



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



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

November 2023

Notes from the Board

We made it!! Almost 4,000 games have been refereed since July 1, 2023, the beginning of the membership year, and we are still going strong. Some interesting data points:

- Clubs and leagues for whom we have assigned the most games:

<u>Club</u>	<u># of Games</u>
LA Breakers	190
FRAM	113
Juventus	63
Steel United	55
West Torrance	54
Santa Monica Surf	53
One Ivy	<u>51</u>
Total	<u><u>579</u></u>

<u>League/Format</u>	<u># of Games</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
SoCal	1,127	28%
SBS	645	16%
Futsal/Indoor	598	15%
CSL	393	10%
ECNL, ECRL, etc.	191	5%
EA, EA2	184	5%
YMCA	132	3%
Zog Adult	<u>130</u>	<u>3%</u>
	<u><u>3,400</u></u>	<u><u>85%</u></u>

- Locations and referees with the greatest number of games:

<u>Row Labels</u>	<u># of Games</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Aviation Park	671	17%
LA Galaxy Sports Complex	400	10%
Manhattan Village Field	262	7%
Mira Costa HS	157	5%
LA Galaxy Indoor Center	132	3%
YMCA- MID Valley	132	3%
Santa Monica CC	130	3%
Belmar Historic Field	127	3%
North Torrance High School	126	3%
John Anson Ford Park	<u>118</u>	<u>3%</u>
Total	<u><u>2,255</u></u>	<u><u>57%</u></u>

<u>Referee</u>	<u># of Games</u>
Jorge Reyes	155
Noureddine Miloud	132
Chris Nevil	130
James Marsella	112
Stephen McCall	107
David Serrano	106
Kiku Annon	104
Misha Ostapchuk	96
John Hough	92
Gregory Sirbu	81
Hani Alameddine	81

How would you best describe these statistics? We should all be proud of how much we have already accomplished so far this membership year.

Well Done!

Board of Directors

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



Please be reminded:

- Supplemental reports for red cards, severe injuries, game terminations or any other significant events must be prepared and submitted **within 24 hours** but hopefully on the same day as the game. Please remember to **use your LOTG book** to use the correct technical language and to text the Member-at-Large right after the game so he knows to expect your report.
- Many (most, all?) of us think we can officiate at the World Cup. EVERY game deserves a good referee. I know many (most, all?) of us want the upper-level games every week. That is simply not possible. Each week there are more referees in our Association that can manage these games very well than there are games at this level. As members of the Association, we all need to be willing to officiate the lower-level games also. Try them, you may just have fun!

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 (https://sbsra.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Ref_Recruiting_Poster.202305.pdf) 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.

Cal South Female Referee Initiative

As announced recently, Cal South's Referee Committee is launching its "Female Development Initiative." This initiative is a program dedicated to the female referee who is seeking support or to advance her referee license.

With this program being focused on female referees, Cal South will be hosting a series of instruction dedicated to females in the referee community via Zoom (and some in person), along with mentoring sessions during State/National cup and other local tournaments. Also planned is an all-female mentor camp in Ojai in June 2024. Many of the guest speakers, mentors and coaches will include current and past female FIFA, PRO and National officials.

Their hope is that the participants in the program will share with their association what they have learned and inspire not only other female referees, but everyone in their association.

So female members in our association (of all ages and experience levels), please be aware of the program ([application form link](#) and following QR code is also offered).





With your support, Cal South feels they will have the best female referee program in the nation.

If you have any questions, please contact Penny Rehm (prehm@calsouth.com) or (951) 315 5023.

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**) and refer to **IFAB LOTG** for **proper terminology** to use,
- 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 is only required in limited cases for 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.

At the July Membership Meeting, we went through two supplemental reports – the original draft submitted, and the final report sent to the league after edits were made with the assistance of certain Board Members. To assist members further, we have added these sample reports to our website (<https://sbsra.org/laws/>) – one how not to do it and on which is more concise but contains all of the necessary information that we should provide most leagues. If you have any questions or need further guidance, please contact Stephen Resnick who would be happy to spend time with you to assist with this very important function.

Rule Change

For those doing **National Premier League games**, please note their change of rules for rosters and substitutions:

For 2007-2005 games: A maximum of 20 players may be dressed and play in a game. The 20 players must be on the official Match Report given to the match official and opposing team before the start of the game. Any players listed on the roster that will not play must have a line through their names on the Match Report or set as inactive players.

For Discovery NPL games: 3 moments, per half, for substitutions. Half-time does not count as a moment. Re-entry is allowed per half at the moments used by the coach. Subbing on the moment of an opposition, still counts towards a team's 3 moments.

Training Opportunities

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

You may sign up at any time for all future Cal South courses, at no cost, at

<https://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/calendarlist.asp?calguid=&eventtab=current>

CORE Training at North High

The next CORE training session at North High will be scheduled for January 2024.

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 primarily consists of lectured meetings for



referees who are ambitious to rise to the elite level of Cal South refereeing or just want to be better in the field. Occasionally, physical trainings on the field will be added to selected training sessions. Referees attending this event are expected to come prepared with items customarily taken to the field on match days (i.e., whistle, cards, flags) as well as material for classroom (i.e., current 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.

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, which you can download from <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 close to recording this presentation and it will be available on demand very soon.

In addition, under the leadership of our assignor, Gabriel, we are launching a new members' training program to provide all new members with the knowledge and confidence to begin their refereeing career. The vast majority of new members will not be assigned to games until they have completed this training. New members should look for an invitation to the next session.

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

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>).

Mentor In-Person Course (Cal South Corporate Office)
Saturday December 9

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 you have 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 we repeat a tip as many of us can use this reminder 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. 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 or 6 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.

Reminder, play is restarted with a dropped ball after the ball hits the referee **only** when:

- it touches a match official, remains on the field of play and: a team starts a promising attack, or
- the ball goes directly into the goal, or
- the team in possession of the ball changes.

For more on the Dropped Ball, 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 for the most recent meeting for approval by the Membership at our next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next Monthly Membership Meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 28, 2023, starting at 7:03pm** at our regular location - North High School Cafeteria. We look forward to seeing you there!



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes October 24, 2023

1. Call to order - 7:11 pm
2. Approval of September 2023 Meeting Minutes, Motion made by Logan Couig, seconded by Barry Giberman, approved by acclamation.
3. Monthly Training - Arturo Angeles "12 Ways to be a Good Referee." Arturo showed various match clips and commented on them, highlighting positive attributes to be a "Good Referee." These included:
 - a) Honesty, respect etc. the same as what makes a good person in general.
 - b) First a referee needs to be available and reliable. They accept the games they get realistically.
 - c) They are physically fit (mobile, keep a good position, speed appropriate for the game), but within limits of what a person can do.
 - d) They keep the players safe, keep the game going and finish the game with all players.
 - e) Understand the tactics of the game, know the laws of the game.
 - f) Concentrate on the game at all times.
 - g) Be a problem solver and have clear communication with everyone.
 - h) Have good mechanics, and good non-verbal communication.
 - i) They can see the details as much as possible and read the game. They recognize a set play and can anticipate what might happen (corner kick, free kick near the penalty area, throw-ins near the goal area).
 - j) Recognize key moments in the match, learn from mistakes and practice to get better.
 - k) They need to have a technical mind and quickly analyze the situation using the Laws of the Game. They listen, discuss, and get the call right. Recognize when to apply advantage and not, depending on the level of the game and the abilities of the players.
 - l) Referees need to care about each game they do.
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a) Financial Statements for the quarter ending September 2023 - In the Treasurer's absence, the President read the Treasurer's Report and displayed the Balance Sheet and Income Statement for the Members to see. The report, together with the Financial Statements may be accessed on our website.
5. President's Report
 - a) Game and Referee Count Analysis - A chart, attached hereto, showing the number of games refereed, the number of referees who were assigned to those games this season and the increase/(decrease) in both numbers compared to the comparable weekend days in 2022 was displayed. In response to JJ's question as to any observations the members might have, a member noted the declining number of referees and the number of games from the earliest weeks of the season to the most recent weeks. JJ and GG explained that fields had to be given back to the leagues due to insufficient number of referees over the last few weeks. Multiple members contributed to the conversation that followed. GG appealed to members who are members of other referee associations to choose our local games rather than traveling to distant fields for games of a similar level to those SBSRA offers. GG shared that the reputation of SBSRA continues to



strengthen and that he anticipates us being invited to do semi-pro level games in the near future.

- b) Board Meeting - September 2023 - the only significant matter discussed was the annual UCLA Business School tournament. We used to provide the referees when a prior assignor had the relationship with the tournament. Subsequently another association provided referees. Chris Nevil found out they had not used professional referees the last few years and the Board decided on terms to offer the tournament for SBSRA to provide referees. The proposal was declined by the School, citing the costs to be too high for the tournament.

6. Vice President's Report

- a) ROL Update and SafeSport - 138 in Arbiter, 131 on the ROL. SM noted that members fall off the ROL due to SafeSport certification expirations. In those cases, SM notifies members, allowing them a short grace period (one week) to respond and fix the issue(s). If he does not get a response or the condition is not cured by then, they are made "Inactive" in Arbiter until they reappear on the ROL.

7. Secretary's Report

- a) SBSRA Membership Report
 - i. Full Members - 111
 - ii. Probationary - 20
 - iii. Non ROL - 4
 - iv. Honorary - 2

8. Assignor's Report:

- a) Cal South Update - Fitness Test was not done this past weekend due to the venue not being available, next one is on November 13, and a make-up one on January 13.
- b) Game Expectations for the Next Few Weeks - unless more members make themselves available in future, we will need to return games to the leagues. Repeated give-backs may result in us losing fields and having less games to assign to members.
- c) CORE Training - Next training is scheduled for November 16. JJ noted that these sessions are indoor only, they have stopped doing the outdoor sessions.

9. Member-At-Large Report

- a) Supplemental Reports - These have been getting better recently; providing just the necessary details in the narrative section, i.e., time of incident, identifying the players/administrators involved, a description of their actions, the decision made by the referee and misconduct applied using the Laws of the Game terminology. JJ reminded members that examples of reports are on our website in the "Laws & Guidance" section. He reminded members that if they wanted to share further details the way to do it was in the covering email - please don't embellish the report narrative.

- 10. Other Business - Although SBSRA does not cover high school games, JJ was asked to speak about the CIF/SCSOA issue. Most importantly, he noted, individual schools are soliciting individual referees to officiate games and we need to be in solidarity as we will all benefit. A lively discussion about the current fee structure and CIF-SS refusal to work with the SCSOA representatives followed.

- 11. Adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Warren’s Howellers and Some Things to Think About

He Probably Just Wanted to Have a Friendly Chat (Recent News Item)

(CNN) — A soccer player was “forcibly removed” after entering the match officials’ locker room after the [Major League Soccer](#) (MLS) playoff game between FC Cincinnati and the [New York Red Bulls](#). The incident occurred after Cincinnati defeated the Red Bulls on penalties on Saturday.

“After the Nov 4th NYRB/FC Cincinnati match, a player gained unauthorized entry into the Officials’ locker room & was forcibly removed by stadium security while acting in an aggressive & hostile manner,” the PSRA said in a [statement](#) on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Multiple reports, including from the Cincinnati Enquirer and The Athletic, said that the player involved was Cincinnati center-back **Matt Miazga**, who had wanted to speak to referee **Victor Rivas** after receiving two yellow cards during the game.

Maybe SBSRA Will Give Out These Shirts To Us Next Time?





At Least Here's One Problem We Do Not Have at SBSRA (Recent News Article)

October 1, 2023 (Reuters) - Video Assistant Referee (VAR) officials **Darren England** and **Dan Cook** have been replaced for two games this match week after Liverpool wrongly had a goal disallowed in their 2-1 Premier League defeat at Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday.

Liverpool went down to nine men as **Curtis Jones** and **Diogo Jota** were sent off in the feisty clash, before an own goal by **Joel Matip** sealed a stoppage-time win for Spurs.

The Merseyside club thought they had taken the lead in the first half through **Luis Diaz** who got behind the defense and fired into the bottom corner past goalkeeper **Guglielmo Vicario**. However, the goal was ruled out by the referee for offside.

The referees' body, the Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL), later admitted it was the wrong decision to disallow Diaz's effort, blaming human error, and "should have resulted in the goal being awarded through VAR intervention".

In a statement on Sunday, the PGMOL said: "Darren England, VAR on the Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool fixture, and Dan Cook, (assistant VAR) on the same game, have been replaced for the Nottingham Forest v Brentford and Fulham v Chelsea matches today and tomorrow night respectively.

You Make the Call



Is this a type of harassment?

"I know in my heart that soccer was good to me, and great to the world....I saw, time and again, how the sport improved countless millions of lives, both on and off the field. For me, at least, that's why soccer matters." (Edson Arantes do Nascimento, Pelé, debuted for the Brazilian national team in 1957 at age 16. He scored a hat-trick in the 1958 World Cup semifinal against France and two goals in the victory over Sweden in the championship game.)

----- Keep 😊 Smiling and Be 📱 Safe! -----