate report is needed for each red card in a game.
- 9. Other Business - LA Galaxy Futsal Tournament has been cancelled, John Hough reported that CSL has asked for a hard copy of the match report if you cannot use their app.

Motion to adjourn by Steve Morgan, seconded by Craig Breitman at 7:48 p.m.





## Warren's Howellers and Some Things to Think About

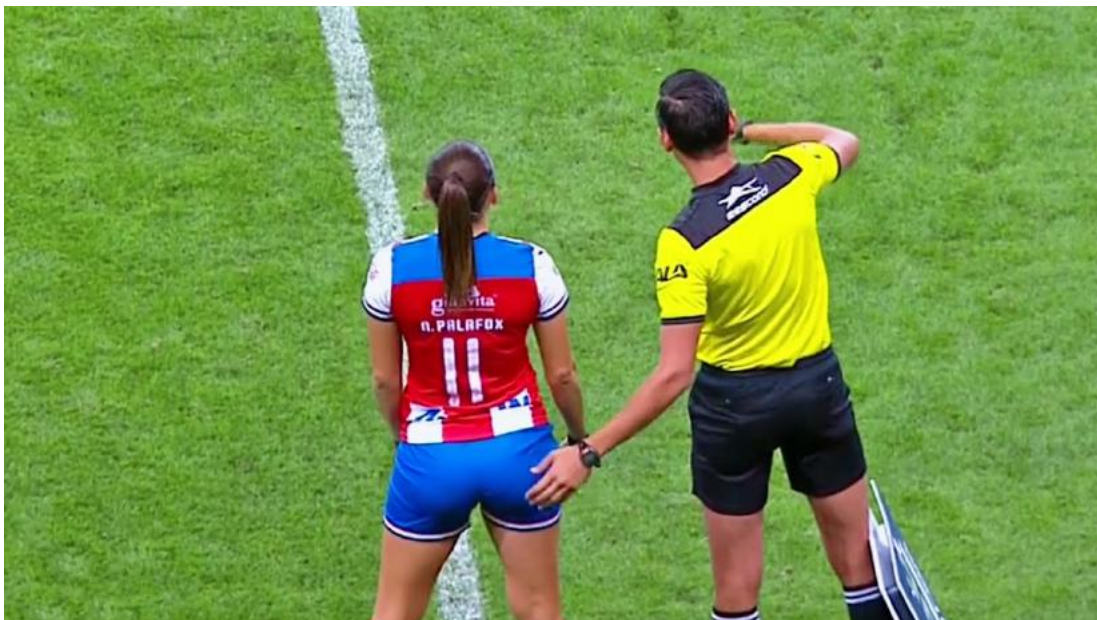
### The Large Member Refuses to Help Out When Needed

Years ago the referee who is sometimes known as the **Large Member** found himself as the center referee for a State Cup match of BU9's in semi-beautiful Lancaster. Since it was the playoff/elimination rounds, the tension was high, and the crowd was loud as the game got under way. The players, who normally are the most relaxed ones out there at this age, had got caught up in the competitive atmosphere, and were taking things Very Seriously. Working hard, as is his nature on the pitch, or something, the L.M. nevertheless had things well in hand, until about mid-way through the first half. At that point, an 8-year-old player came up to him, looking like a serious event had occurred. Since the L.M. had never, ever seen ANY player look that worried before, he whistled the ball dead, asked what was wrong, and the following ensued:

- 8-year-old (to the L.M.): Mister?
- L.M.: Yes, what's wrong?
- 8-year-old: Can you tie my shoe?

This immediately crushed the L.M.'s spirits, as he could NOT help him out without appearing to be biased. Feeling like a complete jerk and monster – not even being able to do a small favor to a very worried child! - he did blow the whistle again, signaled that he was stopping his watch, and called the coach out to handle the situation, which he did. The game eventually ended fairly and safely, with no one remembering the score or who won, but with at least one player well on his way to learning to hate all referees for life.

### Don't EVER Try This!



## **Well, Yes Actually, But What's Your Point? (Real conversation at a match)**

Unnamed adult player: "Hey ref, what are the rules of this tournament anyway?"

The Large Member: "There really aren't any, so we will make them up as we go along"

Player: "But isn't that what you guys always do anyway?"

## **Remembering the Late Pele in Action**



## **And Don't Ever Try This Either**

Following the conclusion of a Russian reserve league match between Amkar Perm and Terek, Assistant Referee Musa Kadyrov committed an unforgivable act. Right after the final whistle blows, the AR drops his flag and begins to assault an 18-year-old Amkar defender. After punches and kicks were landed, his teammates swooped in for the rescue. To add insult to injury, Terek players took the opportunity to create even more chaos. The attacked defender told The Guardian: "The ref blew the final whistle, and I started walking to our bench, when suddenly someone came from behind, pushed me to the ground and began kicking and punching me." "Terek players then joined the attack. Someone grabbed me by the throat, another hit me ... bloodying my face." The Russian football association has, rightfully, acted quickly and pushed for a lifetime ban for the out-of-control AR.



**Friendly Discussion of Where to Have Dinner After the Game, or Something...**



**You Make the Call (click on the link to view video and further discussion)**

[Manchester United 2-1 Manchester City \(1/14/23\)](#)

**Possible offside: Rashford on Fernandes goal**

**What happened:** Manchester United equalized in the 78th minute when Marcus Rashford ran onto a ball from Casemiro down the centre, although Rashford was clearly in an offside position. Rashford chased the ball, shielding it while pursued by a Manchester City defender but Rashford didn't touch the ball. Bruno Fernandes ran over and took the shot off of Rashford's feet instead. The assistant referee, Darren Cann, raised his flag for offside, but referee Stuart Attwell awarded the goal after a short discussion.

**VAR decision:** Goal stands.

**Quote of the Month**

**I Can Think of Some Coaches That This Could Apply To**

“In his case, there seems to be no final answer to the question, ‘How stupid can you get?’”

President **Dwight Eisenhower** 1954, referring to a Senator of the time

----- Keep 😊 Smiling! -----