



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

February 2023

Notes from the Board

We have received a number of inquiries about the lack of game assignments in January. It seemed like a very quiet month for us, so we went back and checked our assignment records, noting the following number of games assigned in January 2019 - 2023:

<u>Year</u>	<u># of Games</u>		
	<u>Soccer</u>	<u>Futsal</u>	<u>Total</u>
2023	133	93	226
2022	371	-	371
2021	COVID PANDEMIC		0
2020	204	-	204
2019	200	-	200

As we can see, 2022 had an unusually large number of games in January. Major decreases from January 2022 to January 2023 include:

- 177 SOCAL games scheduled for December 2021 were rescheduled to January 2022
- 13 SBS 7v7 games in January 2023, 89 games in January 2022 due to the resurfacing of the field

At the time of writing, we have already had 318 games in February, compared to 350 games in all of February of 2022. Based on this comparison, 2023 is looking to be just as busy for us as 2022 was.

As was reported at our January membership meeting, see minutes below, we unfortunately experienced a referee assault on one of our members. While we are relieved to report that he escaped serious injury, it was still a traumatic experience. The Board and membership are grateful for the favorable outcome and for our member remaining resolute to press charges against his assailant who was removed while handcuffed to spend the night as a guest of Torrance PD. As the wheels of justice turn, we will keep you apprised of developments.

Our co-assignor, Veto also shared these words of wisdom in connection with this incident:

As we discussed at the January membership meeting, on January 19, one of our members was the victim of a serious referee assault. After being verbally threatened and issuing the player a red card, the referee was grabbed (by the player that received the red card), put in a headlock and punched in the head. Fortunately, the other players managed to separate the player from the referee. Police were called and said player was arrested for assault.

Subsequent to the above referenced issue, we have heard that some of our other referees have experienced verbal abuse (either threats or over the top dissent), especially in adult games. Due to an increasing trend of referee assaults and abuse nationwide, officials' organizations and leagues are working hard to reverse this problem. Cal South has made it a point of emphasis to identify and deal with these situations and is working with their affiliated leagues to punish the perpetrators.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph **Vice-President:** Steve Morgan **Secretary:** Kiku Annon
Member-At-Large: Stephen Resnick **Assignor:** Gabriel Goldsman



We are asking for your input in this regard. If you have players, coaches or parents/spectators who are acting in either a physically or verbally abusive or threatening manner, please let your assignors know. Even if, individually, these incidents do not rise to the level of a send-off and incident report, your input will assist us in identifying problem teams and/or individuals.

We recommend that additional care be taken with the words you choose to use and attempted banter on the field. Humor may often be misinterpreted and lead to confrontation or escalation of a situation.

Finally, we suggest that you tighten up your level of tolerance for dissent and abuse, **especially at the adult level**. The cards you carry can be very effective tools in game management. It may be better to use your cards a moment too early rather than a little too late.

In response to this incident and other concerns expressed by other referees officiating futsal games at the LA Galaxy Soccer Center, our President and Co-Assignor met with a representative from the LAGSC to discuss measures to address these concerns. As a result, adult teams will be required to provide the referees with a system generated roster including all players permitted to play. Write in additions will not be acceptable. At a future date, player IDs will be reintroduced for use during the check-in process.

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 our Member-At-Large** 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!**

In cases which require misconduct reports, members are reminded to send the misconduct reports to our Member-at-Large and the applicable assignor and not to any leagues.

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.

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, February 28, 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 - National Referee/ Regional to National Upgrade only

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 Referee Quick Tip

While it's a truism in sport that one must keep one's eye on the ball, is this always true for refereeing soccer also?

While we as referees generally should have our eyes on the area around the ball, there are some notable exceptions:

- Ball in the air – do we need to raise our eyes to watch it go over the heads of all the players? Where is contact between players likely to happen - under the ball as it flies overhead or in the vicinity of where it is likely to be playable by players?
- Ball passed at high speed on the ground – any reason to watch it rolling on the grass?



- Ball cleared by a defender while a forward rushes in to make a challenge?

These are some examples of when it may be more important to anticipate where the ball is going to be contested next, or in the case of the last scenario, what could happen once the ball has left the scene.

In the first two scenarios, we are best served watching the players' eyes to anticipate where the ball is going and to focus our attention on the players already there to watch for fouls ahead of the ball's arrival. In the last situation, it is best practice to instruct your assistant referees to watch out for late challenges after the ball has been played by the defender, often with a big clearing kick that rapidly moves the ball away from the vicinity of the late challenge.

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

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.

From the Office of the Treasurer

The office is currently unoccupied. Jeff Ford has decided to step down from the treasurer position due to his other commitments. We thank Jeff for his good work while he was in the position and for getting us through the year end 1099 process.

As provide for in the SBSRA bylaws, we will invite nominations for this elected board position at our next membership meeting (February) and vote on the replacement at the March membership meeting.

Please be reminded:

- 1) **Address Changes** - Provide the Treasurer with your change of address at the same time that you make the change in Arbitrator,
- 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. We will include this as a requirement for us all to include the completed document in our Returning Membership Application process for the 2023 – 2024 season.



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

Next Meeting

The next Monthly Membership Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, February 28, 2023**, starting at 7:03 pm at our regular location at North High School Cafeteria.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Bylaw Amendment Proposal

Our bylaws provide 3 opportunities for the proposal and vote on bylaws amendments:

Bylaws may be changed only during the AGM, the October Membership Meeting or the February Membership Meeting by a vote of a majority of Members in Good Standing.

In accordance with the bylaws, the following proposal was presented by Michael Hinz at the January meeting:

VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

D. Board of Directors duties:

7. The Board may, via a majority vote of all Board members, may enter the Association into agreements with outside agencies, customers and service providers, for terms of two years or less. If the Board wants to enter the Association into agreements with a term greater than two years, the Board needs to communicate the terms of the agreement with the membership, hold a membership vote at a GMM, and proceed with the decision of the majority of the membership in attendance at the GMM.

In Memoriam

I am saddened to share that we lost a former member recently. Bob Foster was a member of SBSRA for a number of years and many of us continued to referee with Bob in other places. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, January 31, 2023

1. Call to order 7:05
2. Approval of November 2022 Meeting Minutes Mario Arita proposed approval, Tony Calandra seconded it, approved unanimously
3. Cal South Training - World Cup 2022 with Arturo Angeles. Points of Emphasis:
 - a) We are all here to learn together and improve,
 - b) see and understand,
 - c) think where the play is,
 - d) speed of play,
 - e) technical mind vs practical mind

The following clips were shown:

- a) Ball hits referee and changes possession, the ref must know the restart, where and when, thinking both technically and practically. Arturo showed best practice for how to drop the ball so the player and the referee are both in good position
 - b) Clip of third goal by Argentina against France (extra Argentina players on the field). The players did not interfere or make contact with the ball, therefore the referee can allow the goal. First understand the technical aspect, then apply the practical solution.
 - c) Clip of recreational league adult one player tripping another-various referees were asked to accurately describe the action. Always use the proper language when describing an action. Second similar clip was shown, but there was less force applied by the attacking player
 - d) Clip of a high school game - shot on goal, keeper stopped with feet, then picked up the ball and then could not be challenged but the forward didn't stop momentum, referee wasn't quite in the best position to see the action. Take away - referees should move to try to get to the best position and prevent problems
 - e) Clip of 17U game on an offside, a ball played by a defender, deflected off another defender and went to an attacker who was in an offside position. The definitions of deliberate play versus deliberate save were discussed, looking at the speed of play, the defending player deliberately played the ball but it was decided it was offside. Practical solutions should be made for the good of the game and the players. This was not going to result in a goal scoring opportunity if the offside was not called.
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a) Financial Statements for the 6 Months Ended December 31, 2022:
 - i. Balance Sheet
 - i. Accounts payable owed was \$9,864, while accounts receivable stood at approximately \$7,190 - YMCA and Manhattan Beach balances exceed 30 days outstanding for \$1,650 and \$3,476, respectively. This is within their historical, normal payment cycles so there is no concern about collecting these balances. SBSRA had sufficient cash in the bank, to cover referee payments owed and expected future expenses. As noted previously, we collect most of our income early in the fiscal year but we still have 6 months of expenses to cover until we start receiving dues payments again.



ii. Income and Expense Statement:

- Year-to-date referee billings have increased by \$22,000, from \$112,000 last year to \$134,000 this year. Futsal and the Cerritos tournament have combined to bring in nearly \$51,000 dollars in additional revenue this year. This is offset by the South Bay Sports' shutdown for field refurbishment which cost us \$18,000 in revenue and the non-recurrence of the Manchester United tournament which provided \$13,000 in revenue in the prior year.
- Expenses total \$5,381 year-to-date, an increase of \$1,704 from \$3,677 last year. This overall increase can be attributed to a return to the normal cost to use the Arbiter system, as well as other expenses incurred, such as CORE and the Financial Review, which were not present at this time last year (Note Cal South is reimbursing us for CORE costs incurred now).

ii. Consequently, year-over-year income over expenses has declined by approximately \$3,000, due to the above-mentioned increase in expenses as well as a nearly \$800 decrease in new member dues and fees. However, the good news is are already welcoming several new members to kick off the New Calendar Year!

b) 1099s were issued for all payees who earned > \$600 in 2022. W9s are needed from all members and will be required as part of the Returning Member process this June. All members are encouraged to provide them to the Treasurer at any time before that. The form is available on our website in the Associations\Forms Library section.

5. President's Report:

a) Board Meeting Report - January 2023. Most items discussed will be covered by various reports on our agenda. Other items included:

- i. Lengthy discussion held on the Association's responsibility to obtain W-9s from every member and the safe-guarding of important data we collect,
- ii. Billing arrangements for friendlies. What to do if teams don't show up?

b) League News:

- i. Beverly Hills contract has been dealt with by listing exceptions to their standard Covid rules in an email to them. Games are 25 minute halves, are played on Sundays, will pay \$30 per team and the assigning fees will be billed separately,
- ii. Miraleste Middle School games (three refs) started up at end of January. Veto giving preference to current high school referees but others should let him know if interested,
- iii. El Segundo League has increased the fees to \$30 per team, paid on the field with referee to pay \$5.00 to the assignor,
- iv. PSL game fees increased to \$90 per team effective January 1 and we have received good feedback reports about our referees each week this month, and
- v. Manhattan Beach fees increased to \$45 per game.

c) Other:

- i. We have received feedback on our referees for the past SOCAL season and the comments have been more positive there also. Unfortunately, there were still some isolated reports of referees who appeared overly officious, stern or seeming to be unhappy to be at the game. Occasionally we need to suck it up, fake it and pretend to be happy to be there!
- ii. During the prior week, there was a referee assault at a Futsal game (charges were pressed, the assailant was handcuffed. taken by Torrance police and we believe the assailant spent



the night in jail). We are appreciative and support the referee's decision to ensure justice is done. This is for the benefit of all of us!

6. Vice-President's Report:
 - a) Cal South ROL Update:
 - i. 117 on 2023 ROL,
 - ii. 16 left from 2022 not on 2023,
 - iii. 13 have not reregistered,
 - iv. 146 in Arbiter
7. Secretary's Report:
 - a) SBSRA Membership Report
 - i. Full Members 101
 - ii. Probationary Members 35
 - iii. Members Not on ROL 10
 - iv. Honorary Members 2
8. Assignor's Report:
 - a) Cal South Update - State Cup fields at Lancaster offered to us, we need to determine our members' level of interest before accepting any fields, Oceanside games were popular. Seven SBSRA referees have been invited to Las Vegas to be assessed by State for Regional and National games in Idaho. Tournaments have been getting smaller due to fewer participants, possibly for financial reasons. Gabriel asked the referee teams to sit together at the fields so as "to be a team."
 - b) Game Expectations for the first quarter of 2023
 - i. State Cups apparently have become a political issue - SOCAL tournament taking place in SilverLakes
 - ii. Leagues - will be a slow start for games, probably not much until March
 - c) CORE Training - cancelled in January, next scheduled and confirmed for February 21, 2023
 - d) Arbiter Sharing - Veto asked if members would share their schedules from other sports they also have in Arbiter so assignors can better assign games to members on days when multiple assignments are possible,
 - e) Other - Veto and SBSRA need to know any time a referee is experiencing threats by (mostly) adult players. Use your yellow cards and communicate with SBSRA about safety issues if you experience them.
9. Member-At-Large Report
Supplemental Reports - Not many reports received since we last met. Steve Resnick reminded everyone that he is available to assist members with writing their reports.
10. Other Business - Michael Hinz had submitted a proposed bylaw change regarding the Board contractually committing the association for no more than two years without membership approval. The proposed language also will be sent out to the membership by email and will be included in the next Flag & Whistle in advance of the vote to be taken at the next membership meeting.
11. The meeting adjourned at 8:54.



Warren’s Howellers and Some Things to Think About

Look Out for Old Guys (News Article)

A grandfather of a player at a U-14 game last year hit a 17-year-old referee during a match in Montreal. Video of the incident showed the man come out of the stands and bump the referee, who pushed him away. Then the man punched the referee before other adults intervened and knocked the attacker to the ground.

Teamwork in Action



On the Other Hand, This is Always an Option (News article)

A high school soccer official last September in Michigan, apparently fed up with heckling from the stands and comments from the players and coaches during a contentious match between two high school teams in September, called it quits mid-match. The departing official told his fellow officials, "I don't need this," before walking off the field not to return.

Maybe He Should Have Just Left the Building (News Item)

Celtic forward (U.K.) Anthony Stokes was ejected from a club for allegedly punching an Elvis impersonator.

Quote of the Month

“Words may inspire but only action creates change”

----- Keep 😊 Smiling! -----