



# 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

May 2023

## **Notes from the Board**

We are fast approaching the end of our membership year with the following to look forward to:

- May Membership Meeting:
  - Nominations for two board positions – Vice-President and Treasurer,
  - Submission, in writing, of Bylaws Changes Proposals,
  - Announcement of Annual Dues for 2023-2024,
- June (Annual) Membership Meeting:
  - Voting for two board positions – Vice-President and Treasurer,
  - Voting on Proposed Bylaws Changes,
  - We will be returning to Tony's Pizza and Subs on Aviation for the AGM beginning at 7:03pm on June 27.

Our annual membership renewal period begins after the determination and announcement of annual dues payable at the May meeting. Please be reminded that dues are payable by June 30 and can be paid in two ways:

- by deduction from game fees, or
- payment initiated by each member by check, cash or PayPal.

### **Deduction from Game Fees**

Unless members specifically instruct our Treasurer to NOT deduct dues from Referee Fees processed and paid by the Association, the Treasurer will deduct dues from fees for games officiated in May and June and paid in June and July, respectively. To avoid payment of the \$20 late fee, dues must be paid in full by no later than the grace period which ends on July 30. Dues deducted from fees for games officiated in July are applied in August and thus deemed late payments by the Association.

### **Payments Initiated by Members**

For timely payment of dues, the Association must receive payment by the due date. Please ensure whichever method you use that payment is received by the Association by no later than July 30!

Remember, we have a New Member Incentive program whereby you can enjoy a year's membership with no dues payable for any new member you recruit when they pay for their second year of membership. We are anticipating a very busy fall season. With huge demand (of many games) we need additional supply (of referees). We created a flyer (copy attached at the end of this newsletter) for us to hand out at the fields. These are also available on our website. Print them out, insert your information at the bottom of the flyer, so you get credit from the Association, and take them with you to the fields to hand out.

---

### **Board of Directors**

**President:** Jonny Joseph      **Vice-President:** Steve Morgan      **Secretary:** Kiku Annon  
**Treasurer:** Bruce Ashton      **Member-At-Large:** Stephen Resnick      **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) **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!** **NOTE** – there are a number of great scanning Apps available for use on smart phones from which one can email the pdf directly to any contact.

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 assist you with preparing 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. **Do not submit supplemental reports to any leagues.**
- 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.



## Rule Change

For those doing SBPSL games, please note their change of definition for a slide tackle to:

- To protect players from serious injury, in Division 48 and 58 slide tackling is not permitted when an opponent is within playing distance. This does not apply to the goalkeeper in his own penalty area. The restart can be an Indirect Free Kick (dangerous play) **or** a Direct Free Kick and **may be** accompanied by a Yellow Card or Red Card, depending on the severity of the challenge. Note – a tackle with one knee on the ground is **not necessarily** a slide tackle and the goalkeeper, when outside the penalty area, is considered like any other player.

## Training Opportunities

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

### CORE Training at North High

The next CORE training session at North High is scheduled for June 20, 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.

In addition, to become a full member of SBSRA, all members are required to attend one CORE training to be exposed to this wonderful program and opportunity to enhance one's skills and learning.

The most recent CORE training was led by active MLS Assistant Referees Frank and Ian Anderson who led a very engaging session discussing Tactical Fouls with a focus on Stopping Promising Attacks (SPA) and Denying Obvious Goal Scoring Opportunities (DOGSO). Key takeaways included differentiating between obvious goal scoring and potential goal scoring opportunities, choosing the right call to make, especially in DOGSO opportunities (decisions which could result in yellow or red cards).



Some of our members who were able to be there are pictured below with Frank and Ian Anderson below:



## 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 at North High School at the same time as the CORE training each month.

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

This training is required for all new SBSRA members to become full members of our association. All referees, both those new to refereeing 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**.

The next new member training date will take place before our monthly meeting at 6:03pm. All members who have not attended this training previously will receive an email and Arbiter invitation at that time. Please accept the Arbiter 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 Tests** - (at Fedde Middle School in Hawaiian Gardens) – **TO BE CONFIRMED**

Friday July 7                                    8:00am to 12:00pm

Monday September 18                    6:00pm to 9:30pm

Sunday December 10                    9:00am to 12:00pm

## **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-person referee 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 month’s Quick Referee Tip comes from SBSRA member Alan Siegel:

Do you wear a belt AND suspenders to keep your referee pants up? Of course not!

But, have you ever had any of these things happen to you or a partner during a game?

1. Your watch runs out of battery or the countdown stop button is accidentally pressed.
2. Your pen breaks, stops working or falls out of your pocket.
3. A player grabs the yellow or red card out of your hand and runs off the field.

You may not be able to prevent these, but you can be prepared with backups should they occur.



1. Wear a second watch on your other wrist and set this to count up. This makes it easy to record the time in the match of goals and cautions as well as being a backup to your main countdown timer.
2. Carry 2 pens to every game. For professional appearances' sake, please use neutral color pens and keep them in your pocket not in your socks!
3. Keep the yellow card in your shorts front pocket for easy access, the red card in your back pocket for time to contemplate if it is really necessary and a second set with your data wallet in case the first card is taken.

No referee wants to look foolish. These little preventative refereeing measures can keep you looking sharp in these rare but embarrassing situations.

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) **Home/Mailing Address Changes** - Provide the Treasurer with your change of address at the same time that you make the change in Arbiter,
- 2) **Checks** – please cash these in a timely manner,
- 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) **W-9 form** – Every member is required by Federal law to provide a W-9 form <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf> to the Treasurer. We will include this as a requirement to include the completed document in our Returning Membership Application process for the 2023 – 2024 season. We are required to keep these forms for at least 7 years after you cease to be a member. Simply providing your SSN is not sufficient. Please cooperate so as not to place your Association in jeopardy.

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



## Next Meeting

The next Monthly Membership Meeting will take place on **Tuesday, May 30, 2023**, starting at 7:03pm at our regular location in the North High School Cafeteria.

As noted above, we have important items to get through at this meeting. The election of Board Members is an important privilege afforded to all Members in Good Standing and can have a direct bearing on your refereeing experience. The time and dedication required to be an effective board member cannot be overstated. It goes beyond attending one membership and one board meeting each month. Following is a broad summary of the roles of the two members up for election this year:

- Vice President:
  - a. Exercise the responsibilities of the President in the event of her/his absence or disability.
  - b. Assist the President in the performance of her/his duties.
  - c. Chair the Grievance Committee and select the committee members.
  - d. Manage the Member Ranking process each year and collaborate with the Association's Director of Mentoring and Observation in regards to observations.
- Treasurer:
  - a. Receive all monies due to the Association.
  - b. Deposit collected monies in such depository accounts as designated by the BOD.
  - c. Disburse monies as required and approved by the BOD.
  - d. Maintain adequate and correct books of account, showing receipts and disbursements of the Association and account for its cash and other assets.
  - e. Prepare and serve statements of account for dues of members and the organization, as necessary.
  - f. Present quarterly financial reports at Membership Meetings.
  - g. Prepare an Association fiscal budget for the BOD as a guideline for expenditures, as specified in Section V. B. and C. above.
  - h. Ensure copies of the Financial Reports are made available to the Membership and stored/archived in a manner so they can be maintained for a minimum of seven years, or as required by law.
  - i. Present draft tax returns to the BOD for the Board to review and approve before the returns are filed. The Association shall maintain copies of the filed tax returns for a minimum of seven years, or as required by law.
  - j. Maintain and manage all risk management activities, including liability insurance for the members, and errors and omissions coverage for the BOD.
  - k. Perform such other duties incident to the office as may be assigned by the BOD, or as required by law.
  - l. Recommend, for BOD approval, one or more non-Board member(s) to perform an informal assessment, of the Association's financial records once every two years, covering the prior two years, as described in Section XIII below.

These are their duties as itemized in our Bylaws. In reality, they each do more.

If you are interested in either position, believe you have the time and energy to be successful in either of these roles, please contact the President, or any other Board Member, to discuss further.

We look forward to seeing you there!





---

## SBSRA General Membership Meeting Tuesday, April 25, 2023

1. Call to order at 7:04pm.
2. Approval of March 2023 Meeting Minutes – Motion made by Scott Jarus, seconded by Bill Yee, approved by acclamation.
3. Referee Training – Candid Camera: How to use game video to grow as officials by Chris Nevil and Jay Pignatello.
  - a) Many youth games are now being videoed by the clubs; how can we obtain the videos, what are its limitations and how can we use videos and mentoring to improve as referees?
  - b) Jay spoke about his company and the sporting events they video. The cameras are set up mid field and constantly panning the field. The AI technology is improving all the time.
  - c) The primary reason is for players to use it for highlight reels to show colleges. The filming is at a higher speed than the downloadable version. The system captures sound very well. Getting video could be as simple as asking the manager. A typical file can be quite large.
  - d) Chris showed some clips from videos such as we might be able to get. At least Sand and Surf is willing to share videos for us to use, but the actual mechanics of when and where to ask for the video will need to be figured out.
  - e) Veto brought up possibly going directly to Cal South which has both pros and cons.
  - f) We should be looking for field coverage, positioning, angles of view, body language and gestures, communications with players, coaches, ARs, missed off ball opportunities.
  - g) Using video can open up more opportunities for mentors to help referees improve. In conclusion, SBSRA should really make use of this technology.
  - h) Steve Morgan brought up logistics about how to store files.
4. Treasurer's Report
  - a) Financial Statements for the quarter ended March 31, 2023 – Cash on hand is robust, enough to cover fees to referees. Payables are current, a few receivables are still lagging. Income has decreased but so has expenses.
  - b) Change of Address – Please update Arbiter AND send Bruce an email
5. President's Report – Presented by VP Steve Morgan
  - a) Board Meeting – April 2023:
    - i. AGM Location – in the absence of another, better suggestion, we plan to return to Tony's Subs and Pizza on Aviation. The price is right and serves our purpose perfectly. SM asked if there were any other ideas? None were offered.
    - ii. An AYSO region has approached us to provide referees for their regular season in the Fall. We requested they obtain Section/National approval as required before we really can discuss details. At their request we provided last Fall's CSL fees for all age groups.
  - b) League News:
    - i. New Adult League – clarified that referee and assignor fees will be paid at the field. They are discussing rosters and ID cards but neither will be in place for our initial 5 game playoff season.
    - ii. SBPSL – too many games are occurring with bad language on the field not being addressed by our referees. This league uses a number of school fields and this behavior jeopardizes their continuing use of these permitted fields. All referees doing these games need to read our webpage for this league before they go to these games EVERY TIME to ensure they handle these games and the required paperwork appropriately!



## The Flag and Whistle

May 2023

---

Please clamp down on these incidents with Yellow Cards and Red Cards if necessary!

- iii. USYS Elite64 – we are about to officiate this league for the second year. This provides us with our highest fees per match so please make sure you arrive at least 30 minutes before kickoff time and treat these games with an even higher level of professionalism than we do for other games already. Match fees are not on our fee schedule due to their short season, but are included in the league rules on our website.
  - iv. Pre-ECNL – this program began in Florida and is now being introduced in Southern California. Please use the SOCAL fee structure for these games. Except for the 50 min. games, since SoCal does not have such games, there is a special fee of \$120 per game for 3 referees, \$70 for a single referee.
- c) Other
- i. Punctuality – this past weekend we had two incidents that caused extra stress:
    - If you are on early games that get off to a late start, that is likely going to impact every other game on that field that day. Please have the courtesy and consideration to inform the related assignor and request that subsequent referee teams be informed also.
    - A Member had early games and then a later single referee game. Early games started late, referee “thought he could make it on time” but arrived 5 minutes after kickoff time without notifying anyone! At some time before he arrived he had to know he wasn’t going to be there at least 15-30 minutes before kickoff. There is just no excuse for not letting someone, coach or assignor, know that you are running late.
- Be considerate, please.**
- ii. New Member Introductions – No new members introduced themselves.
5. Vice President’s Report
- a) ROL Update – We will be waiting for the new membership year to look at the ROL.
6. Secretary’s Report
- a) SBSRA Membership Report
    - i. Full Members - 98
    - ii. Probationary Members - 32
    - iii. Members Not on ROL – 16
    - iv. Honorary Members - 2
7. Assignor’s Report:
- a) Cal South Update – Nick Webster is the new Chair of the Cal South Board
  - b) Game/Tournament Expectations for the second quarter of 2023 – May 20/21 will be Ventura County United’s Reggie Banks Memorial Cup at Rancho Simi Rec Park. Referee fees will be at a rate of \$1.90 per minute.
  - c) CORE Training – Juan Guzman will host the next training.
  - d) Other - ECNL and Pre-ECNL games have increased, there were over 100 games each weekend recently and the Elite Academy starts up soon. GG is worried about being able to cover the 200 or so games that will come up in the fall. So all members are urged to make themselves available as much as possible.
8. Member-At-Large Report
- a) Supplemental Reports:
    - i. Send to MAL, and applicable assignor, not Leagues!
    - ii. Need to submit complete and accurate reports
    - iii. Needs to be sent to MAL within 24 hours of the game.



## The Flag and Whistle

May 2023

---

9. Other Business – Veto will be out of commission for some time after May 10<sup>th</sup>, please communicate with Chris Nevil until he (Veto) is back. Jay mentioned that SBS games are quite often running late. It was suggested we try to get the league to allow the approach used by PSL where we start the game clock at scheduled time or close to that. A member also brought up that the Elite Academy games are scheduled with too tight a window and all but the first game end up being behind schedule, the more games, the later the games become.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

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

### Don't You Hate It When This Happens?



### Gabriel Goldsman Taught Me the Same Thing (attributed to **Harold Pinter**)

"Referees are the law. They have a whistle. They blow it. And that whistle is the articulation of God's justice."

### I Am Often Asked This Question



### Really?

"Soccer is a game for 22 people that run around, play the ball, and one referee who makes a slew of mistakes, and in the end Germany always wins." (attributed to **Gary Lineker**, England)

## You Make the Call



## The Things They Say ...



## Thought of the Month

"I wanted to have a career in sports when I was young, but I had to give up the idea. I'm only six feet tall, so I couldn't play basketball. I'm only 190 pounds, so I couldn't play football, and I have 20/20 vision, so I couldn't be a referee." (attributed to **Jay Leno**)

## Quotes of the Month

"I love how the soccer guys just fall when they get kicked and go baby crying. They try to explain to the referee like he's their mother: "Wah! Did you see what he did?" Then they get back to playing soccer again." (attributed to **Pablo Francisco**)

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