



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 2025

Be Careful!

As referees, our primary responsibility is safety and many of us will think of **player safety**. It is drummed into us starting with our very first classroom instructions – Safe, Fair and Fun! We have annual recertification requirements, including SafeSport, which continue to emphasize this on an ongoing basis.

But what about **referee safety**? Following are some situations to think about regarding this subject:

- Accepting games – if you have been assigned to two different field locations on the same day you must plan your trip between the two locations as soon as you receive your assignments to make sure you have sufficient time to get to the second or even third location. Racing from location to location on game day can endanger your safety and must be avoided. Notify teammates at least 1 day ahead of your game that you are coming from another location and your ETA.
- At games – mass confrontations and violent conduct incidents can be a challenge to manage. While they may come as a surprise when they happen, oftentimes we can identify warning signs after the fact. Two matters to consider are:
 - What was the temperature of the game preceding the incident? Were players exhibiting frustration, were there any minor altercations or unfriendly words or gestures between opponents?
 - What do we do when fighting starts? **DO NOT PUT YOURSELF IN A PLACE WHERE YOU COULD GET HIT!** Inserting oneself between two adversaries can result in a misplaced fist landing on you. Instead get close, quickly, but outside of their reach and blow your whistle as hard and long as you can. This will often stop the participants in their tracks.It is also **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** not to touch either participant. We recently had a referee try to stop a player punching an opponent and the referee and the culprit both fell down. Either could get hurt and the referee can place himself/herself in a precarious legal situation. Refrain from touching players, especially in these situations!
- After games – if you are part of a 3-referee team, none of you should have to leave the field alone, especially following a contentious game. We have experienced a number of referees leaving the field immediately after a game leaving the other two referees without any forewarning or explanation. If you are not parked in a similar location and there is any concern for safety, leave together and have one referee drop the other off at his/her car.

New Webpage

Thank you to Rick Roberts for creating a new [Field Map Directory](#) page. Some of our assigned field locations contain multiple fields. To assist us in locating our assigned fields, a new page was created with aerial shots of these locations and the field identifier, usually a number or letter. If you are assigned to a location with multiple fields that is not already included, please let us know so we can add it.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph	Vice-President: Steve Brandon	Secretary: Kiku Annon
Treasurer: Bruce Ashton	Member-At-Large: Tony Calandra	Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman



Minimum Membership Requirement

Following numerous missteps by members at or after games, your Board has identified a correlation between non-attendance at monthly membership meetings and service failures. Accordingly, to be accepted as a returning SBSRA member each year, members are required to attend a minimum of three of these meetings in the prior membership year. Attendance is defined as being at the meeting for the vast majority of each meeting. Arriving substantially late or leaving substantially early will not count as attendance at the meeting.

Parking at Games

SBSRA has increased the amount of parking reimbursements. We have a limited number of locations that charge for parking, most notably Historic Belmar Park in Santa Monica. Please be reminded

- Always use free parking when available even if it means walking an extra block or two,
- Send a copy of your parking receipt to our treasurer within 7 days of the game

Professional Appearance

Please be reminded to avoid the following non-compliance with uniform standards:

- Long-sleeve undershirts, of any color, are unacceptable under short-sleeve referee shirts
- The only acceptable socks are black with two stripes above the shin, around the calves
- Shorts and socks that are not quite black
- Desert style, or any other floppy style, hats with neck flaps.

DO NOT EXPOSE bare skin or underwear at the fields. Please wear an appropriate undershirt to and from the field!

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. Generally, most youth games require a USSF badge (current year or next year's badges only), middle school and most adult games require an SBSRA badge.

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.



Certified Athletic Trainers

The Elite Academy requires the presence of a certified athletic trainer at all their EA matches. This is optional for EA2 matches.

The EA Standards & Rules (2025-2026) state:

- Matches are instructed to not start without a certified Athletic Trainer (ATC) and
- If a club does not provide ATC the game will go down as forfeit and all referee expenses will still need to be paid for by the home team.

Other leagues may have similar requirements, and we need to enforce them as appropriate.

Single Referee Call-In Procedures

Please be reminded that we have revised our day of game single referee call-in procedures as follows:

- Weekday games – continue to call into our SBSRA hotline, (310) 955 9905, and select 1 to leave a message,
- Weekend games – send a text message to the Assignor, (213) 220 3580 and include the following:
 - Your Name,
 - Field Location,
 - Time of Game.

Have a Larf!

Thank you Kiku Annon for this cartoon:



Anyone else show a yellow card recently when it should have been a straight red?

Please be reminded that, in the vast majority of cases, foul, offensive or insulting language is a straight red card at youth games and mostly in adult games. In particular, Elite Academy has a list of unacceptable language that requires a red card, but it is not exhaustive!

Approval of Minutes

Included below are the General Membership Meeting Minutes for approval by the Membership at our next meeting.



SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes September 30, 2025

1. Called to order at 7:05pm
2. Approval of August 2025 Meeting Minutes, Motion made by Scott Jarus, seconded by Todd Hays, approved by acclamation
3. Monthly Training:
 - a) Gabriel Goldsman - Monthly Review:
 1. Weekend Assignments:
 - Over 900 games covered in September
 - Over 15 red cards shown
 - 3 games terminated by referees, 1 appeared unavoidable
 - RAP over the border - Examples given on what is and ISN'T referee abuse, dissenting language is not necessarily referee abuse
 - Referees' Performance - John Moody sent an email to Gabriel saying that Phil Ockelmann wrote an exemplary PSL report
 - Games acceptance - please do this ASAP, assigning is an intricate puzzle which becomes more complicated when games are not accepted even though referees were available when they were assigned
 2. Blocks:
 - Referee availability vs games - blocking too many venues (teams sometimes have trouble getting fields for a variety of reasons) and teams causes problems
 - Blocking Partners - same as above, if you have a lot of blocks, you probably lose games you would otherwise get
 - How seriously do you handle your blocks? - Do them as far in advance as possible, we know emergencies happen but not ALL the time
 - College vs clubs - Be honest and Gabriel will try to accommodate a need/want to do a college game over club games
 3. Text Messages:
 - Text in solo games (weekends only) - Please put your name and venue in the text to Gabriel
 - Text in emergencies - If you don't get a reply via text, call Gabriel and then call SOMEONE (other assignor, VP, President) until you get a response. Your responsibility is not over until you receive a response or talk to one of the above
 - Text in questions - ahead of game day, on game day it is too late!
 - Texting your partner (calling) - If you are going to be late, in advance of game day. Call when it is 45 minutes or less before kickoff time
 - RED Cards/Reports - Must be sent in ASAP, especially PSL and on Saturdays for all leagues
 4. LOTG v League Rules:
 - Checking the rules - ahead of gameday
 - Checking match fees - match fee schedule is updated on a regular basis on our website, latest update was done on September 30



- Girls Academy vs Aspire - both under same umbrella, GA is the higher level, Aspire is slightly lower, difference in substitution protocols and referee fees
- 5. New Referees (older ones too):
 - QR Code for EA games can be provided by the teams but can be located on the Modular 11 website
 - Application - CSL and EA sometimes are problematic. Delete and reinstall usually fixes all issues
 - Mod 11- no issues reported. Recommended to login to Mod 11 prior to game day. Assigned games, referee and assistant referee, will display and one can click on Match Details to check if the rosters for each team have been populated. If not already done, this is a cue to try to be at the field a few minutes earlier than planned
 - Rosters - important to do a proper check in, including verifying identities and jersey numbers and ensuring there are no duplicate numbers before the game starts
 - Picture in Arbiter - Must be in profile to receive games
 - Call the assigner to share your experience: Good, bad or ugly, we want to get each new member started in the right way
- 4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a) Address Changes - please notify Bruce directly as he is not notified when changes are made in Arbiter
 - b) Shirts are here
 - c) Checks for August games being distributed
- 5. President's Report
 - a) Board Meeting - September 2025
 - i. Long discussion on new season experiences including:
 - Need to do homework before games - field location, time needed to get between fields and league rules
 - Take care of sidelines when issues start, they are not going away by themselves
 - If you are waiting for your game, you cannot participate as a referee or provide information for the game in process
 - ii. Request considered for reimbursement to replace item stolen from the field - members need to be careful where belongings are placed during games so that they are in sight, SBSRA cannot be responsible for each member's stuff
 - iii. Issue with a member representing a club at the field and interfering with a coach dismissal. Remember - respect the association and fellow referees. Support the referee out there even if you disagree with calls. Contact the assigner afterwards to discuss, if necessary
 - iv. Membership communication before and on game day - numerous experiences of members:
 - Not informing teammates ahead of time that they are coming from another location,
 - Not being on the field 30 minutes before game time,



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- Not answering the phone when called 30 minutes before game time,
 - Trying to contact teammates with texts within 30 minutes before game time, need to call
- v. 6v6 Adult League invitation to provide referees - offered \$35. The Board decided not to pursue this further.
- b) Thank you!
- i. Members doing 9 - 11 games on weekends,
 - ii. Members stepping up in emergency situations to help out the assigner.
 - iii. Members staying after their game to cover for another referee who is on their way
 - iv. Members making themselves available, especially Saturday and Sunday mornings each week
 - v. For doing a great job out there!
 - vi. To Gabriel for doing an amazing job under a lot of pressure and difficult circumstances on a regular basis!
 - vii. To Rick Roberts for keeping the Web site updated
- c) New Member Introductions - Felix Fuglei, Spenser McGregor, Max Allred and Phil Ockelmann
- d) Other - Shirts available from Bruce and Law Books from Kiku, if ordered. JJ has a sweat suit and black caps, coins and badges
6. Vice President's Report - Steve Brandon not present
- a) ROL Update and Safe Sport - Last report showed 133 active on ROL
7. Secretary's Report
- a) SBSRA Membership Report
- i. Full Members 114
 - ii. Probationary Members 20
 - iii. New Member Applications:
 - Received this month 4
 - In progress 4
8. Assignor's Report:
- a) Cal South Update - Same as always
 - b) Game Expectations for the Next Few Weeks - Another 900 + games in October
 - c) CORE Training - Oct 14th (practical training, new format)
9. Member-At-Large Report:
- a) Supplemental Reports - Must be done the same day if possible, by noon the next day for sure. Note - please use precise language for cautions and send offs using the Laws of the Game language. Members are still using caution terminology, e.g., dissent and unsporting behavior (players) or irresponsible behavior (coaches), instead of sending off terminology, e.g., second caution. Text Gabriel/Veto and Tony immediately after your game if a report is coming
10. Other Business - none

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm