



**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

January 2025

## **Notes from the Board**

Happy New Year!

Are you ready to resume refereeing? We are confident many of us took advantage of the winter break to rest and recharge our batteries. Unfortunately, for some of us that probably meant adding a few pounds and losing some match fitness and sharpness. If this describes you, there are a number of steps you may wish to take:

- 1) Inform the assignors you may need a few lighter assignments to return to your ideal readiness for your preferred level of games,
- 2) Put in the effort now to get yourself back to where you know you need to be,
- 3) Ensure your uniform is freshly laundered, pressed and neatly folded,
- 4) Replace any uniform items that are no longer the color they were when you bought them or are no longer comfortable to wear.

There are a number of leagues and competitions that will need our excellent service soon, so excellent referees need to be ready!

We continue to attract new member applications on a weekly basis but it's weekly availability that really matters. Please check your availability to ensure it is accurate for the immediate future.

### **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 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](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.** (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. The address is on the match reports.
- 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. Always ensure the MAL is copied on your email or he will follow up with you to verify your report was sent. **Ensure you have the correct email address before hitting "SEND."**



- Any supplemental reports must be sent to the Assignor, **not to the league**, as soon as possible, but within 24 hours of the match (**applies to all leagues**).

Also, please be reminded for all leagues:

- The USSF Supplemental Report contains the following list of events requiring the completion of this report:
  - dismissal of team officials,
  - sending-off offenses,
  - serious injuries,
  - game abandonment or other substantial occurrences.

Please remember to **use your LOTG book** to use the correct technical language and to text the applicable assignor 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 available on our website at [www.sbsra.org/competitions/futsal](http://www.sbsra.org/competitions/futsal). There were some significant changes for this past 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/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Ref\\_Recruiting\\_Poster.202305.pdf](https://sbsra.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Ref_Recruiting_Poster.202305.pdf)) 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. **Please take advantage of these opportunities!**



Their hope is that the participants in the program will share what they have learned with their association 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 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 have experienced another level of seriousness for their proper completion in the past. For example, 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 Referee 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** (for all reasons prescribed by IFAB including a second caution);
  - **Serious injuries** (paramedics called, player taken to emergency room/hospital), attended to by the trainer; or,
  - **Game terminations, serious incidents, etc.**,
- Take a **copy/picture of the Match Report** and, if applicable, player or team representative cards to assist you with preparing the USSF Supplemental Referee Report later,
- 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 applicable Assignor and send him a text**, after any game that requires a supplemental report, to alert him a report is coming and so he is informed if/when the league calls him.
- **Submit the supplemental report** to the applicable Assignor (who assigned the game) who will review the report and possibly suggest edits. **Referees - do not submit supplemental reports directly to any league.**
- Following submission of the incident report to the applicable assignor, 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 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 February 11, 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 at 5:30pm just before the February Monthly Membership meeting.

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

- A**ssist, don't insist
- S**ee what the referee sees
- S**ense if the referee has a clear view
- I**nitiate "first call is left to the referee"
- S**ync to the referee's level of tolerance
- T**he extra eyes of the referee
- A**void the temptation to signal every small offense
- N**eed to act appropriately to significant offenses
- T**he flag is your voice, don't over use it

Do you have a quick tip to share? Please email it to [President@sbsra.org](mailto: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

The latest updated referee fee schedules are 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, January 28, 2025, starting at 7:03pm** at North High School **in the cafeteria**. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Some Words of Wisdom

Are you this referee?



"Next time it'll be a red card!"



---

## SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes November 26, 2024

1. Call to order at 7:05pm
2. Approval of October 2024 Meeting Minutes, Motion made by Bruce Ashton, seconded by Stephen McCall, approved by acclamation
3. Monthly Training:
  - a) Jorge Reyes (Former FIFA Referee) - Game Management, Part 2 of 2
    - i. Other Match Officials include
      1. Two ARs
      2. Fourth Official
      3. Possibly 2 additional ARs (on goal line)
      4. Reserve AR
      5. VAR
    - ii. AR skill set:
      1. Understanding your role
      2. Involvement - eye contact with CR, know what types of fouls they are calling
      3. Positioning
      4. Anticipation
      5. Priority of responsibilities (Law 11 vs Law 12)
      6. Concentration - offside line/running technique
      7. Wait and see/delay
      8. Penalty area/goal line/touch line
      9. Reaction, long ball, speed and explosive movement
      10. Peripheral vision
      11. Teamwork/communication
    - iii. Offside
      1. Responsibility of the full team
      2. Deliberate play vs deflection/rebound
      3. Gaining an advantage - deliberate save,
      4. Interfering with an opponent:
        - i. challenging - preventing - obstructing,
      5. Ball under control with possibility of:
        - i. pass - clear - gain possession,
        - ii. ball distance, speed, trajectory and time to coordinate movements.
      6. Teamwork/communication.
    - iv. When AR involvement is required:
      1. Game critical decisions, e.g., if inside or outside the penalty area
      2. Off-the-ball incidents
      3. Eye contact by the referee
      4. Referee is out of position and too far from play
      5. AR has a better angle
      6. Mass confrontation
      7. Management style of the referee
      8. Temperature of the match
      9. Goal line decisions
      10. AR can see a bigger picture



11. On a goal kick the AR needs to watch for encroachment - move to edge of penalty area after ball has been placed.
  4. Treasurer's Report:
    - a) Address Changes - Please let Bruce know
    - b) Checks for October games - Being distributed
  5. President's Report
    - a) Season/League Update - Jonny mentioned problems with some referees not calling in and showing up late or not showing up at all, and a referee didn't apply the rules properly. Fines, in accordance with our Referee Transgressions and Sanctions document were charged to the referees as these were serious service failures
    - b) Board Meeting - November 2024:
      - i. Filed 2024 tax returns
      - ii. Referees must not try to handle situations with other league's games not being on time and fields being made available to us late. Simply notify the home team's administrator/manager and notify our assignor
    - c) New Member Introductions - Nick Hyde introduced himself and was welcomed warmly by the membership
    - d) Other - State Cup will be in January at distant locations, e.g., Oceanside and Galway Downs. Fields will be accepted based on the level of membership interest.
  6. Vice President's Report
    - a) ROL Update and SafeSport - most members are NOT on the 2025 RO. Members need to register for 2025 as assignors will not assign members to games after January 1, 2025 if they are not on the 2025 ROL.
    - b) Steve also recommended members buy replacement uniforms before December 31 to include in 2024 tax returns.
  7. Secretary's Report
    - a) SBSRA Membership Report
      - i. Total Members - 154 (excludes those not on ROL)
      - ii. Number of New Membership applications this Month - 5
  8. Assignor's Report: Gabriel was not in attendance
    - a) CORE Training - Resumes in January
  9. Member-At-Large Report
    - a) Supplemental Reports - emphasis on when to issue straight red cards (especially to coaches) - Situations were discussed. Referees need to recognize that when coach dissent includes Offensive, Abusive or Insulting language or actions, it is no longer dissent and referees need to send off the perpetrators!
  10. Other Business - Veto asked that members share their Arbiter accounts so he can see when members are on high school games to enable him to assign members for their benefit.
  11. Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.
-