



SOUTH BAY SOCCER REFEREE ASSOCIATION

(Also known as Soccer South Bay Referee Association)

GUIDELINES

Updated July 2021

Introduction - This document serves as a ready reference source of information into the workings of the South Bay Soccer Referee Association (SBSRA), which consists of a group of independent contractor referees. The Guidelines provide required information to both new members and existing members so the Association, through its members, can provide our customers with the best service possible.

Topics covered - Joining SBSRA; Membership Dues; Membership Roster; Bylaws; Board of Directors; Meetings; Availability and Match Assignments; Leagues Serviced by SBSRA; Referee Responsibilities and Duties; Game Fees; Registration and Certification Requirements; and Other Important Matters.

I. JOINING SBSRA

How to join - If you are a soccer referee and you wish to join SBSRA and you are currently USSF certified, Live Scan-approved and would like to join our dedicated group, you need to complete the following steps utilizing the tools on our website;

- a. Submit a new membership application,
- b. Pay your new member dues and
- c. provide a completed W9 (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>) to the Treasurer at treasurer@ssbra.org

Alternatively, meet us as a guest at our next general membership meeting, which is held on the last Tuesday of every month at North High School in Torrance. The SBSRA Board would be happy to help you understand and guide you through the process; just contact a Board Member directly.



How to submit a new member application - Applications for membership should be completed online at sbsra.org/association/nma/. If you experience any difficulty, please contact the SBSRA Secretary.

What happens next - Each application is promptly evaluated, references verified, and then voted on by the association's Board of Directors. The prospective new member will be notified of the Board's decision by the Secretary. In the event you are not immediately accepted for membership, your new member fees will be returned with an explanation and recommend actions to improve your chances of being accepted the next time you apply.

II. MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual dues - Annual Dues are set by the Board of Directors.

New members - The current dues for new members are \$140 payable upon application to join the Association. Of this amount, \$40 is a new member administrative fee which is used for items like new member orientation/training class, assessment/evaluations, and other expenses related to on-boarding new members. To remain in good standing, new members must attend training and assessments as scheduled by the BOD. The BOD will determine appropriate action to address any member who fails to complete training and assessment requirements, in a timely manner.

Returning members - The current Annual dues are **\$100** for returning members in good standing with a valid e-mail address, and **\$110** for returning members in good standing without an email address. A Returning Member is a member returning to the association in consecutive years or who has not been away from the association for more than five years. A Returning Member Application needs to be submitted to the Board each year by June 30th. The Board will review all Returning Member Applications for continuing membership each year. A referee returning after being away for more than five years is considered a new member. Any unpaid membership or other fees will be added to the current membership dues at renewal for the member to regain good standing status.

Dues adjustments - Those joining the Association from January through June of each year will have their dues adjusted based on when their membership is approved. The membership fees for these referees will be one half the current membership fees for referees who join from January through March and one quarter of the current membership fees for referees who join after March. This will bring these membership fees into alignment with the Association's annual dues schedule. There is no adjustment for the training and assessment portion of the new membership dues. There are no dues adjustments for Youth Referees. Other adjustments may be made as deemed appropriate by the Board, on a case by case basis.

When payable - Dues are payable each year by **June 1** for the following season. There is a **one-month** grace period for payment. Members whose dues are delinquent after the grace period will be dropped from the membership roster and will not receive match assignments. The SBSRA Treasurer may deduct annual dues from tournaments or other match fees payable to members by SBSRA starting in May of each year unless notified not to do so by a member. Late payment of annual dues, after the one-month grace period, i.e., after July 31st, will result in a late payment penalty of \$20.



Waiver of dues - The BOD may approve a New Member Incentive (NMI) plan waiver of dues for a member who recruited a new paying member in the previous year. A Member can only “bank” two years of NMI waivers, e.g., in Feb of 2020 a member can only “bank” NMIs waivers for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 membership years. Other waivers may be made as deemed appropriate by the Board. The NMI waiver only applies after the new member has paid for a full membership year of dues.

III. MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

What is the roster - The roster is a list of the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all members, and is updated by each member in the Arbiter system. Members are required to include all of their required information including Address, Mobile Phone Number, Email, Current Photograph, etc., and click on the “Public” button to be eligible for game assignments. “Public” allows other members to be able to see each other’s information, but is not visible to anyone else.

Confidentiality - The roster is **confidential**, and may be used only in connection with Association business. It may not be distributed outside SBSRA without **prior** written permission of the Board.

Availability - A current copy of the roster may be obtained from sbsra.org. Upon request, the Secretary or Member at Large will be glad to help anyone experiencing difficulty accessing the roster. The Board strongly encourages each member to keep an up-to-date copy of the roster on hand in order to facilitate direct contact between members for team coordination, carpooling to matches, field directions, and late arrival situations.

IV. BYLAWS

What and how - The Bylaws of the Association contain the rules and regulations governing the Association, its purposes, its makeup, meeting frequency, members’ code of conduct, uniform requirements, and general operating procedures. The Bylaws include a provision for making changes to its contents several times a year.

Availability - A copy of the current Bylaws may be obtained from our website at <https://sbsra.org/current-bylaws>. The Secretary or Member at Large can help anyone experiencing difficulty accessing the bylaws.

V. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elected Officers - Officers are elected by the General Membership for two year terms:

President	Jonny Joseph	president@ssbra.org
Vice President	Steve Morgan	vp@ssbra.org
Secretary	Jack Desmone	secretary@ssbra.org
Treasurer	Bruce Ashton	treasurer@ssbra.org
Member-at-Large	Tim Martinez	member.at.large@ssbra.org

Appointed Board Members. Appointed by the Elected Officers and ratified by the General Membership for one year terms:



Assignor (Lead)	Gabriel	assignor@ssbra.org
Director of Referee Coaching	Open	referee.coaching.director@ssbra.org
Training and Mentoring Director	Chris Nevil	training.director@ssbra.org

Board of Directors support (not Board positions)

Webmaster: **Rick Roberts** (web@ssbra.org)

Sub-Assignor (Backs-up Lead Assignor and assigns matches as directed by Lead Assignor):
Veto Galati (co.assignor@ssbra.org) - Currently assigning weeknight matches.

Emergency Assignors (Will fill in as Assignors in emergency situations as requested by the Lead Assignor or the Elected Board)

Tim Martinez (member.at.large@ssbra.org)

Steve Morgan (vp@ssbra.org)

VI. MEETINGS

General Membership Meetings (GMM) - The general membership of the Association meets approximately 10 times a year at North High School, Torrance on 182nd Street near Yukon, usually in the library (or at another venue as determined by the President).

Schedule - Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month (or a date determined by the President) starting at 7:30 pm. There is no meeting in December.

Meeting details - Dates, times, agendas, and minutes are published in the **Flag and Whistle**, the Association's monthly newsletter. Current and past editions of the Flag and Whistle newsletter are available at www.sbsra/flag-and-whistle.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) - The **AGM** is held in **June** (usually at a site other than North High School) to fill vacant/appointed offices due to officers leaving their position before their terms end and those offices that become vacant at the end of the two year term as outlined above and in section **IX ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the SBSRA Bylaws. Properly proposed Bylaw changes are also voted on by the members at the AGM. Following the AGM a party is normally hosted by the Association. The **AGM** starts at **7:00 PM** unless otherwise scheduled.

Nominations and bylaw changes - Candidates may be nominated during the May or June general membership meetings. Proposed changes to the Bylaws must be brought in writing and given to the BOD as specified in the Bylaws, with certain exceptions approved by the President.

Board meetings - The Board of Directors meets regularly (approximately once per month), and as requested by the President, to conduct the business of the Association.

VII. AVAILABILITY AND MATCH ASSIGNMENTS

Sexual Harassment and Concussion Policies - By providing availability to work SBSRA assigned matches, each referee confirms that she/he has read and understands the SBSRA



policies in regards to Sexual Harassment and Concussions as listed at sbsra.org/association/policies.

How games are assigned - Assignments are based on availability of referees, the ranking of each referee and the competition level of each particular match to enable the referee and Association to provide the best possible service to the customer. The Assignor, working with the Board, may also use other factors in determining assignments. This includes assigning more experienced referees with new referees to assist with referee mentoring and training.

Note: Membership does not guarantee match assignments. In order to receive assignments, Members must be current with their dues, be on the current year's Cal South Registered Officials List (ROL), as verified by the Assignor, provide proper availability (via blocks in Arbiter), and be a member in good standing, etc. The Board reserves the right to grant exceptions to the above policy.

Requests for availability (via Arbiter Blocks) - Before new assignments are made, the Assignor may send out a reminder email to all members reminding them to check and update their blocks. These blocks remain in the system even after the Assignor begins to assign matches. The Assignors may also receive last-minute requests to provide officials, so it is very important to update your blocks as soon as possible whenever your availability changes.

Referee availability - Each week, the Assignor utilizes the availability provided by each member based on the "Blocks" (days, times, travel distance, etc.) entered by the member. In special cases, members may also contact the Assignor by email or telephone to communicate any special requests or problems in regards to their availability for the week.

Note: Each referee needs to make every effort to ensure that the availability provided to the Assignor via Blocks in Arbiter are as accurate as possible. While the Association understands that individual referee's schedules and commitments may unexpectedly change, referees who tend to decline or not accept assignments which match their provided availability will be moved down on the assignment list to improve the reliability of the weekly assignments and assist the Assignor with providing the best possible service to the Association's clients.

Re-Assigning fee - In an effort to reduce the number of Declined Assignments, Turned-Back Assignments, and Expired Assignments a "re-assigning fee," as described below, may be assessed for any and all declined assignments, turned-back assignments, and expired assignments. This is similar to the fee assessed for a referee no-show and a service failure. Reduced turn backs will benefit both the assigning process and other members by reducing the number of re-assignments and the negative effect on members when their accepted assignments have to be changed in order to properly re-assign the declined, turned back, or expired assignments.

Members who, after being assigned matches for dates and times for which the member showed availability in Arbiter, either decline, turn back, or let assignments expire may be assessed a "re-assigning" fee of \$5.00 per assignment, which is payable to the Assignor.

Payment to the Assignor by the member shall be made by the next general membership meeting. Failure to pay the fee may impact the member's assignments. Members may request exception of the fee in writing for extraordinary causes by emailing the Member-At-Large



(MAL). The Elected Board of Directors shall rule on the request at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. The MAL will communicate the Board's decision to the member. The Board's decision is final.

Presumption of availability - The Assignor will presume that any member not blocking availability is available. It is each member's responsibility to acknowledge receipt of assignments (see procedure below) and to keep his/ her availability status current by updating Blocks in Arbiter.

Receipt of assignments - Referees receive assignment notifications via automated emails from the Arbiter system. The games, date and times, competition level, site, teams, and names of the other referees in the team are also shown in the Arbiter system. Spring league matches are assigned in the same manner. The site details where the games are scheduled to be played may be obtained by clicking on the name of the site in Arbiter and directions to the site may be obtained by clicking on the site address.

Accepting assignments - To accept (or decline) an assignment, the member clicks on the "Accept" or "Decline" button in the Arbiter system on the "Schedule" page. Members must accept or decline an assignment as soon as possible and matches not accepted by the "Accept By" date, stated for each assignment in the Arbiter system, are subject to reassignment at that time. These deadlines enable the Association to properly service our customers.

Allowing assignments to elapse is not an acceptable as members are expected to be available for matches assigned to them based on their availability, as identified by the Blocks they set up in the Arbiter system.

In the case of emergencies, the Assignor must be contacted by telephone or text message at (213) 220-3580. It is the responsibility of the referee to make positive contact with the assignor, or the co-Assignor if the Assignor cannot be reached at (310) 897-3660. Just leaving a message or a text does not relieve the referee's responsibility to cover the match. A communication from the Assignor to inform the referee that the game(s) have been assigned to another referee completes the process to ensure that we do not risk experiencing a service failure.

Failure to confirm - Failure to promptly accept one's assignments by the deadline provided by the system may lead to reassignment of matches without notice. Reassignments are required to ensure all of the Association's customer's matches are properly covered. Any Member giving back a confirmed assignment less than 12 hours before the start of the first match of the set must make confirmed contact with the Assignor via telephone or email. Failure to confirm assignments, or turned back assignments, may result in penalties and fines to the referee similar to those assessed for a no-show event and service failure, as outlined in the "Referee Availability" section above.

Confirming coverage for single-referee assignments - For all single-referee match assignments, the referee is required to phone the SBSRA hot-line (310-955-9905), at least 1 hour, but no earlier than 4 hours, before the match start time to confirm that the referee will be covering his/her assignments. If the single-referee fails to call at least 1 hour before the match start time, the Assignor may begin to locate a replacement referee. If a replacement referee is sent to the field, the replacement referee will receive the match fees regardless of who referees



the match in question. If the original referee who failed to call in, shows up to the field and starts the match before the replacement referee gets to the field, the original referee shall complete the match but will not receive the match fees. Once a referee starts a match, he or she shall complete it. If both the original and replacement referees are at the field before the match starts the replacement referee shall work the match. There shall be no disagreements between the referees, the replacement referee shall yield to the originally assigned referee if there are any differences in opinion as to who shall referee the match. The replacement referee shall contact the Member at Large to report any issues.

Failure to honor match assignments - Not showing up at an assigned match, after accepting that assignment, is considered a serious breach of conduct by SBSRA, since it results in the Association not meeting commitments to our customers. Such poor performance reflects on the Association and its membership as a whole, and may affect whether SBSRA receives future assignments from the league or tournament organizers.

Note: In cases where there are multiple, consecutive matches being played at the same field, the Association requests that the referee teams assigned to the earlier game at that field do not leave the field until they have confirmed that the next set of referees have arrived. In the rare case of a missing referee(s), the Association requests the referee(s) stay to cover that match. If they cannot cover for a missing referee, the Association requests they immediately notify the Assignor that a match is uncovered. If the referee(s) are able to cover the match and the original assigned referee shows up after the match has started, the Replacement Referee(s) shall complete the match. The originally assigned Referee(s) shall stay to work the next match if they/he/she were scheduled for multiple matches.

Sanctions for late or no-shows - **Fines or suspensions** may be levied by the Board in cases of lateness and/or no-shows, subject to appeal by the sanctioned member per the Bylaws.

Rankings - The ranking process is led by the VP. Rankings are updated at least once a year but can be updated/adjusted throughout the year to ensure they are as accurate as possible. Rankings are based on various factors, such as badge level, fitness, match management, experience and knowledge of the Laws, dependability, membership conduct, meeting attendance, participation in RPDs, and being in good standing in the Association.

Each year, the VP selects three board members and at least three general membership members to serve on the rankings committee. Both the board and general member committee members shall be rotated each year so there is at least one new board member and one new general member on the committee each year. Except for the VP, all efforts should be made to ensure no member serves on the ranking committee for more than two years in a row and any member has to be off the committee for at least one year before being selected to be on the committee again. This results in the ranking committee membership changing every year, contributing to a variety of perspectives and inputs, and rankings that contain less bias by the same committee members year after year.

Once the rankings are completed they are presented to the entire Board for review. The Board reviews the changes in the membership ranking from year to year to ensure consistency in the process and to provide feedback or questions about any specific change in a member's ranking or about a new member who may have been ranked for the first time. The ranking



committee utilizes the Board's feedback to determine if any further action should be taken. This could include obtaining additional information on the member in question, requesting an assessment, or talking to the member in question about her/his rankings. Once the rankings are finalized, they are provided to the Assignor for use in the assigning process.

Members may request their ranking at any time from the VP and the rankings may be discussed with the VP, Director of Mentoring/Assessment and/or Member at Large on an individual basis at the request of the member. These discussions only involve information about the specific member's rankings and will include feedback on how that member can improve his/her ranking. Throughout the year the rankings will be updated to include new members, assessments, and feedback on members' performances on the pitch.

VIII. LEAGUES SERVICED BY SBSRA

The Association currently serves several soccer leagues including; Coast Soccer League (CSL), Southern California Development Soccer League (SCDSL); Southern California National Premier League (SCNPL); Elite Clubs National League (ECNL); Japanese League (J-League); South Bay Peninsula Soccer League (SBPSL); Manhattan Beach 7v7; Beverly Hills 7v7; Lawndale Youth league; CSL Spring League, LA- Riot, DirectKix, ZogSports, and Mid City Academy. The Association also serves several Tournaments throughout the year and other soccer referee associations which may request SBSRA's support. A short description of some of the leagues SBSRA provides referee services is provided below followed by a listing of typical Referee Responsibilities and Duties.

Coast Soccer League (CSL) - Boys and Girls divisions from U8 to U19 playing across Southern California.

Southern California Development Soccer League (SCDSL) - Boys and Girls divisions from U8 to U19 playing across Southern California.

Southern California National Premier League (SCNPL) - The Southern California National Premier League (SCNPL) is one of the twenty-one (21) Regional Leagues which are members of the US Club Soccer. The NPL has been created to provide a unified, league-based national developmental platform with the highest level of competition in given geographic areas, and to elevate and change the competitive youth soccer landscape based upon US Club Soccer's fundamental principles.

Elite Clubs National League (ECNL) - the country's top league for female soccer players, including the nation's top 80 girls youth soccer clubs, at U13 through U18/U19.

Japanese League (J-League) - Adult Men's league playing matches in the Torrance area.

South Bay Peninsula Soccer League (SBPSL) - Adult Men's league playing matches across the South Bay area.

ZogSports – Adult league playing across the Westside and the South Bay

Manhattan Beach 7v7 - Adult Coed league playing matches in Manhattan Beach.

Beverly Hills 7v7 - Adult Coed league playing matches in Beverly Hills.



Lawndale Youth league - Youth league with divisions ranging from U7 to U14 playing matches in Lawndale.

Note: Members must be 21 years old or older to work as the Center Referee for adult matches (i.e. 7 v 7, J-League, PSL, and any adult tournament, 11 v 11 or 7 v 7, etc.). Exceptions may be granted by the Board.

I. REFEREE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

Arrival at matches - All referees are required to arrive at their assigned field at least **30 minutes** before their first match, or earlier if required by the league/tournament, to allow sufficient time for pre-match coordination, formalities and field inspection. Pre-game and post-match tasks and paperwork are considered to be an important part of the referee's duties and are to be carried out in a professional manner and as required by the rules of the particular competition.

Every referee crew member is required to carry their mobile phones up to the start of their first game or until all crew members have arrived at the field, whichever occurs first. In the event that a crew member anticipates arriving at a match less than 30 minutes before kick-off, it is her/his responsibility to contact (by telephone or text message) the other members of his or her crew to let them know when he/she expects to arrive. If this crew member is aware that he or she cannot make it to the field before kickoff, he or she also must contact the Assignor. In addition, if a member of a crew you are assigned to has not arrived at the field 30 minutes before the match, and there has been no advanced communications, the crew members at the field are responsible to contact the missing crew member. If the missing crew member cannot be contacted and is still missing within fifteen (15) minutes of kick-off, the crew members at the field are required to call and/or text the Assignor for that game. If the Assignor cannot be reached or does not respond, the crew members should then call and/or text the backup assignors, and/or Board members to ask for help obtaining a replacement official.

Messages must be left if the call is not answered. While this protocol is required in every instance of a no-show member, it is especially important to do so when the game is part of a set of multiple matches. Delivering quality referee crews in the quantity requested by our clients is SBSRA's core business. It's crucial that we all act as a team to avoid service failures. Members that do not comply with the above procedure are subject to disciplinary action, including possible fines or suspensions.

Team check-in - Referees, where specified by the league/tournament rules, collect the player/official rosters for each team **from the home team or from each team, depending on that league/tournament's rules**. The referee also collects the match fees from each team (in cash, for most games we do, or paid by the Association at a later time as described on the SBSRA Web site "Competitions" page) plus the ID cards for the players and coaches. The referees check in the home team by matching each players' and coaches' ID card to the match roster, checking off each player and coach. This roster then becomes the official match roster. Players not expected to be present must be crossed out. The referees then repeat the process with the visiting team.



During, and only during, the team check-in, if asked, referees shall show a Coach or a Team Official their Cal South Photo ID cards as proof of referee certification. If at the start or during the match the Coach(es) for whom the referee is holding their cards leave the area for any reason, and there isn't an assistant coach or other team official with the appropriate ID card, the match must be **immediately suspended and then terminated if the Coach does not return to the area**. The referee shall prepare a match report and submit it to the SBSRA Member At Large as soon as possible.

End of match paperwork - After the match, the referee must fill in the score and any necessary comments on the match rosters, including red and yellow cards issued and sign all three copies. The referee must have the coaches or team official sign the official match roster and give each team one of the rosters along with their team's ID cards **except** those of any individuals involved in violent conduct or physical assault on a referee, in accordance with current league policy. If required by the league, the official match roster is then mailed to the league by the referee along with any confiscated ID cards. For certain leagues, there may be a requirement to complete this process online, instead of paperwork at the field. **USSF match reports** - Referees have the responsibility to issue red cards when they are "earned" by the players, coaches, and spectators. The bottom line is that if you do not issue red cards when required or complete the required paperwork after issuing a red card, you are not completing the requirements of a referee nor the SBSRA requirements.

As the referee, it is a requirement that you fill out a Referee Report which is available as a fillable PDF at <https://sbsra.org/match-report> and send it to our Member-at-Large within 24 hours of issuing any red card (send-off) in any of your matches, any time there is a serious injury or any time you terminate a match. Referees are required to know the specific requirements of the league/tournament for "pulling"/ confiscating a player or coach ID card.

Referees are encouraged not to engage in after-match conversations with players, coaches or spectators as these conversations often start out as, or turn into, arguments or debates.

If a Coach or Team Official requests information about a referee after a match, the referee should provide the Coach or Team Official with the last four digits of his or her USSF ID. Do not use or show your Cal South Photo ID card at any time except before the match, during the team check in. Referees shall inform the SBSRA MAL of any issues that have arisen before, during or after a match.

Match ball - Unless otherwise indicated by league or tournament rules, the home team must supply the match ball (and any backups) and has choice of sidelines. Kickoff is determined by standard FIFA coin flip, unless otherwise specified by the league/tournament.

Laws of the Game - FIFA Laws of the Game with certain minor exceptions having to do with substitutions and duration of matches are utilized for most of the games we officiate. League handbooks or tournament rules are the final authority for match procedures.

Tournaments - SBSRA is frequently invited to officiate at tournaments of the California Youth Soccer Association-South (**CYSA-S**) at more distant locations, such as Bakersfield, Lancaster, Moorpark, SilverLakes, Capistrano, etc. SBSRA also officiates at other tournaments for various organizations from time to time.



X. GAME FEES

Fee schedule - The current fee schedule for officiating matches in the various age groups and leagues is available at <https://sbsra.org/game-fees> and is updated on a regular basis. Note that some youth tournaments pay at the standard rate, while others have other rates. SBSRA referees may be paid directly on the fields before each match or indirectly by SBSRA, in which case the Treasurer makes payment to individual members at a later time.

Tournament fees – Referee fees for tournaments are negotiated on a tournament by tournament basis. In order to ensure SBSRA members are paid a fair fee for the work they perform during tournaments, the Board reviews all tournament it is invited to support, and generally will not accept any tournament where the referee fees are below \$1.50 per minute. Exceptions may be made for tournaments with full length upper division matches, which are highly desirable games to officiate

XI. REGISTRATION AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

USSF Certification - USSF registration/certification and badges are obtained by each individual member through the CYSA-S office and the national headquarters of the USSF. Paperwork and fees go directly to the CYSA-S office. Cross-certifying from AYSO to USSF is allowed. Non-certified members **cannot** referee matches assigned by SBSRA.

Maintaining grade or upgrading – There are both annual renewal requirements and upgrading procedures that must be followed. These include USSF (Cal South) and/or SBSRA required training, written and physical fitness tests and field assessments. **Members are encouraged to upgrade to higher levels**, and SBSRA can assist in this by scheduling assessments, assigning appropriate matches, etc. **At a minimum**, all members **must** keep their certifications current. The SBSRA Board Officers will establish how new member and current member knowledge of the Laws of the Game will be determined. The yearly USSF certification requirement is one example/method. SBSRA members must retain his/her USSF certification and be listed on the current Cal South Registered Officials List to receive SBSRA assignments,

SafeSport - SafeSport training refers to the “Core SafeSport Training” created and offered by the U.S. Center for SafeSport consisting of three modules: (1) Sexual Misconduct Awareness Education, (2) Mandatory Reporting, and (3) Emotional & Physical Misconduct as well as the “Refresher” courses offered by the U.S. Center for SafeSport to all individuals who have already taken the Core SafeSport Training. USSF requires all referees to complete the SafeSport certification online.

Live Scan - Successfully completing the Live Scan process (fingerprinting at a certified location, which can be found throughout Los Angeles) is also required for any youth matches. Completing the Live Scan process is the responsibility of each Member. The Board may help by providing advice on Live Scan locations and availability. Members who have not completed the Live Scan requirement **cannot** be assigned youth matches. This does not apply to members under 18 years of age, but becomes an immediate requirement upon the member's 18th birthday.



Affiliated matches All USSF-affiliated matches require that referees be USSF-certified and wear the appropriate, current year USSF badge.

Non-affiliated matches – Referees officiating matches for leagues not affiliated with USSF (currently, all of our leagues except SCDSL, CSL, SCNPL, ENCL and all Cal South and Cal South-sanctioned tournaments) must wear an SBSRA badge. These badges may be obtained from the Member at Large at no charge.

XII. OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS

Rainouts – Match cancellations due to rain are commonplace. In rainy weather, referees may determine if their matches have been cancelled or rescheduled by checking their e-mails, the applicable league web sites, text messages, contacting the Assignor, or any other source of relevant information. Referees shall assume the match is being played if they do not receive official notification that the match has been canceled. A “no show” by a referee because “it seemed like the match would not be played” is not an acceptable excuse.

Referee attire – SBSRA referees must look (and act) professional at all times from the time they arrive at the match location until they leave. The referee’s appearance not only reflects on the individual referee but also on the Association. Referee teams must wear matching referee shirts in USSF approved colors and black referee shorts. The referee shirts must be a different color from both the teams. **Between the referee team, the field players and the goalies, there should be “five colors” on the pitch.** While the five colors is preferred, since goalies in the leagues we support are often substituted during the match, resulting in the goalie jersey colors changing during games, referees may wear the same color as the goalies. To avoid a color conflict, SBSRA referees must always have multiple color shirts with them, a minimum of three colors is recommended. With five official USSF colors available, there is no reason for all members not to be able to meet this requirement. SBSRA does not permit its referees to wear long pants while refereeing matches. Referee uniforms must be in good condition and in conformity with the rest of the referee team.

Referees must arrive dressed in proper attire. Referees shall not expose their bodies when changing their shirts in the open at the field. Due to the fact that referees often need to change shirts between matches at the field, referees should wear an undershirt or find a more "discreet location" to change their shirts. A cap generally may be worn, but only if it’s an all-black, baseball-style cap or visor with no writing or symbols on it of any kind. Additionally, SBSRA referees must abide by any and all League or Tournament dress codes. Other than time-keeping devices, wearing any jewelry is discouraged.

Referee conduct – Referees are required to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times at game sites. While levity may be appropriate between referees, care must be taken to refrain from making loud comments, which may be intended to be humorous in nature but actually reflect poorly on themselves or other referees. Humor can work to diffuse many situations and may be an effective tool for some in certain situations. However, we recommend that referees should generally avoid this technique and instead maintain a professional disposition at all times. We need to be aware that humor also may offend others within earshot, not just the intended target of the comment. The golden rule here is when in doubt, don’t!



Physical fitness – As stated in the By-Laws, it is the responsibility of all SBSRA referees to maintain their physical fitness and their officiating proficiency so they can referee the matches they are assigned in a professional manner. Referees should not accept a match or a block of matches which may exceed their physical capability. In addition, referees must notify the Assignor of any injuries or conditions which may limit their ability to perform all referee duties professionally. Referees shall not accept or work any matches while they are required to wear a hard cast, slings, or any other temporarily medical supports which limit arm or body motions. This does not include standard knee or ankle braces which provide support but do not limit motion.

Parking reimbursement – While parking fees are typical referee business expenses like gas and uniforms, SBSRA will reimburse actual, receipted parking expenses for referees officiating matches assigned by SBSRA when free parking is not available. This reimbursement will not exceed \$5 per day or \$10 per day if part of a car pool of two or more referees when arriving at the venue. Requests for car pool parking must include the names of the other referees in the carpool.

Requests for reimbursement of parking fees incurred by referees for matches which are paid by check by SBSRA shall be sent to the Treasurer by email, with a copy of the receipt included, within 7 days of the date on the parking ticket. The reimbursement amount for approved requests will be added to the referee's game fees' check by the Treasurer. Requests for reimbursement for receipted parking where game fees are paid on the field shall be made at the next regular general membership meeting or by email, as described above, to the treasurer if the member cannot attend the meeting. Parking is no longer reimbursable 30 days after the date on the parking receipt for games when referees are paid at the field.