

Livermore Referee Association



Referee Calendar of Events



April 28th	Livermore Referee Association Meeting
May 3-4	“Bleacher Clinics” at State Cup Finals
May 23rd	San Francisco Cup Referee Symposium
May 24-25	San Francisco Cup
May 26th	Memorial Day - No Monthly Meeting
June 23rd	Livermore Referee Association Meeting

Meeting Agenda

LRA Meeting April 28th

Ever find yourself standing with your flag up and really wishing you were somewhere else because you’ve just realized that the player you’ve flagged for an offside infraction really wasn’t? Or have you ever watched a beautiful goal being scored by a player who was offside while you stood frozen with your flag at your side? Who hasn’t been in these situations? And who hasn’t been treated to the roar of the crowd, the howling coaches, and the agonized screams of the players that result? Deciding on offside calls is a pressure-ridden, split-second call. How can we improve our reliability in these situations?

Our program at the April meeting is “**Offside Made Easy**,” presented by **George Ziemba**, the **District III Director of Instruction**. George has been developing a method for accurately recognizing the offside infraction, and will present the method and describe his experiences applying it. This highly educational program will be beneficial to referees at all levels.

As always, our fully catered meetings are held at **7:00 PM** at the **Livermore Police Department’s Community Room** at 1110 S. Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA.

New Referees

We’ve graduated our first training classes for 2003! Michelle Kuiee and Duane Rueppel taught the courses, and were assisted by Ken Mitchell and Van Henson for the field session. Please join the club officers in welcoming these new referees:

Sal Abughalya
Garrett Clark
Linda Flores
Krista Page
Kyle Russell
Lisa Texeira

Joseph A Barton
Cheryl Clark
Adrian House
Elio Paiva
Jenna Russett
David White

Steven Carrol
Jose Flores
Corey Nelson
Kevin Rapport
Neil Smith
Robin Wood-Vance



Whistle Stop - John Hinton

President of the Livermore Referee Association



The Livermore Referee Association exists to support the development of referees for youth soccer in Livermore. One way that we do this is to offer entry-level training clinics for new referees. Our first 2 entry-level training clinics graduated 18 new referees. We will be hosting a few more of these clinics before the season starts, and expect to have a record number of “newbies” this year. So, when you see a face that you don’t recognize at one of our meetings or on the fields, please take the time to introduce yourselves and help our newest referees feel welcome.

In addition to formal training opportunities, the Livermore Referee Association provides a great support network. This support is especially important for newer referees. Because of our increasing ranks, we will all need to pitch in a little more this year to make sure that everyone gets the support they need.

In addition to entry-level clinics and support network, the LRA offers a number of in-service training clinics throughout the year. These are opportunities for all of us to hone our knowledge and skills for refereeing. There will be 2 such opportunities coming up very soon. Mark you calendars and plan to attend both of these exciting sessions.

The first in-service training will be part of our April monthly meeting (7:00 – 8:30 on Monday, 28 April). This meeting will feature a talk by George Ziemba, District III Director of Instruction. (Bill Miller used to have this position, but is now Director of Assessment). George will present “Offside Made Easy” – a topic where we ALL can use some help. George has been developing a technique for recognizing offside infractions that he swears by. Plan on coming – if not for “Offside Made Easy,” then to meet and welcome George.

The next in-service opportunity is a very special one indeed. Each year for the past umpteen years, the LRA has arranged for a “bleacher clinic” during one of the championship matches of the U14-U19 State Cup finals held at Robertson Park. At these clinics, some of the top referees, instructors, and assessors from Cal North discretely discuss what’s happening on the field during a championship game with small groups of LRA referees. These are unique opportunities learn from the best while watching the best referees work the best games of the best teams around. This may be the last year that Livermore will host State Cup finals for a while, so you don’t want to miss out on this very special opportunity. The State Cup finals will be held on 3-4 May at Robertson Park. Plan on spending as much of your weekend that you can spare to watch some outstanding refereeing (and soccer, too). We will send out details on clinic times and locations shortly.



Questions for the clever Refs!

1. Sometimes it's a rough game. If the league has 15-player rosters and unlimited substitution, what is the largest number of yellow cards that can be shown in a game that is played to completion?
2. True or false: The definition of a player being within "playing distance" of the ball is that they can reach the ball with no more than one stride.
3. Define: "persistent infringement."

Answers on Page 4



District Fun Runs Scheduled

The District III "Fun Runs" have been scheduled, for maintenance or upgrades to grades 5, 6, or 7. The Fun Run comprises the endurance, speed, and agility tests, as well as the written rules test. Information: <http://www.d3ra.com/assessment/>

This year's schedule:

- Monday June 9 - Pleasanton Middle School - 7:00 PM
- Monday September 8 - Pleasanton Middle School - 7:00 PM
- Saturday November 15 - Foothill High School - 9:00AM

OK, clever referee, what was your answer?

1. Thirty-eight. Every player on one team could receive one yellow card, making 15 cautions. After that every caution to that team brings a red card, so the 16th caution reduces the team to 10 players, the 17th to 9 players, and so on. After the 19th caution there are 7 players, and if another player is cautioned the game must be abandoned. Similarly, there could also be 19 cards issued to the other team.
2. False. According to the Advice to Referees, “The referee’s judgement of *playing distance* should be based on the player’s ability to play the ball, not upon any arbitrary standard.”
3. (From the Advice to Referees) “Persistent infringement occurs either when a player repeatedly commits fouls or infringements or participates in a pattern of fouls directed against the same opponent. It is not necessary for the multiple fouls to be of the same type or all to be penal fouls, but infringements must be among those covered in Law 12 or involve repeated violations of Law 14.”

From “Advice to Referees”



Referee Opportunities

San Francisco Cup and Referee Symposium

The San Francisco Cup International Youth Soccer Tournament, which features top boys and girls class-one teams in all age brackets from U12 through U19, will be held Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-26. They seek highly qualified referees, including relatively new referees recognized by their home organizations as strong, promising new referees. To participate, go to <http://www.sfcup.com> and check out the “Referee’s Corner.”

The San Francisco Cup is also holding a **Referee Symposium** on Friday, May 23rd. The featured speaker will be **Sonia Denoncourt**, a FIFA Referee from Canada. Ms. Denoncourt has an extensive resume (which you can peruse on the SF Cup page) that includes centers in the 1996 & 2000 Olympics (Women), CONCACAF Gold Cup, 2000 (men) & 2002 (women), Women’s World Cup 1995 & 1999, and first division professional men’s games in El Salvador and Brazil.

The symposium, open to all referees, will be held at the Ramada Inn, 245 South Airport Boulevard, South San Francisco. Registration at 6:30. Symposium at 7:00 pm.

“Bleacher Clinic”

As mentioned in John Hinton’s article, the so-called “Bleacher Clinics” will be on May 3 and 4 at Robertson Park. This year the clinics will include the U19B and U19G finals. A separate email with full details will be sent out soon. This is a terrific opportunity, it’s free, and it’s right here in Livermore. Don’t miss this one!!



Hey Ref! What are you gonna do?

1. The U15B tournament final has lived up (down?) to your expectations. Lots of hard challenges, and a whole field full of boys with remarkably short fuses. But while you've made it to halftime without any disasters, you really have your eye on #8, the left forward on the Flaming Peanuts. He looks like he's going to pop, and you blew the halftime whistle just as he was closing in, with murder in his eyes, on the sweeper for the Crippled Rhinos. As the teams line up for the second half, you breathe a sigh of relief to see that #8 is on the sideline, not the field. Just as you're about to blow the whistle to start the half, you see him spit at one of the Rhinos. "Well, that was easy," you think as you trot over and award him his well-earned red card, "No more trouble from him!" You head back to the center and get ready to blow the whistle when the sidelines erupt with noise. The Rhinos coach is screaming that the Peanuts must play shorthanded. The Peanuts bench is screaming that, since #8 had been substituted out, yes, he has to leave, but they can't be made to play shorthanded. "Oh, boy," you think, rolling your eyes and wishing that you had stayed home and cleaned the garage, "I really need this today!" What's your decision?
2. It's a lovely Tuesday evening, the ladies are having fun, and, pretty much, all is right with the world. Then there is a flurry of play in front of the Penguins' goal, culminating with a soft shot by one of the Vagabonds. The ball rolls gently in toward the goal, hotly pursued by three Vagabonds, all converging on one lone Penguin defender, about three yards in front of the goal. Desperately, the defender kicks it across the goal mouth to her goalkeeper, also about three yards out, who picks it up. Naturally, you blow the whistle and raise your hand for the IFK for the "passback." The goalie drops the ball where she picked it up and retreats toward her goal. Two alert Vagabonds pounce for quick restart- one touches it to the other, who blasts a mighty kick... high and wide. Everybody starts to head up field for the goal kick. Everyone but you, of course. Swallowing hard, you...

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Aw, come on Ref,
what did I do?

What's in a PreGame? (Part 1)

By Van Emden Henson

Vice-President of the Livermore Referee Association

You're nearing the end of a hard-fought championship match and have just awarded a corner kick. The defenders line up with a player on each post and the kick sails into the box where an attacker heads it into the goal mouth. One of the defenders reaches out and slaps the ball away from the goal. You blow your whistle hard and race to the scene of the crime, reaching to your back pocket for your red card. Just before hoisting the card you remember to glance over at your AR. She's standing on the goal line looking intently at you, with her flag in the air. As soon as you make eye contact with her she turns and sprints up the line. Breathing a sigh of relief, you leave the card in your pocket and point to the center circle, awarding the goal. (It's a good idea to make a show of conferring with her, as well, so that everybody knows that she's just told you the ball was in the goal *before* the player slapped it.)

A situation like this can be handled well *only* if there is excellent communication between AR and Referee, and it is the purpose of the pregame meeting to insure that this is the case. Yet we so often take the pregame meeting for granted, shorten in, or give it only lip service. I once was AR for a game in a class-one tournament where the other AR was a National Referee and the center was a State Referee. His pregame speech consisted of four words: "Don't screw it up." This is the extreme case, but we've all had referees whose pregame talk went something like this: "Well, we've all done this a million times. You know what to do. Watch offside, make sure there is participation, give me first crack in the at fouls in the box, and help me manage the substitutions. Okay?"

Well, no. I'm not an instructor, so I can't presume to say what a pregame discussion should be, but it is easy to see that the one described above just doesn't cut it. But I know that, when I'm working a game as Referee or AR, there is a definite purpose I'd like the pregame meeting to fulfill. I believe that the pregame session must insure that the referee *team* understand clearly who has responsibility for what, how they will communicate, how they will handle common problem situations (such as the one described at the opening of the article), and what they should watch for in this specific game, given the teams, their histories, the weather, and any other identifiable factors. One important feature for me is that, whether I'm Referee or AR, I'd like to see pregame meetings that are not simply monologues. That is, all three (or four) members of the referee team should participate- ARs should ask questions and share information they might have! (The next time my Referee's pregame speech is, "Don't screw it up," this AR will have LOTS of questions!)

This is part one of this article, but to complete it I need help from the members! I'd like the readers to send me examples, either from their own pregame talk or from games they've worked as AR, of things they've found particularly effective. (Send in the silly and the absurd, too!) I'll assemble a list of techniques people have found useful, run them past our instruction and assessing staff (Duane, Michelle, and Ken), and publish the results in a later newsletter!

Send your contributions to me at vhenson@attbi.com





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

1. Make the Flaming Peanuts play shorthanded. The official USSF explanation here is: "If the misconduct leading to the red card had occurred any time after the end of the half and before the start of the second half, the offending player's team would have to play the second half of the game shorthanded. In this case, even though the teams were already lined up on the field for the start of the second half and this player was now clearly a substitute, the team will have to play shorthanded, as the second half had not started." That is, the substitution isn't complete until the half begins.
2. ... order the IFK to be retaken. The game was restarted improperly. Place the ball at the appropriate spot, on the six-yard line closest to the point where the goal-keeper handled the ball, and retake the indirect free kick. Then give yourself twenty mental lashes for not being on the spot to ensure a correct restart in the first place.

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



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