



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

February 28, 2013

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

Editor: Warren Howell

www.ssbra.org and Facebook

President: Warren Howell	Vice President: Ralph Quiroz	Secretary: Chris Nevil	Treasurer: Steve Brandon
Assignor: Bill Cook	Training Director: Larry Stern	At Large: Vince Delmonico	

SSBRA BOARD IS DEPLETED LAWSUIT IS SETTLED SPRING LEAGUE IS STARTING

Only four Board Members were at the February meeting, with **Bill Cook**, **Larry Stern** and **Warren Howell** being absent at the 7:30 start time. It was reported that Bill and Larry were at the Spring League kick-off meeting. No reason was given for Warren's absence, though there was a rumor that he was on a secret mission for an unnamed government agency. To no one's surprise, **Ralph Quiroz** was able to step in and run the meeting without a hitch. He started off by telling us that Spring League was starting, go to their web-site (getting the password from Bill if necessary) to get your games. That bit out of the way, newcomers **Donat McKenley**, **Reza Tabatabai**, **Justin Carelli** and **Gabriel Pitts** were all introduced, and welcomed with the usual SSBRA round of applause.

No longer able to restrain himself, **Veto Galati** took the floor, and suggested that the SSBRA assignment page be blocked to non-Members. This started a discussion, various Members using the opportunity to voice an opinion or two. Not to outdone, **Vince Delmonico** stood up to speak, and told us that the lawsuit between a player and Manhattan Beach, from a two year old game, had been settled in favor of Manhattan Beach. He gave most of the credit for this to a good referee report from the game, and reminded everyone to get those reports in quickly and accurately.

No doubt taking his cue from Vince, **Steve Brandon** then decided that he had a few words to say. He reminded one and all that ssbra.org has a lot of useful stuff on it, and then made some excuse or other (something about lost and re-submitted invoices) for not getting the latest Manhattan Beach checks out yet (apparently the check is NOT in the mail this time). Moving on to other matters, he suggested that all Members carry a current roster to their games, be on site at least 30 minutes before the scheduled kick-off, and to start making calls if a partner is not there when he/she is supposed to be.

It was time for the formal training to begin, and our old friend **Chuck Acocello** from Cal South was there to do the job. Alas, due to some unexplained confusion on the part of SSBRA, the video equipment he requested was lacking. Soldiering on, Chuck made his presentation anyway, and did a fine job of it. He had a lot of useful information to share about concussions and what to do about them. His points included the fact that injured players should be moved off the field when it is safe, the game should be stopped immediately, defenders get more concussions than attackers, young people get them more often than older folks (a point that pleased a number of the Senior Members present), and, per **Dr Howard Chait**, always be alert to delayed onset of symptoms. After going over the special State/National Cup procedures for concussions, a general discussion on the same topic broke out. Naturally there was a difference of opinion among the Members as to the referee's role in all this, and many in the crowd had a chance to let everyone know what they thought, with **Michael Hinz** being particularly thoughtful in expressing his views on the subject.

Bill and Larry then made a late, though dramatic, entrance, and everyone got to hear about the latest Spring League stuff. Some of the points raised were: the number of teams is down about 20%, the league (NOT the teams) will pay an extra \$5 for single games, and use the SSBRA availability system only. The league is non-competitive, standings are not kept, players are often borrowed from other clubs and up from other age brackets, referees can keep or discard the rosters after the game, pull ID cards for violent conduct or referee assault (and send them and a report to Cal South). DSL may also be having a Spring League later on, we will have to wait and see.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, February 12, 2013

- The missing of a game assignment by a Member was discussed and action decided on.
- The SBS/PCSR situation was discussed for a long time and a plan to deal with same was made
- Bill told us about a recent incident that developed when some games were moved and SSBRA was solicited to cover a match
- Warren reported that, while the State Cups were getting covered just fine by SSB RA Members, the instructions they were receiving the last couple of week-ends were unclear and contradictory
- Steve related that the 1099s were done, except for one with a bad address. He also said there was some money in the treasury, for an undisclosed amount (see report below)
- Two members had submitted suggestions for helping our continuing efforts to improve the quality of our referees. This segued into a general, and lengthy, discussion about the various steps we could take to meet this goal and how to pay for it
- Warren stated that he would not be at the March meeting. He also said the newsletter was still in progress
- The ranking system was talked about, with some wanting to re-introduce the system Larry created some years ago that was later abandoned for the current system
- By reviewing current SSBRA status and history, it was felt that the Association is overall strong and in good shape. Of course we should continue our constant efforts to improve, as we have for many years, and be alert to head off problems and potential problems.
- There was another discussion of individual assignments and referees

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 2013 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE CAFETERIA OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, 3620 182ND ST. (AT YUKON - SEE SSBRA.ORG FOR DETAILED MAPS). IT IS NOT IN THE LIBRARY, AND WILL BE LED BY RALPH QUIROZ. THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS, NEWS ABOUT THE STATE AND NATIONAL CUP TOURNAMENTS, SPRING GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS, TRAINING AND, NO DOUBT, THE EXPRESSING OF OPINIONS BY MEMBERS IN THE AUDIENCE ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS.

He Touched Many Lives and Will Be Missed

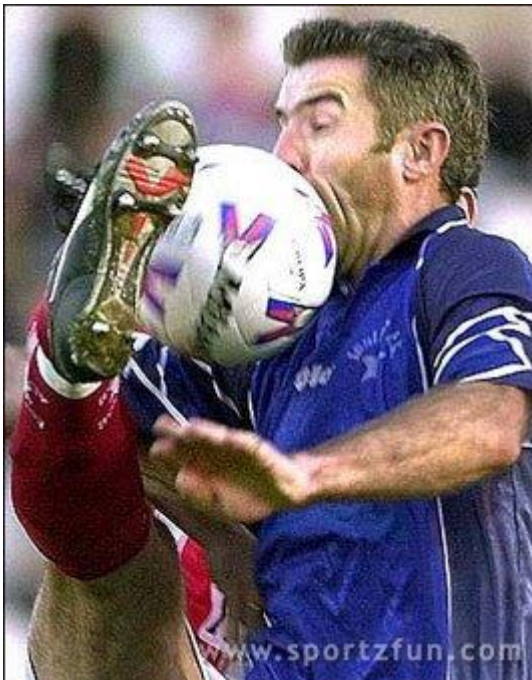
“Please bless my children, my parents, and my family and loved ones... I hope they live long, happy, healthy lives....and may they know the value of family, the power of love, and have a passion for life. May all these people be good, caring, decent, happy, moral, respectful, responsible people with the attributes of honesty, character, and integrity. May they be hopeful, always positive, and have a positive outlook.”

- **Coach Dave Sanchez**, November 29,1953 – February 20, 2013

Eventually This One Was Blamed on Soccer Referees

“Is approaching asteroid the result of global warming?”

- CNN News Anchor **Deb Feyerick**, questioning scientist **Bill Nye**



I checked, and there is nothing in the LOTG against this

Thought of the Month

Look around and you will find the greatest treasure of all, friendship

- Fortune cookie

OMG!

Dutch football fans hurled a barrage of racist abuse at AZ Alkmaar and U.S. striker **Altidore** during a Dutch Cup quarterfinal against second-tier FC Den Bosch at The Hague. The racism was all the more shocking as it came just weeks after Dutch football authorities pleaded for more respect at all levels of the game following the death of a linesman after he was attacked by players after a match between two youth teams near Amsterdam.

- News item



Here is how the ladies play defense in Finland

Say it Ain't So

Soccer is the world's most popular sport. And it appears that it is one of the most corrupt as well. Europol said 425 people, including game officials, players and criminals, from at least 15 countries were involved in fixing soccer games in Europe alone dating to 2008. "This is a sad day for European football. It is clear to us this is the biggest investigation into suspected match-fixing in Europe. It...has uncovered a big problem for the integrity of football in Europe" according to **Rob Wainwright**, head of Europol;

- News item

Quote of the Month

“It is hard not to argue that a simpler life with more exercise, fewer processed foods, and closer contact with our children may well be good for us.”

- **Tasha Eichenseher**

Can't We All Just Get Along?

Three Argentinian soccer players were banned for six years and four others for one year after an assault on referee **Dario Fuenes** during a game in November 2012. After **Leandro Schiavi** was shown a second yellow card, he and his teammates crowded the referee and began beating him, with Schiavi kicking the official in the head after he had gone to the ground.

- News item

Refs: In the right spot, at the right time

By Randy Vogt

I have seen many soccer games when the referee made an important call -- sometimes correctly, sometimes incorrectly -- and loud dissent followed since the ref was 40 yards away from the play. Just as with phones, long-distance calling can be very expensive. The preventive officiating technique is to be fit enough and to hustle each game so that you are close to the play. Should the ref blow the whistle far from the foul, the ref needs to continue running toward the foul so it could look like he or she is closer to the foul than when the whistle was blown.

Teams are much more likely to dissent from referee decisions when the ref is far away than with the same decision when the ref is 5-10 yards from the ball. After all, presence lends conviction.

Take a recent older girls youth soccer game that I was refereeing. Blue dominated play for most of the game but yellow scored two goals late in the second half to lead 2-1. A blue attacker, the left forward and the team's best player that day, then dribbled up the touchline and when she was five yards inside the penalty area, there was some contact between her and the defender. But I was just five yards away and determined that a trip had not occurred. It would have been denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity if a foul had been whistled as well as a penalty kick for the penal foul. But because I was five yards away and the team was sporting, nobody argued the non-call and a player and the coach remarked after the game, a 2-1 loss, that they thought the game had been officiated very well.

The referee's diagonal that he or she runs goes from corner flag to corner flag. In nearly every game played in the United States, the diagonal is from the left forward's position on one team to the left forward's position on the opposing team. But I like to think that the referee's positioning isn't a diagonal as much as it is a modified version of a half-open scissor -- corner flag to corner flag and penalty arc to penalty arc. The referee is not a slave to this positioning, but it is a rough guide to follow, especially for the newer referee.

A rigid and inexperienced ref could run from corner flag to corner flag and miss a number of fouls by adhering exactly to this positioning. Worse, a lazy, unfit or fatigued referee will run from penalty arc to penalty arc and miss even more fouls as well as some of the assistant referee's signals.

In the games I have officiated plus observed recently at all levels, I've noticed that the referee has done a good or at least an adequate job when he or she can get to the left of the left forward *on occasion* and the ref did not officiate the game well

when he or she was *always* to the right of the left forward. How interesting that a little extra amount of running can make the difference whether the game was refereed well or not.

Getting to the left is important as fouls by the left touchline (near the corner flag and penalty area) should not be missed plus experienced players will know that the ref is there and watching them. Also, the ref will be facing toward the assistant referee and could see the AR's signals clearly. Many of the AR's signals for offside are missed when the ref is standing in the middle of the field, the ball is played to the left forward and the ref does not turn to look at the AR. When the ref is to the left of or even behind the left forward, this is not a problem. Plus I also believe that teams dissent less when they see that the ref is hustling.

(Randy Vogt has officiated over 8,000 games during the past three decades, from professional matches in front of thousands to 6-year-olds being cheered on by very enthusiastic parents. In [Preventive Officiating](#), he shares his wisdom gleaned from thousands of games and hundreds of clinics to help referees not only survive but thrive on the soccer field. You can visit the book's website at www.preventiveofficiating.com)

- Submitted by Ralph Quiroz

Let's Hope You Do Not Feel This Way Too Often

“If my life were an NBA game, I'd be in garbage time.”

- **Kevin Fagan**



Do you see it now?

Wouldn't a Simple Coin Flip Have Done the Job Better?

Forty-two penalty kicks were needed for Temecula Great Oak High to defeat Redondo Union High in a girl's California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division II playoff match, after the teams drew 0-0 in regulation and overtime

- News item



I am sure this would be a poor time to call "advantage".....

Soccer South Bay Referee Association
Income/Expense Comparison by Category
7/1/2011 through 01/31/2013

Category Description	7/1/2011 - 1/31/2012	7/1/2012 - 1/31/2013	\$ Difference	% Difference
INCOME				
Interest	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	n/a
Membership Dues	4,208.00	4,204.00	(4.00)	-0.10%
Fines - Referees	-	-	-	n/a
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 4,208.00	\$ 4,204.00	\$ (4.00)	-0.10%
EXPENSES				
Assigning Expenses	-	-	-	n/a
Checks & Bank Charges	-	-	-	n/a
GAMES - ADULTS				
7 v 7 Leagues	(335.90)	(367.49)	31.59	-9.40%
No-shows	-	-	-	n/a
Tournaments	(66.15)	(165.90)	99.75	-150.79%
Other Games	122.00	5.00	117.00	95.90%
TOTAL GAMES - ADULTS	(280.05)	(528.39)	248.34	-88.68%
GAMES - YOUTH				
No-shows	-	-	-	n/a
Tournament	510.61	367.55	143.06	28.02%
Other Games	(85.04)	317.35	(402.39)	473.18%
TOTAL GAMES - YOUTH	425.57	684.90	(259.33)	-60.94%
Insurance	674.00	674.00	-	0.00%
Meetings	1,314.27	914.00	400.27	30.46%
Miscellaneous	-	2.00	(2.00)	n/a
Stamps & Supplies	30.80	7.65	23.15	75.16%
Parking & Exp Reimbursement	468.00	375.00	93.00	19.87%
Office Supplies	118.48	96.97	21.51	18.15%
Tax Notices & Reporting	149.58	99.99	49.59	33.15%
Telephone & Fax	252.00	252.00	-	0.00%
Training	296.97	120.00	176.97	59.59%
Web Site	350.00	350.45	(0.45)	-0.13%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 3,799.62	\$ 3,048.57	\$ 751.05	19.77%
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ 408.38	\$ 1,155.43	\$ 747.05	182.93%



Some pictures speak for themselves