



The Flag and Whistle
Newsletter of the South Bay Soccer Referee Association
Serving the Soccer Community since 1976



Written by: Warren Howell
Edited by: Jonny Joseph

September 2020

Notes from the Board

Finally! It's time for us all to renew our membership in the Association. Invitations to submit your Returning Membership Application (RMA) have been sent to you recently and approximately 100 of us have done so already. If you have not done so, please do so immediately to facilitate our planning for the resumption of activity. Please be reminded that to be considered for renewed membership, each member must be on Cal South's 2020 or 2021 ROL. This requires that all three Cal South required certifications must be completed by each of us. Your Board will consider each application received after verifying your inclusion on one of these ROLs.

It is worth noting that while Cal South continues to have more referees on its "Removed ROL" than its "Registered Officials List," SBSRA only has about 20% of its 2019/2020 members whom have not completed the three certifications required:

- 1) Annual SafeSport Refresher Training
- 2) Concussion Training
- 3) Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training

The information needed may be found on the SBSRA website at <https://sbsra.org/training/>.

The latest updates on three of the leagues we provided our services to are as follows:

1. Coast Soccer League (CSL) has scheduled October 17th as their start date but remain subject to receiving field permits.
2. Southern California Developmental Soccer League (SCDSL) has penciled in October 31st and will reevaluate that date in early October.
3. South Bay Peninsula Soccer League (SBPSL) is planning the details of starting their season, possibly in January.

Projecting start dates is very difficult given the various stakeholders involved and the unpredictability of the underlying cause for life being different to what it was before – the Covid-19 pandemic. As we receive updates, we will pass them onto you.

The Board thanks Taidgh Simpson for his services to the Association following his decision to step down due to personal commitments during this pandemic time. We are fortunate that Chris Nevil has offered to step in and perform the functions of Training and Instruction but has declined to retake a position on the Board due to other commitments.

Board of Directors

President: Jonny Joseph
Treasurer: Bruce Ashton

Vice-President: Steve Morgan
Member-At-Large: Tim Martinez

Secretary: Jack Desemone
Assignor: Gabriel Goldsman



The Flag and Whistle

September 2020

The next Cal South IN Service 2020 training is a live webinar on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 from 8:00 pm – 9:00 pm. The subject is Return to Play (RTP) guidelines for referees. Please note that as a certified referee, you will each be required to know, understand and uphold all RTP guidelines so you don't want to miss this informative webinar. A quiz to test understanding of the material will follow to obtain credit for attending.

All are invited to register and participate, however, this is a limited capacity event of 500 attendees so if you have not signed up already hopefully there is still space available.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

This webinar will be recorded and later provided for anyone unable to participate to the live event.

PS for the latest on RETURN TO PLAY go to www.calsouth.com and click on the RTP banner

To participate in the September Membership Meeting, **Tuesday 29th @ 7:33 pm**, please use the following Zoom information:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85755838126?pwd=TzlsanpsSnlQak15OEJbW9MT0lkQT09>

Meeting ID: 857 5583 8126

Passcode: 931101

Phone: 1-669-900-6833

This is an important meeting to attend as Gabriel has a detailed assigning presentation to share with the membership.

We look forward to seeing you then!

Membership Meeting Minutes Approval

The draft August Membership Meeting minutes are included below and will be presented for approval at the next MM on September 29, 2020.



SBSRA Membership Meeting Minutes Tuesday, August 25, 2020 Via Zoom Conference

Board Members in Attendance: Jonny Joseph (President), Steve Morgan (Vice-President), Bruce Ashton (Treasurer), Jack Desemone (Secretary), Tim Martinez (Member-At-Large, Gabriel Goldsman (Assignor)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:33.
2. Jonny Joseph introduced the SBSRA Insurance Agent, Leonard Zahler, to the membership. Leonard spoke to the association regarding our General Liability and Accidental Health and Medical coverage:
 - A. All members are covered under the General Liability Umbrella, which is no change from last year. The limits are \$1mil per occurrence with a maximum of \$3mil. There are no changes for the forthcoming insurance year for COVID-19. Coverage begins from the time you enter the parking lot at the field until referees leave the location. There is also a death benefit of \$10,000, should that happen.
 - B. Accidental Medical Plan covers accidents that occur from the time you arrive at the venue until you leave the venue. There is a \$100 deductible and it provides coverage up to \$25,000. Dental injuries are also covered.
 - C. Leonard emphasized to NOT touch players, outside agents, or crew members. Whenever possible wear a mask, even during the games. Have it on your chin, then pull it up when you need to talk to individuals.
 - D. Currently the cost per member is \$10.50/year. There is a possibility of a credit on our premium due to the shortened season.
 - E. Leonard stressed that all games that are assigned by the assignor are covered. Should you be faced with the opportunity to ref a game that you were NOT assigned, one should call the applicable assignor and see what they say. A spirited conversation followed and Jonny stated the Board will revisit this issue and provide the membership with the Association's position.
 - F. Should a referee need to file a claim, call Leonard at 661-212-1222. He will send you the paperwork. Seek medical attention right away, and one has 30 days to submit the paperwork.
 - G. Leonard fielded numerous "What if..." questions. Jonny thanked him for his presentation and excused him from the meeting.
3. Approval of July Minutes - Tim Reynolds proposed acceptance of the minutes as presented in the Flag & Whistle, Michael Hinz seconded and the minutes were approved by acclamation.
4. Cal South Training - Gabriel Goldsman Discussed the highlights of Cal South's July IN Service Training - 2020-21 changes to the Laws of the Game.



- a) Law 1 - The goal posts can have certain approved shapes, as long as the shapes are consistent on the posts and cross bar.
 - b) Law 10 - If PKFM are required, YC's do not carry into PKFM.
 - c) Law 11 - Deliberate Handling of the ball by a defender resets offside for an attacker in an offside position.
 - d) Law 12 - There are new parameters involving the armpit of a player to determine if handling has occurred. No goal can be scored if there is a handball by the attackers immediately before the goal. GK now subject to a YC for 2nd touch after releasing the ball. YC added for not respecting the 4m radius on a drop ball.
 - e) Law 14 - On a PK, if the GK commits an infringement on the kick he will get a warning, subsequent infringements will result in a YC. IFAB has a new sheet regarding sanctions for all PK scenarios.
5. New Members - Jonny invited any new members in attendance to introduce themselves - Bill Bymel was in attendance and did so. The membership welcomed him to the association.
6. August Board Meeting - Jonny presented the following:
- a) The Bylaws Committee presented the proposed revised bylaws and the Board provided its input on various matters.
 - b) A Guidelines Review Committee is being established. The Board is looking for members to volunteer to be on the Guidelines Committee. Bruce Ashton will be the Board Representative.
 - c) The Board is currently creating a Board Manual to define the duties, responsibilities and procedures of each Board Member. This will assist with Board Member succession, so that the incoming person can step in and continue the position in a seamless manner.
 - d) SWOT Analysis - The Board previously identified Strengths Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to the Association and will next explore opportunities there are for the association to grow and protect what we have.
 - e) Rick Roberts is keeping the website up to date. He has put our leagues and Association Points of Contact for each one behind the membership login, so that only members have access to it. The Board will also request Rick to add a Suggestion Box for members to make suggestions, provide feedback or input, anonymously if they wish to do so but will also have an opportunity to add their names and email addresses if they choose to do so.
 - f) Dues - Are currently on hold until we come closer to a start date. Jonny stated that the Association has some fixed costs that need to be paid to keep the Association going. When we get closer to a start date, we will assess our expenses for Insurance and Arbitrator costs to determine what the dues need to be. The Board will explore members with financial challenges deferring payment until referee fees start to flow again. Bill Raventos inquired about the Insurance premium: If we could just not pay for the months of no games. Jonny reported that it would be equivalent to cancelling and reapplying, which would cost more than what we are currently doing. Jonny also reminded that Leonard is also looking to get us a rebate.
7. BA presented to the membership the Association will be changing its fiscal year to end June 30th in order to coincide with the membership year which reflects the business cycle of the soccer season and our Association.



8. Director of Social Media - Jonny reported that we are still looking for a volunteer to head up Social Media for the Association. We currently have a presence on Facebook, and would like to expand to other platforms; e.g., Twitter, Instagram, etc. Jonny also reminded the membership that we still need a volunteer for Director of Mentoring and Observations which is a key position.
9. Cal South Update - Gabriel spoke about the following:
 - a) The Cal South webinars are continuing. To get credit, one needs to watch the video, and then complete the quiz. The videos can be found on Youtube.com or the newly created Google Classroom set up by Cal South.
 - b) Zoom and video classes will continue for the duration of the pandemic. Once Cal South gets clearance from the State, we will be able to go back to in person meetings and training.
 - c) Gabriel reminded everyone that members need 5 Cal South trainings per year to be in compliance with Cal South requirements.
 - d) Many people at Cal South have been laid off, so if you are in need of something from their corporate office, be patient. (Like being on the active ROL, or getting your 20-21 badge).
 - e) Steve Morgan mentioned that Cal South is considering having a COVID-19 waiver. Cal South Covid-19 recommendations will be posted on our website shortly.
10. Bylaw Amendments - Jonny requested the members to read the Bylaws, which were sent to all members earlier that day, before the September Membership Meeting, so we can have an informed discussion about the proposed revised document at our next Membership Meeting and that we can vote on them at the October meeting as provided for in the Bylaws. Bill Raventos asked if members have any questions regarding the changes, who should they contact. Jonny said that all questions and comments should be sent to Stephen Resnick as soon as possible to give the committee enough time to consider them for potential changes to the proposed Bylaws update.
11. Other Business:
 - Dan Dauer reported that on the Calsouth website, there are numerous tournaments listed. Gabriel said that tournaments there had received sanction from Cal South previously but because the tournaments haven't been issued permits, tournaments are currently on hold.
 - Murat Gruer asked if it would be possible to upgrade this year. Gabriel said that upgrades will probably not happen this year, due to lack of games.
 - Jonny reported that 61 members participated in the Zoom meeting.
 - Jonny reported that Manny, from SWAG, is feeling better, and that should anyone realize that their uniforms no longer fit or need replacement, Manny will be able to help.
 - Michael Hinz thanked the association for their support and effort during his tenure as SBSRA President. Michael gave his support to Jonny and the rest of the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.



Although this article is about a different sport, it applies to other sports too:

From NASO's September 2020 Advisor Newsletter:

Return-to-Play Guidelines

By Jason Palmer

Getting back on the field during a pandemic is something that has never been done before. But softball and baseball umpires in Iowa have done just that. Iowa is the only state playing a traditional high school baseball and softball season this summer. But before everyone could return to the field, there needed to be guidelines put into place, especially for the men and women in charge of rule enforcement.

Enter the Iowa City Athletic Officials Association (ICAOA). The ICAOA executive board commissioned a survey in May to learn its members' attitudes toward a potential return to the field for the summer season. The survey showed that nearly two thirds of the members wanted clear and concise guidelines before they would feel comfortable returning to work. The ICAOA came up with comprehensive return-to-play guidelines that incorporated policies and advice from different organizations.

"We have established some great partners throughout the years," ICAOA Executive Secretary John Mathias said. "We leaned on a lot of people and organizations within our network and they gave us some good information to base our policies on. Some of them included NASO, Major League Baseball, USA Softball and the University of Iowa."

With information in hand, the ICAOA then discussed among the executive board the best policies to use that would apply for the high school and youth level sports its members work. The association then sent its recommendations to the Iowa High School Athletic Association and Iowa High School Girls Athletic Union.

"Iowa is the only place playing softball and baseball right now during the summer and we wanted to see if there was a way where we could play the games safely," Mathias said. "We knew going into this that we probably were going to lose about a third of our umpires. So we came up with solutions like instead of having two five-inning games in a morning, have one seven-inning game so that way the umpires can make their way over to their afternoon game."

Mathias said a lot of policies came from comments received from the survey results in which more than 70 percent of those polled responded. All the others came from the organizations the ICAOA was partnered with. He said Major League Baseball came up with some key recommendations — they are already being used in other parts of the world including the Korean Baseball Organization, which began play two months before Iowa did.

"The biggest change is we do not handle the baseballs or softballs during the game. That is all done by the teams," Mathias said. "But there were several other recommendations and some of them were



obvious ones like no handshakes. But there were others that will have a profound effect on the game. No team huddles, restrict coaches' contact with umpires to maintain physical distancing, pitchers may not blow on hands or lick fingers before pitching, and all participants are encouraged to use masks."

The ICAOA issued the recommendations in a six page PDF document. Also included in the document were recommendations for school districts. Mathias said it was a collective team effort as umpires, school officials and the state's governing bodies all worked together to come up with the recommendations. He believes advanced planning was a key to pulling the recommendations off.

"Obviously, we're all in uncharted waters here," he said. "We all came up with the best ideas we could and realized we wouldn't pull this off if we were not flexible. I think it brought all of us closer together going through this."

Jason Palmer is an associate editor at Referee and an Illinois High School Association Volleyball referee

Warren's Howellers



"That's my mom. The restraining order won't let her get within shouting distance of the ref."

Maybe They Should Have Just Kept Driving (from Referee magazine)

A group of soccer referees was forced off the road, ordered out of their car and “insulted and threatened” after they officiated a 2 – 2 draw in the Belarusian League this June. The national soccer federation said the incident was “categorically unacceptable.” A video recording could be turned over to the authorities.

Quote of the Month (attributed to Mark Twain)

“Always plan for the future, because that is where you will be spending the rest of your life.”



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Referee gets a Bum Rap (news article)

THEY may play their rugby at Two Mile Bottom, but that was no reason for Thetford's women's team to get the bum end of a deal from match referee Robert Tustin.

Robert Tustin, a women's rugby referee in England, has been suspended for 18 weeks after he dropped his shorts and bared half his buttocks near the end of a match. “I have never seen anything like it, and I never want to see anything like it again,” said **Amanda Walker**, captain of Thetford, one of the teams. “It wasn't comical, it was absurd behavior.”

Another Thought of the Month (Attributed to Holiday Mathis)

“Instead of making your goal to make the most money or have the most success, try this life-changing goal: Have the most fun.”

----- Keep Smiling -----