
Livermore Referee Association



Referee Calendar of Events



December 16th	Livermore Referee Association Meeting
January 4-5th	Association Cup prelim rounds
January 18-19th	State Cup prelim rounds
January 27th	Livermore Referee Association Meeting
February 1-2nd	CYSA Annual General Meeting

Meeting Agenda



LRA Meeting December 16th

This is it! The one you have all been waiting for. The LRA annual pizza blowout is at hand! Our annual meeting will be on Monday, December 16 at the Round Table Pizza on Stanley (in the Warehouse/Kmart) shopping center beginning at 7:00. The pizza is on the association, so how can you beat a deal like that? This is the meeting where we review the ups and downs of the past season, recognize our outstanding and most improved referees, both adult and youth, and very importantly elect officers for the coming year. Don't miss it!

The Season isn't done yet!

Keep your availability current. Fill in the availability calendar at our website www.livermorerefs.org. Or send an email to assignor@livermorerefs.org or hintonref@attbi.com. The Tide American Cup, Chevrolet Association Cup, and the Snickers State Cup are statewide events beginning in January. The Tide American Cup is for Class 4 U12-19 Boys/Girls. The Chevrolet Association Cup, also for Class 3 U12-19 Boys/Girls. The Snickers State Cup for Class 1 U11-19 Boys/Girls. Some games in these tournaments may come Livermore's way, so don't hit that couch too soon.

All the game cards for league play have been turned in. If there are games you did that you think you weren't paid for, particularly if they were early in the season, give Michelle an email.

What a Season!

If you thought we were busy this year you were right! The Livermore Referee Association provided 2957 referees to cover 1239 games during the 2002 season. Thanks to all of you refs who did their best to keep the season safe, fair, and fun for all those kids, coaches, and parents. Just as importantly we hope you all had fun as well!



Questions for the clever Refs!

1. When you punish for “offside”, where is the IDK taken?
2. Define “holding”
3. “Excessive” celebration of a goal is an example of?



Answers on Page 3



Hey Ref! What are you gonna do?



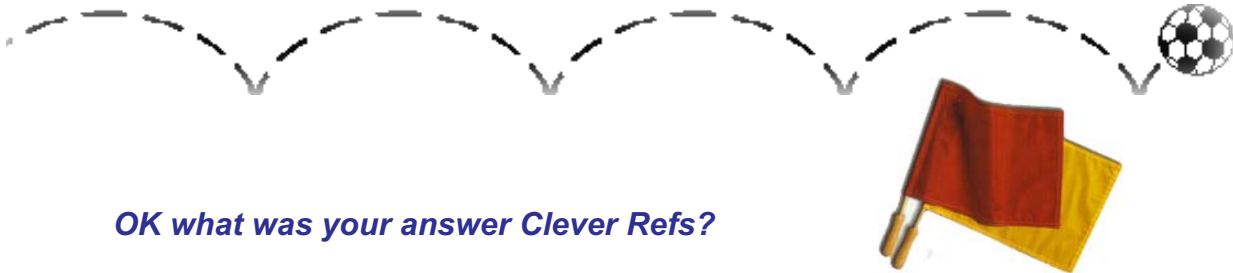
1. You never should have taken this game. It's the first tournament of August, and actually your first game of the season. You were there 30 minutes early for your 8:00 AM game this foggy Saturday morning but at game time the Center still hadn't shown. The other AR is a 13-year-old second year ref, you scrounged a 12-year-old ref who had been helping set up the snack shack prior to his first game later that morning. Now you are 20 minutes into a U16 boy's game between the Cobras and the Sharks. You've mostly centered U12 and done a couple of U14 house games, but they really needed to get the tournament started on time, and everyone really understood how this game would be a stretch for you, but now you have that gnawing sensation that you are sinking deeper and deeper into a hole of your own making. The Cobra striker rips a shot on goal; the Shark goalie manages to block the ball down and snares just as the hard-charging striker closes on him. The striker holds his ground and the keeper shoves him out of the way before getting set to punt the ball downfield. Everyone's yelling at you now. "Oh man, what have I got? A foul? Misconduct? The keeper had it, was the ball even in play?" You've got to think fast!

Continue on page 3

Hey Ref continued

2. OK - they spent 30 minutes of last week's clinic on what to look for on player passes and today, for once, you are going to take your time and do it right. You've gone through 12 of the passes for the U15B Titans and then you come to "Lawrence Kiem". You look at the picture and then the kid and then back at the picture. You check the seal, the date, the league, the team, the signature, everything is in order. You stare hard at the kid, his head is down and he won't look you in the eye. "Mr. Kiem", you ask, "when was this picture taken?" He mumbles something unintelligible. The coach asks you if there is a problem. You ask him if he has the correct pass for this player. "Yep, that's Larry". You look at the picture and back at "Larry", you think "This is not this kid!" You.....

Answers on page 5



OK what was your answer Clever Refs?

1. Offside is punished where the infringement occurred. In other words, the indirect free kick should be taken from the place where the offside player was when his teammate played the ball. The kick should not be taken from the place where the second to last defender was nor where the player was at the moment the offside was called (eds. note: how many of us get this consistently wrong!).

2. Holding is any contact that illegally prevents an opponent from moving away from the holder. It may be done with the hands, arms (including elbows), legs or feet, and the body. Holding an opponent includes the act of stretching the arms out to prevent an opponent from moving past or around. A player who blatantly holds onto and pulls his opponent's clothing to play the ball to gain possession of the ball should be cautioned and shown the yellow card for unsporting behavior.

3. Time wasting, a cautionable offense.

From "Advice to Referees"





ARTICLE



The referee sitting to my left was under a lot of pressure. The instructor, towering over him, was very demanding: "Well, come on, make a decision! Was it denying an obvious goal scoring opportunity, or wasn't it?" My colleague, who had insisted it was, now tried to backtrack. The instructor was relentless. "Now you're not sure, hey? Just a moment ago you were certain. You don't have time to stop and think! Bang! Bang! The play's over! Make a decision!"

The instructor was Bob Evans, and the venue was the Seminar for Referees, Instructors, and Assessors, held November 8 in Redwood City. Bob is coauthor (with Ed Bellion) of the book, *For the Good of the Game*. His credentials are awesome: FIFA Referee (1979-87), FIFA Referee Instructor (1990-92), National Instructor, National Assessor, Former USSF Director of Instruction, and Former Member of the National Referee Committee. In addition, Bob is an imposing figure, well over six feet tall, and possessed of a bullhorn voice. He was using these assets to full advantage.



The Seminar is one of a series designed for referees, instructors, and assessors. The advertisement said, "This is an interactive session that will be both stimulating and challenging!" They meant every word of that statement.

The topic list included, among others: denial of goal-scoring opportunity, treatment of star players, abuse at the end of a game, and horrid fouls. But the treatment was what made the seminar so special. Bob played "Devil's Advocate" throughout, constantly challenging the 30 or so referees who attended. On every topic, Bob would begin by describing a seemingly simple scenario, asking some referee (we all got our turn) a series of very pointed questions that would bring out more and more complexities. His challenges were not gentle. I thought he could get a yellow card for one or two of them! On every question Bob was challenging, and the referees reacting (often waffling and backtracking). Bob pointed out repeatedly that we must know the *intent* of the laws, their reasons for existing, and how they can be used (and abused).

Bob began with a simple question that became his main theme: "Are there times when a referee should bend the Laws of the Game for the good of the game?" To make a point, Bob provided a contrived example: Red #4 throws the ball into play, but before the ball is touched, the referee calls a foul on Blue. Red #4 races to take the free kick. But technically, he can't play the ball until another player has touched it. (Nothing in the LOTG says anything about "unless a stoppage makes it a new play.") But of course every referee should allow it! From this we proceeded to more and more subtle and complicated (and realistic) scenarios. Bob's thesis is that we must understand the effect, on the game, of each case in which we "bend the laws in a good cause." That sometimes we can and should (even must!) and sometimes we cannot and must not. Learning which was which was the fundamental point of his seminar.



Article continued

It made for a thoroughly entertaining, challenging, and thought-provoking evening. It ended with a film clip from an MLS game. A shot is fired right into the center of the goal, where a defender, on the line, dives in front of the ball, and has it careen off his... chest? elbow? shoulder? wrist? "What's the call?" Bob demanded, going from person to person around the room. There was general disagreement. Many said deliberate handling, PK, red card; many said accidental handling, play on. Some said no handling, play on. A very few said handling, but not deliberate, so PK, no card or yellow card (huh?). Bob pressed us about what we saw. Most replied hesitantly. "Well, I *think* I saw... but I'm not sure." He showed the tape again. And again. Still, many referees couldn't decide just what they'd seen. We debated. We theorized. We agonized. Then Bob rolled the rest of the tape. The referee (Brian Hall), with absolutely no hesitation, called the PK and issued the Red card. "And that, ladies and gentlemen," Bob Evans explained, "is why that man went to the World Cup and why you are sitting here with me."

Well said, Bob.



Van Henson

Answers to: Hey Ref, What are you gonna do?

1. While the goalkeeper may have been guilty of unsporting behavior, that would be in the opinion of the referee, he was certainly guilty of pushing the opponent. The restart should have been a penalty kick for the Cobras. There is misconception that the ball is "out of play" when it is in the goalkeeper's hands. It is not "out of play," but is "not play-able." The ball is out of play only when it leaves the field or the referee stops play. When the ball is held by the 'keeper, it (and he) cannot be challenged but the ball is still "in play."
2. Start the game. If the fraud is alleged prior to the game and the player will not admit that he is not the person on the pass he has presented, nothing can be done. The referee has no power to tell a player with an apparently legitimate pass that he cannot play. The proper procedure is to continue play and report the matter to the appropriate authorities. However, if the player does admit to the fraud and the game has already begun, the referee will have to deal with the matter of an outside agent on the field. It would be worse if the "player" had scored a goal. If the fraud were discovered before the restart, the goal would not be scored and the game would be restarted with a goal kick after the fraudulent player is removed. However, if the fraud were not discovered until after the game had been restarted, the only solution would be to abandon the match. If there is no goal issue, the fraudulent player is removed and the game is restarted with a dropped ball. In all cases, the referee must submit a full report to the appropriate authorities.

Thanks to Jim Allen's "Ask the Ref" website



Wishing you a
Merry Holiday Season



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