

Livermore Referee Association

Referee Calendar of Events



September 23rd Livermore Referee Association Meeting
 September 28-29th Livermore Girls Fall Classic
 October 12-13th Livermore Boys House Tournament
 October 26-27th Livermore Boys Halloween Classic

Meeting Agenda

LRA Meeting September 23rd

Hey Referee, what are you reading?



Well, what *are* you reading? That is, what are you reading that will help improve your skills as a referee? There are lots of books out there, each purporting to make you a better referee. Just glance at the bookshelf at Official Sports, for example. They're touting *The Laws of the Game* (well, let's hope we all have that one, and read it from time to time); *33 Ways to Become a Better Soccer Referee*; by Augusto Sylvani; *In Search of Fair Play*, by D.C. Emmerson Mathurin; *The Referee's Referee, Becoming the Best*, by Abraham Klein; *Fair or Foul*, by Harris & Harris; *Soccer Rules Illustrated*, by Stanley Lover; *The Soccer Referee's Manual*, by David Ager; *For the Good of the Game*, by Evans and Bellion; *Linesmanship*, by D.C. Emmerson Mathurin; *The Soccer Official's Guidebook for a Crew of Three Officials*, by Carl Schwartz; *Rules for Refs*, by Carl Schwartz; and *19 Smart Moves for the Soccer Official*, also by Carl Schwartz.

Heavens! What to read? Our program for this month's meeting will begin a discussion of some of these books, talking about what's in them, how they're laid out, what their intent is, and a review of their usefulness and quality. Certainly we can't go over all of the books (and the many others available) in one night, so we'll leave this as an occasional feature of succeeding meetings. Anybody is invited to contribute their thoughts- indeed, if someone wants to volunteer to lead a discussion of a particular book at a future meeting, let us know (contact Van Henson or Bill Hoppes). For the beginning, we'll focus on; *For the Good of the Game*, by Evans and Bellion.



If you've read it, bring your opinions. If you haven't, come and hear what it's about, and get a chance to leaf through it. See you there! Our meetings begin at 7:00 PM at the Livermore Police Department's Community Room at 1110 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA.

Counting those pennies



Just in case you have forgotten, following are our rates for doing non-tournament games:

U17-19	\$18.50	\$25.00 solo
U15-16	\$15.25	\$20.00 solo
U13-14	\$12.00	\$15.50 solo
U11-12	\$ 8.50	\$11.50 solo
U10	\$ 7.50	\$10.00 solo

The Season is here, be ready!

Keep your availability current. It's very easy to do, simply fill in the availability calendar at our website www.livermorerefs.org. Or send an email assignor@livermorerefs.org or hintonref@attbi.com. Fill in the days and times that you expect to be available to ref.

A player may not wear a hard BRACE of any kind, be it metal, plastic, whatever. Elastic or rubber braces are allowed, but these may not worn over a hard brace to satisfy this requirement.

If you are doing AC Class I or III games, there are some specific rules to be aware of.

If the team jerseys clash, the VISITING TEAM changes.
For U9, U10, there are no PKs, all kicks are indirect.

When doing AC games, know what to look for on player passes:

Make sure the team name is the correct one on all passes
Make sure the passes are all for the correct age group
Make sure the registrar's stamp extends across the player's photo
Make sure the stamp is for the current season
Make sure the photo matches the player.

Remember, "no pass, no play, no exceptions"



A question for all you clever refs out there.



1. What is the referee to do after the AR has signaled for a legitimate goal?
2. The first six penal fouls of law 12 (name them!) also call on the ref to penalize the "at-tempt". In the context of law 12, define "attempt".
3. What is a legal shinguard?

Answers on page 4

Hey Ref! What are you gonna do?

1. The U16B Elite are proud of their offside trap, but the Titans just burned them. Two Titan forwards are streaking toward the goal with the ball, and the Elite inside fullback is the only defender with a prayer of catching them. You are running with them as you glance up to see your AR in perfect position. Right now, both forwards are behind the ball, so there is no potential offside situation. Just as you near the top of the PA, the Elite fullback puts on one last burst of speed, pulls up close behind the forward with the ball, and makes a desperate try at a sweeping tackle. All he manages to do is take out the legs of the Titans forward and send him sprawling. The ball rolls forward, right into the path of the second onrushing Titans forward. You call out "Advantage", the Titans forward rockets off a shot from ten yards out and clanks it off the goal post. The ball rebounds 30 yards up field where it is collected by an Elite defender who is off on the counterattack. Oh no, Oh-no, we are not having that! You blow your whistle, and
2. You could see this one coming. The ball is loose in the middle of the pitch, and a forward from the U14G Real and a mid-fielder from the Storm are both racing for it. You hold your breath as they fly in, crank up and strike the ball. THAWWK! They both strike the ball, it squibs away over the touchline and the Real forward crumples to the ground in agony. You run over to her and ask if she needs her coach. It's clear she is hurt as she nods "yes". You wave her coach on. After a few minutes, she's on her feet, flexing her ankle and ready play. You.....

Answers on page 6

OK what was your call? Answers to Clever Refs

1. The first thing the referee must do is make eye contact with the AR to determine whether the AR is indicating a good goal or if there is some problem. The second thing, assuming the AR indicates a good goal, is to maintain a close view of the area and players in front of the goal. Make sure no defenders are moving to confront the AR regarding any decisions made concerning the goal. Only after it is clear that there is not likely to be any confrontation with the AR or between opponents should the referee begin to backpedal slowly toward the center of the field. This is also when the referee can make eye contact with the other AR to ensure there is no adverse information that official needs to convey. The referee should be the last official to record the pertinent facts of the goal (preceded by the trail AR and then the lead AR).
2. The word “intent” and all its variations were removed from the Laws several years ago. Now the first six penal fouls listed in Law 12 - kicks or attempts to kick an opponent, trips or attempts to trip an opponent, jumps at an opponent, charges an opponent, strikes or attempts to strike an opponent, pushes an opponent -are punished if they are performed in a manner considered by the referee to be careless, reckless or using excessive force. The Law asks us to punish not the “intent” of the act, but the result. Although it is not specifically stated in the Law, the remaining four penal fouls - tackles an opponent to gain possession of the ball, making contact with the opponent before touching the ball; holds an opponent; spits at an opponent; and handles the ball deliberately (except for the goalkeeper within his own penalty area) - are also based on the result of the action. The word “attempt” signifies that the player moved his body so as to kick, trip, or strike an opponent, but the result of the action did not result in contact. Nevertheless, the act must be punished as if contact had been made.
3. Law 4’s requirement for “a reasonable degree of protection” must be coupled with the Law’s stress on safety: “A player must not use

equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player.” If, in the opinion of the referee, the shinguards do not afford the requisite protection or they could be dangerous to the player who wears them, the referee’s action is clear: that player may not be permitted to play until the illegal equipment has been corrected. The concept of safety suggests that the greatest portion possible of the player’s shin should be covered by the shinguard. The U. S. Soccer Federation guideline on shinguards is precisely the same as that given by FIFA, who polices the enforcement of the Laws promulgated by the International F. A. Board (IFAB), the folks who write them: Law 5 instructs the referee to ensure that the players’ equipment meets the requirements of Law 4. Law 4 prescribes that a player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry). In other words, it is up to the referee to ensure that the equipment used in the game he officiates meets these requirements. As soon as the IFAB and FIFA provide firmer guidelines, the U. S. Soccer Federation will ensure that they are implemented in the United States. There will most likely never be a black-and-white table of measurements and specifications for shinguards. As both the IFAB and FIFA have stated, soccer is a tough, competitive, contact sport in which people can be hurt. The referee’s duty to ensure player safety cannot extend to making the sport harmless. A sensible guideline for shinguards is that they must be worn properly, they must not have been altered, and they must be recognizably manufactured as shinguards by a reputable company.

*Thanks to
Jim Allen’s “Ask the Ref” website*





Whaddya mean my shoe's not safe?!

What shoes are allowed? This is one of the many areas where the referee has almost complete control. Don't abuse your power. There are only two requirements in Law 4, Player's Equipment. First is Safety. "A player must not use equipment or wear anything which is dangerous to himself or another player (including any kind of jewelry)." Second is that players must wear "Footwear". So almost any footwear should be allowed. This includes any shoe sold as a soccer shoe. Running shoes and many baseball shoes do not violate the requirements of the Law. Toe cleats on baseball shoes are not forbidden or dangerous. What is not allowed? Baseball, football, golf or track shoes with sharp metal spikes are obviously dangerous. Little else is forbidden.

In making your decision whether a shoe is dangerous or not, base it on what is obvious. Something sharp is obvious. Don't try to imagine or make up a possible way a shoe could be unsafe. For example; Running shoes might slip on wet grass and the player might fall down and injure himself. That does not make the shoes unsafe. The same could happen with many soccer shoes. If you are not sure, tell the player that their footwear is borderline and if there is any problem during the game, you will require them to change. You have power to enforce the Laws and the responsibility to be considerate, fair and to keep the game safe.

Duane Rueppel



A yellow banner with a black border. On the left is the United States Soccer Federation logo, which is a circular emblem with an American flag in the center and the words "UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION" around the perimeter. In the center, the text "Livermore Referee Association" is written in a large, bold, green font. Below this text, in a smaller black font, is "P.O. Box 54" and "Livermore, CA 94551-0054". On the right side of the banner is a blue silhouette of a soccer player in mid-air, with the words "FIFA FAIR PLAY" written vertically below it.

Hey Ref, What are you gonna do?

1. Everything depends on how much time has elapsed between the moment when the referee determined to give the advantage and the moment when he actually stopped play to deal with the original serious foul play. The referee has only 2-3 seconds in which to decide that the advantage has been realized or not. In this scenario, the advantage was realized by the shot on goal. Therefore the referee will punish the Elite defender for serious foul play by sending him off and showing the red card. Because play was stopped after several seconds had passed (and the advantage had been realized) and the shot was taken and then Elite gained control of the ball and began to move up the field, the foul portion of defender's act is nullified and only the misconduct of serious foul play can be punished. The restart will be an indirect free kick for Titans from the place where the misconduct occurred.
2. Have the coach sub her out. A player **MUST** go off if the referee has stopped play to deal with the serious injury. If, at any other stoppage, the injured player requires extensive treatment, then that player must also be removed. The only player who is normally not removed from the field for treatment of injury is the goalkeeper.

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



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