



# The Flag and Whistle

## Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

March 31, 2013

P.O. Box 10466, Torrance, CA 90505

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[www.ssbra.org](http://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	

**MEMBERS, AFTER BEING TOLD MANY TIMES, DO NOT KNOW WHERE TO GO  
THE NOMINATIONS, THEY ARE A-COMING  
SUMMER IS COMING TOO, AND SO ARE THE TOURNAMENT GAMES**

After a plethora of rumors, the monthly meeting was held in the library of North High after all, though **Larry Stern** and **Warren Howell** were apparently among those who never did find the right venue. No matter, once again **Ralph Quiroz** showed he was more than capable of leading the meeting in their absence. He quickly reminded all those present that the April meeting would be where nominations and proposed bylaw changes could be made for the May AGM. This will be for Vice-President and Treasurer in the normal cycle, and a special election for Secretary (**Ralph**, **Steve Brandon** and **Chris Nevil** being the current incumbents, respectively).

Going through his agenda items, Ralph reminded everyone that Warren was still handling the web-site, Facebook and newsletter, and was, as always, looking for any help anyone wants to give for those. **Veto Galati** has organized a group buy of **Randy Vogt's** "Preventive Officiating" at a substantial discount. Ralph then went on to explain that the Board was in the process of changing initial Membership training and fees in order to continue to improve the quality of the services provided by SSBRA, which was received positively by those present.

Our long-time fellow Member and friend **Manny Fineberg** of Soccerone.com then had a few words to say about all the good stuff he had available to help us get ourselves properly equipped. **Vince Delmonico** said a few words about this and that, including telling the new Members to pick-up SSBRA patches and coins from him. He also assured everyone that SSBRA was still doing all the good stuff it has always done, and making sure that any Members that misbehave are shown the error of their ways. Chris also said some words, and then it was time for our Assigner, **Bill Cook**, to take the floor.

Bill got right to it, revealing the news that **Leo Umana** (a Cal South leader) was complimentary about our work at recent State Cup matches. Bill told us that there were fewer State Cup matches overall than in the past, and more associations (29) sharing them than ever before, so there were fewer for SSBRA, even though we continue to impress by our performance. He then, to no one's surprise, said that both CSL and DSL were moving games around etc., with a lot of last minute changes – this is and always will be the nature of these games, and we will always have the challenge of keeping up. Beverly Hills 7v7 continues, Lawndale is starting, tournaments are starting, and we have the South Bay Force tournament to look forward to in July, our goal being to once again cover it 100% with SSBRA referees. There may also be an invitational tournament the week-end before that, which would make for a lot of July matches for our Members. Veto, who apparently has a life outside soccer (who knew?) asked for a tentative list of summer tournaments for planning purposes, which Bill supplied (see below).

**Wayne Merrick** from Cal South, a familiar figure to most of those present, then took the floor for training on Law 4, player's equipment. He reminded us that:

- Check the basics, shoes, shorts, shirt, shin-guards, stockings
- Undergarments must be of the same color as the uniform
- Tape on socks must be the same color as the socks
- Shin-guards are to be age-appropriate size and covered
- Use common sense with keeper jerseys
- Wrap knee braces in something for safety
- Keep referee jewelry to a minimum
- Religious wear, including full burkas, are allowed
- The 4<sup>th</sup> official.....oh well, never mind
- Organize the pre-game inspection: chaos is bad
- Check head gear and allow if it is not dangerous
- Tape religious and medical jewelry
- Snoods are unsafe (what is a "snood" anyway?)
- Referees have final say on safety

Steve Brandon then caused many an eye to roll by stating that Manhattan Beach and Eagles tournament checks were in the mail, or would be soon, or something. He did give out some nifty stuff in the raffle, and everybody went home.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, March 19, 2013**

- A couple of applications for Membership were rejected
- Had another discussion about the state of SSBRA. All agree that the Association is in great shape, and that we should continue our efforts as we have for many years to always improve the job we do
- It was agreed by all that we should be even more transparent than we already are, even to the point of boring the Members with mundane activities. Otherwise people make up stuff that is not true (a couple of recent examples were brought up)
- A guy was late to a match recently, his partners, and him, should have called sooner to let everyone know. Action agreed to

- Warren will be out of town for the March meeting, Ralph will have to cover. He is handling the web-site as best as he can with help from **Gabriel Goldsman** and **Jonny Joseph**. No big problems, just the usual learning curve so far
- Lawndale is good to go, but requires extra liability insurance
- Veto is handling a group book buy
- The regular discussion on accepting new Members and ranking/handling old ones went on for quite some time, as usual
- The Board agreed to bring back “Larry’s” ranking system from some years ago to replace the current one
- Agreed to handle new Members more strictly, will put the pieces in place and make announcement to the Members on this and related matters
- Steve wants everyone to file a W-9. He has the 1099s out for everyone. He had one Member disappear, no SSN, no address etc., and filed for him according to IRS rules anyway. He supplied a report, our finances are in order

## **NEXT MONTHLY MEETING**

**THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, 3620 182<sup>ND</sup> ST. (AT YUKON - SEE SSBRA.ORG FOR DETAILED MAPS). THE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE ASSOCIATION BUSINESS, NEWS ABOUT THE STATE AND NATIONAL CUP TOURNAMENTS, SPRING GAMES AND TOURNAMENTS, TRAINING, AND NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD POSITIONS OF VICE-PRESIDENT, TREASURER AND SECRETARY, AND A (POSSIBLE) SURPRISE ANNOUNCEMENT.**

To: All Members (from Bill Cook)

As promised, here is a list of this summer’s potential tournament dates. These are tournaments that we normally are asked to help with although, with the exception of the 2 South Bay Force Tournaments, we never know for sure how many fields, if any, that we will be asked to cover.

### **APRIL**

04/06 thru 04/21 STATE CUP OLDERS GOVERNOR  
 04/13 thru 04/28 STATE CUP OLDERS PRESIDENT  
 04/21 thru 05/18 NATIONAL CUP  
 04/27 thru 04/28 SIMI VALLEY SPRING CUP YOUNGERS

### **MAY**

05/04 thru 05/05 SIMI VALLEY SPRING CUP OLDERS  
 05/25 thru 05/26 CONEJO VALLEY UNITED CUP

### **JUNE**

06/15 thru 06/16 SJC SWALLOWS CUP

### **JULY**

07/13 thru 07/14 SLAMMERS CUP

07/20 thru 07/22 SOUTH BAY FORCE-ADIDAS INVITATIONAL  
07/27 thru 07/28 SOUTH BAY FORCE COASTAL CLASSIC  
07/27 thru 07/28 EAGLES SUMMER CLASSIC

### **AUGUST**

08/10 thru 08/12 UNITED CUP  
08/17 thru 08/18 WEST COAST CLASSIC (8-10 FIELDS)  
08/24 thru 08/25 ORANGE COUNTY KICKOFF CLASSIC  
08/24 thru 08/25 1000 OAKS INVITATIONAL  
08/31 thru 09/02 BLUES CUP (ALL GIRLS)  
08/31 thru 09/02 SIMI VALLEY LABOR DAY CLASSIC

### **NOVEMBER**

11/09 thru 11/10 UCLA ANDERSON CUP

As you can see, some of the dates do overlap so I may take a couple of fields from each tournament depending on how much availability I am shown.

When I do announce that I have been given a certain number of fields then you must be sure to give me your **CORRECT** availability for that weekend as that is how I determine how many fields I can take.

Getting 16 sets of games turned back after they had been assigned will not be acceptable. I try to get everyone as much work as I can but I **MUST** have your correct availability.



You're gone, but you two can stay....

# The Many Benefits of Refereeing (submitted by Ralph Quioz)

By Randy Vogt

When I was asked to lead a discussion on "The Many Benefits of Refereeing" to help recruit refs at the recent Long Island Junior Soccer League Convention, it was easy to put together many talking points, such as:

**Refereeing is fun.** To some refs, the fun comes from running up and down a soccer field with the players and being outdoors. To others, the fun comes from controlling the game so the participants can play to their potential. Whatever floats your boat! I must be having a good deal of fun on the field as many spectators say to me, "It's nice to see a smiling ref," and I have such fond memories of the teams, players and coaches I officiated through the years.

**Refereeing is very healthy.** To reach your potential as a referee, you must eat right and train around your games. Partly because of this, I am very healthy and the fittest 50-year-old on my block. Which came in very handy during the Northeastern U.S. snowstorm last month. The two feet of snow was too much for some snow blowers, including mine. It took me most of the day but I shoveled a 50 yard x 5 yard driveway. My four surgeries from injuries -- two hernia operations, knee meniscus surgery and an operation to repair a chipped bone -- were relatively minor affairs and not the major operations that some others my age are facing. But no matter how many fruits, vegetables and egg whites I eat and how many hills that I run up and down, I can retard but certainly never halt the aging process. And it's important for a ref to dress appropriately to the weather to remain healthy.

**Refereeing teaches discipline.** In order to have time to referee and train for it, a ref needs to be very disciplined and organized to budget the time to devote to refereeing. All those weekends of waking up at 6 am and those days of driving hundreds of miles to attend clinics certainly teaches discipline. Some of the people who quit refereeing say that they did not realize how much time it takes. Plus there's a great deal of discipline -- and a twinge of sadness -- in sticking with an assignment after a much better game from another assignor to be played at the same time comes along.

**Refereeing helps you in human relationships.** After successfully managing a game with 22 players, running a department of a company could conceivably be easier. Many refs I know are quite successful in the business world.

**Refereeing makes you cool, calm and collected.** The referee can never lose his or her cool when everybody around the officials are losing theirs. Successful refs are cool, calm and collected and bring that approach to other aspects of their lives.

**Refereeing helps you learn foreign languages.** Unfortunately, English is the only language that I speak fluently. Yet I studied French and Italian in high school and college. Unlike most students who have forgotten just about everything, I can do relatively well with both languages today because of the French and Italian that I hear on soccer fields. I also understand some Spanish and Portuguese since they're also Romance languages and I've watched games being broadcast in those tongues. Before I refereed in what was the Soviet Union, I learned some basic Russian that I still remember. As some players and coaches have learned the hard way, don't think you can speak in a foreign language and expect me to understand nothing.

**You are paid to referee.** I used to call the money that I earned from refereeing on weekends "my lunch money" as it did not do much more than pay for lunch every day of the week. But soccer continued to grow and there were more games to referee. The money I earned from different organizations increased by roughly the inflation rate every year. Around the turn of the millennium, some college conferences increased game fees to recruit the best officials. Facing a referee shortage, other groups followed and the increase filtered down to the youth leagues. But I should point out that I'm not going to become rich from refereeing as it's simply an avocation and I'm paying close to \$1,000 every year in membership fees for different referee organizations as well as uniforms.

**Part of what you earn is pride.** Yes, I've refereed many games but I have more pride in the fact that I hustled in every

game I officiated. Part of the pride that I feel about my officiating career now comes from the fact that some well-known athletes took shortcuts to maximize their performance and break records while my colleagues and I, far from the limelight, simply put on our uniforms to go out and referee and hopefully make a difference in the players' lives.

**You meet wonderful people.** Maybe the best part of officiating after doing it for the past 35 years is people greet me by name on the street and say they remember me decades after they stopped playing soccer. I've even been friended on Facebook by people who I officiated in foreign countries a generation ago.

My life would not be as happy, or nearly as full, if I didn't referee on weekends as soccer has been very, very good to me. I encourage anybody thinking about taking a referee course to sign up and keep an open mind of the many wonderful things that refereeing can bring to your life.

*(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 [preventiveofficiating.com/](http://preventiveofficiating.com/))*

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Tuesday, March 12, 2013

**FEEDBACK:** Send comments to [letters@socceramerica.com](mailto:letters@socceramerica.com). Please include your first and last name and hometown.



Look out!



## It Does Seem To Go That Way Sometimes

“Football is a simple game; 22 men chase a ball for 90 minutes and at the end, the Germans win.”  
- **Gary Lineker** after losing the 1990 World Cup semifinal to Germany on penalties.



Time for the referee to get involved

## New Guidelines

...in athletics, the American Academy of Neurology has new advice aimed at limiting the damage from a blow to the head: Take the player out of the game or off the practice field when a concussion is suspected, and delay his/her return to play until the all-clear has been issued by a medical professional skilled in diagnosing and treating brain injury....neurologists urge coaches and trainers to be conservative in applying those rules....Even the best tests for mild traumatic brain injury may detect only 4 in 5 concussions.....Amateur players with a history of multiple concussions or with symptoms that persist should be warned that continuing to play puts them at greater risk of developing “permanent or lasting” impairment...”

- news article, written by **Melissa Healy**



“I beg to differ...”

### **Thought of the Month**

“You’ll get dressed up appropriately and show up where expected with an attitude of service.”

- horoscope



## Icicle Kicks (from Sports Illustrated)

**The U.S. won a snowy qualifier—the latest instance of home field gamesmanship**

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**If the** NFL has the Ice Bowl and the Tuck Rule game—epic contests remembered most for polar conditions and the resulting mayhem—then soccer got its own version last Friday outside Denver. In a World Cup qualifier that began with flurries and concluded in a near whiteout, the U.S. beat Costa Rica 1--0 in what will forever be known as the SnowClásico. "It's some of the most difficult conditions I've ever had to play in," said forward Clint Dempsey, whose 16th-minute goal made the difference. "In the second half the snow was coming up to your ankles."

While the U.S. was ecstatic to pick up a much-needed three points going into Tuesday's qualifier at Mexico, Costa Rica coach Jorge Luis Pinto called the decision not to suspend the match "an embarrassment." On Monday, FIFA confirmed that it had received an official protest from Costa Rica asking for the game to be replayed from scratch.

The protest seemed unlikely to succeed—both teams played in the same conditions, and the referee and the match commissioner allowed the game to continue—but it added another chapter to the history of gamesmanship in regional soccer competitions. In February, Honduras scheduled its kickoff against the U.S. at 3 p.m. local time, the better to take advantage of temperatures in the 90s. (Several U.S. players looked exhausted early in the game, which Honduras won 2--1.) Over the years U.S. Soccer president Sunil Gulati has told his Mexican counterpart that the U.S. would schedule its qualifier between the two teams in Mexico-friendly Los Angeles if the Mexicans would stage the return match in low-lying Monterrey instead of in Mexico City, where the altitude is 7,940 feet. (The Mexicans never bite, so the U.S. has put its game in frigid Columbus during the winter in previous World Cup cycles, leading the rivalry to be called La Guerra Fría, the Cold War.)

Some wags joked that Costa Rica would now stage the September return match against the U.S. inside a volcano, but the fact is the Americans have faced far more difficult conditions and poor-quality fields over the years at qualifiers in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean—and, it should be noted, they have never filed a protest. But give the U.S. and Costa Rica credit for doing what they can to seek an edge. Even if the Costa Rican protest fails, it adds to the amusing back-and-forth between CONCACAF rivals. And these days, Uncle Sam is trying to give as much as it receives.

### Quote of the Month

“The older I get, the better I was”

- **Barry Mano**, Referee magazine