

Livermore Referee Association

Referee Calendar of Events



January 24th
January 29th
February 28th

Livermore Referee Association Meeting
AGM in Fresno
Livermore Referee Association Meeting

Meeting Agenda

Don't miss the monthly meeting on January 24th.

Hey Refs! The January meeting will be held Monday the 24th at 7:00 PM in the Community Room of the Livermore Police Department. After the usual monthly business, Van Henson will give a presentation:

A Close Look at the Assistant Referee.

When we watch other referees working a match, we all generate opinions on what kind of job they are doing. What about the AR? Most of the time even fellow referees only notice the AR when the AR screws up. What should we look for? In this presentation we'll talk about some questions to ask ourselves as we watch a fellow AR, and, by extension, things we should ask ourselves about our performance after every line we run. Based on questions an assessor might ask while observing a match, we examine the AR's performance by the kinds of answers that are sought. We'll examine some traits of the AR in terms of positioning, support, courage & consistency, as well as the AR's responses to specific situations.

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 referees to attend.



Time for the CYSA Equipment Show

The California Youth Soccer Association is holding their Annual Equipment Show on January 29, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Fresno Convention and Entertainment Center in Fresno California. In addition to approximately 100 booth vendors showcasing their services and products, there is a Referee Clinic running from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and covering a number of different training topics for soccer referees. We will talk about carpooling at the January meeting. You can get more information on this always great event at the CYSA website at www.cysanorth.org

Fairplay is out

The current edition of FairPlay is out. It has some great articles and can be accessed at: http://dps.twiihosting.net/USSF/doc/content/doc_6_178.pdf.



From the Touchline



A Cautionary Tale

-Van Emden Henson

I recently ran a line on a high school boy's varsity game, with a very senior (and very good - USSF grade 6) referee in the center. The other line was also a very experienced referee. The game was well played, with two pretty even teams going at it with great gusto. One of the teams has a *very* talented player who was much more skilled than the other players, and was obviously the "go to" guy for his teammates. Naturally, he was attracting a lot of attention from the opposition, and there were a lot of little bumps, grabs, trips, pushes, and the like every time he got the ball. But he was a very strong player, and was playing through almost all the contact. Because he was successfully playing through it the referee was letting a lot of it go. But he called a lot of it, too. The other AR and I were following his lead, calling the egregious contact, but letting it go when the kid played through it.

The coach of his team, however, was growing more and more upset, and early in the match started yelling every time the referee called (or didn't call) a foul: "How many times are you letting him get away with that, Ref?? Every time my guy gets the ball he's getting whacked!" The second or third time he shouted I asked him to tone it down, and he was quieter for a few moments. But he soon fell back into the dissent with full gusto. The incessant shouting in my ear (and its volume) was starting to get to me, and I found myself saying silently, "Hey, coach, the ref is calling most of the fouls! What do you want? And the real question is, how many times is he going to let you tell him how to referee before he does something about you?"

At halftime we all talked about how the kid was getting hacked, and how we were calling the bad ones and letting him play through the others. "What else can I do, really?" the center asked. The only suggestion we kicked around was, rather than just letting the strong kid simple play through it, maybe making some loud "Advantage!" calls would let everyone know that the hacking was not going unnoticed. In addition, all three of us were quite concerned about the coach and his shouting tactics for playing the referee.

The second half was about the same as the first, except that the referee finally tired of the shouting and warned the coach to restrain himself (which he more or less did). The game ended and as we walked off the field, the coach approached us and told us, very plainly, how unhappy he was with our performance. "The other team," he said, "had a blatant tactic to foul my guy every time he got the ball, and you did nothing to stop it!" The referee responded that he had called the worst of the fouls and that he let the very strong player play through the weaker challenges. "But you never pulled a card," the coach continued, "and if you had carded somewhere after, say, the tenth time he was hacked, maybe they would have changed their tactics and let us play fair!"

As soon as he said this, it dawned on all three of us that we had just witnessed, close up, a textbook example of team persistent infringement, and had done nothing to stop it. Of course a card had been warranted, and quite early in the match. But it never occurred to the referee, and neither I nor the other AR thought to ask for a caution. And we are all senior referees with lots of experience on the field. More to the point, we've all been to clinic after clinic at which we have been exhorted explicitly to watch specifically for this kind of activity.



So why did three experienced referees miss a classic case of persistent infringement? First, without question, we blew it, and there is no valid excuse for us missing it. But, replaying events in my mind, here is what I think happened (I talked it over later with the referee, and he agrees that this explanation might be correct). Early in the match, the referee called a few and let a few go. This started the coach going, and with every succeeding contact, he got louder and more obnoxious. Looking back on it, I realize that I let the coach get to me, so that his shouting had exactly the opposite effect than he intended. Instead of pointing out the persistent infringement and inducing the referee to give a card, it was getting on our nerves to the point that every time he raised his voice we stopped concentrating fully on what we *should* have seen and done, and started thinking about how obnoxious the coach was! Perhaps we got so wrapped up in the coach's dissent that we neglected to protect the players as we should have done!

The moral of the story is not to engage with coaches. We all know about this dictum, of course, but the subtle twist here is that it is possible to "engage" a coach without getting into an actual discussion. We "engaged" simply by thinking about the coach's tone and demeanor. We didn't even register what he was saying! And his players suffered for it.

Oh well, another lesson learned the hard way...



Questions for the clever Refs!

1. Everyone else has numbers, why don't goalkeepers have to?
2. True or false, a player who left the field to correct an equipment violation, and reenters the field without the referee's permission, is cautioned and shown the yellow card?
3. True or false, at the taking of a penalty-kick, the defending team may replace its goalkeeper with one of the players on the field.

Answers on page 5



Samantha Moos Named District III Female Young Referee of the Year



Livermore referee Samantha Moos has been named as the 2004-2005 District III Female Young Referee of the Year! Samantha, 17, is a senior at Granada High and was the Livermore Referee Association Young Referee of the Year each of the last two years. She is very active in the LRA, working two dozen league games and numerous out-of-town tournaments. Her referee resume already includes games in the State Cup quarter- and semi-finals, and she has refereed an Association Cup final.

Having been named as District III youth referee of the year, Samantha is automatically considered a candidate for State Young Referee of the Year. We all wish her the best of luck on that!

LRA Names 2004 Award Winners

The Livermore Referee Association named its 2004 award winners at the December meeting. Honored were:

Referees of the Year: *David Bunch* and *Kathy Kaufman* were selected as Referees of the year. David has been a referee for five seasons and annually is among the leaders in the "Iron Man" for number of games worked (in fact he led this year with 106 games). David also served as youth referee coordinator this year.

Kathy Kaufman joined LRA late last year after moving (back) to the area from Georgia. She was also high on the game count list, with 85 games to her credit. In addition, she served as Instruction Coordinator, organizing and administering the clinics to train new referees.

Most Improved Referee: *Bill Russett* was named Most Improved Referee. Bill has become a mainstay of the LRA, and has steadily been improving from house games up through U19B at the high comp level.

Rookies of the Year: The Association had several new referees join the club this year, including a number of promising prospects. The standouts selected as rookies of the year are *Stephanie Fish* and *Tim Shepodd*. We look forward to having them work games for some years to come!

Youth Referee of the Year: *Jenna Russett* and *Garrett Clark* were named as the LRA youth referees of the year. Both had very active years and are now working hard in the postseason tournaments as part of the District III Youth Referee Program.

Most Improved Youth Referees: The most improved youth referees for 2004 are *Alex Fairclough* and *Katie Nelson*. Both these young referees put forth terrific efforts and improved their performances greatly. Alex was nominated to the District III youth program, and is busy in the postseason tournaments.

Rookies of the Year: *Kimberly Wakefield* and *Kevin Thomas* were named as Youth Referees of the Year. These two represented a great group of new youth referees, and we expect great things out of all of them.

Congratulations to all of these award winners!



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OK, clever referee, what was *your* answer?

1. The Laws of the Game do not require numbers for any player. Numbers are a requirement of the competition in which the player plays.
2. True
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. U17 Boys What a pain! You are back at the ref tent during this first round weekend for State Cup Olders doing your paperwork. With 10 minutes left in a close match between the Chivas and Outlaws, a Chivas midfielder and Outlaw defender had been contesting for the ball near the touchline. The midfielder won the ball, but before he could take off, the Outlaw defender, deeply offended at having been dispossessed of the ball, cranked up and planted a cleat on his exposed calf. Deeply troubled by this lack of sportsmanship in his opponent, the Chivas midfielder landed a right cross on the cheekbone of the Outlaw. Then it was off to the races, and a great time was had by all. That's ancient history now, the match is over and you are writing it up. You peruse the form.....

Player sent off for:

- Serious foul play
- Violent conduct
- Spit at an opponent or other person
- DOGSO
- Offensive, insulting or abusive language or gesture
- Second caution.

Hmmmmm...who gets what?

2. This isn't so hard. It's your fifteenth game as a newly minted grade 8 and you've been assigned as AR to a U16 rec match. After your steady diet of U10s and U12s you felt ready for a higher-level match. You are into the second half, and all seems to be going well. The center is very experienced and she gave you lots of encouragement and a few tips at half time. The Breeze forward is slow getting back, and when her sweeper sends a long booming kick upfield, she, and everyone else knows she is in an offside position. The forward is smart though and is moving away from the ball. "Wait for participation, Wait for participation". Your center had talked about that in pre-game and you are doing it now. She's not participating, and your flag's down. But the forward is watching a group of onrushing players. They think she is going to cross the ball into the goal area and are moving into position to attack and defend. As soon as they are past her, and she is behind the second to last defender, the forward collects the ball and is off to the goal. She's OK right; she waited right, Ooooooh, she's getting ready to shoot, Ooooooh.....

Answers on page 8

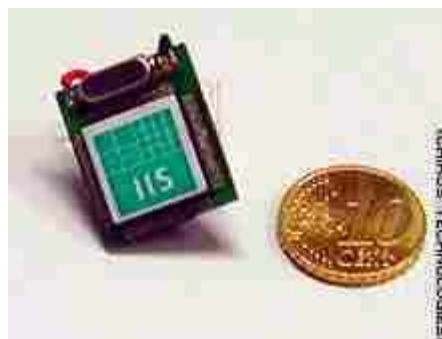
Technology is on the way-Football chip could help referees

Originally posted on CNN January 14, 2005

While football fans were dumbfounded earlier this month when referee Mark Clattenburg failed to award a goal to Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Pedro Mendes, a small German company was quietly pleased.

Clattenburg's failure to see what was —as shown in replays — clearly a goal from 50 yards, infuriated followers of the English Premiership game against Manchester United. But for Cairos Technologies it was the kind of advertising that money cannot buy. The Karlsbad-based company has developed a tiny radio chip that fits inside a football and determines whether the ball has crossed the goal line, pinpointing its exact location on the pitch.

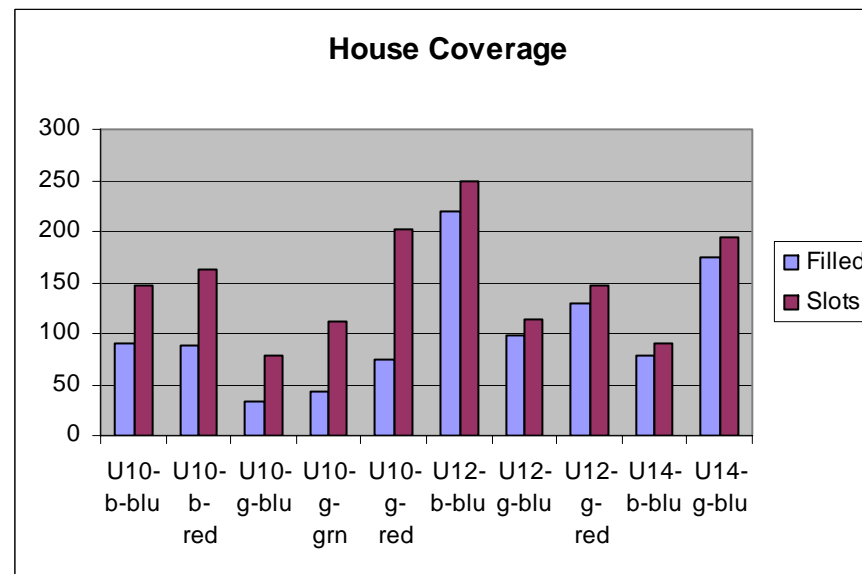
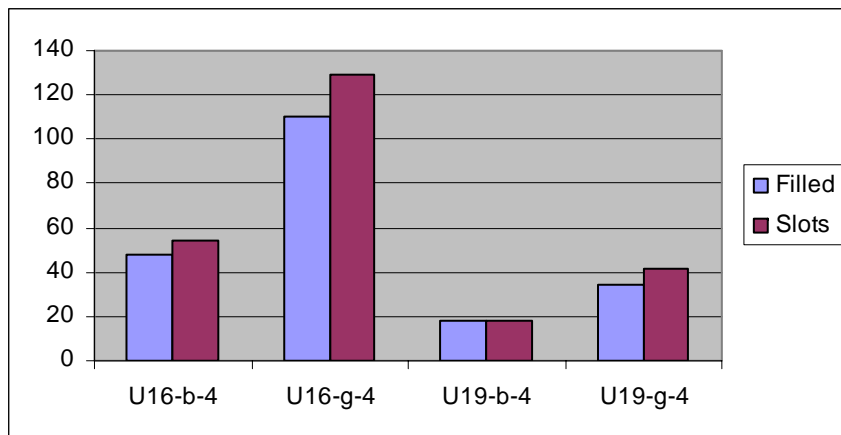
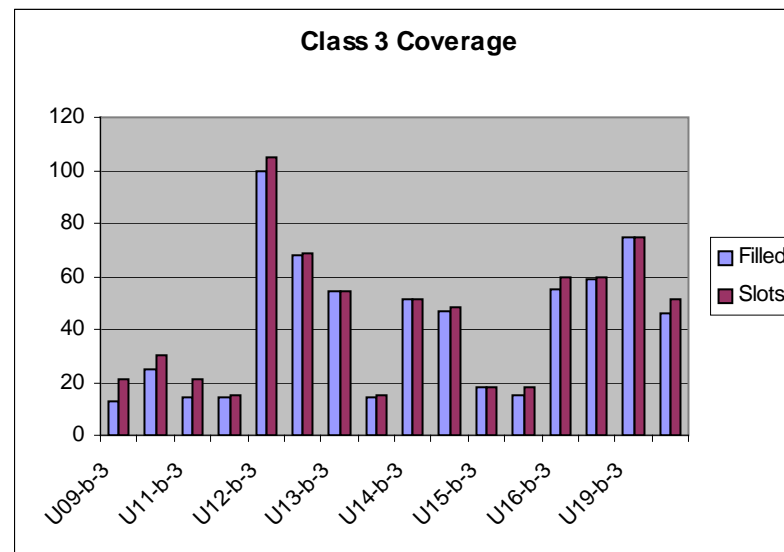
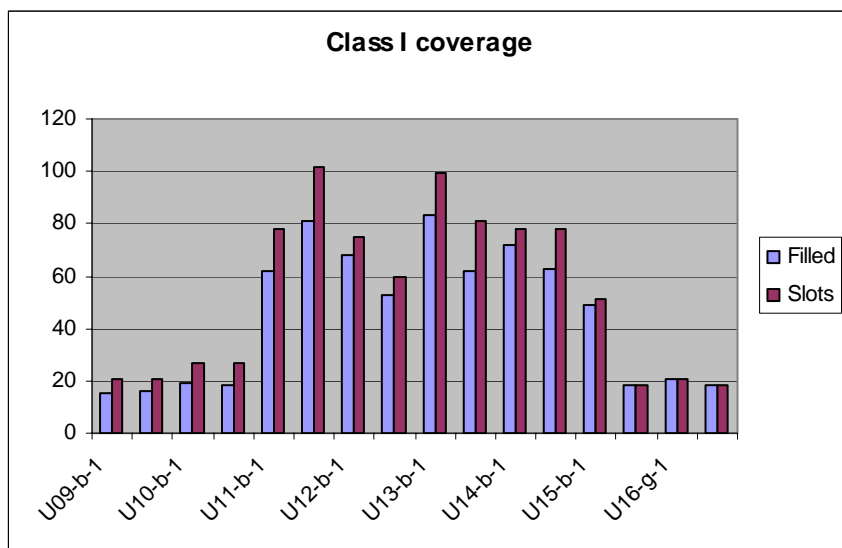
The chip and the battery that powers it weighs 12 grams, transmits 2,000 signals a second to a receiver network of 12 antennas, placed around the pitch. The receivers then send information about the ball's location to a central computer. Because it works in real time, it can instantly tell the referee whether a goal has been scored. FIFA has put the subject of goal line technology on the agenda of its International Football Association Board's annual general meeting, to be held in Cardiff, Wales on February 26.



A tiny chip and battery, inside the ball can tell referees when a goal has been scored.

Coverage for the Year is a Mixed Story

It's no secret that we need more referees (or fewer games to cover). We all spent time on fields covering unassigned slots or running games shorthanded. Our philosophy is to cover games according to the rule, "Safety First!" Hence, we cover the games that are most violent and competitive before we get to cover the younger house games. For example, we had 100% coverage on all U16 through U19 Class 1 games, as well as the U19B-3. Our coverage is summarized in the following four figures:





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

1. The punch cannot be a foul because what is described is a sequential series of infringements and the kick occurred first, so that is when play stopped. Because play was stopped, even if the whistle had not been blown, the punch can be only misconduct. So it's SFP for the Outlaw defender, and VC for the Chivas Midfielder.
2. Get that flag up, when last played by a teammate, (the sweeper) the forward was in an offside position.

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

Just to see if you are still reading, I found this on SOCREF-L. It's fun, but there are one or two less than appropriate words just so you know. It's at <http://www.comedy.allinfoabout.com/ref.html>



President	Van Henson	606-7180	vhenson@comcast.net
Vice-President	David Bunch	455-1214	dbunch2@aol.com
Treasurer	Bob Dashner	294-8623	webmaster@livermorerefs.org
Secretary	William Hoppes	606-7986	hoppes1@sbcglobal.net
LYSL Rep.	Brian Hufford	373-7952	brihuff@yahoo.com
Assignor	Van Henson	606-7180	vhenson@comcast.net
Webmaster	Bob Dashner	294-8623	webmaster@livermorerefs.org

