



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

May 2024

Notes from the Board

Congratulations!

Coast Soccer League (CSL) announced its “5 Star Referees” for the 2023-2024 season and we are proud to share that SBSRA had 13 referees recognized by CSL, an increase from the 2022-2023 season.

Bernie Towers, President – Coast Soccer League wrote “Referees who excelled in all areas during the Fall 2023 season are being awarded a “5 Star Referee” patch to recognize their positive impact on the game. The following SBSRA referees qualified”:

Asher Collar	Ian Fogel	Jonny Joseph	Marlon Bailey *
Bruce Ashton *	James Marsella *	Jorge Reyes	Teague Weybright
Craig Breitman	John Hough	Kamel Guerbaoui	Vasilios Sakellariadis
Firas Eid			

* Consecutive year recipient.

Great News!

Due to tight management of the Association’s expenditures and good budgeting processes, your Board is delighted to announce that annual dues will be decreased, again, to \$75 for the 2024 – 2025 membership year!

Membership renewal will be available on our website shortly. Please be reminded to submit your Returning Member Application (RMA) and pay your dues by June 30. Unless you instruct our Treasurer otherwise, dues will be deducted from any game fees that are payable by the Association for games refereed in May and June. July match fees deducted will be subject to the \$20 late fee.

Members who have not completed these requirements by June 30 will not be available for assignment from July 1.

Jersey Badges

Jersey badges – we have 4 alternatives (increased from 3 previously noted):

- USSF Soccer
- USSF Futsal
- SBSRA
- CSL “5 Star Referee”

Board of Directors

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



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Please ensure you wear the correct one for each game. As a general rule, most youth games will require a USSF badge (current year, next year only) and most adult games (excluding South Bay Sports 11v11 and 7v7 which are USSF affiliated games) will require an SBSRA badge. The CSL badge should only be worn for CSL games.

League Rules

Once again, we find it necessary to remind us all to visit each league's dedicated page on our website which can be found at <https://www.sbsra.org/competitions> before going out to the fields to officiate their games. If you have any questions, please check the website before asking an assignor or anyone else.

Recently we have become aware of members not being familiar with the rules of the league in which they officiate. This creates a variety of problems on and off the pitch.

In particular, South Bay Peninsula Soccer League (SBPSL) requested that we emphasize the following:

Check In:

- Before the match can begin, each team must provide a completed team sheet including the **full name of each player**
- Each player or team official must present you with their player ID when checking in individually. The player ID includes their team's name, player name and photo – see examples here (https://sbsra.org/SBPSL_Cards). Make sure all IDs 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.

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) by Monday morning, **with the Member-at-Large (MAL) copied**, so he knows it has been sent. Always ensure the MAL is copied on your email or he will follow up with you to verify your report was 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 applicable assignor and MAL immediately after the game so they know to expect your report.
- Many (most, all?) of us think we can officiate at the World Cup. However, 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/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](#)).

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](tel: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>.

While the importance of every one of these reports cannot be emphasized strongly enough, this past month we experienced another level of seriousness for their proper completion. Following an adult game, a sent off player returned after the game and struck an opponent. The referee on the game was contacted by a police detective who requested “any information regarding the involved players, including any notes or any US Soccer Federation Referee Reports.”

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 (both pages)**, 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 on what caused it, 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 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.

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 is scheduled for July 9, 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 training 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.

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

As we approach the summer months, with many hours anticipated out in the hot sun, please be reminded of the following to enable us all to be at our best and to take care of ourselves;

- Rest - it is very important to be fit but also extremely important to get sufficient rest during the week before weekend games. Sufficient sleep is imperative for us to give our bodies a chance to heal from injuries and to prepare our bodies and brains for future periods of intense physical exertion and mental concentration. Some may need more sleep than others, but we all need to ensure we get enough sleep throughout the week,
- Hydration – at a minimum, we need proper hydration to maximize our performance and to stay healthy. At a maximum, not being properly hydrated can be life-threatening. Proper hydration starts days before our planned activity, i.e., during the week preceding weekend games. Sufficient quantities of liquids, in addition to their quality, are critical. Avoid caffeine and diuretics as much as possible. On game days ensure drinks are taken regularly throughout the day – between games and at halftimes, even if you don't feel thirsty. After exercise, one should rehydrate as soon as possible (completely within two hours) with a volume that exceeds the amount of weight loss. As a general rule, one should drink at least 16 ounces after exercise to counteract the consequential urine losses incurred during the rapid rehydration process.
- Sun Exposure Protection – the sun is deadly! Dermatologists warn us about being exposed to the sun and we spend hours out there each weekend. Protection against the sun's harmful rays is critical. Wear an appropriate head covering – plain black, peaked cap, no logos please. Apply sunscreen to all exposed body areas, including the ears and backs of your hands before you start your day and periodically throughout the day. Long-sleeved referee shirts are recommended. Find a shady area to rest and hydrate between games and at halftimes. For more detailed information, please see "Sun Safety" in the August 2023 *Flag & Whistle*.

The weather gets hotter each year. A recent report stated that 2023 was the hottest year in 2,000 years (I didn't know they had thermometers so long ago, but hey....). Please take care of yourselves!

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:

- **Home/Mailing Address Changes** - Provide the Treasurer with your change of address at the same time that you make the change in Arbiter,
- **Checks** – Please cash these in a timely manner,



- **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,
- **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.

Board Member Elections

As provided for in our Bylaws, at our June meeting, we will hold Board Member Elections for the following positions:

- President
- Secretary
- Member-at-Large

The formal nomination process will take place at our May General Membership Meeting. It is important that we have a competitive process through multiple nominations. Everyone who is a “Member in Good Standing” is eligible to run and is encouraged to do so. Members may self-nominate in addition to being nominated by others.

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, May 28, 2024, starting at 7:03pm** at our regular location - North High School Cafeteria. We look forward to seeing you there!



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes April 30, 2024

1. Call to order at 7:03 pm
2. Approval of March 2024 Meeting Minutes, motion by Gabriel Goldsman, seconded by Dave Martin, approved by acclamation
3. Monthly Training – Single Referee Games by Chris Nevil:
 - a) We need to keep in mind that being a single referee presents unique challenges:
 - i. We don't have a backup plan if we can't make it,
 - ii. no help checking in the teams,
 - iii. no other Point of View,
 - iv. no help on the touchlines and goal lines,
 - v. no help controlling the touchlines
 - b) We DO have the ability to develop our skills, with some degree of understanding from the touchlines
 - c) SBSRA has a single ref call in, you should allow extra time to park and get to the field, checking in takes more time, you have no help if you forget the rules, please know the game fees
 - d) Remind coaches you are alone, you may miss close offside calls and close touchline calls but your main job is to keep the players safe. Confirm if heading is allowed (youth games) and the substitution rules.
 - e) On adult solo games try to check in the teams early
 - f) make sure the field markings are decent
 - g) enforce equipment rules
 - h) let players know about unusual field markings (cones may be used in these games as fields are smaller than the marked fields)
 - i) may have to start the clock before players are ready to start and let the teams know so that you can keep the games going on schedule
 - j) The system of control you use will probably be more or less a zig zag down the center
 - k) Try to establish and maintain a positive attitude, use humor when you can, try to thank them if they are being understanding
 - l) If you want, you can recruit club linesperson for ball in and out of play and it is best to place them only at the corners so they can call ball in and out of play on both the touchline and goal line
 - m) Enter the game results and do all reports in a timely manner
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a) Financial Statements for the 9 months ended March 31, 2024 will be posted on the web site. We are on track and the only item to note is we are doing less tournaments with a resultant decrease in amounts billed for the year thus far
 - b) Please notify Bruce if you have a forfeit along with Gabriel or Veto, as applicable, in a timely manner
5. President's Report (Presented by Steve Morgan in Jonny Joseph's absence)
 - a) Payment for rainout – Association paid referees for the first game of a rainout due to a series of unfortunate events. This was done as a one-time exception and is not intended to set a precedent for future events
 - b) New YMCA Leagues Started:
 - North Valley – game fees of \$70 per game on Sat due to their location being outside of our area
 - East Rio Vista – Futsal - \$65 per game on Friday nights
 - c) Member Misconduct involving 2 members who were admonished and informed further misconduct will result in suspension or cancellation of membership in future



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6. Vice President's Report
 - a) ROL Update and Safe Sport – Running at 140 members on the ROL, we seem to be having fewer members with SafeSport renewal issues.
 - b) 2025 Registration will open in June
7. Secretary's Report
 - a) SBSRA Membership Report
 - i. Full Members - 116
 - ii. Probationary - 21
 - iii. Non-ROL - 11
 - iv. Honorary - 2
8. Assignor's Report:
 - a) Cal South Update – Gabriel is trying to assign games a week ahead of time. Please be honest about your blocks and keep them updated. Call and text Gabriel if you have an emergency and cannot make a game
 - b) Game Expectations for the Next Few Weeks – Close to 400 games in the past month. There will be more games and soon we might be at 300 games weekly. UPSL games might be coming to the South Bay. SBSRA already has high level local games to challenge our referees who want that level of challenge
 - c) CORE Training – The Anderson brothers will be presenting
9. Member-At-Large Report
 - a) Supplemental Reports must be sent in within 24 hours to allow sufficient time for review and submission to the applicable league

Adjourned at 7:54 pm



Some Things to Think About

“The harder I practice the luckier I get.” **Gary Player**

GANDHI said:

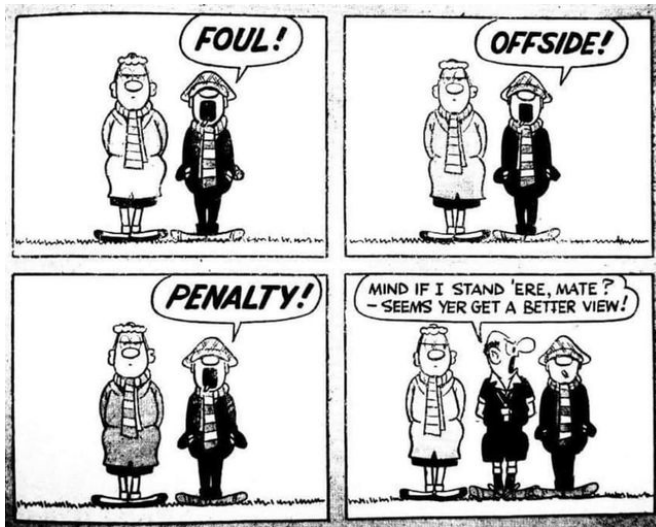
“Keep your **thoughts** positive because your thoughts become your
 Keep your **words** positive because your words become your
 Keep your **behavior** positive because your behavior become your
 Keep your **habits** positive because your habits become your
 Keep your **values** positive because your values become your

WORDS
BEHAVIOR
HABITS
VALUES
DESTINY”

“A goal is not always meant to be achieved. Often it serves simply as something to aim at.” **Bruce Lee**

Are you having a larf?

Some of us have actually tried this...



Isn't this the truth?



----- Keep 😊 Smiling! -----