

Livermore Referee Association



Referee Calendar of Events








- July 22 LRA meeting
- July 27-28 District 3 Clinic, Dublin
- August 2-4 UOP Clinic, Stockton
- August 3-4 San Ramon Valley Cup
- August 10-11 Livermore Girls Soccer Festival
- August 24-25 Livermore Girls Soccer Tournament
- September 1 Fun Run, Pleasanton Middle School 7PM

Meeting Agenda



July 22 meeting: Hey, the season is just a couple of weeks away. It's time to hone your skills on one of the most important and difficult calls we make: OFFSIDE. Parents don't understand it, coaches don't understand it, players don't understand it, you go to a clinic and even refs argue about it, but you need to know it perfectly. We'll go over the new tape "Making the Offside Call:.. This tape is based on the 1999 Women's World Cup and covers interpretation and application of the offside law, positioning, mechanics, and teamwork. This is especially important to our newer refs (all 24 of you) who will be out there running lines this fall making these calls while getting all kinds of advice from touchline. Our meetings begin at 7:00 PM at the Livermore Police Department's Community Room at 1110 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA.

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THE SEASON IS COMING, BE READY!

Newbie or Oldie, District 3 has the clinic for you.

District 3 will be presenting a pair of clinics coming up in July. The clinic on July 27 will be for referees with 3 or fewer years of experience. The clinic on July 28 will be for referees with more than 3 years experience. More information can be found at the District 3 web site at <http://www.d3ra.com>.

Hitting the Track yet? Remember, train to referee!

Although a fun run isn't scheduled until September, you can still test yourself. The times to beat for upgrade to 7 are 1800 meters in 12 minutes, 50 meters in 9.5 seconds, and 200 meters in 40 seconds. It's a good test for your fitness for the season, can you do it?



Send Your Availability Data Now!



The season is almost here – the time to submit your availability information is now! Livermore hosts two high-comp tournaments in August: one for girls (10-11 Aug.) and one for boys (24-25 Aug.). League play for house teams starts in late August. In order to assign you to matches, we **MUST** have your availability data.

It's very easy to do, simply fill in the availability calendar at our website www.livermorerefs.org. Or send an email to assignor@livermorerefs.org or hintonref@attbi.com. Fill in the days and times that you expect to be available to ref, along with any teams you are associated with and any other relevant info. It helps to include the name of your team's coach. If you are a player, coach, or spectator for a team, **YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW YOUR TEAM'S SCHEDULE** in order to submit availability. We will automatically know when your team plays, and schedule you to matches that not only avoid conflicts, but are convenient.

You will be assigned matches based upon the information you provide and level of experience. We try to assign newer referees to younger (U10-U12) matches with experienced mentors to get you off to a confident start. We try to get assignments to you 1-2 weeks ahead of time – sometimes more, sometimes less. Assignment periods range from a weekend (for tournaments) to several weeks. You should expect to referee during the times you say you are available. Make a copy of your availability calendar so you can avoid conflicts. You can (and should) update your availability whenever your schedule changes or becomes clearer. How? By submitting an updated calendar on the web site. PLEASE DON'T DELAY! It takes time to enter the info into our assigning computer, and we need to start now. Questions? Contact John Hinton, our assignor at hintonref@attbi.com Thanks!



SAN RAMON NEEDS REFS

The San Ramon Valley Cup on August 3-4 is a class 1 tournament that hosts teams from all over Northern California. They need refs! San Ramon usually sends a large contingent of referees to ehlp at Livermore tournaments so it is time to return the favor. If you can help out, contact Marcelo Varela at playonsr@aol.com. So, dust off that gold jersey, find your flags and get out there and help the kids have a great tournament.



Questions for all you clever refs out there.

1. A player in an offside position is only penalized if, at the moment the ball touches or is played by one of his team, he is, in the opinion of the referee, involved in active play. Define: **active play**.
2. Exactly where should the ball be placed after an attacker has been penalized for being offside?
3. Your jersey color conflicts with that of one of the team's goalkeepers, who changes?

Answers on page 3

Livermore Referee Association



Hey Ref! What are you gonna do?

1. The U16B Nomad's defense have been trapping the Raider's forwards all game. It's been fun to watch and your ARs have been working their tails off keeping up with the intense play. Finally, in the 64th minute, the Raider forwards are getting their timing down. A Raider forward and midfielder time their runs perfectly and are heading for paydirt with only the goalie left to deal with. As the lead forward brings the ball near the top of the PA, the goalie charges out to challenge. But the Raider forward has led the ball a bit too far and the Nomad goalie has the angle. The forward gets there first and drops the ball to his trailing midfielder. The Nomad goalie darts around the forward to make a play on the ball but the midfielder collects the pass and neatly places the ball in the corner of the net. OK gentle reader, what happened next?
2. Wow, that was a hit! You've just cautioned the sweeper for the U12G Strikers for a reckless charge in the PA. The Blast forward picks herself up as you and your AR take up your positions for the ensuing PK. You've covered the mechanics for penalty kicks in your pregame and everything is set. You wave an encroaching Striker fullback back behind the penalty mark and blow your whistle for the kick to proceed. Bang! The aggrieved forward rockets her shot. But the Striker goalie guesses right and blocks it. The ball rebounds off the goalie right back to the kicker who volleys it into the net. The Blast forward is leaping for joy, but you can hear the Striker coach screaming "double-touch, double-touch!!!" Oh Boy, you only have a moment to get this right, You ...



ANSWERS to Questions for clever refs

1. Active play is when a player has received the ball in an offside position and the player is: interfering with play or interfering with an opponent or gaining an advantage by being in that position.
2. Law 11 states that "for any offside infringement, the Referee awards an indirect free kick to the opposing team to be taken from the place where the infringement occurred" i.e. where the offside attacker was standing when he was deemed to be offside. The kick should NOT be taken from the place where the second-to-last defender was. Offside is given at the moment the ball is touched or played by a teammate. The ball must be placed on (or relatively near) to where the penalized offside player was when the ball was touched or passed to him by a colleague - but do not be too fussy with the exact positioning of the ball for the free kick -keep play going when you can, and do not exasperate players by insisting that the ball must be placed on the exact blade of grass on which the offender was standing when he was deemed to be offside.
3. He does. If the uniform colors worn by a goalkeeper and the referee are similar enough to invite confusion, the referee must attempt to have the goalkeeper change to different colors. Only if there is no way to resolve the color similarity does the referee and ARs change to colors that conflict least.



Answers on page 7



ARTICLE



What's All the Fuss About Sleeveless Jerseys?

By Van Henson

Sleeveless jerseys are now illegal, according to Memorandum 2002, the annual update the USSF puts out describing changes to the Laws of the Game and interpretations by FIFA and the IFAB. The Memorandum goes on to describe the change that FIFA has adopted:

CHICAGO (Monday, July 1, 2002) - As of July 1, 2002, The Laws of the Game have been amended to include a statement that "Jerseys must have sleeves" (Law 4, International FA Board Decision 1). Several questions have been raised regarding the practical effects of this change in the Law (caused by the appearance in international play of a national team wearing a sleeveless uniform shirt.) In response to the confusion about the intent of the rule change, we have prepared some common sense guidelines for referees to follow.

Intent of the Rule Change

The requirement that "jerseys must have sleeves" is intended to deter player efforts to alter their jersey in any way.

Guidelines for Enforcing this Rule

1. The sleeve must be recognizable as a genuine extension of the armhole of the uniform shirt being worn and able to perform the function of a sleeve commonly accepted in everyday wear.
2. Players may not alter their uniform by cutting off the sleeve or shortening it significantly.
3. Referees are asked to call player attention to these requirements if uniforms are altered, just as they would if shirts were not tucked in or socks not pulled up.
4. Details regarding jerseys which have no sleeves or shortened sleeves should be included in the referee's match report submitted to the competition authority.
5. However, since this is not a safety issue, a team or an individual player must not be prevented from playing solely for this reason.
6. Finally, as a member of FIFA, we are obliged to follow their rule changes, however, we ask that you use common sense and good judgement on the application of this rule change.

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So what does this mean to us, as referees?

It means **ALMOST NOTHING!** That's right, the guidance from USSF is that referees are not, repeat **NOT**, to enforce this decision in any way. Specifically, **NO PLAYER OR TEAM IS TO BE PREVENTED FROM PLAYING BECAUSE THEY ARE WEARING SLEEVELESS JERSEYS.** The referee may remind players and coaches that the new rules have declared sleeveless jerseys to be illegal. Referees should note on the game cards if a team is wearing illegal jerseys. Don't bother reporting individual players who wear the little straps effectively making their jerseys sleeveless, (letting them know it is illegal is fine but they are not to be prevented from playing).

This change is evidently causing USSF a lot of heartburn. Indeed, there has been so much reaction that they felt it necessary to issue a *second* communication:

US Soccer is still receiving communication from the state associations and leagues telling us that they are hearing from local referee associations and referee groups that "they intend to enforce the ruling on sleeveless jerseys." Please be advised that in accordance with the position paper sent earlier by US Soccer, no individual player or team should be kept from playing in a game because their jersey does not have sleeves. The instruction to the referees in the recent position paper on sleeveless jerseys, was that the only action they should take is note the fact on the game report that a team has sleeveless jerseys - nothing else. Whatever does or does not happen after they take that action is not the concern of the referee. We have thousands of teams in the United States playing in sleeveless jerseys and US Soccer is appealing to FIFA on this issue. Until an understanding is reached between the Secretary General of US Soccer and FIFA, referees should take no action to penalize teams or players for wearing sleeveless jerseys. It is your obligation as the individuals responsible for the implementation of the National Program for Referee Development within your state, to see that the referees in your state are aware of the position of US Soccer. Please notify each referee group, district, association, etc. within your state immediately to see that the word reaches all referees. We will notify you when and if this position changes. Thank you so much for your anticipated immediate cooperation.

Okay, can we all agree now that our instructions are clear? We are not to do anything to "enforce" the ban on sleeveless jerseys. We can call it to the attention of players and coaches, if we wish; we should note on the game card when teams are wearing sleeveless jerseys; otherwise, do nothing!!

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article continued

Statements in the Memorandum regarding “Temporary Expulsions” rules have caused another area of confusion. The Memorandum says that the USSF strongly agrees with FIFA on this and that *“USSF has not authorized nor will authorize, any state association or local league, competition, or tournament to adopt a “temporary expulsion” rule. The Laws of the Game may not be modified in this regard.”*

Numerous referees have asked if this statement precludes the common practice of requiring a player receiving a yellow-card caution to leave the game until the next legal substitution. Bill Miller, the District III Director of Instruction, informs us that this is not the case. Evidently some national associations have adopted rules for a “temporary red card,” in which a player who is shown the red card is expelled from the game, and his team plays shorthanded, for a limited period, after which the player returns to the game. This would be similar to how penalties are handled in hockey, or how certain transgressions are handled in rugby. The FIFA and USSF statements apply to this form of temporary expulsion, and **NOT** to the practice of requiring players receiving the yellow card to depart.

The difference, and the reason the yellow-card practice is permissible, is that in the latter case the team makes a substitution for the player receiving the caution, and is not required to play shorthanded. That is, it is a substitution and not an expulsion. This is a modification to FIFA substitution rules, and the Laws of the Game expressly permit such modification.





Hey Ref, What are you gonna do?

1. IDK for the Nomads. If the second oncoming attacker immediately shoots towards goal, and the first attacker's position is such that he is interfering with play, in this case standing in front of the goalkeeper so that the keeper cannot make a direct play on the ball, or clearly see the ball, then the first attacker is penalized for offside for being involved in active play by interfering with an opponent. If the second attacker runs past the first attacker and scores a goal, or if the second attacker shoots and scores a goal and the first attacker had not effected play in any way, then the goal counts. It is NOT an offence to be in an offside position.
2. ...point to the center circle for the kickoff. The goalkeeper is considered to be another player and any contact by the goalkeeper counts as a touch or play. If the ball then bounces back to the shooter, who puts it into the goal, it's a goal. If the ball had rebounded off the goal, well that's another story.

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

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