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# Livermore Referee Association

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## Referee Calendar of Events

Ⓞ August 21 <sup>st</sup>	LYSL U9-U14 House Season Begins
Ⓞ August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Livermore Referee Association Meeting
Ⓞ September 9 <sup>th</sup>	U16-U19 House and Hi-Comp Season Begins
Ⓞ September 23-24 <sup>th</sup>	Livermore Fall Classic U12/14 III B/G
Ⓞ September 25 <sup>th</sup>	Livermore Referee Association Meeting

## Meeting Agenda



### **Monday, August 28<sup>th</sup> District III Referee Administrator Steve Petrakovitz.**

We've invited the D3 head guy to our August meeting. He will be talking on "**How to be the Best You Can Be, as a Referee.**" Not only does Steve lead the district, but he is also a terrific referee. If you attended the bleacher clinic, you may remember watching him center the U18 boys State Cup final. Steve has attended our meetings in the past, but this is the first time we have gotten him to be the program. Steve has always been a great supporter of Livermore referees and it should be a terrific meeting. Our meetings take place at the Livermore Public Library right next to the Police Station at 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA. As always our fully catered meetings are held at 7:00 PM. We especially encourage our new referee's to attend.

## Questions for clever refs out there.

1. True or False: All free kicks, with the exception of penalty kicks and kick offs, may be taken in any direction?
2. At an indirect free kick to his own team from within his own penalty area, the defender passes the ball back to his goalkeeper who is standing in his goal area so that he then may kick it up field. Would you allow play to continue?
3. Define: Charging

**Answers on page 10**





## *From the Touchline*

*Hi, it's me*

*By Bill Hoppes*

Are you as sore as I am? It's August so it must be tournaments every weekend. We've just had the season-opening Livermore Summer Classic Tournament and by the time you get this, the house season will have begun! I hope you have been doing lots of games, tuning up and are ready for our season. I want to extend a special welcome to our 47 brand new referees. I hope to get the chance to meet and work with all of you this season. I was with Sam's team up in Folsom during the weekend of the Summer Classic but from all reports I received the Classic came off well and all game slots were covered. Thanks to all the local and out of town referees that came to help. It is always fun to go out of town to referee. There are some spectacular venues going up everywhere. The U19 brackets of the Folsom tournament were held on two gorgeous artificial turf fields. Have you had the opportunity to see the fields at Val Vista Park in Pleasanton? They are the most beautiful natural grass fields I have seen. Since Folsom, for me, it's been the Mustang Stampede, Ballistic Summer Classic, and the Soccer City Warm-up. These aren't the only tournaments out there; if you want games, there are plenty to be had. Don't forget our own Fall Classic coming up in September. We sent 23 first and second year referees to the Dublin Jamboree. This proved to be an excellent training experience last year and from what I have heard it was just as successful this year. Saw a lot of great refereeing in these tournaments, but also saw a few referees get in trouble. One common theme in several of these games I saw was referees allowing too much contact-whacking ankles, charging and pushing-from behind. In several of these games, this type of contact got players upset faster than most anything else on the field, quickly leading to ill temper, retaliation, dissent and misconduct later on. Often the ref seemed poorly positioned, behind and directly following play, not getting a better "angle of view". A couple of these games also reinforced for me how often the job done by the ARs makes or breaks a game. I watched one match where an AR was having a tough day. He was drifting off his line, had trouble keeping up with play and was watching play rather than the offside line. All the things we know not to do, the players could tell he was having a difficult time, and before you knew it, a disputed goal and whether the AR was right or wrong the players wouldn't believe it, or get over it, and the center ref had his hands full for the rest of the match. I, on the other hand, was fortunate enough to benefit from some excellent AR work. A long shot, the goalie makes a finger tip save, the ball pinging off the cross bar and then the post. It looked in even to me, but my AR had streaked down the touchline (those young legs help), was right on the line when all this was happening, and called out in his referee loud voice "No Goal, it's not in!" The attacking team's frustration was aimed at their teammates for not following up on the loose ball

rather than the referee team. I think it would have been different if my AR had been lagging 20 yards up field. That AR was my hero. Being an AR is important, hard work, give the kids 100%. On a sad note, soccer lost a great friend in the passing of Doug Fields. If you didn't get the opportunity to know Doug, please read Ken Mitchell's article in this newsletter. By the time you receive this our season will have begun. **THE TIME TO SET YOUR AVAILABILITY IN ARBITER IS NOW!!!** See you on the pitch.

**Have you tried self-assigning yet?**

The screenshot shows the website for The Arbitrator .NET, specifically for the Livermore Referee Association. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Buy & Sell Baseball Tickets Here' and 'StubHub'. The main content area is titled 'G. William Hoppes' and contains an announcement from Van Henson dated 7/21/2004. The announcement text explains the process of self-assigning as a referee, including how to manage blocks on the calendar and how to use the 'READY TO BE ASSIGNED' box. A 'Special Notices' section on the right highlights a 'Press Release!' and a 'Referral Reward' offer of 15% for new referees. The left sidebar provides navigation options for schedules, payroll, blocks, account, and settings. At the bottom, there is a 'Ready' status indicator and a 'back to top' link.

Yes! Self-Assigning has come to Livermore. It's fast; it's easy, and you can do it.

**How does it work?**

Sign into Arbitrator, just like always. That takes you to your homepage. And just like always, proceed to your "calendar" to unblock the days you want to referee. Return to your homepage. Under "Schedules", you will see third one down, "Self-Assign." Click on "Self-Assign"; a whole stream full of games will appear. Select the games and slots you want to do, click on "Go", and

the games are yours. If you return to your homepage, click on "Schedules". Under "Schedules", you will see your accepted games. If you click on the game number, your fellow referees that will be doing that game with you appear.

***There's a catch, isn't there? It can't be that easy.***

Yes, those games are yours. If you need to change, undo, return, abandon, reject, turn back those games, you must call David Bunch at 455-1214 or Tanya Hoppes at 606-7986 to do it.

***OK, I can see this is a long article, what else do I need to know?***

David and I set the number of games any one referee can do in a single day at five. We also set the number of games you can self-assign yourself on any given day at three.

What does that mean? Let's say you want to center five U-10 games on Saturday (whew!). Today, you can select three games, and tomorrow, you can select 3 more games, but only 2 for Saturday and one for another day, because you have reached your five-day limit for Saturday.

David and I set the number of days you can see games into the future at eight days. If you go onto Arbiter tonight, you can see the next eight days worth of games (but only those days you have unblocked and those days that have games being played.) Once the High Comp and Traveling House games are in Arbiter, we may change it to 14 days.

U-10 games have only centers. I know many of you are parent/teenager teams or new ref/experienced ref teams. If you want to do a center with your teenager/inexperienced friend as an AR, call David or myself. We can help you.

***Fairness-be good to your fellow ref***

Always remember, for each game, there is one center and two ARs. Thus for every three games, you should take one center and two ARs. Please share the High Comp and Traveling House games; we have a limited number.

Having said that, take all the U-10 and U-9 house games you want (within your five games per day total). Those teams are begging for referees and they rarely see them. Most of our new referees start at U-12 ARs and first year referees move into the U-14 ARs. At the beginning of the season, we need centers for these games, so feel free to take 2-3 centers. HOWEVER, in October, most of these ARs begin to want to try their wings as centers, so make sure there are plenty for them to do.

***Doing Your Child's Game? Hmmmmmm.....***

As assignors, Van, David and I could not assign parent/siblings to their child/siblings' games. *That rule still holds.* You cannot assign yourself to your child/siblings' games.

However, if you are at your child/siblings' game, and a center or AR position is open and you have your uniform and badge, you can approach the coaches (the center if there is one) and offer your services; but you must tell them your child/brother/sister is on which team. If no one objects, you can referee that game.

Do you receive referee payment in this instance? You bet. If you are the center, make sure you write down any ARs' names and fill out a game report on Arbiter. Game reports are found in two places: on your homepage under "Forms", or at [www.livermorerefs.org](http://www.livermorerefs.org) under "Game Pay Report." If you are the AR, make sure the center has your name. If after 7 calendar days of your match, the center did not record the game data in Arbiter, you can file a game report yourself.

### ***Attachments, yes we have attachments***

If your child, sibling, or you play on a team, emails David Bunch at [dbunchassignor@aol.com](mailto:dbunchassignor@aol.com) or Tanya Hoppes at [thoppes1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thoppes1@sbcglobal.net) and we can do an attachment. An attachment is an identity mark showing you are affiliated with a certain team. All we need is your child/sibling/yours age group (U-12, U-14, etc.), team name, house or high comp team, and girls or boys team. Please send this information after September 1.

### ***The Sensitive Area***

Why does X get to do U-15 boys Class 1 centers and you only get U-14 house centers? The main reason is so that the kids get referees with the skill and fitness level to keep it safe, fair and fun for them, and you get games that match your skill and ability level so that it is fun for you too. Things we look at include your grade level (Are you a grade 9, 8, 7, 6, or 5?), fitness (Can you keep up with the kids and the game? If there is a breakaway, can you keep pace with the midfielder or forward?), experience (Did you do 10 games, 20 games, 30 games, or 50 games for us last year? What levels did you do? U-12 house ARs? Did you referee in tournaments or Jamborees? How long have you refereed? One year, three years, five years, ten years?, has your ability been recognized by District (Were you asked to do Tide Cup, Association Cup, or State Cup games?) Do you have your mechanics down? How's your foul recognition? How's your positioning as a center? Are you getting wide enough? Are you close enough to play? Are you side stepping as a linesman? Are you at the goal line to catch that ball in or out or are you 20 yards up field?, How's your teamwork; as a center, are you looking at your linesman? Do you have a solid pre-game? Do your fellow referees look forward to working with you? How professional are you on the pitch? Are you standing on the lines looking at the sky and waving your flags around? All the feedback we receive and observe is taken into account when we decide who is going to referee that U-19 Boys Class 1 center and who is going to referee the U-9 Girls Class 3 center.

As this season progresses, and you feel you are ready (as in new referees) or capable (as in referees with experience) to do centers or higher-level games, give David or me a call. We will assign a mentor to the game, and assign the level of games you can do based on their feedback. Many of the upcoming games will have mentors assigned to them. If they advise us to upgrade your status, David and I will do it.

## ***Youth Referees***

Youth Referees generally cannot referee games at their age level or higher. As a rule of thumb, a youth referee should do age groups two years younger than they are. Because we have many excellent youth referees, we have allowed them to AR games at their age level or higher, but we do not assign them to center. Peer pressure is alive and well at this level and we do not subject our youths to this kind of pressure. Out of control parents and fanatical coaches, yes; peers, no.

## ***GSSL Games***

For GSSL U-16, U-17, and U-19 girls and boys' games, the District is now assigning all centers, we will still assign the ARs. That's the word at this point in time.

## ***Tournaments***

We haven't decided yet to allow self-assigning or not.

## ***Last but not least***

This is new. Mistakes are going to be made. Boo-boos will be corrected. David may be close to perfect, but I am not. Please be tolerant, understanding, and forgiving and give it a try.

- Tanya

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## ***We lost an old friend last week.***

By now many of you know that Doug Fields passed away last week. I first met Doug and his wife, Norine, at a coach's meeting at St. Michael's Soccer Club in the spring of 1970. He'd already had been coaching and refereeing for a year or so when I got into the program. I had to take the referee course the following spring to learn something about the game since there was virtually nothing in the library on soccer and we only received a short course in the very basics of the game from the club's head-coach.

Doug was busy coaching and refereeing so I picked up the same pattern. He also helped form our referee association and helped to write its by-laws. Doug was always there to help us newbie's with understanding of the Laws of the Game. Around 1974, Doug and I got talked into attending an experimental F-Coaching course at Squaw Valley. The National Coaching Staff was trying out the first of a series of coaching courses and needed some warm bodies to attend. Doug and I struggled – or maybe I should say staggered through the course. It had lots of rough spots and was more physical than anything else.

When the soccer clubs in town (we had up to seven at one time) decided to merge into one club in the mid-'70s, Doug and Norine were at the forefront of the effort. Doug moved up into the

upper ranks of refereeing and retired as a State Emeritus. He also served in the District III administration as well as one of the vice-presidents on CYSA's board of directors. Doug and Norine were both inducted into CYSA's Hall of Fame for their long years of service to youth soccer. He still refereed as often as he could and a couple years ago he became an assessor. His long years of referee experience, administrative skills, and his wonderful sense of humor will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

- *Ken Mitchell*

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**A good tip**

Too often I see referees give up once they realize a breakaway is going all the way, and I see them calling the play from the center of the field and from too far behind. That's no good; a breakaway is the most demanding play but also the play when fouls are more blatant and visible; I personally try to do \*everything\* I can to minimize the disadvantage a breakaway puts me at and I do not slow down until the ball is out of bounds or within the unchallenged goalie's possession.

- Giovanni Piazza

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**Come on Come On. Get that registration in!**  
**It isn't that hard!**



Your 2005 registration expired on 12/31/05. Come on, come on, and Get your registration in for the 2006 season. Please get it done this month. The season has already started and we need everyone on board. If you already sent your registration in but don't have your 2006 badge yet. Thanks for registering and please be patient. Those hard-working gnomes all the way back in Chicago are wading through oceans of registrations, some 11,000 or so just from Cal North. As long as they deposited your registration check you show up on our secret list and we consider you registered. But, if you haven't registered, you can't do games. And we will need all the refs we can get this season. If you do ten, that's right only ten games we will reimburse you your \$25 registration fee. So see, there is absolutely no excuse not to get that registration in. We need you and so do the kids. You can even do it online! Just go to the LRA website or to [http://www.cnra.net/renew/renew\\_register.htm](http://www.cnra.net/renew/renew_register.htm) and follow the simple to use instructions. Don't wait, you know Benitez is going to blow another save. Why sit there pulling your hair out. Get up and register.

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### **Some Regional Guidance-part II**

Those refs lucky and good enough to get invited to Regional always receive a lot of good advice. Following is from a handout they were given this year. It has a lot of good review and interpretation. It is many pages long and we will put excerpts from it in the newsletter as the season goes on. Last month we gave you part one, here is part two.

**2006**

#### **Instructions for Referees and Resolutions Affecting Team Coaches and Players Regional and National Cup Competitions and Tournaments**

Julie Ilacqua

Managing Director of Referee Programs

Alfred Kleinaitis

Manager of Referee Development and Education

**UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION, INC.**

The decisions and instructions to referees appointed to Regional and National Cup Competitions and Tournaments contained herein conform to the Laws of the Game, the decisions of the International F.A. Board, and guidance from USSF through its Advice to Referees, Guide to Procedures, and various official memoranda. This document is therefore regarded as authoritative and may be quoted as such. For further details on any of these points, consult the sources listed above. Decisions made during play depend entirely on the opinion of the referee, who makes a decision at the time of the incident. Coaches are requested to inform their players of the points specified below and to ensure that every game is played sportingly.

#### **5. Offenses against goalkeepers**

It is an offense if a player:

- jumps at a goalkeeper under the pretext of heading the ball;
- moves or jumps about near a goalkeeper in order to distract or interfere with or prevent the goalkeeper from releasing the ball;
- who is standing in front of a goalkeeper when a corner kick is being taken, takes advantage of the position to impede the goalkeeper before the kick is taken and before the ball is in play;

- makes any play for the ball while the goalkeeper is still controlling it with the hands. Kicking or attempting to kick the ball held by the goalkeeper is considered to be dangerous play.

## **6. Impeding the progress of an opponent**

A player who has the ball under control within playing distance (i.e., the distance at which the player is covering the ball for tactical reasons in order to avoid it being played by an opponent, without using the arms) is not guilty of impeding the progress of the opponent.

Any player who intentionally impedes the progress of an opponent by crossing directly in front of or running between the opponent and the ball or intervening so as to form an obstacle with the aim of delaying the opponent's advance, must be sanctioned with an indirect free kick in favor of the opposing team.

However, any player who intentionally impedes the progress of an opponent by physical contact, whether using the hand, arm, leg, or any other part of the body, shall be penalized for holding by the award of a direct free kick to the opposing team, or by a penalty kick, if the offense was committed within the player's team's penalty area.

## **7. Scissors or bicycle kick**

Such a kick is permissible, provided that in the opinion of the referee it is not dangerous to an opponent.

## **8. Jumping at an opponent**

A player who jumps at an opponent under the pretext of heading the ball shall be penalized by the award of a direct free kick to the opposing team.

## **9. Prohibited use of body**

A player who holds off an opponent using the hand, arm, leg, or body (except through a legal charge) is guilty of an infringement of Law 12 and shall be punished by the award of a direct free kick to the opposing team. Holding or hindering when the ball is out of play in order to prevent the opponent from running into position is misconduct and shall be penalized by a caution for unsporting behavior.

## **10. Caution for handling the ball or holding an opponent**

A caution for unsporting behavior is appropriate if a player:

- holds an opponent to interfere with attacking play (e.g., prevents the opponent from getting to the ball or pulls an opponent away from possession of the ball),
- handles the ball to interfere with attacking play, or
- handles the ball in an attempt to score a goal.

(Note: if handling the ball or holding the opponent prevents a goal or interferes with a goal scoring opportunity, the offender must be shown the red card and sent off the field.)

## **11. Free kicks**

A player who delays the restart of play or fails to respect the required distance when play is being restarted must be cautioned.



## ***Hey Ref! What are you gonna do?***

1. There are three minutes left in a 0-0 U13G tournament final between the Strykers and the Xtreme. You're bugged with yourself that you didn't caution the Stryker midfielder after a foul charge on the Xtreme forward. The charge was certainly reckless and both players are still jawing at each other while the Xtreme sets up for the corner. The corner kick is aimed at the top of the PA and the players rush forward. A Stryker defender tries to head the ball away but deflects it to an Xtreme forward, standing in an offside position, who buries it in the net. The AR pops his flag, but you have a strange sensation. You've had it before, there are two tiny brain cells that are connecting, trying to tell you something, Hmmmm, and you wonder what it is?
2. You've heard about these games, and now you've got one. It's the last meeting of the season between the U16B Clash and Metros and these two teams have come to settle scores rather than play soccer. You and your yellow card have been working hard, and with ten minutes to go everyone is still in the match. Then it happens, a particularly annoying Metro forward achieves a breakaway and heads to the goal. The Clash goalie meets him just outside the goal box, but instead of making a play for the ball, drops him with a forearm to the chin. The Clash fullback then clears the ball away. You are right on top of it and the quick appearance of your red card for the goalie settles things a bit. Holy smoke, what a miserable game. You start thinking, Ok once I get this kid off the field, time for the PK, hmmmm, I wonder who will play goalie?

### ***Answers on page 11***

#### ***OK what was your answer,***

1. True
2. No, the ball must leave the penalty area directly before a player of either team can play it again.
3. Charging: the initiation of contact with an opposing player. Not all charges are illegal.

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



### **I was Reading the paper the other day and...**

Football is a game in which a handful of men run around for one and a half hours watched by millions of people who could really use the exercise.

A goalkeeper had had a particularly bad season and announced that he was retiring from professional football. In a television interview he was asked his reasons for quitting the game.

'Well, basically,' he said, 'it's a question of illness and fatigue.'

'Can you be more specific?' asked the interviewer.

'Well,' said the player, 'specifically the fans are sick and tired of me.'



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

1. It's a goal. If at a goal kick, corner kick, or throw-in taken by his team, a player receives the ball directly from the restart, there can be no offside violation no matter where the player is because Law 11 specifically provides for these exceptions. Confusion could arise if, at one of these three restarts, the ball makes contact with an opponent before going to the thrower's or kicker's teammate who is in an offside position. In such cases, it doesn't make any difference whether the intervening contact with an opponent is accidental (e.g., a deflection) or involves actual possession and control (a play). There can be no offside violation either way. If the contact was accidental, then the Law considers the player to have received the ball directly from his teammate's restart. If the contact with the opponent involved possession and control of the ball, then the player received the ball from an opponent, not from his teammate. However, if the ball were to make contact with a teammate of the thrower or kicker on its way to another teammate in the offside position, the teammate in the offside position (but not the player with whom the ball came in contact) must be penalized for offside.

2. The Law requires that each team have a goalkeeper. The new goalkeeper doesn't have to be one of the ten remaining players. The referee has already stopped play and can add all the time necessary for a substitution in this situation. If the team has not used all its substitutions under the rules of the competition, then a substitute goalkeeper may replace one of the remaining players. If no substitutions remain, then one of the field players must become the goalkeeper.





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