



The Flag and Whistle
Newsletter of the South Bay Soccer Referee Association
Serving the Soccer Community since 1976



Written by: Kiku Annon
Edited by: Alan Siegel, Jonny Joseph

July 2026

Start of a New Membership Year!

This is Membership Renewal Season (remember our Membership Year is July 1 – June 30):

- Submit a [Returning Member Application](#) (RMA)
- Unless Members send an email to Treasurer@SBSRA.org, dues payments will be deducted from match fees for games in May and June which are payable in June and July, respectively
- The preferred method for all other payment is by Zelle to Treasurer@SBSRA.org, less your \$50 New Member Initiative if the member who mentioned your name has submitted her/his RMA and paid her/his dues
- Dues are payable by June 30, with a grace period for receipts through July 31, with a \$20 late payment fee if paid thereafter
- The website has been updated with the appropriate forms and payment information, so please take care of this ASAP. We don't want to lose anyone but please let us know if you are not returning

NOTE - Annual dues payments must be accompanied by a Returning Member Application for Board consideration.

Reminders have been sent to all members who have not submitted a RMA and or payment. Please get this done by July 25th if at all possible so that we can have accurate counts for Arbiter, insurance and ordering of Law Books.

The next membership meeting is Tuesday, July 28th at 7:03pm in the North High Cafeteria. This is a CRITICAL meeting as Wayne Merrick will present changes to the Laws of the Game. There are significant changes (which you may have seen implemented in the World Cup) and these WILL affect our games. Wayne is also going to address the very important topic of how we as referees can be consistent in enforcing the LOTG in our youth matches but not be draconian or overly strict in implementation.

Now is the perfect time to look through your referee bag and gear. PLEASE take out and wash the jerseys you left there from last season! Consider the condition of your uniform: is it time to get a new jersey of certain colors? How black are the shorts and cap? Do the socks still stay up over the calves? If you did not already get our 50-Year Anniversary black cap, which is approved for wearing during matches, please bring \$5.00 to the July meeting to get your cap.

Take a look at your Arbiter profile. Remember you must have a picture (head only or head and shoulders shot) and a cell phone number. While you are there, think about your blocks and start blocking the things your spouse told you about (your kids' birthdays, your anniversary etc.). To my fellow women referees, ignore this – I know you are already on top of this!😂

Board of Directors

President: Gabriel Goldsman
Treasurer: Bruce Ashton

Vice-President: Steve Brandon
Member-At-Large: Tony Calandra

Secretary: Kiku Annon
Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman



Annual General Meeting 2026

This occurred, in spite of the World Cup trying to mess us up.

- Gabriel Goldsman was elected as President
- Kiku Annon was elected as Secretary
- Bylaws Amendment: Passed and stated below:

All Probationary and Full Members who pay annual membership dues in full are required to attend at least three Membership Meetings in each Membership Year. If a Probationary or Full Member fails to attend at least three Membership Meetings in a Membership Year, that Member must submit a fully refundable deposit equal to 100% of the subsequent Membership Year's Annual Membership Dues (i.e., twice the Annual Membership Dues amount, in total) before her/his Returning Member Application for the subsequent Membership Year will be considered.

This deposit will be refunded in full only after the Member has attended three meetings in the subsequent Membership Year (no partial refunds will be issued) or forfeited at the end of the Membership Year if the Member has not attended at least three Membership Meetings during that Membership Year.

Failure to attend at least three Membership Meetings in two consecutive Membership Years shall be grounds for the BOD, in the BOD's discretion, to deny any further Membership Applications from that Member. The BOD may make reasonable exceptions, on a case-by-case basis, to this membership meeting attendance requirement.

Website

Having problems signing in to our website with your password? Getting a “Can’t find php template” error?

- Step 1 – clear the cache on your device
- Step 2 – try logging in again
- Step 3 - if that doesn’t work, reach out to our webmaster Rick Roberts, at web@sbsra.org.

Parking at Games

SBSRA reimburses members for parking in limited cases. We have a small 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**.

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Professional Appearance

It is important 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 ankle
- Shorts and socks that are excessively faded or worn (not quite black)
- Desert style, or any other floppy style, hats with neck flaps.

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

Referee 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 (EA) requires the presence of a certified athletic trainer at all of their matches other than U11 and U12 (not required but considered best practice) and 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.

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Single Referee Call-In Procedures

Please be reminded of 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
- Whether you call or text, make sure you include the following:
 - Your Name,
 - Field Location,
 - Time of Game.

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Some Things to Think and Laugh about



Post



myles brown
@mdotbrown



Watching soccer is like babysitting. Nothing happens until you look away

4:49 PM · Jun 15, 2026 · **768.1K** Views



193



4.6K



46K



1K



Adetutu Balogun, MBA ✓
@Tutsy22

Subscribe



“Norway didn’t qualify for the World Cup for 28 years?”

Haaland: “I’m 25, so it’s not my fault.”



1:40 AM · Jul 9, 2026 · **3.7M** Views



562



18K



320K



3.8K



ufo
@pseudeauriche



korea playing in a pretty lavender jersey without any purple in their flag is peak looksmaxxing

6:19 PM · Jun 18, 2026 · **143.9K** Views



10



282



16K



259



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← Post



Michael Mathes
@MichaelMathes



“England historically has struggled here in Massachusetts”
— [#WorldCup](#) announcer on Fox



1:03 PM · Jun 23, 2026 · **6.6M** Views



488



8.9K



92K



2.8K



Alisha Warwick
@AlishaW1709



I’m going to miss hearing Life is a Highway every night when the World Cup ends. Been constant in my head for the last 5 weeks 😂 [#WorldCup](#)

11:58 AM · Jul 14, 2026 · **49** Views



Sharon Duce ❤️
@DuceSha



An Italian a German and a Brazilian walked into a pub.
”Where’s the Englishman?” Asked the Landlord .
“He’s still in the World Cup ” they replied.

10:19 AM · Jul 13, 2026 · **2,738** Views



8



7



63





← Post



Jeimi  
@JeimiVentura



My biggest ick on twitter is when I'm posting about the World Cup games & all I get are all these people that say "you're Salvadoran you can't support that team"

Excuse me? Babe my country would never qualify, I can support whoever's available 😂

Last edited 10:33 AM · Jul 14, 2026 · **18.6K** Views



57



32



402



10



Mario Schlosser 
@mariots



Now that there are only 6 world cup games left, I feel deep remorse that I skipped Jordan - Algeria at 11pm three weeks ago

10:34 AM · Jul 10, 2026 · **1.5M** Views



162



4.7K



73K



1.1K





OLANNA

@OlannaOli



There's an American on TikTok asking what "Soccer" players do after the World Cup, and if they have to go back to some other jobs.

One response went: "Haaland is a rapper, Ronaldo is an Influencer, and Mbappe is a General in the French army"

I have laughed so hard.

5:29 AM · Jul 10, 2026 · **1.2M** Views



260



8.2K



101K



3K



Nico

@E0_DS0_Omega



7 goals in 5 games and the man flew home carrying a taxidermied raccoon in a dolce bag. norway got eliminated and he still had the best week of anyone at this tournament

7:57 AM · Jul 14, 2026 · **8,042** Views



2



2



392



4



Swiftie Mexicana

@LaTayMexicana

Fan account



Translated from Spanish [Show original](#)

All the museums and archaeological sites of Mexico will be closed and guarded until the English leave the country.

Rate this translation:

2:05 PM · Jul 1, 2026 · **488.7K** Views



160



5.9K



46K



806





BosnianSigma
@sephirothrule34



I like how theyre tweeting about him like hes a kpop idol



pruzin paaland 🇳🇴 @gruzinhaa9lnd · Jun 17

haaland matching hairties w shirt colors is my fav thing so classy



12:45 AM · Jun 18, 2026 · 2M Views



65



6.6K



143K



2.1K



@sephirothrule34 / Via [x.com](#)



BearsShowYo
@BearsShowYo



Lowkey hilarious how every country that just got eliminated from the World Cup was completely devastated and USA fans just didn't really give a fuck LMAOOOO

8:10 PM · Jul 6, 2026 · 1.6M Views



1.3K



1.4K



42K



1.1K



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MrBeast @MrBeast · Jun 21

If USA wins the World Cup WE CALLING IT SOCCER FOREVER! FULL STOP PERIOD

15K

9.6K

91K

36M



Bumper Crop
@BumperCrop1

Translated from Spanish [Show original](#)

Well, I don't think you're going to find yourself at that crossroads.

Rate this translation:

5:44 PM · Jun 21, 2026 · 2,720 Views



81



Transfer Portal
@NCAAPortal

It is becoming more and more obvious how important home field advantage was in the Revolutionary War

ESPN UK @ESPNUK · Jun 7

England players face the impact of playing in the Florida heat



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Approval of Minutes

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

SBSRA Annual General Membership Meeting Minutes July 2, 2026

1. Call to order (at 6:40pm) - The Secretary informed JJ that more than 32 Members in Good Standing had signed in for the meeting and thus, pursuant to the bylaws, we had the minimum number of 50% of all Members in Good Standing (64 in total) to have a quorum.
2. Approval of May 2026 Meeting Minutes - motion by Bruce Ashton, seconded by Scott Jarus, approved by acclamation.
3. President's Report:
 - a) State of the Association – it's good!
 - i. Finished Year with 163 members, 137 of whom did games
 - ii. >6,200 matches officiated (similar to prior year),
 - iii. 10 referees covered 24% of the Referee and AR slots,
 - iv. 12 referees covered 10 or less games
 - v. Saturdays and Sundays accounted for most of our games, 34% and 31%, respectively
 - vi. JJ thanked all the Board Members for all their work during his 6 years to improve this Association:
 - VPs - Steve Morgan and Steve Brandon
 - Treasurer - Bruce Ashton
 - Assignors - Gabriel Goldsman and Veto Galati
 - Secretaries – Jack Desemone and Kiku Annon
 - Members-at-Large – Tim Martinez, Steven Resnick, David Martin and Tony Calandra

In addition, the following non-Board Members have contributed to our success these last 6 years:

- Rick Roberts – Webmaster, Email Administrator and Elections Manager
- Chris Nevil – Training Director and instruction
- Alan Siegel – Editor of our monthly newsletter

Others who have helped here and there. We are very fortunate to have such a great group who have contributed to our success in such meaningful ways!

JJ also thanked prior president Michael Hinz for providing a good base for us to continue building upon.

- b) Returning Member Applications – JJ reminded:
 - i. Two pieces to the process:
 - Pay annual dues through deduction from match fees for games in May or June, 50% through the New Member Initiative, payment by Zelle, check or PayPal, and
 - Completion of the Returning Member Application.

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- c) Other – JJ noted that he had suggested that members bring \$5 to buy our 50-year anniversary logo hats even though they had cost the Association more than that. JJ also noted that his 50-year logo jacket was available for \$35 and matching pants for \$30. The vendor stated a preference for orders for at least 30 jackets. By a show of hands, it did not appear that too many were interested in the jacket and pants, but they may be offered on the website.
4. Board Elections:
 - a) President – Gabriel Goldsman – 38 Yes votes, no abstentions
 - b) Secretary – Kiku Annon – 38 Yes votes, no abstentions
5. Bylaws Amendment - Three Membership Meeting Minimum Requirement – if not met in the previous year, a \$100 deposit needs to be paid at application. The entire amount will be refunded if the member attends three meetings in the following membership year. 35 Yes votes, 3 No votes. Passed.
6. Other Business – Dinner and soccer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm

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