

# In Touch

South Coast Referee Association - Mission Viejo, California

## The Presidents Whistle.....Ken Bruette



### Special points of interest:

- Outstanding Annual Re-Certification showing
  - Make-up November 1st
- Calm Referee's mean calm games
  - Focus on field demeanor
- Referee Teamwork is vital
- Spectator positioning is best handled before game starts

### Inside this issue:

Instructor's Corner	
Flag Signaling Skills	2
Guest Column	
The most difficult part of Refereeing	3
Q & A's -	
Can you use "2 whistle" or "high school" method of game control?	4

The October General Referee Meeting attendance for the Annual Re-Certification was nothing short of Outstanding! There were easily 100+ members there to register for 2006 so they could be eligible for games beginning January 1st. Out attendance was equally impressive for the Cal South State Referee Committee representatives as they ran out of tests resulting in some needing to share the booklets.

The Cal South Referee representatives have agreed to return on November 1<sup>st</sup> for the make-up date. A separate room will be used for those who couldn't make it to the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please make every effort to attend this make-up date as you will have to make other arrangements outside of SCRA for your annual Re-Certification. You must be a registered USSF Referee to be eligible for game assignments from SCRA.

I was recently stopped by a Coach who gave me a compliment on one of our Referees for game control. What impressed this coach was the Referee was very calm and collected throughout the entire

match while being polite, firm and decisive especially when some dissent arose from a sideline. The dissent was quickly handled and was a non-issue from that point forward. The lessons learned are that Referees are the ones where cooler minds must prevail and **not** engage in raised voices or yelling. What also goes a long way is to admit a mistake if you make one. If play has not yet re-started, fix your mistake to make it right. I'm also pleased to report that the SCRA Referee teams that go to State Cup games routinely receive compliments on their officiating excellence. With this in mind, I'd like all Referees to focus on their field demeanor. Referees certainly are not to be abused, but how you handle the interaction can usually determine whether it's quickly resolved and you move forward or things may get worse. One way to help with this is to see how your colleagues handle games as well. What went well or not so well? Talk at the half-time and after the game. What could have been done differently? Use it at your next game and see how it works.

Referee teamwork is vital to all games. Walk onto the field together and show teamwork solidarity by shaking hands at the beginning of the match and at halftime. Walk off the field together. Use the Assistant Referees in your games as much as possible. One technique is to let them call the out of bounds direction from the halfway line to the goal frame upright on their side of the field. Then mirror their call. You've just eliminated any conflicting signals for what the re-start is.

Before starting your games, check out where the spectators are sitting so that the Assistant Referees have room to run and are not crowded out (be alert for umbrellas too close as well). We had a recent case where a parent with a large camera came up to the line, caused a Youth Referee to slow down on a breakaway to avoid running into the person and then receive Sideline abuse for not calling Offside. The parent with the camera was then ejected from the game. The goal stood (because when in doubt, do NOT call Offside). As we've all seen, most spectators just don't get it. I suggest you consider having the spectators sit no closer than 6 feet to the touchline where the Assistant

*continued on bottom of page 2*

## Instructor's Corner by Wally Fallman

Another month and more observations.....

In general, I continue to be very impressed by the performance of our youth referees (and the future is bright!) So why is it that referees with very little experience can (1) use flags to signal goal kicks and corner kicks, (2) use the necessary judgment in signaling for offside participation (and not signaling where there is none), (3) indicate when substitutes have been requested, and (4) keep up with play, when the more experienced, more mature referees cannot?

The appropriate signal made by the AR for a goal kick is:

- Points the flag horizontally toward the goal area if the ball crosses the goal line on the ARs side of the field..... OR if the referee makes eye contact for assistance.

If the ball passes out of play, and immediately returns to the field of play, signals with a vertical flag (indicating the ball went into touch/across the goal line) until acknowledged by the referee. Then points to the goal

area as above.

The appropriate signal made by the AR to signal offside is:

- Raise the flag vertically (don't wave it).
- If the referee misses the flag (and some will) stand at attention with the flag raised until the defense gains possession or until a goal kick or throw in is awarded to the defense.

After making eye contact with the referee, indicate the location of the offside by indicating where on the field the restart will occur.

The appropriate signal made by the AR to request substitutes is:

- Upon a stoppage of play (vary by rules of competition), raise the flag horizontally above the head and wait for referee acknowledgement.
- After the referee's acknowledgement,

lower the flag and proceed to mid-field to administer the substitution process.

- Ensures the substitute does not enter the field until the player being replaced has left the field (They only get eleven !!)

After completion of the substitute process, return to the position of next to last defender (or ball, whichever is closer to the goal line).

There is no law or book covering the fourth item mentioned above. Most of us are guilty of not being in the shape the game demands. It is in our best interest to be honest in this area. If we cannot keep up with B16, tell the Assigner to drop you down to a lower level until you feel comfortable and can keep up with a higher level. This is professionalism. We all need to focus on it..... for the good of the game.

See you on the pitch.

## The Presidents Whistle.....continued from Page 1

Referee will be. If this doesn't work, move the spectators to the other end of the field.

At this point in the season, it's very helpful to check the team standings on the Coast Soccer League website ([www.coastsoccer.com](http://www.coastsoccer.com)). On the Home page, click on the 2005 Season Info for Standings and select the Division and level of your games. Wouldn't you like to know your game is the 1<sup>st</sup> place team vs the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team or 1<sup>st</sup> vs last? Each has their own set of challenges that you should be alert to.

I'm pleased to report that we have had a number of Referees receive an assessment to advance from Grade 8 to Grade 7. The process to do this is relatively easy, but you must be comfortable and competent as a Center on older

Boys games. This means you must be physically fit to stay with play for the full duration of the game as you're assessed as Center on a Boys game that is 2 X 45 minutes long. You then have to pass a USSF physical fitness test that reasonably fit individuals can easily pass. If you're interested in doing a grade upgrade, please contact Mark Rogers, the Director of Referee Development. We can also arrange a "pre-assessment" if you like. To help promote Referee advancement, CSL will reimburse you the Referee Assessor fee (currently \$40 that you pay at the field) after you pass and receive the upgrade.

Please remember to put 10% of your cash on field earnings aside so that SCRA can be paid. We need to square up

in December 2005 for the Fall 2005 season. This applies to all Referees including Youth Referees. We usually are asked to support the Irvine Thanksgiving weekend tournament where this is a great way to pay off those dues without cutting SCRA a check.

Beginning with the October General Referee meeting, Referee replacement wallet pads are available for free, but you must attend the meetings to get them. We also still have a supply of the CSL Fall 2005 handbooks and the Referee Rate cards. Please stop by the November General Referee meeting to get one if you haven't yet done so. These books are useful throughout the year for field directions throughout Southern California.

Yours in soccer

---

### More News!

- *Are team standings important?*
- *To advance badge level you need an assessment*
- *Set aside 10% of field earnings to pay SCRA*
- *Referee wallets are free at November meeting*

## Guest Column - The Most Difficult Part of Refereeing by Robert Evans, FIFA Referee (1979–1988) & FIFA Referee Instructor (1990 - 1992)

Many people who go to watch a soccer game—youth, adult, professional—wonder why a lot of physical contact between players is not punished by the referee. If they are new to the game, they may be no more than puzzled by the apparent lack of understanding (or eyesight) by the official. If they've been around the game a bit, or if their little darling is playing and perhaps gets knocked over, they may become irate at the irresponsibility of the referee. And of course, if they have the authority of a coach's jacket or hat, they not only become irate, but they may even take it upon themselves to let the official know exactly what they think of him (or her). After all, everyone knows that the official is supposed to call fouls and other infringements of the laws, and if he doesn't do that, he must be incompetent, right?

Well, actually, no! By allowing some infractions to go unpunished he may in fact be doing his job just the way that the laws tell him to. (Pause to wait for the muttering ..) Oh, I can hear it now: "What is this idiot talking about? He says that a referee misses the calls and yet is still doing his job? He lets fouls go unpunished, and we are supposed to compliment

him for doing things right?" And those comments are the mild ones..!

After being involved in refereeing since 1964, through thousands of games refereed, watched and assessed, and through countless classes instructed, I have to say that the most difficult part of refereeing is knowing what infractions to call, and what ones to let go. The reason for the difficulty is simple: For more than one hundred years, the laws of the game have INSTRUCTED REFEREES NOT to call everything, but to call only the infractions that affect the game adversely.

IT COMES DOWN TO THIS:

THE ART OF REFEREEING IS THE ART OF PENALIZING ONLY THOSE BREACHES OF THE LAW THAT AFFECT THE GAME.

But the problem with that statement is that at each level of the game, from little wobbly kids to U-8s, U-10s, U-12s through the early teenagers up to full youth competitions, into the adult games, to the top amateur level into the semi-professionals and full professionals, then into international club competitions all the way to full "A" class internationals and on to the World Cup, the infractions that affect the game are different!

So youth players and their parents go to a pro-

fessional match or watch one on television, and they see all that goes on—ferocious tackling; seemingly endless comments to the referee—and wonder about the competence of the official. They see players with their hands all over their opponent; they wince as a player is challenged hard and goes down in a heap with his challenger; they see a blatant offside, and the referee allows play to go on! It seems so obviously unfair—unless of course, you know what is going on.

Experienced referees changed their decision-making to suit the game they are refereeing. A simple push in a U-12 game can throw a player off balance and most times should be penalized. That same push in an adult game would be meaningless, and in a professional match might be taken merely as a gesture of affection! An offside call when the flag goes up and the whole of the audience in the stands can see the player offside should not be called if it is clear that the goalkeeper or other defender is going to safely clear the ball. The infraction has become meaningless and does not affect the game. Until the recent rewriting of the Laws of the Game, this philosophy of refereeing was written as 64 words in the International Board Decision number 8 of Law 5:

"The Laws of the Game are intended to provide that games should be played with as little in-

terference as possible, and in this view it is the duty of Referees to penalise only deliberate breaches of the Law. Constant whistling for trifling and doubtful breaches produces bad feeling and loss of temper on the part of the players and spoils the pleasure of spectators."

That's the art of refereeing!

So next time you go to a game and see fouls going unpunished, take a look at the players, and listen to what they are saying. If they are not complaining, but are just getting on with the game, then they obviously are happy with the way that things are being called. In which case, so should you. But if you go to a match and here players saying: "For heaven's sake, ref! Let us play!" then you know that the players want more freedom, they don't want the referee to call everything and choke the game to death.

It's a difficult art, this refereeing. And doubly difficult when you do the job right, but still have to contend with spectators who don't understand.

That explains the big money we make doing it!

**Nike Harvest Cup**

**Irvine**

**Thanksgiving Holiday**

Get your availability in by  
November 1st to:

**Mike Willmott**

Games are usually for Friday  
and Saturday, rarely Sunday

*South Coast Referee Association -  
Mission Viejo, California*

---

South Coast Referee Association  
27346 Betanzos  
Mission Viejo, CA 92692-3217

Email: [scratreasurer@cox.net](mailto:scratreasurer@cox.net)

Editor: Rowland B. Keenan

***Reminder***  
**General Meeting November 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Murray Community Center**

---

## Questions & Answers

Q. If there are only two referees for a game, can the game be officiated using the “two whistle” or “high school” method rather than the required Diagonal System of Control?

A. No. For a definition of permissible methods of Control, refer to page 36 of the USSF Referee Administrative Handbook, wherein it describes the Diagonal System of Control, and the alternatives for use when less than three Federation Referees are present. The only dif-

ference is that Coast Soccer League will allow Club Linesmen to be affiliated with the teams.

Unfortunately there have been far too many games this season where two Referees have shown up to the field, and have decided to disregard USSF and CSL Policy and officiate the game using the “two whistle” or “high school” method rather than the required Diagonal System of Control.

The CSL Board of Directors decided that beginning October 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>,

2005 any Referees using any method other than the USSF approved Diagonal System of Control **will be docked the games fees**, which will be returned to the teams in the match. To return the fees, CSL will withhold the amount from the Association’s payment – and the Association is responsible for withholding the fees from the Referees involved. Remember, **only** Referees assigned by the Association receive payment for their services.

We’re on the Web!

[WWW.SCRAREFS.COM](http://WWW.SCRAREFS.COM)

---

*Got a  
question?  
Send it in and  
look for the  
answer here.*