



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the South Bay Soccer Referee Association

Serving the Soccer Community since 1976



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Edited by: Alan Siegel

October 2024

Notes from the Board

We have been busy! We are working hard, on and off the field, with 975 and 855 games refereed in September and October, thus far, respectively.

Thank you to all of our members for doing such a good job out there! We are getting great feedback from the clubs we serve and from others also. We have had some challenges and our assignor Gabriel has had to pull off miracles from time to time but we are getting it done - congratulations!

Please be reminded of the following important items:

- Make connections with the coaches and team managers as soon as you can when arriving at the field. It is never too early to introduce yourself and have a few unhurried words with the people who can help us the most on the field,
- Complete match reports properly. In particular, for SoCal games ensure that the misconduct codes (on the bottom of the page) are written into the appropriate column, next to the player's name so the league knows the reason for the yellow or red card,
- Check the players' jersey numbers for duplicates during the check in. We had more than a few instances of discovering players with duplicate numbers during the games,
- Before the match starts ensure all spectators are where they are supposed to be as specified in each leagues' rules,
- Address sideline misbehavior as soon as it starts. If ignored, it only gets worse. There have been too many match terminations due to coach and sideline abuse. Let's address it early. Do not confront spectators, regardless of what the leagues' rules provide. Work with the coaches to get this addressed. Have them handle spectators, including removal from the game if needed,

As previously noted, our highest demand for referees is on Sunday mornings, followed by Saturday mornings. Accordingly, we ask that you try to make yourself available at those times as much as possible.

Jersey Badges

Jersey badges – we have 4 alternatives:

- USSF Soccer
- USSF Futsal
- SBSRA
- CSL "5 Star Referee" (for CSL games only)

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.

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/sbpsl_cards). 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.** (other than on a limited basis, from time to time).
- 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

The updated LA Galaxy youth and adult futsal rules are now available on our website at <https://sbsra.org/competitions/futsal/>. There are some significant changes for this season. Please read these and make sure the coaches are aware before starting games in the first few weeks of the season.

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," if possible.

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 7:00pm on January 7, 2025, 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**. The next New Member Training will be in **2025**.

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

This month, we focus on sideline behavior and some tips to address it proactively:

- Create a connection with the coach and team manager as early as possible after arriving at the field
- Ensure spectators are placed where they are required to be:
 - o If coaches are on opposite sides of the field, spectators must be with them but away from the AR side of the field
 - o If coaches are on the same side of the field, spectators must be directly opposite the coaches



- Engage with the coach as soon as her/his sideline begins inappropriate behavior
- If the coach cannot control her/his sideline, the coach must be cautioned
- If poor sideline behavior continues, the next step is to inform the coach the game will be terminated
- When all else fails and a game is terminated, the referee team must leave the field together
- If safety is a concern don't hesitate to call 911 for police assistance
- A USSF supplemental report must be prepared for termination of a game under any circumstances.

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)

The latest updated referee fee schedules (9/16/24) have been posted on our website at <https://sbsra.org/game-fees/>. 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, October 29, 2024, starting at 7:03pm** at North High School **in the cafeteria**. We look forward to seeing you there!

Some Words of Wisdom

“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.” **Colin Powell, US Army General and Secretary of State**

“If you want something you’ve never had, you need to do something you’ve never done”
Gary Player, international golfer and winner of the Grand Slam

"You'll come across scenarios that will only be understood after you've abandoned reason." **Holiday Mathis, author and songwriter**



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes September 24, 2024

1. Called to order at 7:08pm
2. Approval of August 2024 Meeting Minutes, motion by Larry Savell, seconded by Steve Brandon, approved by acclamation
3. Monthly Training:
 - a) Gabriel Goldsman – Lessons Learned so far this Season
 - Double check your venue location in Arbiter and know where to park by viewing a satellite picture of the location and asking teammates if this is your first time at the location
 - Know the pay rate for that game by bringing the Referee Fee Schedule from our website. Note – ensure you have the most recent schedule by checking it periodically
 - Know the rules of the competition (substitutions e.g.) – bring a copy of the rules with you
 - Know what the rules are for shortening or terminating a match. Anticipate where possible, shorten both halves equally and notify both coaches before the game begins. Note the reason for a shorter game on the match report
 - Communicate with your partners a day or two before the game if you anticipate a tight time window to get to the venue, keep them up to date when leaving the prior location
 - Talk with your partners on how to manage disruptions – address coach and sideline behavior issues as soon as they begin. Don't hope (optimistically but baselessly) that they will just go away
 - Keep your blocks up to date in Arbiter – adjust as soon as upcoming obligations or conflict comes up to avoid turn backs
 - Accept all assigned games ASAP to avoid last minute, snowballing changes that often occur when games are not accepted
 - Greet coaches at the field – creating a relationship makes it less likely that a coach will yell at you
 - Keep the games running on schedule – as we know, fields are in short supply and clubs are trying to squeeze as many games as possible onto each field
 - Don't add time at the end of a game if the score is one sided – this may be necessary to keep games on schedule. We need to use good judgment!
 - Do a pre-game, referee team discussion, especially with new partners (tailor your pregame to the experience level of your partners) but even with familiar ones. Just as a reminder – key points to cover include:
 - Level of game
 - Duration of each half
 - Substitution rules
 - Substitution procedures
 - Expectations of the ARs
 - Keep supplemental reports concise, limit the report to:
 - Time in match of the incident
 - What happened according to LOTG language
 - Clearly label who did what to whom
 - What did the ref team do, using LOTG verbiage
 - Wear the proper uniform, two striped socks, clean well-kept jerseys, all black baseball cap (no logos) if needed,
 - Bring appropriately sized zip ties, just in case the nets need to be secured to the goalposts



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October 2024

- Add your full name when texting anyone so they know who the message is coming from
- 4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a) Forms W-9 are in for all current members – well done!
 - b) Address Changes – please let Bruce know as well as changing it in Arbiter
 - c) Checks for August games are available, please see Bruce
- 5. President's Report
 - a) Board Meeting – Sept. 2024 - nothing of note to report to the members
 - b) New Member Introductions – Ramon Blanco, Bryan Peltier, Mackenzie Wright, Graeme Bates
Craig introduced themselves and were warmly welcomed by the members
 - c) Other – We continue to attract new member applications at a regular rate, but we need more members to make themselves available, particularly for Sunday mornings
- 6. Vice President's Report
 - a) ROL Update and Safe Sport – We still have members dropping off the ROL every month due to SafeSport expirations. Jonny appealed to members to react to SafeSport expiration notifications on a timely basis
- 7. Secretary's Report
 - a) SBSRA Membership Report
 - i. Full Members - 119
 - ii. Probationary Members - 27
- 8. Assignor's Report:
 - a) Game Expectations for the Next Few Weeks – Very busy weeks coming up with EA and other leagues having home games every other week
 - b) CORE Training – October 8
- 9. Member-At-Large Report
 - a) Supplemental Reports – members are reminded to notify the applicable assignor and member-at-large by text immediately after their games and to email their reports to the same people by the end of the day
- 10. Other Business:
 - a) Members spoke up about various issues such as coaches not understanding the new handball law and interpretations, and the time slots used by SoCal which can be unrealistic.
 - b) Jonny spoke about dry-fit shirt availability
 - c) Nouradine is going the Galaxy Camp and will report about it next month
 - d) Veto asked refs doing the 7 v 7 games to please enter the scores in Arbiter or send him the scores.
 - e) Jonny appealed to members who are assigned to mid-week games to contribute to the cause, so the same 7 v 7 refs are not unavailable to attend our monthly meetings each month.
- 11. Meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm