



**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

February 2024

## **Notes from the Board**

As predicted last month, following the completion of high school playoffs this week, the club schedule is already filling up starting the first weekend of March (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>). We expect to need 50 – 60 referees that weekend so please open your blocks and make yourselves available if you have not done so already.

The great news is that we have had a flood of new membership applications which has pushed our membership over the 150 mark. The not-so-good news is that we still have a number of members who have not completed their Cal South/USSF recertification for 2024.

If you have not been very active the last few weeks/months, please ensure:

- Your equipment is all in good order – in particular that your jerseys and shorts fit properly and that they are close to their original colors,
- You do some loosening up/training/stretching to minimize your chances of injury on your return.

## **League Rules**

Recently we have become aware of members not being familiar with the rules of the league they officiate. This creates a variety of problems on and off the pitch. Members, please, check the rules of our leagues before going to the fields. Each league has a dedicated page on our website which can be found at <https://www.sbsra.org/competitions>.

In particular, South Bay Peninsula Soccer League (SBPSL) asked SBSRA to emphasize the following:

Check In:

- Each player or team official must present you with their player ID when checking in individually. The player ID includes their team name, player name and photo – see examples here ([https://sbsra.org/images/SBPSL\\_Cards.png](https://sbsra.org/images/SBPSL_Cards.png)). Make sure all match their appearance, jersey number, team name and the match report.
- **NO ID = NO PLAY– There are No Player Check-in Exceptions. No guest players, no substituting driver’s licenses for SBPSL ID cards, etc.**
- Count the number of players, number of ID cards and names checked on the match reports to ensure consistency.
- Others (i.e., spectators) may not be in the bench/substitutes area.
- Collect the game fees in cash only. No Venmo, Zelle, Bitcoin, etc.

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### **Board of Directors**

**President:** Jonny Joseph

**Vice-President:** Steve Morgan

**Secretary:** Kiku Annon

**Treasurer:** Bruce Ashton **Member-At-Large:** Stephen Resnick **Assignor:** Gabriel Goldsman



## During the Game:

- We need to strictly enforce the league's "no-bad-language" rule. Use basic sense, if the player mutters it under his breath, simply remind him to be careful not to say it any louder. If it can be heard 20 – 30 yards away, it likely deserves a caution (Yellow card) and if it is directed at anyone it deserves a Red Card.
- They want fouls called. Let's give them what they want unless it is a promising attack, close to goal, etc., when you might consider applying the Advantage provisions in the Powers and Duties of Law 5.

## After the Game:

- When completing the match reports, please ensure you complete the section concerning field conditions, missing corner flags, issues with goals or nets, etc.
- Ensure all players'/managers' cards are returned, except for sent off players. The cards for sent-off players/managers need to be mailed to the league.
- Take a scan of the match reports, which will be clearer than taking a picture. If you don't know how to scan, please ask a board member for help.
- The scanned match report must be emailed to John Moody ([jmomoods@verizon.net](mailto:jmomoods@verizon.net)) by Monday morning, **with the Member-at-Large (MAL) copied**, so he knows it has been sent.
- Any supplemental reports must be sent to the MAL and to the assignor, **not to the league**, as soon as possible and before the match reports are sent.

## Also, please be reminded for all leagues:

- 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 MAL 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 the huge demand (of many games) we need additional supply (of referees).

We created a flyer (<https://sbsra.org/ref-recruiting-poster>) 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**

At the time of writing approximately 10% our membership is comprised of female referees. Given that approximately 50% of our games are girls' games, this provides us with an opportunity for significant growth in numbers. Cal South's Referee Committee is continuing its "Female Development Initiative" 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 is 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](mailto: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 or coaches. We need to be aware of the different league requirements and ensure we comply with them.

In particular:

In cases which require misconduct reports, members are reminded to send the misconduct reports to our Member-at-Large and to 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 and refer to the **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 and **send a text to the Member-At-Large (MAL)** to alert him a report is coming.
- **Submit the supplemental report** to our MAL and the applicable Assignor (who assigned the game) who will review the report and possibly suggest edits. **Referees - 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 2023 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 one 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.

## **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://cvsa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/calendarlist.asp?calguid=&eventtab=current>



## CORE Training at North High

The next CORE training session at North High is scheduled for March 12, 2024 in the cafeteria (indoor only).

### **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 on 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 launched 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.

The next New Member Training and Orientations will take place at 5:30 pm before our next General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.



## 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>).

## **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**

The guidance provided by most leagues and referee associations is to arrive at your assigned field at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled kickoff time. This is to allow enough time to:

- Greet both sets of coaches/team managers
- Check the field conditions, in particular, the nets behind the goals
- Determine the appropriate referee jersey color and get ready to start the game
- Obtain match reports and check in teams
- Have a pre-game referee team meeting to discuss the game parameters – age group, duration of game and substitution rules
- Have a last drink, use the bathroom, apply sunscreen, etc.

Ensure you leave home/work early enough to ensure you can be on the field at least 30 minutes before kickoff!

Do you have a quick tip to share? If so, please email it to [President@sbsra.org](mailto:President@sbsra.org).





## **From the Office of the Treasurer**

Please be reminded:

- 1) **Home/Mailing Address Changes** - Provide the Treasurer with your change of address at the same time that you make the change in Arbiter,
- 2) **Checks** – Please cash these in a timely manner,
- 3) **Forfeits** - Notify the applicable Assignor and the Treasurer within 24 hours of forfeited games. This way we can ensure the applicable league is billed for the ref fees that would have been paid on the field and that the referees are paid the fees owed to them,
- 4) **W-9 form** – Every member is required by Federal law to provide a W-9 form (<https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>) to the Treasurer. We 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, February 27, 2024, starting at 7:03pm** at our regular location - North High School Cafeteria. We look forward to seeing you there!

This will be preceded by New Member Training and New Member Orientation sessions starting at 5:30pm. Attendance at these is mandatory for all new members, regardless of prior experience but all members are welcome.





## SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes January 30, 2024

1. Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm
2. Approval of November 2023 Meeting Minutes, Motion made by Veto Galati, seconded by Bill Yee, approved by acclamation.
3. Monthly Training presented by Chris Nevil on “Looking Beyond the Obvious” - situations on the field (sharp eyes and quick judgement needed):
  - a) Clip 1: After review it was seen that the defender stepped on the ankle of the attacker and the Referee issued a YC. Positioning is key.
  - b) Clip 2: Action in front of the goal especially on corner kicks. There was contact and a player went down. Discussion on foul or not, or even simulation (diving).
  - c) Clip 3: Keep looking even after contact in case of secondary action.
  - d) Clip 4: Fast and furious, but no foul.
  - e) Clip 5: Attacker ran into a defender who was standing his ground. First appearances can be deceiving, every player is entitled to their space. An opponent inserting themselves into that space is not necessarily a foul by the other player.  
Positioning, positioning, positioning is the key to being able to make good decisions!
4. Treasurer’s Report:
  - a) Financial Statements: Report for the 6 months ended December 31, 2023 was presented
  - b) 1099s have been sent out, Bruce answered some questions about 1099s.
  - c) Address Changes: Please let Bruce know, in addition to making the change in Arbiter. Arbiter does not notify him of the changes.
  - d) Stale Checks: Are void, please don’t try to cash 6 months after the date on the check.
5. President’s Report
  - a) League Updates
    - i. LA Galaxy Futsal In house program redone and those games being officiated by Galaxy coaches, the youth competitive teams will start a new season in April. We currently have a small number of adult games to be officiated each week.
    - ii. Lennox School District requested a proposal to officiate their elementary school games - 25-minute halves in June, paying \$70 per game (double headers) or \$75 per game (single games only). Proposal accepted now working through contractual details.
    - iii. Miraleste and Ridgecrest Middle Schools start their middle school games this week, preference is given to currently active high school referees, let Veto know if you are interested.
    - iv. SB PSL: Game fees raised to \$200 per game effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. We need to follow league requirements for check-in, submitting match reports and the procedures for red cards. No ID, they cannot play, not even with picture of ID on phones. If a game must be shortened due to a late start or other reason, both of the halves must be equal length. Announce the shorter game time before the game starts!
    - v. YMCA: Games have started up again in the valley – referee fees are \$65 (Thursday and Friday) and \$55 (Saturday),
    - vi. MB referee fees increased to \$50 per game.



## The Flag and Whistle

February 2024

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- vii. BH games starting at end of February, 2 or 3 games each Sunday.
- vii. SBS will require 11v11 teams to have uniforms, may take a while for implementation but may be by the summer.
- b) Board Meeting – Jan. 2024 – no additional matters discussed beyond those already on this agenda.
- c) New Member Introductions: David Flores, Saul Owone, Seth Dula, Adrian Rincon, Dan Angress, Mourad Tighiouart, Kyle Mattingly. A brief discussion of Kyle’s experience and training received in Oklahoma followed.
- 6. Vice President’s Report
  - a) ROL Update (116 on, 27 not on)
- 7. Secretary’s Report
  - a) SBSRA Membership Report
    - i. Full Members 117
    - ii. Probationary 26
    - iii. Honorary 2
- 8. Assignor’s Report:
  - a) Game Expectations for the Next Months: Game counts will go up over the next few months, email Gabriel if you want to do State Cup
  - b) CORE Training starting up again on February 12 at North High
  - c) Training for new members with little or no experience will be held monthly
- 9. Member-At-Large Report
  - a) Supplemental Reports: Please check that you are sending the reports to the correct email address and using Laws of the Game language to write the reports. Ensure all fields on the form are completed
- 10. Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 pm



## Some Things to Think About

### Does this apply to your games?

"You will involve yourself in lively circles of action and relevant, interesting communication."  
(attributed to **Faith Holiday**)

### You Make the Call – Foul or No Foul?



**According to one of our (much) more experienced (older) members:**

"Old age and treachery will always overcome youth and skill."

**Bill Shankly, great Liverpool manager, once said:**

"Football (soccer) is not a matter of life and death, it is much more important than that!"



**Looks Like a Goal to Me – Goal or No Goal?**



I can go with this:

“Referees are the law. They have a whistle. They blow it. And that whistle is the articulation of G-d’s justice.

Caption this one:



**Words of Inspiration/Wisdom**

“You can overcome anything, if and only if, you love something enough.” Lionel Messi, Inter Miami and Argentina soccer player.

“All good athletes make mistakes, the great ones learn to make that mistake only once.” Raul Lopez. Are we, as referees, able to do the same?

“I’ve never scored a goal in my life without getting a pass from someone else.” Abby Wambach

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