



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

August 2024

Notes from the Board

It's getting exciting!

We are fast approaching the start of our 2024 – 2025 season and there are some things happening:

- Coast Soccer League (CSL) – we expect an increase in the number of games for this league based on the number of clubs/teams that have registered for the season in our area,
- Elite Academy (EA) – EA has adopted *Assignr* to communicate match assignments to all Referee Assignors who are required to use this system to assign referees. Gabriel will download the assignments from *Assignr* in an Excel file and upload the file into Arbiter to ensure referees are not improperly assigned and for us to have all of our assigned games in one place for tracking purposes. Everyone should have received an *Assignr* invitation which must be accepted to receive those assignments.
- Elite Club National League (ECNL) have implemented a digital system using the Athlete One platform for all of their games. Referees will be able to check in teams and complete the match reports, including misconducts issued, using the coaches' or their own phones. However, the USSF Supplemental Reports will still need to be completed as per Standard Operating Procedures. Further details will be included soon on the ECNL Competitions page on our website.

Membership Update

Our membership is at its highest level in many years while Cal South is still only at 2/3rds of its referee numbers compared to before the Covid Pandemic shutdown.

In total we currently have 152 members:

- 139 returning members, and
- 13 new members.

Jersey Badges

Jersey badges – we have 4 alternatives:

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

Please ensure you wear the correct one for each game. As a general rule, most youth games will require a USSF badge (current year or next year badges 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.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph

Vice-President: Steve Morgan

Secretary: Kiku Annon

Treasurer: Bruce Ashton

Member-At-Large: David Martin

Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman



League Rules

Please be reminded 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 about a league, please check the website before asking an assignor or anyone else.

A variety of problems on and off the pitch occur when members are not familiar with the rules of the league in which they officiate and are easily avoided with just a few minutes of research on our part.

In particular, South Bay Peninsula Soccer League (SBPSL) requests 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 name, player name and photo – see examples here (https://sbsra.org/images/SBPSL_Cards.png). Make sure that 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 to be 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 (**applies to all leagues**).

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!

Futsal Rules

Under the leadership of Veto Galati and Alan Siegel, Chris Nevil and Stephen McCall have worked with the LA Galaxy team to revise and update their youth and adult futsal rules. The Association thanks this group for helping to make futsal better for all its participants – players, coaches and referees.

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 that Cal South's Referee Committee created its "Female Development Initiative," which is dedicated to the female referee who is seeking support or to advance her referee license, approximately 10% the SBSRA membership was 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.

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.

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.

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 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, we experienced another level of seriousness for their proper completion recently. 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** to any of the assignors.

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 league.**
- 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 our Member-at-Large 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 September 10, 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.

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.

Novice 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**.

In addition, under the leadership of our assignor, Gabriel, we launched a new referees' training program to provide all new members with the knowledge and confidence to begin their refereeing career. The vast majority of new members may not be assigned to games until they have completed this training.

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 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



Ensure you have the following referee apps on your phone:

- New “Arbiter Sports” app (Red Background) – upon downloading and opening the app, click on “Profile” to log in for the first time,
- “CSL Referee” app ,
- “Assignr” app,
- “IFAB Laws of the Game” app.

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 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.

Referee Match Fees (2024 – 2025 Season)

By the end of August, we should have the updated referee fee schedules for most of our leagues. Please check our website at <https://sbsra.org/game-fees/> where the updated SBSRA referee fee schedules are posted. It is a best practice to:

- 1) Print a copy to have with you at games, in case there is a dispute with team managers and/or coaches, and
- 2) Visit the website periodically to check for updates.

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.

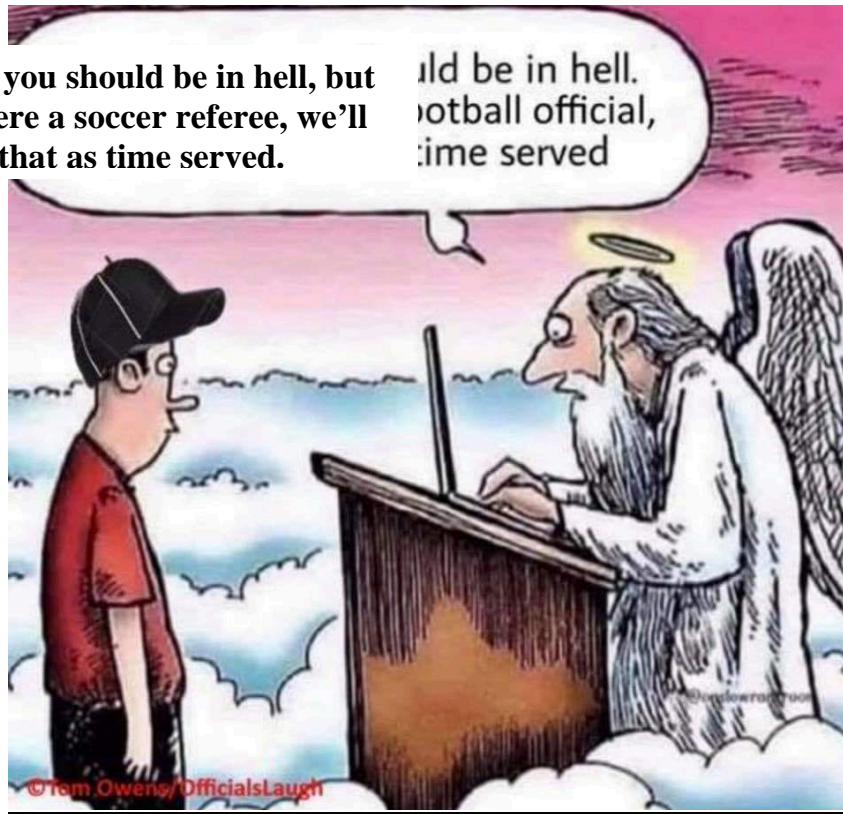
Next Meeting

Our next Monthly Membership Meeting is on **Tuesday, August 27, 2024, starting at 7:03pm** at North High School **in the Library (Note – not the cafeteria)**. We look forward to seeing you there!

Some Funny Stuff

It says here, you should be in hell, but since you were a soccer referee, we'll count that as time served.

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SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes July 30, 2024

1. Call to order – 7:10pm
2. Approval of June 2024 Meeting Minutes – Motion made by Brian Switzer, Seconded by Jo Ann Kalata, Approved by acclamation
3. Monthly Training: Gabriel Goldsman on 2024-2025 IFAB Law Changes:
 - a) Goal Line Technology – Can be communicated to the Referee’s earpiece, in addition to the wristwatch technology used up to now
 - b) Substitutes – Additional, permanent concussion substitutes can be used for players with a head injury if all substitutes have been used
 - c) Team Captains – Must be clearly identified with an identifying armband (in the future they will be the only ones who can speak to the referees)
 - d) Shin guards – Players are responsible for assuring their shin guards are of a suitable size and material
 - e) DOGSO – H – If an opponent is guilty of a DOGSO by a “non-deliberate” handball, a penalty kick and a YC is given, instead of a RC when the action is determined to be deliberate. Deliberate can be viewed as a goalkeeper type action with “non-deliberate” resulting from a player’s arm(s) being in an unnatural position. Videos of different possible handling situations were shown and a lively discussion was had
 - f) Penalty Kicks - The ball must be placed on the center of the circle or part of the ball must be covering the center of the penalty spot. Encroachment during a penalty kick is only considered IF the encroacher(s) impact the play in some way and/or score or defend because of the encroachment
4. Treasurer’s Report:
 - a) Financial Statements for the Year Ended June 30, 2024 – the Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statements as of June 30, 2024 and for the year then ended were displayed with a presentation commenting on its highlights provided by our Treasurer, Bruce. The presentation and the Financial Statements are on our website
 - b) Membership Dues Owed – Only a few haven’t paid, they have until 7/31 to avoid the \$20 late charge
 - c) Forms W-9 Needed – all returning members have provided the requested information, some new members still need to provide theirs
 - d) Address Changes – Please send to Bruce, in addition to making the change in Arbiter
5. President’s Report
 - a) Professionalism – key points to remember:
 - i. Planning ahead of time:
 - For the season – ensure Arbiter details are current – Mobile #, address and head and shoulders pictures (right side up); fitness, uniforms (two-stripe socks, normal referee shorts, no long sleeves visible under short sleeve shirts, plain black caps) and supplies, download all applicable apps.
 - For assigning – update your blocks; days, hours and travel limits. Remember the more restrictions one sets, one will have less referee opportunities. Communicate with the assignors as to your preferences. Within reason they will work with you
 - For games – travel time, location specifics, notifying your partners of conflicts/travel challenges, READ LEAGUE RULES, print referee fee schedules (lots of groovy stuff on our website, look around), ensure you have sunscreen and sufficient hydration
 - Call in for single referee games – 1 – 4 hours before kick-off
 - ii. At the game location:
 - Arrive at least 30 minutes before kick-off time (on the field, not parking lot)



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- Wear a plain black t-shirt, USSF or Cal South shirt or best to wear a SBSRA shirt while walking from your car to the field
- Look happy to be there, fake a smile if you have to
- Greet everyone you pass by. It may prevent someone yelling at you later
- Seek out coaches and team managers to introduce yourself, get paperwork and game fees. Confirm age group and duration of match. Emphasize substitution rules and procedures. Accept cash only – no Venmo, Zelle or Crypto Currency PLEASE
- Respect your fellow referees – it's not the time or place for deprecating jokes or open disagreements with on the field decisions either before or after your games
- Have a pre-game conference even if you recently refereed together
- Take care of paperwork – getting signatures after the game and returning ID cards
- Have a post-game conversation
- Enter and leave the facility as a full referee team
- Notify the Member-at-Large of supplemental reports you will be submitting later that day/next day at the latest

Most importantly - HAVE FUN!

b) Board Meeting – July 2024

i. Supplemental Reports – two issues:

- South Bay Sports – A referee forgot to retain a sent off player's ID card. At the end of the night the referee asked SBS staff for the player's name. SBS staff stated "Don't worry about it!" SBSRA worried about it next day. We need to insist on getting this information. We are required to complete a supplemental report whether the Staff wants it or not.
- Manhattan Beach – A sent off player refused to provide his name. His teammates claimed they did not know him. We need to notify the team of the need to provide the name or the game must be terminated. In this case, time was about to expire, and the other team was winning anyway. WE STILL NEED TO TERMINATE GAME!

A question was asked if the membership was fatigued with discussing the importance of completing supplemental reports in the proper form whenever required. We need to get this right!

- c) Referee Fees – this is the time of year when we get fee updates. So far, it appears there will be no changes for SoCal and CSL. It is likely other leagues will follow their leads.
- d) New Member Applicants - Jason Cooper, Seth Rosenweig, Hector Ramirez, Diane Weaver, Matthew Caoile, Yohannes Nigusie, Ben Der Gerorgian introduced themselves

6. Vice President's Report – Presented by Jonny Joseph in Steve Morgan's absence

- a) ROL Update and Safe Sport – 139 on, 20 not on
- b) Please renew your SafeSport status when you get the reminder, so you don't drop off the ROL because you forget to do it later

7. Secretary's Report

- a) SBSRA Membership Report
- i. RMAs Approved – 123
 - ii. Membership Dues Paid/Game Fees Withheld/NMIs – 134
 - iii. Forms W-9 Received – 151

Returning members were reminded that there are two requirements to continue membership:

- Submission of an RMA,
- Payment of Annual Dues.



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8. Assignor's Report:
 - a) Game Expectations for the Next Few Weeks – will be slow until September. Most leagues, including our adult leagues, will start after Labor Day Weekend
 - b) CORE Training – Next CORE training is scheduled for August 13 in this cafeteria with Juan Guzman, State Referee Administrator from Cal South presenting.
9. Member-At-Large Report
 - a) Supplemental Reports – David Martin reminded members to text or call him right after games requiring supplemental reports so he can look out for them in his email folder. He checks email often so if a member does not receive an acknowledgment from him soon after sending it, this means he probably has not received it and they need to ensure it was sent.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm