

Livermore Referee Association

Referee Calendar of Events



February 26-27th	American Cup (III) Olders Prelims
February 28th	Livermore Referee Association Meeting
March 5-6th	LYSL Registration (volunteers needed)
March 5-6th	Association Cup (IV) Olders Prelims
March 28th	Livermore Referee Association Meeting

Meeting Agenda

Don't miss the monthly meeting on February 28th. Chris Strickland to speak at February meeting.

Hey, Referees! Mark February 28 on your calendar, for that is the date of our monthly meeting. This month we have a special treat for you (no, it *isn't* another month where I drone on and on...).

Our featured speaker will be one of the most distinguished officials in Cal North, Chris Strickland. Chris began refereeing in 1982, and became a National Referee in 1996. Six years later, Chris was appointed to the FIFA panel of international Assistant Referees. He is starting his 10th season as an Assistant Referee in the MLS, and will have worked all 10 years of the League's existence. In 2003 he worked the MLS All Star Game, and in 2004 the Eastern Conference Final. Chris also worked as an Assistant Referee all 3 years of the existence of the WUSA, and worked the WUSA Final in 2002.

A few of Chris's major FIFA appointments include the 2004 Olympics in Greece, including the Italy vs. Argentina semifinal

match; five games in 2004 in the first round qualifying for the 2006 World Cup, including games played in Bermuda, Miami, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico; the 2004 U23 Toyota Cup, held in Qatar; games in the 2003 CONCACAF Gold Cup; the 2003 World Youth Championships, including one semifinal, held in the United Arab Emirates; and the 2002 U20 CONCACAF qualification tournament in Panama. Most recently, Chris has been appointed to a World Cup "Hexagonal" Qualifying match in March, featuring Trinidad & Tobago at Guatemala.

A resident of Fremont, Chris is frequently found at youth games in District III. Chris is also seen regularly doing NCAA matches and is a frequent referee of high school games in the East Bay. Two years ago Chris managed to find the time to take the Instructor's course, and has regularly taught clinics since then.

Chris will be speaking in Livermore about "Refereeing to the Level of the Match," and will also present and discuss video covering events from the last World Cup.

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. We especially encourage our new referee's to attend.

From the Touchline



-Van Emden Henson

Note: Robert Evans was the featured speaker at the clinics associated with the AGM/Equipment Show in Fresno in January. Bob, one of the most entertaining speakers around, brought to bear his many years of experience as a FIFA referee, a referee in the NASL, as former USSF National Director of Instruction, MLS Director of Instruction, and as a National Assessor, and made a thoroughly entertaining and highly educational presentation. As part of his overall package, Bob handed out copies of a talk he gave several years ago about the toughest part of being a referee. Here it is, for those who couldn't make it to the AGM:

The Most Difficult Part of Refereeing

by Robert Evans, *FIFA Referee*
(1979-88); *FIFA Referee Instructor* (1990-92)

Many people who go to watch a soccer game - youth, adult, professional - wonder why a lot of physical contact between players is not punished by the referee. If they are new to the game, they may be no more than puzzled by the apparent lack of understanding (or eyesight) by the official. If they've been around the game a bit, or if their little darling is playing and perhaps gets knocked over, they may become irate at the irresponsibility of the referee. And of course, if they have the authority of a coach's jacket or hat, they not only become irate, but they may even take it upon themselves to let the official know exactly what they think of him (or her). After all, everyone knows that the official is supposed to call fouls and other infringements of the laws, and if he doesn't do that, he must be incompetent, right?

Well, actually, no! By allowing some infractions to go unpunished he may in fact be doing his job just the way that the laws tell him to. (Pause to wait for the muttering...) Oh, I can hear it now: 'What is this idiot talking about? He says that a referee misses the calls and yet is still doing his job? He lets fouls go unpunished, and we are supposed to compliment him for doing things right?' And those comments are the mild ones...!

After being involved in refereeing since 1964, through thousands of games refereed, watched and assessed, and through countless classes instructed, I have to say that the most difficult part of refereeing is knowing what infractions to call, and what ones to let go. The reason for the difficulty is simple: for more than one hundred years, the laws of the game have instructed referees not to call everything, but to call only the infractions that affect the game adversely.

It comes down to this: the art of refereeing is the art of penalizing only those breaches of the law that affect the game.



But the problem with that statement is that at each level of the game, from little wobbly kids to U-8s, U-10s, U-12s through the early teenagers up to full youth competitions, into the adult games, to the top amateur level into the semiprofessionals and full professionals, then into international club competitions all the way to full 'A' class internationals and on to the World Cup, the infractions that affect the game are different!

So youth players and their parents go to a professional match or watch one on television, and they see all that goes on - ferocious tackling; seemingly endless comments to the referee - and wonder about the competence of the official. They see players with their hands all over their opponent; they wince as a player is challenged hard and goes down in a heap with his challenger; they see a blatant offside, and the referee allows play to go on! It seems so obviously unfair - unless of course, you know what is going on.

Experienced referees changed their decision making to suit the game they are refereeing. A simple push in a U-12 game can throw a player off balance and most times should be penalized. That same push in an adult game would be meaningless, and in a professional match might be taken merely as a gesture of affection! An offside call when the flag goes up and the whole of the audience in the stands can see the player offside should not be called if it is clear that the goalkeeper or other defender is going to safely clear the ball. The infraction has become meaningless and does not affect the game. Until the recent rewriting of the Laws of the Game, this philosophy of refereeing was written as 64 words in the International Board Decision number 8 of Law 5:

The Laws of the Game are intended to provide that games should be played with as little interference as possible, and in this view it is the duty of Referees to penalize only deliberate breaches of the Law. Constant whistling for trifling and doubtful breaches produces bad feeling and loss of temper on the part of the players and spoils the pleasure of spectators.

That's the art of refereeing!

So next time you go to a game and see fouls going unpunished, take a look at the players, and listen to what they are saying. If they are not complaining, but are just getting on with the game, then they obviously are happy with the way that things are being called. In which case, so should you. But if you go to a match and here players saying: 'For heaven's sake, ref! Let us play' then you know that the players want more freedom, they don't want the referee to call everything and choke the game to death. It's a difficult art, this refereeing. And doubly difficult when you do the job right, but still have to contend with spectators who don't understand. That explains the big money we make doing it!



Livermore Youth Referees Shine ... Again

Livermore's contingent of youth referees have been at it again, obtaining high-profile assignments and performing exceptionally well. Some recent highlights:

Samantha Moos took the center of the U12G final for the Association Cup, held last month at Robertson Park. In addition, she ran a line on one of the U14G semifinals and on a U12B semifinal.

At the State Cup Round of 16 games in Morgan Hill a couple weeks ago, Alex Fairclough, Susie Gazzoulo, Jimmy Hufford, Kristy Lyons, Samantha Moos, and Jenna Russett all got assignments.

Finally, we've just received word that several Livermore youth have been given assignments to the State Cup Finals this weekend in Santa Clara. Look for details in next month's newsletter.

All these youth are members of the District III youth program, which affords the young referees access to intense mentoring and exposure to top-level referees. However, it is no accident that Livermore is so well represented in these events. Our youth get a big boost here in their home club because of our own strong mentoring program and our willingness to assign them to challenging games with our best referees. We can all be proud of our youth, and we can all share in the pride of their achievements because we've all had a hand in making it happen.

POP Quiz" how many Livermore Youth Referees can you spot at the State Cup Semis
(Hint: some were shy so not everyone is shown)

Questions for the clever Refs!

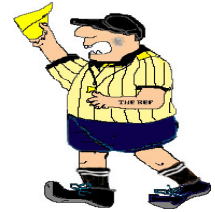
1. May the team taking a corner kick choose the side of the field it is taken from?
2. The referee restarts play with a dropped ball in the penalty-area. After the ball hits the ground the goalkeeper picks up the ball. The restart is.....
3. True or False, The goalkeeper is allowed to gain control of the ball outside of his penalty area, play the ball with his feet back into his penalty area, then pick the ball up with his hands.

Answers on page 5



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OK, clever referee, what was your answer?



1. No, it must be one the side of the field it passes over the goal line on.
If it was over the crossbar and too close to call, the referee should decide.
2. None, play on.
3. True

From the Ken Aston website and Jim Allen's "Ask the Ref" website

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Hey Ref! What are you gonna do?

1. "He's way outside the box! Are you going to start calling that or not!" You only have six games under your belt as a newly minted grade 8 and you have enough on your mind with ball in and out, OSP, direction on throw-ins, substitutions, and everything else you are probably forgetting about, and you don't need this coach in your ear distracting you, whining about goalie kicks. You are AR1 on this U14 boy's house match and you must admit you haven't been paying too much attention to where the goalie has been when he kicks the ball up-field. Honestly right now it's item 85 on the 100 item list you are trying to remember to get right. But this coach is complaining that the keeper is outside the box when he kicks the ball, and you must admit that at the last kick, out of the corner of your eye it looked like the keeper ended up a yard or so outside the PA. All right, you'll watch this time. There he goes, there he kicks, and there he lands, a good yard outside the box. Aha! You look over to the coach. He is glaring at you, hands on hips. You smile and
2. It's the end of a long hot day and you don't need this. The U19G Strikers and the Slash are putting on a final push to get the winning goal in this tied match. It's 3pm, 102° in the shade, you know you have a great sunburn and your right calf is cramping. You are having trouble keeping up with play as you serve as AR on this match, and you can't keep from glancing at your watch, which seems stuck on 37:45. But play is headed your way and you need to start paying attention. You're not the only one having a tough time. Your center is fading and keeps getting farther and farther from play. The Slash forward is putting on a burst, and the Striker left fullback is quickly closing the gap. "Here it comes, look out." You cringe as the see the players approach each other. The Slash forward sees it too and just before the collision, she lifts a long lofting shot goal-ward. Bang! Well, you can help here, up goes your flag with a wiggle and you hear your center's whistle. Everyone looks at the center, including the Striker keeper. The ball, though, takes one big bounce and goes into the goal. Well everyone knows what happens now! The Striker's are yelling " You blew the whistle, you can't count that goal". The Slash are just as loud, "The ball was already in the air, you have to count the goal." Your center has shoo'd everyone away and is headed over to you. He is beet red, and breathing hard. It's clear he doesn't know what to do. This day just got hotter.....5.

Answers on page 8



Photos courtesy of the CYSA District 1 Gallery



Cal North Youth Referees at the State Cup Semi-finals in Turlock



District 3 Female Youth Referee of the Year, Samantha Moos, at the State Cup Semis

Photos courtesy of the CYSA District 1 Gallery



Sam Hoppes pointing the way at the State Cup Semis



Livermore Youth Referee Kristy Lyons taking a break at State Cup



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

1. “No foul coach”. The goalkeeper may release the ball before leaving the penalty area and then kick the ball while outside the area. Even though he ends up landing outside the penalty area after the kick. The goalkeeper is allowed to kick the ball outside the penalty area, provided he does not carry the ball over the line—but even crossing the line while releasing the ball is a very trivial offense, particularly if the goalkeeper is clearly putting the ball back into play for everyone.
2. No goal. The referee’s whistle stops play immediately. In actual fact, play stops as soon as the referee decides to punish an infringement, even if the whistle has not yet been blown. The real question here is how and why the refereeing team got itself into this situation in the first place. The AR should not have raised the flag unless the foul clearly fell within the “out of the view of the referee” criterion (which seems highly unlikely if the fouled player had the ball at the time and was preparing a shot on goal). The referee should not be too quick to whistle immediately after the AR raises the flag, etc., etc (advantage).

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



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