



# The Flag and Whistle

## Newsletter of the South Bay Soccer Referee Association

### Serving the Soccer Community since 1976



Written by: Warren Howell and Jonny Joseph  
Edited by: Jonny Joseph and Alan Siegel

October 2023

## Notes from the Board

As we wrote last month Gabriel has been scheduling “a huge number of games with not enough members making themselves available. This is going to be an ongoing challenge all season for us, and we thank those members who officiated many games these two weekends.” We are seeing a disappointingly low number of members making themselves available with parameters that allow for proper assigning to games. Leaving windows of 2 -3 hours with very low mileage limits make it very difficult for Gabriel to assign these members. If you are not getting the games you want or are being assigned differently to your expectations and needs, **call Gabriel** to express them. He is not a mind reader, even though he has been a miracle worker!

We continue to do an outstanding job, receiving excellent feedback from many clubs, managers and coaches but there are a number of lessons to be learned and corrective action that is needed still:

- As the weekend approaches, every weekend, visit the applicable league(s) page(s) on our website. Review the rules of competition, especially substitution rules and game fees, before your assignments, **especially if this is a new league for you**,
- Each member of the referee team is responsible for the other members of her/his team,
  - Let your teammates know the day before the game if you have any concerns about arriving at least 30 minutes before kick-off time,
  - If one of your partners is not at the field location 25 minutes before kick-off time, you must try to reach them on their mobile telephone to check in with them,
  - If one of your partners is not at the field location 15 minutes before kick-off time, you must contact the assignor to let him know about the situation,
  - If you are at a location, have finished your game(s) and there are players there apparently for another game and you don't see any other referees, you must contact the assignor to let him know about the situation,
  - In the event that one of your team members leaves before or during a game, you must contact the assignor to let him know of this. It's possible that the game is at another location.
- If you have arrived for your game and you do not see any players preparing for your game, check open areas nearby where they could be preparing for the game but if you still don't see anyone, please contact the assignor to let him know about the situation,
- Amongst the most important moments in games are player substitutions:
  - Referees should discuss their preferences for managing player substitution with the applicable assistant referee(s) as part of the pre-game discussions,
  - This includes enforcing league procedures (e.g., for some leagues, substitutes must provide an ID card or substitution slip to the AR), ensuring substituted player are off the field or close thereto before allowing the substitute to enter at the halfway line,
- Supplemental reports for red cards, severe injuries, game terminations or any other significant events must be prepared and submitted **within 24 hours** but hopefully on the same day as the game. Please remember to **use your LOTG book** to use the correct technical language and to text the Member-at-Large right after the game so he knows to expect your report.

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### Board of Directors

**President:** Jonny Joseph      **Vice-President:** Steve Morgan      **Secretary:** Kiku Annon  
**Treasurer:** Bruce Ashton      **Member-At-Large:** Stephen Resnick      **Assignor:** Gabriel Goldsman



- Many (most, all?) of us think we can officiate at the World Cup. EVERY game deserves a good referee. I know many (most, all?) of us want the upper-level games every week. That is simply not possible. Each week there are more referees in our Association that can manage these games very well than there are games at this level. As members of the Association, we all need to be willing to officiate the lower-level games also. Try them, you may just have fun!

## **New Member Incentive Program**

Remember, we have a New Member Incentive program whereby you can enjoy a year's membership with no dues payable for any new member you recruit when they pay for their second year of membership. We are anticipating a very busy fall season. With the huge demand (of many games) we need additional supply (of referees).

We created a flyer ([https://sbsra.org/Ref\\_Recruiting\\_Poster](https://sbsra.org/Ref_Recruiting_Poster)) for us to hand out at the fields. These are also available on our website. Print them out, insert your information at the bottom of the flyer (so you get credit from the Association) and take them with you to the fields to hand out.

## **Cal South Female Referee Initiative**

As announced recently, Cal South's Referee Committee is launching its "Female Development Initiative." This initiative is a program dedicated to the female referee who is seeking support or to advance her referee license.

With this program being focused on female referees, Cal South will be hosting a series of instruction dedicated to females in the referee community via Zoom (and some in person), along with mentoring sessions during State/National cup and other local tournaments. Also planned is an all-female mentor camp in Ojai in June 2024. Many of the guest speakers, mentors and coaches will include current and past female FIFA, PRO and National officials.

Their hope is that the participants in the program will share with their association what they have learned and inspire not only other female referees, but everyone in their association.

So female members in our association (of all ages and experience levels), please be aware of the program ([application form link](#) and following QR code is also offered).



With your support, Cal South feels they will have the best female referee program in the nation. If you have any questions, please contact Penny Rehm ([prehm@calsouth.com](mailto:prehm@calsouth.com)) or (951) 315 5023.



## **Professionalism**

### **Match Reports**

Our referee duties do not end when we blow the final whistle. We usually need to complete a match report. This is mostly in the form of a printed document provided by team managers. We need to be aware of league requirements and ensure we comply with them.

In particular:

**SBPSL games**, complete the Line-Up Cards with match result, misconduct, and all other information requested. Ensure the names and jersey numbers of carded players are legible. Retain the SBPSL ID card of all players and Managers sent off. Submit completed Line-Up Cards **to John Moody (jmomoods@verizon.net) and our Member-At-Large** by email on the same day as the game, by attaching a scan (in PDF format, preferably) or a picture of the report. **Please ensure the report is legible before sending it!** **NOTE** – there are a number of great scanning Apps available for use on smart phones from which one can email the pdf directly to any contact.

In cases which require misconduct reports, members are reminded to send the misconduct reports to our Member-at-Large and the applicable assignor and **not to any leagues**.

For more details about the completion of any match reports and the reporting requirements for all of our leagues, please visit our Competitions page at <https://sbsra.org/competitions>.

### **Availability and Blocks**

All members have an obligation to minimize the number of times we decline games after we are assigned.

As independent contractors, we all are entitled to accept assignments wherever we can get them. However, in fairness to all assignors, Gabriel and Veto here, and others elsewhere, we are all requested to block the days that we are unavailable to the applicable assignor(s) ahead of time. Choosing which association/league/organization we want to work for on specific days is perfectly fine. However, waiting to see which games you are assigned and then declining the less favorable ones is simply **not acceptable**.

The extra work it creates for the assignor is more than most of us can imagine. **Please block ahead of time!**



## Honesty

Our assignors' jobs are complex, and they spend a significant amount of time assigning games each week. Periodically, we have members turning back games (declining after receiving the assignment) for various reasons. A common reason is games from another assignor that the member prefers. In many of these cases, we learn about the other assignments and know that any reason given for turning back our association's games is not the truth!

This is not acceptable. Please pick up the phone and call the assignor to discuss your situation. They will work with you to make you happy and will not deny you the opportunity to referee a "better game."

## Supplemental Reports

Due to ongoing challenges, we continue to provide the following guidance for all members:

Please be reminded that whenever we have serious situations, a supplemental report is required:

- The **USSF Supplemental report form**, on the SBSRA website, must be used (**NOTE – we no longer use the Cal South report form**) and refer to **IFAB LOTG** for **proper terminology** to use,
- The report is required to be prepared ASAP, **within 24 hours** for **all serious situations**, including:
  - **Red cards;**
  - **Serious injuries** (paramedics called, player taken to emergency room/hospital), attended to by the trainer; or,
  - **Game terminations**, etc.,
- Take a **copy of the Match Report** to assist you with preparing the USSF incident report,
- Use **simple language** and include the **facts of the incident** only:
  - **When** – date and time, point in the match;
  - **Where** – venue and specific location on the field;
  - **Who** was involved? The player's name, number and team; and,
  - **What** happened? Don't speculate, just note what you saw.

Note, there is no "**Why**." It is not our job to speculate on why someone did what they did, and we should not include a diagnosis of the injury, even if we have the ability to do so.

- **Do not use abbreviations**, only use **language in the Laws of the Game** to describe the applicable misconduct.
- **Call the Assignor**, after any game that requires a supplemental report, so he is informed when the league calls him.
- **Submit the supplemental report** to our Member-At-Large (MAL) and the applicable Assignor (who assigned the game) who will review the report and possibly suggest edits. **Do not submit supplemental reports to any leagues.**
- Following submission of the incident report to the MAL, please call him/her to ensure it has been received if you have not received an **acknowledgement of receipt within 2 hours.**
- **Following review and approval** of the report by the MAL and Assignor, the **Assignor submits the final report** to the applicable league.



- **If you have kept ID cards** (which is only required in limited cases for red cards), the card(s), together with copies of the match report and supplemental report must be sent to the applicable league administrator **by the end of the first business day (likely Monday)** following the game.
- The **importance of this process** cannot be stressed strongly enough! These reports are really needed by the leagues and everything we do needs to **reflect on our professionalism** as individuals and as a referee association.

At the July Membership Meeting, we went through two supplemental reports – the original draft submitted, and the final report sent to the league after edits were made with the assistance of certain Board Members. To assist members further, we have added these sample reports to our website (<https://sbsra.org/laws/>) – one how not to do it and one which is more concise but contains all of the necessary information that we should provide most leagues. If you have any questions or need further guidance, please contact Stephen Resnick who would be happy to spend time with you to assist with this very important function.

USSF recently shared a Supplemental Reports guidance document which we attach hereto (thank you Steve Morgan for providing it), please read it thoroughly.

## **Rule Change**

For those doing **National Premier League games**, please note their change of rules for rosters and substitutions:

**For 2007-2005 games:** A maximum of 20 players may be dressed and play in a game. The 20 players must be on the official Match Report given to the match official and opposing team before the start of the game. Any players listed on the roster that will not play must have a line through their names on the Match Report or set as inactive players.

**For Discovery NPL games:** 3 moments, per half, for substitutions. Half-time does not count as a moment. Re-entry is allowed per half at the moments used by the coach. Subbing on the moment of an opposition, still counts towards a team's 3 moments.

## **Training Opportunities**

The following training opportunities are coming up and all members are encouraged to attend as many of these as you are able.

You may sign up at any time for all future Cal South courses, at no cost, at <https://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/calendarlist.asp?calguid=&eventtab=current>



## CORE Training at North High

The next CORE training session at North High is scheduled for November 21 (a very special date for Jonny Joseph) on the usual third Tuesday of the month.

### **What is CORE?**

Center of Referee Education (CORE) is a program established by the Cal South State Referee Committee (SRC). It is open to all USSF certified referees. It primarily consists of lectured meetings for referees who are ambitious to rise to the elite level of Cal South refereeing or just want to be better in the field. Occasionally, physical trainings on the field will be added to selected training sessions. Referees attending this event are expected to come prepared with items customarily taken to the field on match days (i.e., whistle, cards, flags) as well as material for classroom (i.e., current IFAB Laws of the Game, Considerations for Match Analysis, paper and pen).

While these trainings are for referee self-development, please note that Regional or Grassroots Elite certification or recertification require referees to attend at least 5 CORE trainings per year. The same requirement applies to instructors and assessors.

In addition, to become a full member of SBSRA, all members are required to attend one CORE training to be exposed to this wonderful program and opportunity to enhance one's skills and learning.

## New Referee Training at North High

Do you want a year's **free membership dues** of SBSRA? Do you know of anyone who wants to be a referee?

Please let them know of the next opportunity to attend Cal South's next New Referee Training at North High School at the same time as the CORE training each month.

Ensure they include your name on their SBSRA New Member Application, which you can download from <https://sbsra.org/association/nma/> so you can benefit from our New Member Incentive (NMI) program.

## New SBSRA Member Training

This training is required for all new SBSRA members to become full members of our association. All referees, both those new to refereeing and those with prior referee experience are required to attend so we can share all the details of how to maximize your enjoyment and experience as a referee in **our organization**.

We are close to recording this presentation and it will be available on demand very soon.

In addition, under the leadership of our assignor, Gabriel, we are launching a new members' training program to provide all new members with the knowledge and confidence to begin their refereeing



career. The vast majority of new members will not be assigned to games until they have completed this training. New members should look for an invitation to the next session.

## Cal South Monthly In-Service Webinar

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR OR TO VIEW THESE WEBINARS](#)

Please be reminded that after viewing the presentation, live or recorded, one must take the Review (Quiz) to receive In-Service Training credit.

## Other Cal South Offerings

Candidates need to register for your selected courses on the Cal South Referee Website under the “Classes & Clinics offered” tab:

(<https://cysa.affinitysoccer.com/eventmanager/public/calendarlist.asp?calguid=&eventtab=current>).

### **Referee Fitness Tests** (at Fedde Middle School in Hawaiian Gardens)

Friday November 17                      6:00pm to 9:00pm

### **Mentor In-Person Course** (Cal South Corporate Office)

Saturday November 11

Saturday December 9

## **Two Person (Whistle) Referee System**

IFAB and USSF prohibit the use of the two-person referee system. While many of us may use this system for high school and middle school games, it may not be used in any USSF-sanctioned games that we do. If you have any doubt, please **DO NOT USE THE TWO-PERSON REFEREE SYSTEM** unless you have been assigned by one of our Assignors to be on a two-person referee crew.

Conversely, if you have been assigned as a **TWO-PERSON REFEREE CREW** for **non-USSF-sanctioned games**, please honor the assignment regardless of what your assigned partner may say. If there is an issue, please contact the appropriate assignor, Gabriel for weekend games and Veto for weekday games.

## **Monthly Referee Quick Tip**

This month we have a tip to share with all referees:

- Make sure your mobile phone is fully charged before leaving home so it is usable when you get to your field. It is important to carry it with you until kickoff for two reasons:
  - So you can be reached by your referee partners and the assignor, and





- Leagues are requiring us to use our devices for match reporting and/or check in of the teams at an increasing rate.

Make sure you are prepared!

Do you have a quick tip to share? If so, please email it to [President@sbsra.org](mailto:President@sbsra.org).

## **From the Office of the Treasurer**

Please be reminded:

- 1) **Home/Mailing Address Changes** - Provide the Treasurer with your change of address at the same time that you make the change in Arbiter,
- 2) **Checks** – please cash these in a timely manner,
- 3) **Forfeits** - Notify the applicable Assignor and the Treasurer within 24 hours of forfeited games. This way we can ensure the applicable league is billed for the ref fees that would have been paid on the field and that the referees are paid the fees owed to them,
- 4) **W-9 form** – Every member is required by Federal law to provide a W-9 form (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw9.pdf>) to the Treasurer. We have included this as a requirement in our Returning Membership Application process for the 2023 – 2024 season. We are required to keep these forms for at least 7 years after you cease to be a member. Simply providing your SSN is not sufficient. Please cooperate so as not to place your Treasurer and the Association in jeopardy.

## **Monthly Membership Meetings**

To maintain our high standards of refereeing, the Association provides two vehicles to share information and instruction with our members – this *Flag & Whistle* monthly newsletter and our monthly membership meetings. Please try to attend the meeting and read the newsletter every month - this is how we share important information with all of our members.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Included below are the General Membership Meeting Minutes for the most recent meeting for approval by the Membership at our next meeting.

## **Next Meeting**

The next Monthly Membership Meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 24, 2023, starting at 7:03pm** at our regular location - North High School Cafeteria.

We look forward to seeing you there!





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## SBSRA General Membership Meeting Minutes September 26, 2023

1. Call to order at 7:04 pm
2. Approval of August 2023 Meeting Minutes, motion made by Rick Roberts, seconded by Logan Couig, approved by acclimation.
3. Monthly Training - Blake George (SoCal) and "Lessons Learned this Season" presented by Chris Nevil.

Blake noted the following:

- Make sure the coach is listed correctly on the match report and that it is supported by a proper ID card
- Include the reason for a Red Card (send off) with use of proper language from the LOTG (this usually the only way the League learns about the issue)
- SoCal levels of play are Flights 1-4 and NPL (the league emphasizes the need to usually try to have three referees for these higher-level games)
- In response to a question asked about substitution rules in NPL - the substitution rules are still the same as last year - 3 times per half, re-entry is allowed, on any possession
- Each team pays half the referee fees
- It is up to the coaches to manage their sidelines
- SoCal's State Cup will not be at local fields but interested referees should let Gabriel know of their interest
- JJ asked Blake to communicate to the teams that we appreciate that single referees on 11v11 games is not preferred, but is better than no referee. Referees are working harder, doing more games than we should and we deserve appreciation not disdain when there are less than three of us. If not for that one referee, there would be no game
- SoCal is definitely trying to communicate that to the clubs
- Tim Martinez expressed the concern that youth referees especially need to be protected from sideline abuse.

Chris Nevil presented on lessons learned so far this season:

- Plan on getting to the correct field on time (at least 30 minutes before kickoff)
- Communicate with team members ahead of game day if your assignments may lead to your late arrival at the field
- Use Arbiter Mobile to reach partners by text or phone  
Include your name in all texts and calls as the recipient may not recognize your number to match with your name
- Please show some hustle if you are running late - it's not a good look to walk towards the field casually when late



- Use the single referee call line (310-955-9905 ext. 1) at least one hour before your game
  - Use our website and links to the League Web sites, if necessary, to find information
  - Know the rules of the Leagues, the fees, substitution rules, etc., by reviewing them just before the games
  - Discuss procedures with partners in a pre-game meeting - particularly administration of substitutions and league-specific procedures
  - Deal with spectators and sideline locations as best as possible, in accordance with league rules, **before the game starts**, in particular no spectators on the AR side of the field, or behind the AR
  - Be sure to obtain signatures on the match reports, if required, and keep copies or take a photo of it
  - Submit supplemental reports to the Member-At-Large ASAP, sending him a text immediately after the game to let him know a report will be coming later. (Blake mentioned that SoCal has a weekly disciplinary meeting on Wednesday mornings). JJ stated that SBSRA deadline is tighter so we can meet league needs.
4. Treasurer's Report:
- a) BA announced that he had Forms W-9 for those who have not provided with him one yet.
  - b) Checks will be available after the meeting for those who officiated games in August and weren't paid at the field.
5. President's Report
- a) Start of the Season - Good feedback from clubs and teams about our refereeing so far, many individual members have done many more games than usual, and the Association really appreciates their extra efforts. We are responsible for each other and need to keep assignors informed of any changes in referee assignments (referee versus assistant referee) **BEFORE THE GAME** and unusual events.
  - b) Board Meeting - September 2023:
    - i. Multi-year agreements have been made but SBSRA retains the right to update fees yearly. TUSD and City of Beverly Hills were two such clients.
    - ii. Dri-Fit shirts are in for early orders.
    - iii. JJ sent referee recruitment flyers to local college coaches, with no results.
    - iv. Referee misconduct in past month (missing games, no referee gear, referees leaving the field early).
    - v. Communicate early and often. If you are looking for a different experience, please communicate with the assignors.
6. Vice President's Report
- a) ROL Update and Safe Sport - 130 on ROL, 2024 recertification is open. Get the SafeSport done in a timely manner, set reminders for yourself.
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7. Secretary's Report
  - a) SBSRA Membership Report
    - i. Full Members - 103
    - ii. Probationary - 25
    - iii. Non ROL - 10
    - iv. Honorary - 2
  - b) New Members - Jo Ann Kalata, William Tieman introduced themselves.
8. Assignor's Report (GG was not present):
  - a) VG spoke about Futsal trainings and the minimal positive responses from those who are interested in getting certified to officiate Futsal.
  - b) He noted that people have responded positively to his emails about certain leagues but don't adjust their blocks for those games. If you are want the games, please open your blocks for them.
  - c) Veto also spoke about the 3-day Galaxy Fantasy Camp in October. In appreciation of our excellent refereeing services (for which Veto gets huge credit) LA Galaxy offered us one complimentary spot, and 20% off additional participants, for their 3-day soccer players' fantasy camp, with many cool features and benefits. The SBSRA Board received recommendations comprising members who have refereed Futsal games at the LA Galaxy Soccer Center and have stepped up when asked to do so. Following consideration and deliberation, the Board decided to award the opportunity to a well-deserved Steve McCall.
  - d) Cal South Update - Webinar on September 27, 2023 will feature FIFA Women's World Cup FIFA Final referee Tori Penso. JJ noted that she is a frequent participant on college soccer educational webinars, is a good presenter and of course, a very good referee. Don't miss it!
  - e) CORE Training - Continuing to be held at North High, classroom only, no more physical training on the field.
9. Member-At-Large Report
  - a) Supplemental Reports - 22 supplemental reports so far. Use details regarding time of incidents and LOTG language. Templates of "how not to prepare a report" and "how to prepare a report" are now available on the SBSRA website under the "Laws & Guidance" section.
  - b) SBPSL - SR receives a schedule of PSL games each Friday and follows up with missing match reports that have not been received by John Moody, in the manner specified on our website. Submitting these match reports to John Moody by email on the day of the games is not onerous and it is part of the assignment. Any referees who are not willing and/or able to do this should simply block this league on Arbiter.
10. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.



## Report Writing – Supplemental Reports

### USSF

September 2023

In this edition, we focus our attention on an important post-game activity: writing a Supplemental Report. This document is separate from the more common game report. A Supplemental Report is used for incidents that may occur in a game such as:

- Sending-off offenses
- Serious injury
- Spectator issues
- Field issues
- Game delays
- Abuse or assault

It is important that the referee, in collaboration with the rest of the referee team, complete and submit a Supplemental Report for any of the incidents above to the competition authorities, the State Referee Administrator (SRA), and the assignor of the game. Check with the local competition for information on the deadline to submit the Supplemental Report (typically within 24 hours, but in some cases sooner due to a tournament schedule, for example).

Review **Figure 1** below for the core elements that a Supplemental Report must contain for each incident.

**USA REPORT WRITING | SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT**

- Remember that for each incident, the following must be included in the **supplemental report**:

1. Just the facts
2. Core elements
  - a. Game information
  - b. Time when the incident occurred
  - c. Participant(s) involved (e.g., player, coach, spectator)
  - d. Complete and concise description of the incident including the location

**U.S. Soccer Federation Referee Program  
Supplemental Referee Report**

Complete and submit this form, along with a U.S. Soccer Referee Report, to the appropriate competition authority (e.g., local league, tournament director, cup coordinator, etc.) or directed for the dismissal of team officials, sending-off offenses, serious injuries, game abandonment or other substantial occurrences. For instances of referee misconduct or referee abuse, complete and submit this form, along with a U.S. Soccer Referee Report, to the appropriate competition authority (e.g., local league, tournament director, cup coordinator, etc.), State President with jurisdiction for the competition and State Referee Administrator.

Home Team: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Away Team: \_\_\_\_\_ Score: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Association/League: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Division/Age Group: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Game Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Game Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement:  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 USSF ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_



Referees must take the time to complete and submit a Supplemental Report as needed so that the competition authority takes disciplinary action or addresses the issues as appropriate. In cases of abuse or assault, the process to handle such incidents requires a Supplemental Report. For additional information, check with your State Referee Committee (SRC) and State Director of Instruction (SDI) to help you verify local rules of competition and opportunities to learn more about this topic. Thank you!

Review **Figure 2** for a quick summary on this topic with key takeaways on writing Supplemental Reports

The slide features the USA Soccer Referee Association logo on the left. The main title is "REPORT WRITING | SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT". To the right of the text is a photograph of several referees in yellow shirts and black shorts standing on a field. Below the text is a small red vertical bar with the text "© 2023 USA Soccer Referee Association".

- The referee is responsible to submit a **supplemental report** in collaboration with the rest of the referee team.
- It is used to report red cards, serious injury, abuse and assault, spectator or field issues, and game delays.
- It must contain the game information, time of the incident, the participant(s) involved, and a short, factual description.
- The referee submits it to the competition authority, State Referee Administrator (SRA), and assignor

Check the local rules of competition for additional reasons to submit a Supplemental Report

For resources and examples, documents and videos, check out the following resources (English and Spanish):

### [Referee Game Reports](#)

[Supplemental Report Writing – Part 1](#)

[Supplemental Report Writing – Part 2](#)

[Supplemental Report Writing – Part 3](#)

[Supplemental Report Writing – Part 4](#)

### [Informes del juego para el árbitro](#)

[Informe suplementario – Parte número 1](#)

[Informe suplementario – Parte número 2](#)

[Informe suplementario – Parte número 3](#)

[Informe suplementario – Parte número 4](#)



## Warren's Howellers and Some Things to Think About

### Breaking News! Referee Assault Gets Approval!!

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North Korea soccer coach Sin Yong Nam defended his players after several clashed with match officials on the pitch after their 2-1 defeat to Japan in the Asian Games quarterfinals in Hangzhou, China on Sunday Oct. 1.

North Korea captain Jang Kuk Chol and teammate Kim Kyong Sok remonstrated heatedly with referee Rustam Lutfullin after the final whistle, pursuing the Uzbek in the middle of the pitch as he tried to back away.

The North Korean players were earlier furious when Lutfullin awarded a penalty to Japan after goalkeeper Kang Juh Yok charged out and clipped the feet of Jun Nishikawa with an outstretched arm.

"I admit that our players were a little bit over-excited in the match, but it is football," Sin said at the post-match press conference. "But there are confrontations in football matches... I think our behavior is acceptable."



### The Check is in the Mail!! No Really, the Check is in the Mail!!!

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Police in Spain have searched the headquarters of the country's football referee committee as part of a probe into [payments made by Barcelona](#) Football Club to a firm owned by a former official of the body.



Prosecutors suspect the club paid millions of dollars to the company of **Jose Maria Enriquez Negreira**, the former vice president of Spanish football's refereeing committee, between 2001 and 2018, to try to influence referee decisions.

The club was accused of corruption in sports, fraudulent management and the falsification of mercantile documentation.

Prosecutors said between 2001 and 2018, Barcelona paid \$7.7m to Negreira, a former referee who was a part of the federation's refereeing committee from 1994 to 2018.

### **Old News! Referees are in Short Supply!! Abuse of Officials Blamed!!!**

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Tucson AZ - A referee can be an athlete's best friend or worst nightmare, but they are essential for any sporting event. That necessity is becoming a rarity in Arizona, with youth sports taking the brunt of the impact. For academies like FC Tucson youth, the shortage has already affected ten to twenty percent of their games.

"The crisis is here. Unfortunately, like the climate crisis, everybody's got a lot of solutions that probably should have been implemented earlier," President and former head coach of FC Tucson **John Pearlman** said.

Shortages of referees isn't a new problem and is one that is not unique to Tucson. But like a soccer ball going downhill, it has become one with too much momentum to stop. "I don't think anybody really truly believed that it was going to come down to what we've started to see this year, which is where we're actually canceling games," Executive Director of FC Tucson youth soccer **Dave Cosgrove** said. There have already been several games canceled to start the youth academies season and Cosgrove says many more could suffer the same fate.

"We've lost, you know, probably five to 10 games already. And if it doesn't change soon, it will be more like 20 and 30," Cosgrove said.





# The Flag and Whistle

October 2023

Many games that aren't canceled have been moved to Phoenix, causing parents more headaches, travel and money. It also leaves many of the facilities in the Old Pueblo – which thousands of dollars have been poured into – empty. “We have quality fields down here, we have quality teams down here, we have the facilities to play these games and now to not have people that referee them is a great frustration,” Pearlman said.

Officials with FC Tucson also say the idea of moving games up North is like putting a band aid over the problem, as the more highly populated area could see similar shortages in the future. “I think they're basically a year behind us. If they don't do something right now, I think a year from now they're talking about canceling games in Phoenix as well,” Cosgrove said.

The reason many of the referees are putting away their whistles doesn't have to do with the players on the field, but coaches say a lot of it comes from the spectators off the field.

“The number one problem that [referees] are facing are negative experiences with the spectators and the parents, unfortunately,” Cosgrove said.

Pearlman, who has been involved on the national and even international stage with U.S. soccer, says he has seen the abuse towards refs on all levels, even by himself. “It's up to myself as a coach, who used to be maybe not as good to referees, as I should have been in the earlier portion of my career to really, you know, appreciate them and also create opportunities.”

Pearlman says he and other Arizona soccer executives have been working on ways to entice more referees and create a better working environment. “There's a lot we can do. They can get discounts for their gear, we can invest in funds for routine and training, and we can make uniforms free.”

Pearlman says the final buzzer hasn't sounded and the momentum could shift for the declining referee pool, but the clock is ticking. “Without this, we can't play games, we can't have players, we can't have clubs and the game sinks, and it dies.”

----- Keep  Smiling and Be  Safe! -----