



The Flag and Whistle

Newsletter of the Soccer South Bay Referee Association

March 31, 2014

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Mentoring: Ralph Quiroz

DOCTORS EXAMINE ASSIGNER'S HEAD, FIND NOTHING MEMBERS ARE GOBSMACKED BY CHANGES TO USSF POLICIES HUGE SURPRISE REVEALED AT THE MONTHLY MEETING

It was a pleasing sight indeed as a boodle (you can Google it) of Members made their way to North High for the monthly meeting. After the usual lollygagging, the vociferous (Google it) **“Broadway Warren” Howell** started in talking about a bunch of stuff, interesting and otherwise. He pontificated on the fact that, while SSBRA tends to cover the games within our geographic area, there is no monopoly and other Associations can be seen sometimes in the South Bay, just like when we are invited to Orange County etc. He then shared an Email from CSL sent to SSBRA Assigner **Bill “Robo-Cop” Cook**, which read:

“Number of years assigning games for CSL: forever

Number of times you and SSBRA have let us down: ZERO”

It then went on to explain that FRAM was moving back to CSL from DSL, and that SSBRA would continue to officiate

at all their fields.

It was time to introduce new Member **Dermott Connell** to the Members, who told us a little about himself and received the famously warm SSBRA welcome in return. Warren then droned on about being flexible at friendly and other non-affiliated matches, and stuff about the web-site. At that point our friend from Cal South, **Wayne Merrick**, was invited to explain to us the baffling changes to USSF grade renewal. This he did at length (see an official memo below), though things were still unclear to at least some of the Members.

At this point Bill Cook took the floor and started talking about the Lawndale League and their hard-to-find venues. He was just getting warmed up, explaining that he was recovering nicely from his recent head injury, when **Michael “Waki Mike” Hinz** stepped in. It turns out he had taken it upon himself to create a surprise gift for Bill; a hard-hat to protect him from future head injuries, which Bill was quick to model for the Members, creating quite a stir and many comments (see picture below). Sure to keep everyones attention while wearing his new chapeau, Bill went on about the large number of friendlies and the small number of Spring League games, with **Bill Raventos** and others asking questions and making comments. He also mentioned the dedication ceremony on March 26 at the new Toyota Sports Complex and how he is lobbying to get us games there.

It was Michael Hinz’s turn, and he asked that we remain in uniform till we leave the field after a match, and should always be aware of the (many) different procedures for the various leagues when handling our administrative duties, with an emphasis on Manhattan Beach and SBPSL. And we must always use proper soccer (rather than other sports) terminology, signals, rule applications and mechanics.

Chris “Not So Large Member” Nevil had some things to say, and say them he did. He reminded us that all misconduct reports should be sent to him, and he would forward them on as necessary for you. Chris then mentioned the heroic drive undergone by him, **David Welch** and **Bruce Anderson** recently to attend the monthly RDP meeting.

Ralph “Worst Ref in Town” Quiroz then asked our experienced referees to set a good example for, and help, our newer Members, stressing good mechanics, crisp signals and proper uniforms.

No one else had anything they wanted to say, so the meeting was turned over to Wayne Merrick for our monthly training session. He covered DOGSO requirements, showed video clips, and led discussions on various subjects.

Everyone being knackered (Google it) by this time, the meeting was adjourned.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, March 13, 2014

- Applications for Membership accepted for Dermot Connell and **Tim Reynolds**
- Discussed and took action regarding 3 Members: the issues were on-field mechanics, lateness, and joining another association
- Talked some more about the new USSF grades and how to get them
- Veto volunteered to handle a new process to handle new applications in the future
- Discussed the Galaxy/Force try-outs and Beach FC tournaments held in the South Bay, but handled by non-SSBRA officials
- A smaller CSL Spring league has started, DSL Spring league may be starting soon
- Organized mentoring for current new Members
- **Mike Wilcott** is no longer the assigner for South Orange County, Kent has taken over. SSBRA may have to “give” some games away this summer to them if we can not handle them all

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING IS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2014 AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE LIBRARY OF NORTH TORRANCE HIGH SCHOOL, 3620 182ND ST. (AT YUKON - SEE SSBRA.ORG FOR DETAILED MAPS). LISTEN TO THE RUMINATIONS OF YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS, NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR THE BOARD (THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY AND MEMBER-AT-LARGE POSITIONS ARE UP FOR ELECTION), PROPOSE BYLAWS AMENDMENTS, HEAR ALL ABOUT THE VARIOUS LEAGUES AND TOURNAMENTS, AND EXPERIENCE CAL SOUTH TRAINING.

Thought of the Month

“Don’t judge people by their age but by what they do.....”
- Recent horoscope



The October USSF Written Testing Sessions are Going Away

New Registration Process:

Effective immediately, the registration process for New Entry Grade 8 referees will be as follows:

- 1.) Interested individuals will register online and pay their USSF registration fee. (\$45)

- 2.) They will next register and pay for a 4 hour field training they wish to attend. (\$10)
- 3.) They will then have to complete the USSF Grade 8 online modules and exam.

USSF is providing Cal South the online module test results on a weekly basis. We are able to verify if the whole module was viewed, any failed attempts and their passing score. Cal South will use this report that is generated on Wednesdays to verify if a registered member completed this pre-course assignment. Upon verification, each individual will be emailed to confirm they are allowed to attend the field portion of the course scheduled for that weekend.

Absolutely no Walk-in's will be allowed.

Field portions will be held at each location in two sessions, a morning session and afternoon session. This will allow a more flexible time-frame from which individuals can choose from. At the end of their field session, they will be given their badge. The field sessions will have bigger turn outs and Cal South will provide a team of instructors for each.

- 1.) Returning referees will register online and pay their USSF registration fee (\$45/\$50)
- 2.) They will then complete their online modules and exam.

Verification of online test taken will be done once a week on Wednesdays. Both modules and payment will need to have been done by this time in order to be approved and have badge mailed out. If either is missing by this time, they will have to wait until the following review (Wednesday) to be approved. Updated Registered Officials List will still be uploaded every Thursday evening.

Maintenance requirements: 5 hour in service training

We conducted our upgrades for 2014 at the end of last year in 2013. We will not be holding another upgrade session for the 2014 registration year. Those who missed any of the three upgrade sessions will need to wait until we hold them again for the 2015 registration year. 2013 State officials can either choose to register as a Grade 7 this year or go Emeritus, with the chance to resume their state grade in 2015.

Candidates will need to follow these steps to complete their process to register and re-certify as a Grade 8 referee.

A. - Class Registration

1. Register with Cal South and US Soccer at the following link:

<https://secure.sportsaffinity.com/reg/Public/registration/login.aspx?domain=calsussf.sportsaffinity.com&sessionguid>

Completing Step 1 will complete your annual registration payment with US Soccer and Cal South.

2. Complete the pre-course USSF online modules at the following link:

<http://www.usoccer.com/referees/resource-center/online-training/onlinetraining.aspx>

Select Grade 8 online modules

3. Once Step 1 & Step 2 have been completed, email Laura at refereeregistration@calsouth.com so she can retrieve your payment.

C. - Risk Management: Re-certifying Referees who turn 18 years' old will be required to do Risk Management.

New Administration Process:

Cal South will be hosting and administering all Entry Grade 8 courses. Host clinic request forms will no longer be needed. Everyone will need to register for one of the sessions provided on our Calendar Events page. Locations have been selected based on previous years requested locations and our best efforts to strategically select locations within a reasonable travel distance for all.

Should you have any questions with regards to any of the new requirements or procedures please do not hesitate to

contact the following SRC members:

George Noujaim	gnoujiam@calsouth.com	951-505-8348
Arturo Angeles	aangeles@calsouth.com	626-354-7239
Dan Sobieski	dsobieski@calsouth.com	626-222-4010
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Laura Dudoit

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Lilia Moncayo is wondering when her ARs are going to show up in Lancaster for State Cup matches

On the Other Hand, We All Have Seen a Lot of Proof of This

"The truth is, young people are knuckleheads."

- Michelle Obama



I'm Not Sure Where the Flag and Whistle Fits in Here

The Reporters Without Borders organization ranked 180 countries of the world on the basis of conditions for press freedom. Some of them were:

- (1) Finland
- (2) Netherlands
- (3) Norway
- (18) Canada
- (19) Poland
- (28) Australia
- (29) Belize
- (38) El Salvador
- (39) France
- (40) Samoa
- (45) Romania
- (46) United States
- (47) Haiti
- (59) Japan
- (148) Russia
- (174) Viet Nam
- (175) China

Quote of the Month

"History is more or less bunk. It's tradition. We don't want tradition. We want to live in the present, and the only history that is worth a tinker's damn is the history that we make today."

- Henry Ford, 1916



David Welch, **Rudy “Choke-Hold” Chavez** and Warren Howell take a break during State Cup games in Lancaster

Here is an Option We Might Try

Police stormed onto the pitch and pepper sprayed a number of players following a red card in a game in Brazil. The player sent off in the match between Genus and Moto Cube refused to leave the pitch, which caused police in riot gear to storm the pitch attacking him and other protesting players.

- News item

Master Thieves r Us.....Not

A thief who stole a World Cup ticket from a woman's handbag was caught after sitting down to watch the game next to his victim's husband.

The 34-year-old mugged **Eva Standmann**, 42, as she made her way to the Munich stadium for the Brazil-Australia game at the weekend and discovered the ticket in her bag. He took the woman's place in the stadium where he was met by her husband **Berndt**, 43, who immediately called security. A Munich police spokesman said, “The thief found the ticket in the bag and decided to watch the game, not expecting to sit next to his victim's husband, who immediately informed officers on duty at the stadium.”

- News item

Another Quote of the Month

“Don’t talk to me, you don’t know how to play!”

- Unnamed BU12 player talking back after being admonished by a.r. the **Large Member** at a recent friendly

AYSO Has Some Good Ideas We Can All Use

When you ask a person if they want to be a coach, they immediately think about being a mentor and a role model, being respected by players and others, and having an overall positive experience. But when you ask a person if they want to be a referee they think about people yelling at them, players being disrespectful, etc. For decades the soccer world has created and maintained a perception that becoming a referee is very challenging, at least for the first few years of the career.

We need to change this perception by sharing the benefits that come with being a referee. This will lead to an increase in referees and they will be happier to be involved with soccer. One environment that provides the opportunity to change the perception is youth games. Organizations work very hard to provide a safe, fair, and fun environment for youth players to engage in soccer. The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is a perfect example where the main emphasis is placed on providing the right environment for children to develop as players as well as good citizens.

Whether your kid is playing soccer and they need you to volunteer or, you are looking for a volunteer opportunity, consider signing up to become a referee. In AYSO all volunteer positions are great and contribute a lot towards enriching children’s lives. Please consider selecting the referee volunteer position as we always need more referees. Soccer is a simple game which offers children the opportunity to easily experience success, passionately pursue personal objectives like learning to increase their fitness level, and effectively become a contributing team member. All concepts that every kid can use for the rest of their lives.

Refereeing provides the means for you to teach and mentor kids about fair play, good sportsmanship, positive and respectful behavior, and help them become good members in our communities. Becoming a soccer referee, especially in AYSO, will provide you with the opportunity to help them realize their dreams. You can create a life-long experience of self-satisfaction and acquire a mindset and skills that you can apply to all aspects of life. As you are changing the lives of children, you will be changing your own life and future. Learning and training to be a referee will equip you with many skills and habits that will strengthen your ability to get the best out of life. The skills you will learn by being a referee will help you at home, work, and your overall activities where you engage with different people.

The key areas where you will acquire new and/or stronger skills include:

Mentoring – We will train you on how to connect with kids so that you can influence their motivation to practice good behavior at all times. You will experience many moments where a simple act of attention and caring will make you a hero to a kid and their family.

Conflict Resolution - Soccer is an activity between two very passionate groups of people with very conflicting objectives... they both want to win. Therefore, conflicts will arise and you as the referee will observe behavior, evaluate what you see and feel, identify options and apply the correct rules and best technique to help the game remain safe and fair so that it becomes a fun experience for everyone! We’ll provide you with techniques developed by experts that you can use to quickly and effectively turn conflict into a win-win scenario.

Leadership Development – You will do this for the kids as well as for yourself. Kids learn from the coach and they can learn from you as well, the proper way to lead a team into a better performance by leading by example. You will become a role model for kids, coaches, and parents when you help teach the game to the kids, inflate the soccer ball for the coach, explain the rules to parents at half-time or after the game, and many other simple but meaningful actions that you will take with kids, coaches, and parents.

Organizational Skills – Referees have to be organized in order to make good use of their time and resources on and off the field of play. We'll provide time management skills and tools that will help you develop good habits such as having your equipment always ready and your mind always engaged with the kids, coaches and parents.

Fair Disposition – As the referee you will get to define good vs. bad behavior based on simple soccer rules known as the FIFA Laws of the Game. You will also determine what options to use in managing the game, identify disciplinary actions needed when bad behavior is present and, deliver the punishment per the rules within the spirit of the game. In other words, you will be the jury and the judge as you referee games. This experience will further enhance your sense of fairness, sharpen your analytical skills, and strengthen your compassion towards people as you will always try to do the right thing, both in games and soon after, in every aspect of your life.

As you can see refereeing soccer games will give you the opportunity to help children feel and enjoy the passion awakened by the beautiful game and, pick-up or improve life skills, as you change the world!

- **Thomas Bobadilla**, Former FIFA AR

Let's Hope the SSBRA Board Does Not Start Thinking This Way

“You may feel that your golden voice isn't being heard....”

- Recent horoscope

Be Sure Your Availability Is Up-To-Date

MLS referees locked out amid labor impasse; replacement officials called in

By **Steven Goff**

Major League Soccer will utilize replacement referees after the officiating union and management failed to settle a labor dispute on the eve of the season openers. The Pro Referee Organization, which administers officiating programs in the United States and Canada, announced Friday that it has locked out the referees until a collective bargaining agreement is reached with the Professional Soccer Referees Association. The sides have been engaged in negotiations for several months in hopes of reaching their first labor deal. PRO said it has “recruited a highly qualified pool of replacement officials all of whom have officiated at the professional level” to work MLS matches. The season begins this weekend with eight matches.

The pool includes, PRO said, certified officials who have moved here from overseas, former MLS refs, and officials who have worked in other U.S. leagues. In preparation for a possible lockout or strike, PRO conducted a training camp for the

replacements in Texas last week.

“PRO’s decision to lock out the referees and use scab replacements presents a serious health and safety issue for our members,” MLS players’ union executive director **Bob Foose** said. “We will continue to monitor this situation closely, and it is our sincere hope that cooler heads will prevail, the parties will reach an agreement and PSRA officials will be back on the field as soon as possible.”

The head referees this weekend include **Alan Kelly**, a FIFA referee originally from Ireland; **Ioannis Stavridis** (Greece); former MLS officials **Abbey Okulaja** and **Ramon Hernandez**; a second-division NASL ref; a former MLS fourth official; and two refs from Puerto Rico.

“We have high confidence in the qualifications of our replacement officials and can ensure our fans, clubs and players that all games will be officiated at a professional standard that protects the integrity of our matches and the safety of our players,” PRO General Manager **Peter Walton** said.



These Guys Are a Lot Less Long-Winded Than Some Folks We Know

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvidoBBJSRA>



Bill shows off his new head-gear