
Livermore Referee Association



Referee Calendar of Events



February 24 Livermore Referee Association Meeting
March 1, 2nd LYSL Registration
March 12, 19th LYSL Registration
March 24th Livermore Referee Association Meeting

Meeting Agenda

LRA Meeting February 24th

Persistent Infringement! Ever call it? Know what it is? PI is one of the least understood and most overlooked aspects of our game! Yet, it has a profound effect on the way the game is played. PI disrupts the flow of the game and leads to frustration and retaliation. At this meeting we will review the new USSF CR-Rom presentation that makes referees aware of this problem and provides skills to effectively deal with this type of misconduct. This presentation was created and narrated by Esse Baharmast. If this isn't enough there are some important issues to discuss (read Whistle Stop following this). 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.

I'M03RU?

It is way past time to register for the 2003 season. If you aren't registered you can't do games. Don't forget that New Year's resolution register yourself for refereeing before you register your kids for soccer. I know it's \$25, but if you do five games we will reimburse you for it. NO EXCUSES now, DO IT! Get the form online at <http://www.d3ra.com/resources/how-to-renew.html> fill it out and send it to the CNRA address on the form. Your editor did it, so can you!

We need your help! As you can see above, registration for the LYSL starts in March. We need volunteer referees to man the table and help recruit. This is one of the most important ways we get new refs for the upcoming season. Sign up to help at the February meeting or contact Brian Hufford at brihuff@yahoo.com



Whistle Stop - John Hinton

John Hinton is President of the Livermore Referee Association



At our January LRA meeting, we discussed a number of “Hot Topics” that will affect each and every referee in Livermore. Some of these are addressed in the articles elsewhere in this newsletter: “The Referee Tree” lays out some important aspects of where referees come from, and why I’m concerned about the long-term health of soccer in Livermore; “Pay Raise” introduces our new reimbursement schedule, and underscores the high expectations for referee performance. Other “Hot Topics” include:

Grade 9 Recreational Referees – All of our current referees started out as Grade 8 – where most LRA referees remain. For the first time ever this year, we will be able to offer Grade 9 training as *another* entry level for new referees. Grade 9 training will greatly lower the hurdle for becoming a USSF registered referee – only 8 hours of instruction, including a 3-hour field session. (We will continue to offer the traditional Grade 8 training for more thoroughly prepared entry-level referees). Grade 9 referees will be eligible to referee (and AR) ONLY recreational house games U14 and younger, no matter how much experience they have: no Hi Comp, no tournaments, no exceptions. Grade 9 referees will be able to upgrade to Grade 8 after their first year by successfully completing “bridging training”. The Grade 9 opportunity should be a great help in providing much-needed “nourishment” for the Referee Tree. Expecting a large influx of new referees, it will also mean that we will need many of you to help mentor rookie referees. Because the training for Grade 9 referees is significantly less than for Grade 8, this also means that many teams will be seeing less thoroughly prepared officials than they are accustomed to. Some house teams may need reminding of what “recreational and non-competitive” means.

Age Limits - For the first time ever, LRA will not reimburse *new* referees who will be younger than age 14 by 1 September. This is due to increased concerns (and lawsuits) regarding violations of child labor laws. In many states, the Federal Government has been “correcting” the practice of reimbursing youth officials under age 14. The LRA is committed to following Best Business Practices for similar organizations and operating within legal guidelines. This new age limit will mean that a large source of excellent young referees will no longer be available – increasing the importance of recruiting parents of younger players to nourish the Referee Tree.

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Assigning Changes – Although it’s not yet finalized, LRA is carefully evaluating an exciting new upgrade to our assigning process. A web-based version of Arbiter (our current assigning software) seems to offer many of the features that many of you (and our assignors) have been looking for: automated notification, on-line review of assignments and open matches, improved availability entry, and much more. It’s not without some difficulties, however. Moving to web-based assigning will mean that each and every referee will have to learn some new “rules of the road” – and some of you will have to exercise a bit more discipline than usual. At this time, it looks like the gains will probably far outweigh the pain. Assuming we can resolve up some technical concerns we have with the Arbiter folks, we hope to start introducing the new capabilities in coming months. Stay tuned!

If you care about any of these issues then you need to attend our next LRA meeting on Monday, 24 February from 7:00 – 8:30 at the Livermore Police Station Community Room.



Questions for the clever Refs!

1. True or false, if the referee and one of the goalkeepers jerseys are similar enough to cause confusion, the referee first asks the goalkeepers to change.
2. Of the eight methods of restarting play (name them) name two where the ball must be kicked forward in order to be properly put into play.
3. Name five elements necessary for a successful ceremonial free kick.
4. Extra credit: Name the four major responsibilities of a fourth official.

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Hey Ref! What are you gonna do?

- 1.** The U4G Comets have finally gotten an attack going. The Herricanes have kept the Comets bottled up in their defensive end for most of this game, now a Comet mid-fielder has collected a long clearing kick and is racing up field. The Comet forwards, standing around with long bored looks for most of this half are on the run towards the Herricanes' goal. One of the Comet forwards isn't paying attention and has gotten behind the Hurricane defense and into an offside position. As the Hurricane defenders close in on the Comet midfielder, she lofts of chip shot into the PA. The Comet forward races in from her offside position to make a play on the ball. But a Hurricane defender just beats her to the ball and tries to head it away from the goal. The attempt is a disaster; the ball skips off her head right past her goalie and into the net. The Comets finally have something to cheer about. Your AR is standing at attention at the corner flag, you head over and hear what she has to say, you think hard, re-running the play through your mind, and you signal for ...
- 2.** Somebody is yelling at you. Several somebodys are yelling at you. This U12B game between the Titans and the Timberwolves has been going well, what's the problem. You take a quick glance around and see people on the sideline pointing back up field. You turn to see a small body crumpled on the turf. Oh Man! How did that happen? You blow your whistle to stop play and wave the Timberwolves coach on as you head back up field. You head over to your AR and ask what happened. "After that last shot, the Titan's keeper socked the Timberwolve's forward right in the eye". You glare over at the goalie. "You little thug", you think, "I'll take care of you." With a new goalie in place and a new Timberwolves forward on the field, you are ready to restart play. Ok, Ok, let's see, how did I stop play in the first place, that's right, we need a

Answers on page 8



OK what was your answer Clever Refs?

- 1.** True
- 2.** Kickoff, PK
- 3.** Ball stationary, opponents 10 yds from ball, signal by ref, ball in play when it is kicked and moved (must leave PA), kicker cannot play ball a second time.
- 4.** Bench control, control substitutions, record keeping, source of neutral information. 4

From "Advice to Referees"



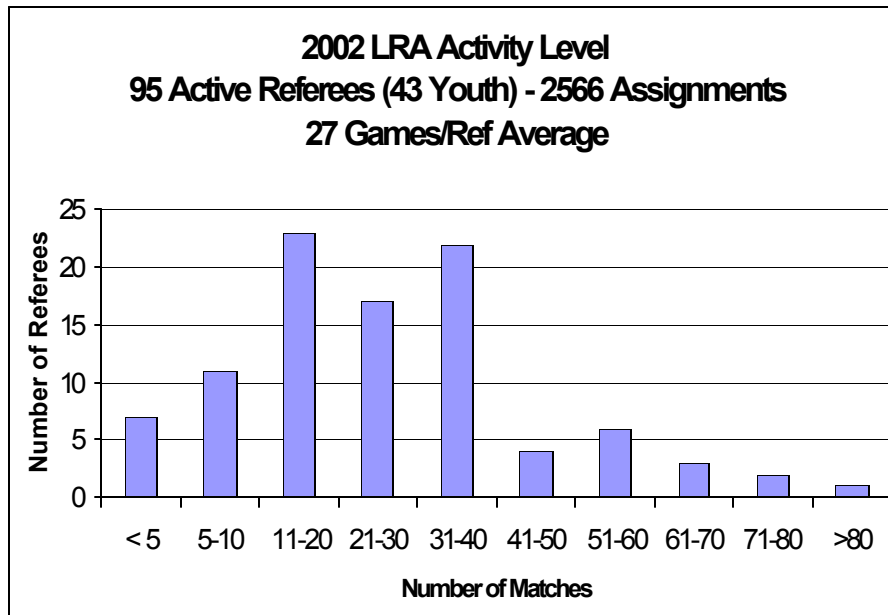


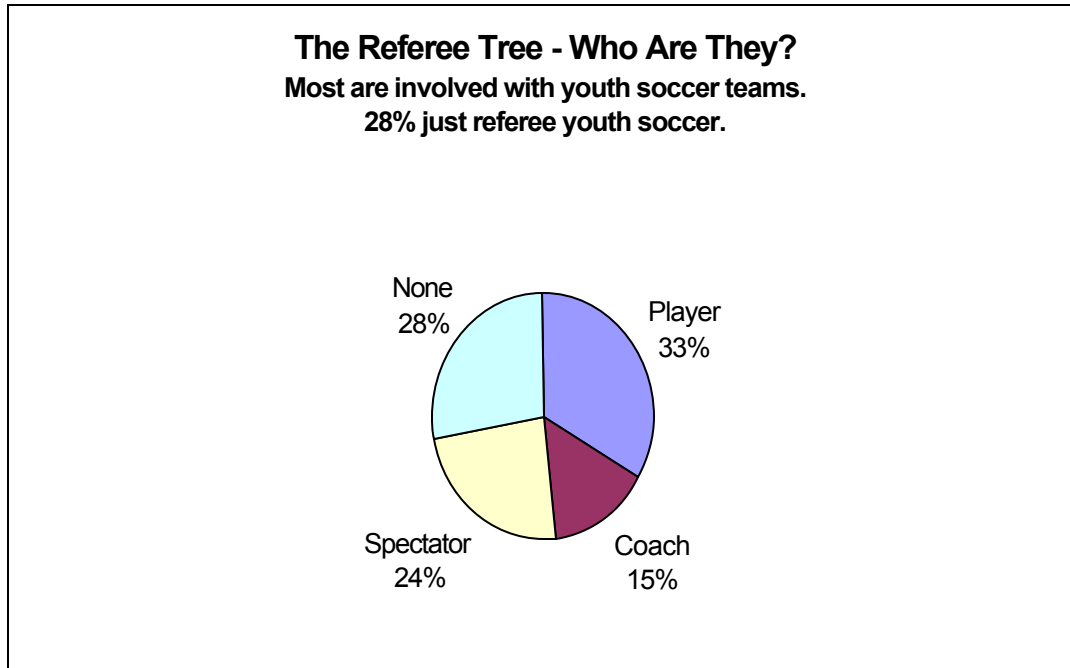
ARTICLE

The Referee Tree - by John Hinton

“Can I please get a *good* referee for our next match?” “We pay fees like everyone else, but our team rarely gets a referee, while the teams on that field almost always have three – this is not fair!” “The refs on our late afternoon games can’t keep up with play – we deserve refs that do more than just drag themselves around the center circle!” Unfortunately, these are common, and well-founded, concerns from players, coaches, and spectators about referees at some of their matches. Our most common response as referees is “Geez - do they think referees grow on trees?!” Hmmm... If referees did grow on a tree, what would it look like?

Last year, the Livermore referee tree formed 126 “buds”, or USSF-registered referees. However, 25% of these buds withered and dropped off the tree, leaving us with only 95 active referees who produced “fruit” by working youth matches in Livermore. The referees tree grows fruit of various sizes and quality. The average referee worked 27 matches, with the vast majority working between 11 and 40 matches. 16 referees were assigned more than 40 matches each, with Bill G. Hoppes leading the LRA with a whopping 91! Almost 20% of “active” LRA referees were not real active, working less than 10 matches each.





Our referee tree grows in an orchard of other referee trees that help each other. In fact, more referees *came* to Livermore to work matches than we produced on the LRA tree! Without the help of the 98 referees from neighboring communities and visiting teams, Livermore tournaments would have been grossly undercovered. Many LRA referees also worked in tournaments hosted by other District III cities when they were not needed here.

The referee tree is nourished through roots that run deep within youth soccer. More than 70% of our active referees are currently attached to youth soccer teams as players, coaches, or spectators. Some of these are even attached to teams outside of Livermore even though they referee in Livermore. More than half of our remaining referees are *former* coaches, players, and spectators of Livermore teams who have continued refereeing long after they or their kids have finished in LYSL. So, in a very real sense, the referee tree grows out of LYSL soccer teams.

It takes time to grow healthy, productive referees. Nearly 85% of the slots covered by LRA referees were covered by “well-established” referees who started refereeing when they were associated with young teams, and are now either associated with older age group teams (U14 and higher) or are no longer associated with LYSL teams. Not only are these “mature” referees prolific, they are mostly the ones who cover the high comp and most challenging house matches. These are the referees who have been developing on the referee tree for years. Some of these spread their talents beyond LYSL soccer – officiating in college, adult, and state premier matches. As is natural, many of our most seasoned will eventually grow beyond refereeing in Livermore.



article continued

The referee tree is starting to shrivel from lack of nourishment. We have been getting very few new adult referees from the younger age groups for the last couple of years. The U9 through U12 age groups (House and Hi Comp) are plucking the fruit of the referee tree without contributing very many new buds. We need more parents in these age groups to start developing on the referee tree. Otherwise, more and more games will be uncovered, more and more under-qualified referees will be officiating older and high competition matches, and more and more spectators, coaches, and players will be complaining – justifiably so. This would not be for the good of the game.

So ... referees DO grow on a tree! It's a tree with a lot of buds, many of which do not produce. It's a tree with a variety of fruit – the most productive of which take years to develop. It's a tree that casts its fruit far from Livermore, and benefits from the fruit of neighboring referee trees. It's a tree with deep roots in LYSL. It's a tree that is starting to shrivel from lack of nourishment, i.e. new parents from younger teams. Help spread the word – it's the stuff that can help us regain health. Otherwise, the tree will shrivel, soccer in Livermore will suffer, and it will take years to regrow a crop of productive referees adequate for the needs of youth soccer in Livermore.



Pay Raise

(Hey, I bet that got your attention)

The last time LRA increased referee payments was in 1998. Prior to that, LRA referees were getting paid less than any other referees in District III – or anywhere else, for that matter. At that time, we raised payments to be representative of a “community standard” across District III – not the highest around, but not the lowest.

We recently compared LRA payments to those for other referees in District III: Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon, Danville, Fremont, and Newark. Once again, we found that LRA payments were the lowest around. So, this year, will be increasing referee payments for the first time in 5 years. Once again, we want LRA referees to receive fair pay that is consistent with a “community standard” across District III – not the highest(even though Livermore referees are among the best around), but not the lowest either. The table below shows the old and new payment schedules. We will continue to pay the same for Referees and Assistant Referees on the same game – emphasizing our belief in teamwork and shared responsibility. However, we will now pay referees on high comp (AC-1, 3) matches a little more than for recreational (house) matches in the same age group. This seems fair, given the higher performance demanded, level of training required, and level of “professionalism” expected on high comp games. As always, referees will NOT be allowed to ‘cherry pick’ from their assignments – declining house matches in favor of high comp matches. And, as always, even our most highly qualified referees will be assigned to house matches.



Since money for referee payments comes directly from LYSL registration fees, we carefully considered a balance between fairness for the referees and fairness for LYSL. This “pay raise” for referees is expected to increase costs to LYSL by between \$6000 - \$7200, depending upon number of matches and level or coverage. This increased LRA’s 2003 budget for game fees to \$23,750, compared to \$16,672 spent in 2002.

Age Group	Old	New (Recreational)	New (Hi Comp)
U9-10	\$ 7.50	\$10.00	\$12.50
U11-12	\$ 8.50	\$12.50	\$15.00
U13-14	\$12.00	\$16.00	\$17.50
U15-16	\$15.25	\$17.50	\$20.00
U17-19	\$18.50	\$20.00	\$25.00

John Hinton

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



1. Offside. The crucial question is whether, ITOOR, the involvement by the Hurricane defender constituted a play of the ball or whether it was accidental, a deflection. If the defender’s play was truly a deflection, the goal should not stand and The Comet forward should be declared offside for her involvement (gaining an advantage from his offside position). If, on the other hand, the referee believes that the defender had established control of the ball, an offside call is incorrect. It is incorrect to say that “The moment to judge offside is prior to the defender’s action.” The moment to judge offside POSITION is when the attacker touches the ball, but the time to judge offside INFRINGEMENT begins then and continues until that particular play is over. The play is considered over for purposes of judging offside INFRINGEMENT if a defender clearly plays (possesses and controls) the ball.
2. PK. We do not have any information as to whether the assistant referee (AR) flagged for the original misconduct, the punching of the attacker by the goalkeeper, or whether the referee bothered to look to the AR, but as there had been no restart, this makes no difference. After sending off the goalkeeper for violent conduct and showing him the red card, the referee must restart the game with a penalty kick once the replacement ‘keeper is in position. Consider the principle of sequential infringements: it tells us that, regardless of the reason why the referee thought he had stopped play (an injured player), if he subsequently makes a decision based on information supplied by an AR regarding an action that preceded the reason the referee thought he had stopped play, the referee can affirm the AR’s information and the restart is based on that information.





This month's feature picture- Jim Hufford



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