



# The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

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## OLD MEMBER GETS A CHEER FOR TAKING ON A NEW POSITION MEMBERS ARE TOLD HOW TO MAKE THE GRADE THE LARGE MEMBER SHOWS HIS STUFF

A large crowd shuffled into the North library at the end of February for the monthly meeting, no doubt to show their approval of the appointment of **Ralph "Worst Ref in Town" Quiroz** to fill the new position of Mentoring Director. Not to be outdone by all the attention being given to Ralph, **Warren "Bluto" Howell** started telling everyone about the complimentary things said about our Members by the organizers of the Riot Squad friendly tournament, who are very pleased with what we have done. After mentioning again that the number of "friendly" matches continues to grow and that they are a great way to showcase what a fine job we do to the soccer community, he told us that **Bill "Grampa" Cook** would not be present due to a Spring league meeting, and that **Steve "Check in the Mail" Brandon** was in D.C. testifying before Congress, or tracking down SSBRA checks that had gone astray, or something else.

It was announced that the financial statements of the Association would from now on only be available via the web-site Financial page, which can be accessed via the Member sign-on - this will make them available while also keeping them somewhat confidential. Warren then talked about SSBRA contracts with the various leagues, and that Spring league was starting (editor's note: the number of games in that league will be down significantly this season). He then launched into a speech about the new USSF grade requirements. With **Gabriel "Mario" Goldsman's** help, it was explained that it would now be much easier to get a grade 7 badge (no fitness test nor assessments needed), grade 6 becomes the "State" referee, and grade 5 is now "National Candidates" only, whatever that means. It looks like the main idea is to have more current grade 8 refs upgrade to grade 7, and possibly grade 6, while keeping the higher grades tough to get.

Our friend and fellow Member **Manny "Best Stuff in Town" Fineberg** then reminded us of all the great referee equipment he brought to the meeting for sale, and many of the Members were seen to be busily taking him up on the opportunity (he also contributed some equipment that will be handed out at a later raffle). Getting in the spirit of the evening, **Steve "I Am Not English" McCall**, in his role as SBPSL liaison to SSBRA, told us that the league was quite satisfied with the job we were doing, and mentioned that we should watch out for player and sideline profanity, as it does happen and can result in the league losing fields if the neighbors complain.

Ralph then told us that he was forming plans for the Mentoring program. Ready to take his turn, **Michael "Waikiki Mike" Hinz** addressed issues of game management and crowd control. He pointed out that, while this is nominally under the coach's control, often times the referee team has to step-up and do what is necessary to keep things in line. Gabriel also suggested that a threat to throw out EVERYONE if an offending spectator does not leave etc. can be a great way to get everyone to behave.

**Chris "Not So Large Member" Nevil** then talked about the recent Soccer Nation expo and the importance of SSBRA Members making a showing at such events. He also reminded us to stick to the facts when writing reports (which are always required to be sent to him for send-offs).

After **Veto "Jersey Boy" Galati** said that he had nothing to say, the meeting was turned over to Gabriel, who did have a lot to say. The topic this evening was assistant referees and the importance of the ref team working together - as opposed to how things were done in **Billy "You Know Where You Can Put That Flag" Cooke's** day, all three are to be active in managing the game, with the AR's doing whatever they can to help the center ref. He had videos, instructions and stories about all this, at one point mentioning the success he had with the team of himself, **Surendra "Jorge" Menon** and Warren (editor's note: back when they were all younger, this group of three did many, many games together, and had enough fun doing them to make memories for a lifetime. With Gabriel and Surendra both carrying grade 6 USSF badges, a lot of these were challenging matches - some qualifying as "games for the ages" - and the refs were routinely tested by players and coaches alike. By working together and learning to trust each other, it got to the point where it almost did not matter who was in the center of a particular match - all three were working to call fouls, control the match, and watch each other too. They also did not pull any punches when critiquing each other and the way certain situations were handled or could have been handled differently, all three knowing that he would get honest input from the others without having to ask. This resulted in the referee team nailing these games, and having the best times possible while doing it).

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, February 24, 2014**

- Ralph Quiroz welcomed to the Board as Mentoring Director
- Bill regaled the Board with tales of his fun-filled Hawaii vacation, or at least what he could remember of it
- WH shared what he learned from Gabriel Goldsman about the new USSF grade 4 - 7 requirements
- It was decided to post the financial statements only on the web-site behind the Member log-in
- Confusion over the Beverly Hills contract, and contracts in general, were discussed
- Bill reported that the Spring league situation was somewhat up in the air, and that he would go to their meeting the next

day. Also noted that “friendlies” continue to be up in number

- Chris noted modest SSBRA Member attendance at the just concluded Soccer Nation expo
- Ralph talked about the different motivations of the Members and how it all fits in
- Mike initiated a long discussion about how to rank/separate Members
- WH started a long discussion on how to handle referees who have left and went elsewhere. Of course, anyone at any time is welcome to submit an application for SSBRA Membership, that will be promptly considered by the Board

## NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

**THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014 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). COME AND LISTEN TO THE SAGE WORDS OF YOUR BOARD AND FELLOW MEMBERS, HEAR ALL ABOUT THE VARIOUS SPRING LEAGUES, AND EXPERIENCE CAL SOUTH TRAINING**

### Quote of the Month

“Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.”

- **Oscar Wilde**



Don't Worry, I Got It

### Thought of the Month

“I go out there to manage the game, but at the same time try to stay out of the way. It's a player's game. We're out there to enforce the rules. Ideally for me, I'd like to go out and be involved in the game and not have a whistle at all - to just run up and down and have fun with the guys”

- NBA referee **Danny Crawford**



Some Things Should Stay Out Of Sight

## Be Sure to Mark Your Calendars for This One

"The Hall of Fame ceremonies are on the thirty-first and thirty-second of July."

- Ralph Kiner



A place just for fun: [BreakBrunch.com](http://BreakBrunch.com)

That Will Leave a Mark

## No One Could Blame Him If He Did

"If **Casey Stengel** were alive today, he'd be spinning in his grave."

- Ralph Kiner

## Do Not Try This At Home, Or Anywhere Else For That Matter

It was the start of the 2014 State Cup season, and the referee known as the **Large Member** had the good fortune to find himself with **Rudy "Ice Cube Seat" Chavez** and **Dave Welch** at one of the over-sized Lancaster fields. Strangely the weather was perfect - and even stranger still, the L.M. was assigned to do the honors as the center referee for the first GU12 match of the day. Pleased as ever to be the Main Man at such an important event, and proud of his brand new, never worn before USSF 2014 badge (to which he had carefully applied the velcro patch himself ahead of time), he took the badge out of his bag and pressed it onto the velcro on his shirt. Alas, the badge failed to stick, and fluttered immediately to the ground. Bewildered, the L.M. examined the situation, and realized that, not unlike ex-Member **Jon Zigler** from years ago, he had mistakenly applied the wrong type of velcro to the badge! Looking around and hoping no one had noticed, he was further disappointed to find that Rudy had seen the whole thing, and had a thing or three to say about it. Adding further fuel to the situation, the L.M then had to borrow Rudy's 2013 badge to wear, and go to each coach to explain what had happened - with Rudy doing a background commentary the whole time.

Eventually it was time for the kick-off, with the L.M determined to turn in a flawless game to make up for the poor start. And about half way through the first half, the first goal was scored, so the L.M. (with great flair) demonstrated a highly visible and dramatic signal that a goal had been scored. It was then that he realized that, mistakenly, he had used the high school sign, not the USSF one, for a goal (doh!). Even more determined than before, he vowed to bear down and get it right from there on out. But then about 3 minutes later, in spite of the large field and young age of the players, he was hit by the ball during the course of play, bringing further unwanted attention to himself. Finally half-time arrived, and the referee discussion at the interval began:

L.M. (to the 2 ARs): I want both of you to continue watching very closely what I do in the center

Rudy: And then what?

L.M.: And then.....don't do that, do the opposite.....

Somehow the rest of the match was played without incident, as were the 2 follow-on matches.

## One Could Hope for a Third Option



“Heads, I listen to instructions my coach shouts. And tails, I listen to instructions my dad shouts.”

## I Know This Feeling Well

“I am so clever that sometimes I don't understand a single word of what I am saying.”  
- Oscar Wilde



Gabriel Goldsman Enthralls the Members at the February Meeting

# **This Should Clear Things Up (U.S. Soccer Federation Advice to Referees)**

## **7 Cautionable Offenses and Misconduct Codes**

Cautionable offenses require that a player, substitute or substituted player be shown a yellow card. A player is cautioned for committing any of the following seven offenses:

### **1. Unsporting behavior (UB)**

- Commits a direct free kick foul in a reckless manner (charging, pushing, tripping)
- Commits a direct free kick foul in a reckless manner while tackling for the ball from any direction
- Commits a tactical foul designed to interfere with or impede an opposing team's attacking play (pushing an opponent, blatantly holding an opponent or an opponent's uniform, handling the ball deliberately)
- Handles the ball deliberately to score a goal
- Commits an act which, in the opinion of the referee, shows a lack of respect for the game (aggressive attitude, inflammatory behavior, or taunting)
- Fakes an injury or exaggerates the seriousness of an injury
- Fakes a foul (dives) or exaggerates the severity of a foul
- Interferes with or prevents the goalkeeper from releasing the ball from the hands into play
- Verbally distracts an opponent during play or at a restart
- Unfairly distracts or impedes an opponent performing a throw-in
- Changes jerseys with the goalkeeper during play or without the referee's permission (both players must be cautioned)
- Engages in trickery to circumvent the goalkeeper's limitation on handling the ball played from a teammate's foot (the defender who initiates the "trickery" is cautioned, the decision does not require that the goalkeeper actually handles the ball, and the misconduct can occur during dynamic play or at a restart)
- Makes unauthorized marks on the field
- Removes the jersey or covers the face with a mask or similar device after scoring a goal
- Uses an artificial aid to unfairly assist play (leaning on the shoulders of a teammate, using an article of clothing to avoid direct contact with the ball, moving or removing a corner flag, hanging on a crossbar)
- Uses tobacco or tobacco products in any form in the area of the field
- At a penalty kick, feints to kick the ball once the run-up to the ball has been completed

### **2. Dissent by word or action (DT)**

- Verbally or through action disputes or shows contempt for an official's decision
- If playing as a goalkeeper, leaves the penalty area (not beckoned by the referee) to engage an official in debate regarding a decision

### **3. Persistent infringement of the Laws of the Game (PI)**

- Repeatedly fouls or participates in a pattern of fouls directed at an opponent
- Violates Law 14 again, having previously been warned
- If playing as goalkeeper, wastes time, having previously been warned or penalized for this behavior

### **4. Delaying the restart of play (DR)**

- Kicks or throws the ball away or holds the ball to prevent a free kick restart by an opponent
- Kicks or throws the ball away or holds the ball to prevent a throw-in or corner kick by an opponent
- Fails to restart play after being instructed to do so by the referee or hinders the restart of play
- Excessively celebrates a goal
- Fails to return to the field upon conclusion of the mid-game break, fails to perform a kick-off when signaled to do so by the referee, or fails to be in a correct position for a kick-off
- Provokes a confrontation by deliberately touching the ball after the referee has stopped play

**5. Failure to respect the required distance when play is restarted with a corner kick, free kick or throw-in (FRD)**

- Does not retire at least ten yards away from an opponent's free kick
- Does not retire at least ten yards away from an opponent's corner kick
- Does not retire at least two yards away from an opponent's throw-in

**6. Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission (E)**

- After having previously been instructed to leave the field to correct equipment
- After having previously been given permission by the referee to leave the field due to an injury
- After having previously been instructed to leave the field due to bleeding or blood on the uniform

**7. Deliberately leaving the field of play without the referee's permission (L)**

- To place an opponent in an apparent offside position
- Other than through the normal course of play

**A substitute or substituted player is cautioned for committing any of the following three offences:**

1. Unsporting behavior (UB)
2. Dissent by word or action (DT)
3. Delaying the restart of play (DR)

## **I Always Thought This Day was the Biggest Non-Event of the Year**

"On Fathers Day, we again wish you all happy birthday."

- Ralph Kiner



There Could Be a Problem Here



## Actually, Not As Much As You May Think

"There's a lot of heredity in that family."

- Ralph Kiner

## The Younger Zardes Makes Dad Glenn Proud (submitted by Reza Pazirandeh)



FRESNO, Calif. – Who will be the LA Galaxy's breakout performer in 2014? Don't look past **Gyasi Zardes**, whose work in each of the club's ticketed preseason friendlies has amplified the considerable buzz around him. The second-year attacker, who as a rookie provided glimpses of why so many think he's special, netted his second jaw-dropping goal in as many weeks to make the difference in the Galaxy's 2-1 triumph Saturday night over San Jose in the Central California Cup exhibition. Zardes took a pass near midfield from **Landon Donovan** in the 54th minute, sprinted toward the Earthquakes box with five defenders in tow, cut into space toward the right and unleashed a bullet past **Jon Busch** and inside the right post. It was reminiscent of his perfectly placed laser in LA's win a week earlier over Armenian champions FC Shirak, only more spectacular.

"A fabulous goal," raved head coach **Bruce Arena** after the victory at a sold-out Chukchansi Park. That Zardes would not have finished so deftly last year, something Arena pointed out after the Shirak strike, seemed obvious. He demonstrated a knack for getting into dangerous positions as a rookie but scored just four goals, a slim number given his opportunities. "Experience and playing at this level takes a little bit of time," Arena noted. "He gained a lot of experience in 2013, played a lot of minutes, grew from those minutes and has continued to make progress this year." Zardes says finishing drills, especially those in "game-setting situations," and enhanced focus is helping him. "I'm absorbing every single moment," he said. "Every time I get the ball, I'm just focused on my direction. If I'm not facing the goal, then look for my teammates that are right in front of me, as opposed to turning and trying to do too much. I'm trying to be more simple."

It's been effective. He said he ran at his defender on the goal against San Jose and hadn't realized there were four others running with them. "The one motto I just keep in my head: Just focus on now," Zardes said. "And just try to improve each and every single day. I'm trying to beat myself. If I play good this game, the next game I'm trying to be better than I was." Donovan, who during preseason has played primarily on the left side of midfield – Zardes' spot down the stretch last season – says Zardes "looks a lot more comfortable" than in 2013. "He acts a lot more comfortable when he walks around. You can tell he knows he belongs now, and he wants to continue making an impact," Donovan said. "Last year was a good start for him. We saw glimpses of his potential, but now it's time he come into his own and start playing like the player he can be. "He's looked really good in the preseason, and we expect a big year from him."



Howard Chait Doesn't Have a Care in the World on a Perfect Day at the Lancaster State Cup

## Sometimes I Do Not Understand What This Guy Is Talking About

“It is better to be beautiful than to be good. But... it is better to be good than to be ugly.”

- Oscar Wilde



A Tender Family Moment To Be Treasured Forever