



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



Written by: Jonny Joseph
Edited by: Alan Siegel

June 2023

Notes from the Board

Incredibly, we have reached the end of another membership year! A year that seems to have flown by and that has seemed full of activity for us as an association. We have much to be proud of and to build on as we continue our trajectory towards the Cal South Referee Association that many can look up to and aspire to the level of quality that we have reached. Each and every one of our members can be and should be proud of our accomplishments and performances. May we continue to strive for perfection, knowing we may not get all the way there but stretch ourselves to our maximum potential.

Our next event to look forward to is our **June (Annual) Membership Meeting**. Details include the following:

- We are returning to Tony's Subs and Pizza at 119th Street in Inglewood, off Aviation, on June 27, beginning at 7:03pm,
- We will vote for two board positions – Vice-President and Treasurer,
- As we did not receive any Proposed Bylaws Changes, there are none to consider.

Our annual membership renewal period has begun. As announced at the May membership meeting, the Board is very pleased to announce that annual dues will be reduced by \$5 for a second consecutive year to \$85 for the 2023 – 2024 membership year. 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 members 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 are 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 no later than July 30!

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph
Treasurer: Bruce Ashton

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

Secretary: Kiku Annon
Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman



New Member Incentive Program

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.

As of the time of publication of this newsletter, the following renewal activity has occurred:

- Membership Renewals (RMAs) received - 33,
- Membership Dues deducted from game fees - 55,
- Membership Dues payments received - 8,
- New Member Incentive earned - 1.

Please do not put off doing this until later. To complete your renewal process, please be reminded that all of the following are needed:

- Inclusion in Cal South's Registered Officials List (ROL),
- Returning Membership Application (RMA),
- Submission of IRS Form W9,
- Payment of Dues, in one of the ways described above.

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>.

We are disappointed to note that since the last newsletter was published, we had a member take over a week to prepare a Supplemental Report. This was despite multiple follow-ups and opportunities to complete it sooner. This is simply unacceptable. When needed, these reports must be completed and submitted to the Member-at-Large and the applicable Assignor ASAP! If you are unsure of what to do or need help, reach out to the Member-at-Large IMMEDIATELY!

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

Dark in June - the next CORE training session at North High is scheduled for July 18, 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 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 Incentive (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**.

We are currently working on recording this presentation so it will be available on demand in future.

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

We have another Quick Referee Tip from SBSRA member Alan Siegel:

Dropped balls should be a simple procedure, but you can cause problems for yourself if not done correctly.

1. Drop the ball from the waist height of the player (not the referee's waist!) height. Do not throw it up in the air like a basketball jump ball.
2. Do get close to the player who will receive the dropped ball. Do not throw it to the goalkeeper from 20 yards away. With older players, if you are worried about being out of position when the keeper punts the ball up field, quietly ask them to count to 3 so you have time to get in a position near to where the anticipated punt will land.
3. Make sure that you know which player is to receive the dropped ball, and that all other players (of both teams) are at least 4 meters (4.5 yards) away until the ball touches the ground.
4. The ball must be touched by a second player (from either team) for a goal to be scored from a dropped ball.
5. A whistle to restart play at a dropped ball is only required after an injury or a substitution. (See the Body Language, Communication and Whistle section of The Laws of the Game.) Often referees will drop the ball, and then blow the whistle to start play. Once the ball has hit the ground, it is in play. So, a whistle right after this, technically, stops play and can be confusing. So, if you are using a whistle to restart play, do it before you release the ball.

For more on the Dropped Ball restart, see IFAB Laws of the Game: Law 8 - The Start and Restart of Play, and Law 9 - The Ball In and Out of Play.

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) **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 have included this as a requirement 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 Treasurer and the 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 be our Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday, June 27, 2023, starting at 7:03pm** at Tony's Subs and Pizza, 5544 W 119th St, Inglewood, CA 90304. We will return to our regular location at the North High School Cafeteria in July.

Although we have two board positions that will be voted for, nominations were only received for one candidate for each position. Accordingly, we did not receive any candidate statements for inclusion in this edition of the newsletter.

We will conduct the business needed during the first part of the meeting and enjoy some pizza afterwards to celebrate another great year of refereeing together!

We look forward to seeing you there!



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Tuesday, May 30, 2023

1. Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.
2. Approval of April 2023 Meeting Minutes - Motion made by Veto Galati, seconded by Sue Pascoe, approved by acclamation.
3. Monthly Training – Chris Nevil and Gabriel Goldsman “Back to Basics:”
 - Before the game:
 - Are you on time (Do your homework to know how long it takes to get there and where to park)?
 - Have you met with your team to go over pregame logistics?
 - Be proactive about getting the roster, ID cards and fees
 - Make sure the players match the roster and ID cards
 - Looking and acting professionally will go a long way with teams and coaches.
 - Arrive at the field (not the parking lot) 30 minutes before kickoff
 - Do you have the proper equipment – every referee must bring 2 flags!
 - Are you able to warm up properly?
 - Have you checked the field?
 - Be there in the present, do the job well, especially don’t rush things because you want to leave early
 - Ensure player numbers written down for cards and goals are on the roster – at halftime and fulltime.

Most important take-away – BE ON TIME – DON’T RUSH!!

4. Treasurer’s Report – as BA is away, JJ was asked to present the following:
 - a) Accounts Receivable – We have been diligently working on collecting past due amounts and have made great strides to collect all long outstanding amounts. All significant amounts over 30 days, except one customer for \$1,100, have been collected and we are owed a total of just \$11,000 as of today.
 - b) New Member Incentive – at this time, we have the following members qualifying for free dues if their referred members renew their membership for 23-24.
 - i. Servando Berna
 - ii. Craig Collar
 - iii. Mario RamirezIf anyone else believes they qualify for the NMI, if their referred member renews, please send Bruce an email identifying that new member.
 - c) Collection of Dues – Starting tomorrow, members can start submitting Returning Member Applications. Please be reminded:
 - i. Members will be required to submit a completed W-9 form with their RMA for the application to be considered The W-9 will only be sent to the Treasurer and will be maintained in a secure environment,
 - ii. Dues, if not already paid, will be deducted from tournament and league (e.g., Futsal, SBS, Manhattan Beach, etc.) fees earned for games officiated in May and June UNLESS members notify Bruce not to do so. Referee Fees for games officiated in July are too late to be considered timely payment of dues,
 - iii. Members will be removed from Arbiter if dues are not paid by July 31 and there is a late fee of \$20 for dues paid after that date.



5. President's Report

- a) Association Budget and Annual Dues for 23-24 – at the May Board Meeting, a draft budget was presented for discussion and approval by your board. We are pleased to announce that annual dues will be reduced by \$5 per member for the second successive membership year and will be \$85 per member for 23-24.
- b) League and Tournament News – we are pleased to announce that we have agreed upon a significant increase in our game fee rates for the Cerritos Premier Cup for which we will be the host referee association on the weekend of July 22 - 23. Last year we were paid \$1.60 per minute per referee team. This year we negotiated an increase ranging from \$1.80 per minute for 50-minute games to \$1.87 for 80-minute games or \$90 and \$150, respectively.
Additionally, the tournament director has told us that she has been approached to organize a tournament for another club and she has agreed to do so as long as we also are selected as the host referee association for that tournament. It is expected to take place in January at a venue within our area.
- c) Board Meeting – May 2023 – the following matters were discussed:
 - i. The new IFAB Laws of the Game are expected to be available soon and we will be ordering hard copies for all members who want them, hopefully for distribution before the new season starts in September,
 - ii. We will be placing an order for Dri-FIT shirts. All members can choose between long sleeve and short sleeve shirts, with the Association picking up the cost for the first shirt ordered by each member,
 - iii. More of our games appear to be recorded by teams for later analysis. We have had initial conversations with multiple clubs to obtain access to these recordings for training and possibly ratings purposes.
- d) New Members – Felicia Keller, Zoe Schweitzer, Kamel Guerbaoui, Carlos Cruz, Kenyon Robertson, Rafael Petardi introduced themselves and they were warmly welcomed by the membership.

5. Vice President's Report

- a) ROL Update and Safe Sport - @130 members on the ROL, Steve Morgan does keep track of the ROL and will update status of members during the RMA process.

6. Secretary's Report

- a) SBSRA Membership Report
 - i. Full Members - 112
 - ii. Probationary Members - 20
 - iii. Members Not on ROL - 16
 - iv. Honorary Members – 2
 - v. Total Membership = 150.

7. Assignor's Report:

- a) Casts:
 - i. League Rules – influence the referee's decision. Without a League rule, the referee is empowered by IFAB Law 5 to decide whether the player can play,
 - ii. Hard vs Soft Casts – for the player to play the bar is lower for soft casts but referees should also ask the player why they are wearing the soft cast,
 - iii. Referee Approach – After a spirited discussion, the conclusion was that it is to be decided based on league rules and, if not specified in the league's rules, then pursuant to Law V, it is the decision of the referee on that day at that game,
 - iv. A cast is not automatically a dangerous item and it is up to the referee to manage the situation and make decisions according to player conduct.



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- v. The Association will make inquiries of leagues and our insurer,
 - vi. Members who are not comfortable making this decision can always block leagues whose rules do not specifically prohibit casts,
- b) Cal South Update:
- i. 6 of our referees are going to the USYS Far West Regional tournament in Boise, Idaho during the last week of June,
 - ii. Referee Coach/Mentor training to take place in the next few weeks,
- c) Game Expectations for the Next Few Weeks – Not many games until the tournaments in July, June tends to be a “dark month.” SBS will start a new season this weekend, but many other leagues have ended their seasons and will now take a break.
- d) CORE Training – the May training was presented by Ian and Frank Anderson, MLS referees, and was one of the best training we have experienced. Juan Guzman will lead the June training.
8. Member-At-Large Report
- a) Improving Supplemental Reports – Steve Resnick reminded the membership that these reports are needed for serious injuries, Red Cards, Termination of games, or any other, significant or unusual incidences. He emphasized:
- i. Timely Submission – must be submitted within 24 hours to the MAL to facilitate getting the report to the League on time. The League may need to have a further process, which takes time, before the next round of games,
 - ii. Report Preparation – Use the proper fillable PDF form, use the proper language, from the Laws of the Game, and send to MAL and appropriate assignor in PDF format.
9. Bylaws Amendment Proposals – none received.
10. Board Member Nominations – Every year, we have 2 or 3 Board positions that come up for a membership vote. This year we have two. At this meeting, candidates may be nominated, by other members or candidates can self-nominate. Candidates will be invited to provide candidate statements to be included in the June Flag & Whistle and to speak briefly at the annual General Meeting, after which all members in good standing will be able to vote for their chosen candidate. Please be reminded that additional nominations can be received up to the vote for each position. The positions to be voted on are:
- a) Vice-President – nominations were invited from the Membership - Steve Morgan was nominated.
 - b) Treasurer – nominations were invited from the Membership - Bruce Ashton was nominated.
- A proposal to close the nominations was made by Steve Morgan, seconded by Sue Pascoe and approved by acclamation.
11. Meeting Adjourned at 9:01pm.

Some Things to Think About

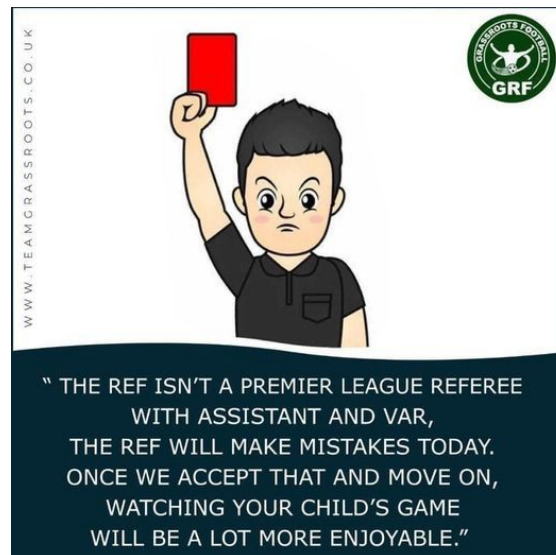
Be strong, but not rude.
Be kind, but not weak.
Be humble but not timid.
Be proud, but not arrogant. (Thoughts Wonder)

Is it really?



“The most valuable thing is the happiness that we are able to provoke in those that struggle to find happiness in other ways away from football.” Marcelo Bielsa (Coach Uruguay National Team)

Something to share?



----- Keep 😊 Smiling! -----