



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

March 31, 2008

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SSBRA BOARD SHOWS WHAT IT THINKS ABOUT BEING ON TIME MIKE DEMONSTRATES THAT HE IS THE MASTER OF LAW 17 ASSISTANT REFEREE LOSES IT AT LOCAL SPRING LEAGUE MATCH

On March 25 at the monthly meeting Treasurer **Tom Mallen** wasted no time in telling us that there is currently \$7823 in the bank, and that he has plenty of checks to give out, to the approval of the Members present. The mood quickly changed however when Tom then announced that he was resigning his position on the Board, with the Members, after a stunned silence, giving him a round of applause in appreciation of his years of service. President **Ed McClure** then explained that **Steve Brandon** has been helping Tom with some extra work that has come up so that the business of the Association would not suffer.

Secretary **Warren Howell** took the floor, and asked reluctant newcomer **Valle Altobelli** to stand up and tell us a little about herself. This she was able to do, and the Members gave her a warm welcome, as expected. He then talked on about the 185 Members on the roster, renewing year 2008 USSF badges since the June deadline was approaching, and reminded all that Cal South was looking for each of us to return the survey (due 3/30) they had sent out in order to get ideas from the local USSF-certified referees.

Past President **Larry Stern** was then invited to speak, and speak he did. As a Member of the new bylaws committee, Larry told us that he wanted to amend the bylaws to make the Member-at-Large an elected position, delete the post of Past President, add an “advisor” position to the Board, have the Members ratify any appointed Board Members, form an appeals committee (separate from the Board) to hear any appeals of fines/discipline, and maybe some other stuff too.

Ed McClure then informed us that the scheduled speaker was again a no-show, but as it turned out this was not a problem. Ed then told the group about the seriousness of the growing problem of referees being late to matches, and announced that 8 Members had been fined in March for this offense and a no-show. He then explained (again) why this is such a critical issue, and, also again, stressed that each of us is expected to be at the field a minimum of 30 minutes before kickoff. He also announced that SBPSL has been complaining about late starts and short games causing them to not get the full benefit of the \$300 they pay to use the El Segundo campus fields, though this was not always the referee’s fault. **Dan Ayala, Steve Elliott, Jim Lucania** and **Paul Kelly** also shared their opinions on all this with the Members.

After mentioning that there were 2 or 3 nominees for the Sportsmanship award for next month, Ed announced that the mother of Member-at-Large **Gabriel Goldsman** had passed away the week before, and that SSBRA had sent condolences. **Manny Feinberg** of Soccerone.com then took the floor and told us about the new shirts that he would have available at the end of May – high quality micro-fiber, available in all sizes, and only \$27.50 (short sleeve) or \$29.50 (long), which were identical to the Official Sports brand but without the logo on the sleeve. In answer to a question from Training Director **Heidi Garlick**, he said that “men’s” style only would be available due to the lack of demand for women’s shirts and disagreements on how best to design them. However, he also invited any females who wanted to, to get in contact with him, and he would work with them to come up with some ideas. He also had some of his high quality socks to sell (2 pairs for \$10), which as always were snapped up quickly, and again generously donated prizes for the raffle.

It was time for training, and Steve Elliott was there to do the honors with a slide presentation. The theme was pre-game preparation, a perfect fit with the recent concern and problem of referees being late to matches. Steve encouraged us to think about our games in advance, even in the days beforehand, and to contact our team members ahead of time, so that we would really be ready. He told us to be at the field ready to go at least 30 minutes before kickoff, and then showed us why. There is a long list of things to do before a match can begin, including inspecting the field (surface, lines, sideline areas and goals), talk to the ball-handlers (this got a laugh, but you never know when they may appear), check the game balls, talk to the coaches, check your referee uniforms and colors, inspect the players/uniforms/IDs and rosters, discuss procedures and mechanics with the referee team (pre-game discussion), go to the center circle together as a team carrying the game ball, talk to the captains, toss the coin, re-inspect the nets, count the players, get in place and make eye contact with the ARs. Just explaining all of this took more than the 30 minutes minimum you should allow to actually do it all. It was stressed to do whatever you have to, to get the game played safely, using common sense and good judgment to mitigate any problems that might come up – and also, stake down the goals! The discussion was lively, with Jim Lucania, **Larry Savell, Alvar Kabe**, Warren Howell, Heidi Garlick, Larry Stern, **Suzanne Johnson, Tony Amalfitano, Veto Galati**, Dan Ayala, Ed McClure, **Lee Jordan, Pablo Diaz, Rick Duvall** and Manny Feinberg also offering comments and insights.

Assignor **Bill Cook** even got a chance to speak, and told us that State Cup was coming up in April in Bakersfield and Lancaster. He reminded us about using the Spring League assigning system to accept those games, and told us that the Manhattan Beach 7v7 league was adding teams, meaning there would be even more week-night games for us to cover, all of which caused Veto Galati and Larry Savell to make a comment or two.

As everyone was tiring and the hour was late, it was decided to call it quits for the night – but first, Tom Mallen did the honors giving away the monthly raffle prizes. The lucky winners this month were Paul Kelly, **Shawn Danbeli, Sean Ji, Chijioke Aranotu**, Jim Lucania, **James Marsalla** and **Dick Haber**.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, March 19, 2008

- Eight Members were fined for various late or no-show incidents
- **Alex Shaw** and **Pablo Solanas** were accepted as new Members
- A referee assault case was discussed, action taken
- The next Center Circle award is ready for presentation
- It was announced that a long-time Member has decided to retire from refereeing
- Tom reported on the Budget, his resignation from the Board, and various miscellaneous items
- NASO insurance discussed
- The bylaws committee has met and is making suggestions for changes
- Tom will order a legal guide book for sports officiating for the Board
- Two nominees were named for the Sportsmanship award, and a third may still be nominated
- Problems with getting SBPSL matches started on time will be discussed with the Members

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, March 25, 2008

- The Board met separately with two Members to discuss their fines for being late.
- Valle Altobelli was accepted as a new Member
- A scheduling and fee problem with the 7v7 CSUDH Baragan league was discussed
- The death of Gabriel Goldman's mother was discussed, SSBRA to send condolences



Referee **Grzegorz Gilewski** makes his decision at a recent UEFA match (news photo)

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, 3620 182ND ST. (AT YUKON - SEE SSBRA.ORG FOR DETAILED MAPS), WHEREIN BEVERAGES AND FOOD ARE PROHIBITED BY THE SCHOOL. AGENDA TO INCLUDE NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY, PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES SUBMITTED IN WRITING, OTHER ASSOCIATION BUSINESS AND TRAINING.



Goal-keeper **Antti Niemi** can't stop this one (English Premier League news photo)

The Reports, They are a Changin' (new FIFA memorandum, submitted by Lee Jordan)

A Circular (No. 1137) recently received from FIFA's General Secretary emphasized the importance of referee match reports in properly evaluating acts of misconduct for any further response by FIFA's Disciplinary Committee. The issues raised by the Circular are equally important for the professional leagues, high level youth and amateur leagues, and major tournaments in this country. The same concerns are also felt in the regional and state associations.

Although all aspects of the referee's match report must meet high standards of clarity, accuracy, brevity, and pertinence, those sections involving misconduct require special attention, and reporting on acts of misconduct leading to a send off merit the highest concern. The need for effective match reporting starts at the lowest competitive level and becomes ever more critical as the competitive level of the match increases. State Referee Administrators and State Directors of Instruction are strongly urged to ensure that effective match reporting is incorporated in their training of senior referees.

In order for Disciplinary Committees to evaluate serious misconduct, match reports must start with:

- The name of (and additional identifying information for) the player who was sent off
- The time of the send off
- The specific reason in the Laws of the Game for the send off (Law 12)

In addition, however, the referee must supply sufficient detail regarding the circumstances of the misconduct to aid in evaluating its level of seriousness. Among the factors that should be addressed, where relevant, are:

- Whether the action occurred during a challenge for the ball
- Whether the misconduct occurred at a stoppage of play or during play
- If anyone was injured as a consequence of the misconduct
- Whether there was any prior incident that may have led to the player's actions
- The demeanor of the player during the send off (including any difficulties in implementing the player's removal from the field)
- The location of the action in relation to the goal line and penalty area being attacked at the time
- The subsequent intrusion of any other players (teammates or opponents) during the time the referee is managing the send off
- The specific words or gestures which were determined to be insulting, offensive, or abusive
- The identity of the opponent or official toward whom the misconduct was directed
- A summary of the prior misconduct (or a reference to the section of the report which detailed the prior caution) preceding the second caution for which the player was sent off
- The identity of the assistant referee, fourth official, or reserve assistant referee who provided independently observed facts to the referee regarding the misconduct
- All other details of the action which materially shaped the decision to send the player off

Any other facts which a Disciplinary Committee might decide it needs as a result of its review of the match report can be supplied by the referee on request of the Committee, but the most useful information will come from a properly completed, accurate, detailed, and clear match report. Match reports provided independently by assistant referees, fourth officials, or reserve assistant referees should follow these guidelines as well.

Well, I Guess It's OK Since He Did Not Have Bad Intentions (recent news item)

A fan of Real Betis, a Spanish soccer team, pegged Athletic Bilbao goalkeeper **Armando Ribeiro** in the head with a plastic bottle full of liquid during a match. The fan was showing remorse three days later, at least through his attorney. "My client is deeply sorry," **Alvaro Pimental** told members of the Spanish media. "He didn't want to injure Armando." Ribeiro needed stitches to close a gash.

Who Wants to be a Referee? (by **José María García-Aranda**, former FIFA International referee)

In recent times, this simple question has echoed around the world. On the one hand, football is showing staggering progress, with more and more youngsters and grown-ups playing the game, whereas, on the other hand, the number of people prepared to act as a referee is in steady decline. It is becoming more difficult by the day to recruit young people to ensure compliance with the rules of the game. The task of finding new referees is difficult enough, but the job of keeping them, once they are there, is just as tricky. More and more of them are giving it up, especially those who have only recently taken it up.

It is a growing trend all over the world. No wonder that whenever refereeing administrators get together to discuss the problems confronting them, the issue of the dwindling numbers of referees is high on the agenda. You would think that no-one wanted to be a referee – or at least that no-one wanted to be a referee in the lower divisions. However, that is where they are needed most, not just because of the numerous games played, but because you cannot have formative work in football without the attendance of a referee who can teach young players or enthusiasts the rules of the game.

It is far easier to find candidates for major competitions, but experience is vital and the preparation they need is extremely demanding. In refereeing, you have to start at the bottom and rise on the strength of experiencing live situations over a long period of training. A footballer may be successful at a very young age but a referee cannot be. It is not skill, as with footballers, that counts as his ace card but, rather, experience that makes him stand out. A variety of qualifications is needed to reach the top. This long road is obviously one of the reasons why referees see their dream of reaching the top disappear. But it is not the only one. They work in difficult conditions, especially at the beginning, which is why so many of them give up.

So we should be asking what football could contribute to ensure that the number of referees grows steadily. Basically, the answer is quite simple: protection. Not just physical protection, which is more than necessary from time to time, but also short- and long-term measures to encourage acceptance of the referee and enhance his image. In the short-term, using complete training programs for referees. The referee needs to be more than an expert in the Laws of the Game – he needs to be a profound connoisseur of football itself, of why and how it functions. Open meetings with coaches and players should form part of the referee's training so that technical topics can be discussed and a process of collective learning be initiated for the benefit of everyone involved. In the long run, we must project the image to society of the referee as a sportsman, including his strengths and weaknesses, who, like everyone else, is trying to succeed in the match, not by scoring or defending goals but by enforcing the rules. And for that we need a better understanding of his work, among other things. Children who start to play football should also learn to referee, not simply to learn the Laws of the Game that they love but also, perhaps unconsciously, to

empathize with the situations that confront a referee. No doubt many years later, when they are professional or amateur players, or just spectators or sports reporters, they will have a much truer and more compassionate picture of the referee.

In any case, training young players and training referees should have much more in common. It often comes as a surprise that players turn their backs on refereeing and fail to show the slightest interest in active refereeing at the end of their careers. Some of the reasons are to be found in what we have already explained: hardly anyone identifies with the referee as a person. But if players were given a link to refereeing from the word go – a quite feasible proposition – they would both have a lot in common, especially as both player and referee have to take split-second decisions, usually under pressure. They have to integrate into a team. Preserving and improving their physical and mental state are crucial to their performance. The reasons are manifold.

But many seem to believe that society regards the player as a dazzling star in the football firmament but the referee as a black hole, and that image alone is enough to make potential candidates turn tail. In any case, it is up to us all to rectify this image. Being a football referee is a wonderful job, with educational value for young people and with very attractive components for attaining new goals. This is the notion we need to impress on the minds of an ever increasing multitude of youngsters craving for football so that when, at some time in the future, someone asks the question, “Who wants to be a referee?” we hear a chorus of “I do”.



You're Out of Here.... (recent UEFA news photo)

US Soccer Wins Algarve Cup (recent news item)

By **DIRK HINRICHS**, Associated Press
Wednesday, March 12, 2008

VILA REAL DE SANTO ANTONIO, Portugal -- **Abby Wambach** scored her 88th international goal to help the United States win the Algarve Cup for a record sixth time with a 2-1 victory over Denmark. Wambach scored the winning goal in the 49th minute, sprinting down the right flank and breaking two tackles before exchanging passes

with **Natasha Kai** and sending a low drive into the corner. Kai gave the Americans the lead with a header in the 14th, but Denmark's **Cathrine Sorensen** scored in the 30th.

The United States scored 12 goals in four games in southern Portugal, improving on its previous record of 11 in the 2000 tournament. The Americans and the Danes went 3-0 in group play without giving up a goal ahead of the final. It was a rematch of last year's title game, which the Americans won 2-0. Kai headed in a cross from **Carli Lloyd** to put the Americans ahead, but Denmark kept up the pressure and leveled when Sorensen controlled the ball on her chest and volleyed a shot past goalkeeper **Hope Solo**.

Norway upset Women's World Cup champion Germany 2-0 in the third-place game. **Melissa Wiik** scored in the 41st minute and **Mariann Knudsen** added the other in the 50th. Sweden finished fifth by beating Italy 2-0, and Iceland defeated Finland 3-0 to take seventh. China overcame host Portugal 5-4 in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw for ninth place.



Abby Wambach takes one for the Team from Denmark's GK **Heidi Johansen** at the Algarve Cup (news photo)

Maybe George Heggie or Steve McCall Can Help Explain This One (recent news item)

John Boyle, chairman of the Motherwell soccer team in Scotland, seemed outraged at the continued oppression of drunk soccer fans. Boyle said the ban on alcohol at Scottish soccer matches – enacted after riots during the Scottish Cup 28 years ago – was “absurd,” adding, “this situation is absolutely ludicrous and football fans are discriminated against.”

Shooting Death of Fan Sparks Riots (recent news article)

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (March 15) - A Velez Sarsfield fan was shot and killed as he traveled to Saturday's game against cross-town rival San Lorenzo, setting off riots that led to the match's postponement.

Emanuel Alvarez, 21, was shot as he took a bus with other Velez supporters to San Lorenzo's stadium in southern Buenos Aires to attend the Argentine league's Clausura tournament match, Velez club president **Alvaro Balestrini** told local media. The shot apparently came from a car that intercepted the bus. Police are still investigating the incident.

As news of the shooting spread, Velez supporters in the stadium reacted violently and tried to break through the retaining barriers and enter the field. Police sought to prevent them and referee **Hector Baldassi** suspended the match. The Argentine Football Association will decide later this week when to play the match. Another game Saturday between Gimnasia de Jujuy and Lanus also was postponed because police could not guarantee security.

Argentine soccer has a history of violence. Last June, one fan was killed, 14 were injured and 78 people were arrested in clash between fans of the Nueva Chicago and Tigre clubs.



Referee **Overbo Henning** Sends a Player Packing at Recent UEFA Match (news photo)

Quote of the Month (taken from a recent news article)

"Some people would like progress to leave them alone until they die."

Dancing with the Stars, uh, Soccer Players (submitted by W. Howell)

It was a pretty Sunday in Culver City, and referee **Mike Clifford**, along with AR **Marty Jeffers** and the referee some know as AR **Bluto** had a Spring League BU11 match to do. All was going well in the first half, and, after some action down near the goal line, Mike called for a corner kick in one of the corners away from the ARs. As player "A1" started to take the kick, a wave of contrary and confusing advice was shouted at him by various

spectators, coaches and teammates, with the result that he only kicked the ball about 2 yards before it came to a stop, with no one close to the ball except himself and Mike. A defender from the other team, "B1," was the only other one on the field beside A1 and Mike who knew what was going on, and he ran over to the ball, with everyone else standing around doing nothing. At this point an interesting play developed, with A1, getting no help from his teammates, trying to shield the stationary ball while B1 was only willing to touch it if he could get clear possession. With neither player being willing to touch the ball first, no one coming over to help, and Mike gazing at this action from a few yards away, it looked at first somewhat like the players were, oddly, given Mike's background, doing an Irish jig around the ball. After a while they started movements not unlike a Finnish folk-dance called the "humppa," and then they started prancing around in what appeared to be more or less a Texas two-step. This went on for quite some time, but eventually the sharp-eyed Mike detected that player A1 did finally touch the ball with his foot, and he correctly blew his whistle for a second-touch indirect kick for the B team. Though the rest of the players and coaches still did not have a clue as to what was going on, player B1 knew what to do and kicked the ball up the field.

Stadium Brawl Leaves 78 Wounded (recent news article)

By **JAIRO ANCHIQUÉ**, AP

BOGOTA, Colombia (March 9) - A stadium brawl at a soccer rivalry game left at least 78 people wounded in the Colombian city of Cali late Saturday, 18 of them with stab wounds, emergency officials said. A rivalry between two soccer teams turned ugly Saturday night when a fan brawl broke out at the stadium, leaving at least 78 people wounded in the Colombian city of Cali. Emergency officials say 18 people were treated for stab wounds. Clashes broke out among America de Cali's "Red Baron" fan club in the 82nd minute of the match with Deportivo de Cali and spread onto the field and around the Pascual Guerrero stadium. Police fired tear gas as the brawlers lit firecrackers and tried to tear down fencing separating the stands from the field. Eighteen people were stabbed during the melee, said **Manuel Infante**, spokesman for Cali's Emergency Prevention Committee. They were treated at the stadium and taken to a local hospital. Another 60 suffered bruises and other minor injuries. A young pregnant woman and three police officers were among the wounded, the Red Cross said.

Tensions flared over referee **Wilman Roldan's** decision not to call a penalty kick against Cali. America protested the no-call, players traded blows on the field and America coach Diego **Edison Umana** got into the fray, elbowing his Cali counterpart **Daniel Carreno**. Cali Mayor **Jorge Ivan Ospina** called Umana "directly responsible" for the violence and said the stadium's stands would be closed temporarily. Umana had harsh words for the refereeing later in comments published on the Web site of El Tiempo newspaper, but said there was "no excuse" for his behavior. "It's my fault, and if I have to leave soccer I'll go," Umana said.

Fans of the two Cali squads have had frequent clashes in the past, though less serious. "This cannot happen again," vowed **Juan Carlos Abadia**, governor of Del Valle department. The chaos led Roldan to whistle an early end to the match, which Deportivo won 1-0 on a goal from defender **Freddy Hurtado**.

Don't Let This Happen to You (submitted by W. Howell)

On a recent Saturday at a local Westside park a trio of SSBRA referees were officiating at a Spring League BU11 match – James Marsala was doing his duties as an AR, another Member who will be referred to here as AR **Lost-in-Space** (for reasons that will become apparent shortly) was on the other side. and the referee known to many as

the **Large Member** was doing the honors as the center referee. The first half went well, with all the participants and spectators having a good time without any problems, and everyone took the usual halftime break. This being the last match of the day, AR Lost-in-Space got on his cell-phone, no doubt lining-up a hot date for later that evening, and was still talking when it became time for the second half to begin. With L.I.S. waving to James and the L.M. that he would be ready in a second while continuing to talk on the phone, they took their positions, James on the touchline and the L.M. in his accustomed spot in the center circle. At this point everyone noticed that Lost-in-Space was running around frantically in the referee area, looking for something. After a few minutes he yelled over that he could not find his flag (!). Despite the L.M.'s suggestion that he look for it, well, uh, where **Billy Cooke** often says to keep it, and to also search the surrounding trees and bushes since sometimes flags wind-up there, Lost-in-Space could not find it anywhere. Worse, since he did not have a spare, and James and the L.M.'s bags were locked in their cars, he did not have a replacement available either. Finally, with everyone from both teams looking on, and fearful that L.I.S. would start waving a shirt around in lieu of the lost flag, James ran over, unlocked his car, and handed him a spare flag, at which point L.I.S. had to run to the far side of the field before the second half could begin. Afraid that the referee team had now had its reputation (not to mention credibility) shot, the L.M. worked extra hard in the second half to keep the game together, which he was able to do. At the final whistle, the SSBRA team retired to the referee area, with Lost-in-Space mumbling and shaking his head about what happened to the lost flag. The mystery was soon solved, as it was quickly spotted in plain view lying on the ground about 6 inches to the left of where L.I.S. was sitting during the breaks. Unimpressed, James and the L.M. had a few pointed words to say, and then packed up and headed home for the day.

Here's a piece of equipment we might want to try in the Beautiful Game...



“ ... And if pepper spray has no effect and he continues to argue the call, slap him with a technical foul.”