

Livermore Referee Association

Referee Calendar of Events



March 25-26 th	State Cup Olders, prelims
March 27 th	Livermore Referee Association Meeting
April 1-2 nd	State Cup Olders Prelims
April 10 th	LRA Grade 8 Clinic begins
April 21 st	LRA Grade 8 Clinic concludes
April 22-23 rd	State Cup Olders quarters and semis
April 24 th	Livermore Referee Association Meeting
April 29-30 th	State Cup Olders, finals-bleacher clinic

Meeting Agenda

**Monday, March 26th Fine-tuning the thinking referee-
a new DVD**



John Nielsen is a former FIFAAR and Canadian National Instructor. He has been putting out instructional DVDs and videos since the mid 1990s. We have gotten our hands on a few and thought we would try them out. The first one we are going to show is the above mentioned title. Bob Dashner is using his BART commute to give the DVD a critical eye before we show it. The topics covered by this DVD include: Master the offside law, dealing with goal keeper issues, recognizing caution and send off infringements, understanding the advantage clause, and assessing the obvious goal scoring opportunity, all important topics. Remember we have changed our meeting location. We no longer meet at the Livermore Police Station, but now 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.





From the Touchline

Hi, it's me
by Bill Hoppes

The following is my own and the ideas expressed aren't endorsed by anyone except my mom and Pippin the cat. I thought awhile before writing about this, but I saw something at a match recently and I thought it was important to share it with you. The incident reminded me of the old poem:

For want of a nail the shoe was lost.
For want of a shoe the horse was lost.
For want of a horse the rider was lost.
For want of a rider the battle was lost.
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost.
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

This poem dates back to John Gower's "Confesio Amantis" published in 1390, and although kingdoms weren't at stake last week, things got serious enough for me. I was a spectator at an older boy's match where things started to unravel about twenty minutes into the second half. The game was pretty much over, 4-0, and there hadn't been any real incidents. The right striker and left fullback had both been working hard, a couple of fouls called during the game but nothing out of the ordinary. If you had been the center you might have mentioned it to your AR as something to keep an eye on in the second half, maybe not. The ball came along the touchline and both these boys went after it. They got tangled a bit and went down. The ball went out in favor of the defense, it's a quick throw in by the midfielder and we are off. There is a word in bird watching called "jizz". It means that you don't really need to see a bird's markings to identify it, you can recognize it by it's shape, the way it moves, how it holds it's body, its "jizz". In refereeing, there is a "jizz" about certain situations and players. You just know what is going to happen next. Well, these two players had jizz. As they were getting up I remember thinking, "Oh oh, trouble here." But they couldn't be in a better spot, right in front of the AR. They are giving each other the "stare". The AR is watching them. Now they are jawing. Come on AR time to step in. Now they are circling each other, still jawing. Do something AR! He is standing there watching them. "Get out there AR!" Shame on me, I yelled it out. Now it comes, first one hard shove and then another. The flag goes up with a wiggle, and teammates grab the two players, pulling them apart. The commotion gets the center's attention and he stops play and heads over. After consulting with the AR, it is a red card for each. The center instructs both boys to leave the area of the field of play. We are at a high school stadium and one of the sent off players is heading into the stands. As he does so he has words with a parent from the other team. I can't hear what is said, but it attracts the attention of his coach who is now shouting at the parent to not talk to his player. A few more words and the coach vaults over the rail and is headed at the parent, and we are on the edge of something really bad. The center gets over there and adults intervene and things cool down. The game starts again, but everyone just wants it to be over and to get out of there. The game ends with bad feeling all around.



I don't know what went into the send off report (Pop Quiz: the players were most likely sent off for.....?), but I hope in writing it, the referee team reflected on the role they played in the events that transpired. Chapter 15 of Evans and Bellion's "For the Good of the Game" is titled "Preventive Refereeing". One of the points they make is that **"The referee should not simply wait for things to happen. He must anticipate potential problems in order to prevent them."** If ever a situation called out for Preventive Refereeing, it was the one I witnessed that day. How might the day have turned out differently if, at the first sign of snarling and circling, the AR had, at least, called out in his Referee Loud Voice, **"HEY YOU TWO, KNOCK IT OFF!"** Might he have immediately attracted the attention of the center, or the coaches, or other players; all people who could help defuse the situation. Might he have caused the two players to pay attention to him rather than each other? Might the players have gotten back into play, perhaps to be subbed out next chance and given an opportunity to cool off? Perhaps it all would have just been one more instance of two boys getting a bit too heated for a few seconds in a match and nothing more. Happens all the time, don't you know. But all those alternative endings depend on the AR getting actively involved before the situation spun out of control. I know there are referees who don't intend to get in the middle of altercations between players bigger than they are. I have talked with referees who claim that it isn't their job to stop players from doing stupid things, only to mete out the appropriate punishment. But didn't we all learn something about making games safe, fair and fun, or something like that. There are times in a match when things are close to becoming "not fun". Those are times when you, whether center or AR, must practice preventive refereeing and do what you can to get the players back on track. Use the tools you have: your presence, your voice, your steely eye. Read chapter 15 of "For the Good of the Game" for more advice. No one could say that this match was fun. Everyone I saw leaving that day was mad, parents, coaches, and players. Two of the later will be sitting out some games. It didn't have to turn out that way.

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Questions for the clever Refs!

1. In a penalty shoot out (KFTPM) how do you decide who takes the first kick?
2. You blow your whistle for half-time in a U19 match and as you are leaving the field you realize that you only played 40 minutes of the 45 minute half. Do you a) play 50 minutes in the second half to compensate, or b) play just 40 minutes in the second to make two equal halves.
3. A player taking an indirect free kick in his opponent's PA backheels it to a teammate who fires it into the goal. The correct restart is.

Answers on page 5

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Hey Ref! What are you gonna do?

1. Pre-season games in the Silverton Soccer Club are pretty informal. They assign referees to these matches but rules on substitutions and stoppages are pretty relaxed as the coaches are trying out new players and alignments. You've been asked to do a competitive U14 boys match between the Crushers and the Matchbox. You know the Crushers. They are a pretty good team, but you haven't seen the Matchbox before. Are these kids on the right field? A pack of little guys tumble onto your field and start kicking a ball around. This can't be a U14 team. Their coach comes up. These are the Matchbox all-right. They are a U12 team and coach thinks it will do them good to play some older boys. You scan the team. Unless the Silverton Club has been hiding some incredibly talented, very young players, this is going to be a massacre. As you are sorting through the player passes a couple of Matchbox parents come up. "Excuse me Ref, but our coach is a nut, can you not let this game happen". They go on to explain how the Matchbox are all playing up from U11s, in fact there is only one 11 year old and there is even a 9-year old on the team. The parents are concerned that their kids will get hurt playing a tough U14 team. "Can't you say that this game is unsafe and call it off?"
2. Can't they argue a little more quietly? You are at the Silverton Slam, an early season tournament for girls. You've finished your two morning games and have a break until your U14 center at 2PM. The setting and the weather are spectacular. You are in your lawn chair and if these two guys would quiet down you might just be able to make up for that 5AM start you needed to drive all the way over here. They are watching a nearby match and kibitzing everything the center does. Listening to them you'd think the poor guy in the middle should just quit, burn his yellow jersey, and go referee lacrosse or something. You hear a faint rumble from the field and listen a bit more closely to your commentators.
 - "It's in the box".
 - "What was it for, can you see".
 - "Nope, but there goes the yellow card, must have been something."
 - "What? He's restarting with an indirect, how can that be? How can you call something in the box, issue a card and have it not be a PK".
 - "Well, I think there are some situations where you can."
 - "OK smart guy, give me an example".

Sleep is impossible now. You are curious to hear what they come up with.

Answers on page 7



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



1. You toss a coin and the winner chooses to kick first or second
2. Neither, you must return to the pitch, play the missing time, and then call for half time
3. You award the goal followed by a kick-off. The only free kick that is required to go forward is the PK (kickoffs must go forward too).

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

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



It was a boring Sunday afternoon in the jungle so the Elephants challenged the Ants to a game of soccer. The game was going well with the Elephants beating the Ants ten goals to nil, when the Ants gained possession. The Ants' star player dribbled the ball towards the Elephants' goal when the Elephants' left back came lumbering towards him. The elephant trod on the little ant, killing him instantly. The referee stopped the game. "What do you think you're doing? Do you call that sportsmanship, killing another player?" The elephant replied, "Well, I didn't mean to kill him — I was just trying to trip him."

The Bleacher Clinic is Back!

Hey Livermore referees! The State Cup Final Bleacher Clinic is back again. On Saturday April 29th and Sunday May 30, the State Cup Finals will be held at Robertson Park. As we have done for the past several years, we will be hosting a Bleacher Clinic during two of the games. We haven't settled on the exact games yet, but we will be posting that info in the next newsletter. This is always one of the best events of the season. We'll meet ½ hour before kickoff, as a group, at the entrance to the fields (go ahead and pay your entrance fee, it won't break you). Then we'll all sit together in the bleachers behind the teams. The clinic leaders (we usually use assessors assigned to the finals) then give a quiet commentary throughout the game. It is always a tremendous learning experience. Come on out and take part.



I Bet you didn't know

What were the soccer star's first words as a baby?

Look ma! No hands!

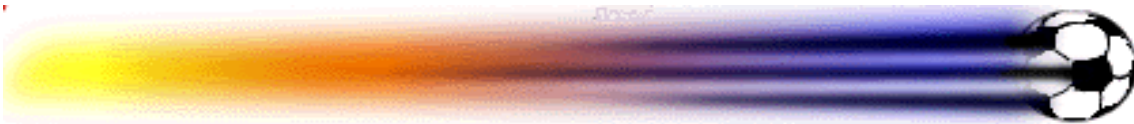
Come on Come On. Get that registration in!

Your 2005 registration expired on 12/31/05. Come on, come on, Get your registration in for the 2006 season. Early season tournaments will be here before you know it. If you have 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 had 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 and follow the simple to use instructions. Don't wait, do it before you sit down to watch that March madness game. Your bracket is shot to pieces anyway.



First Grade 8 Referee License Course scheduled

LRA's first Grade 8 Clinic is scheduled for April 10, 11, 13, 18, 19, 21, 2006. Grade 8 Referees are authorized to be Referee or Assistant Referee on either house games or High Comp games at all age levels. The Grade 8 clinic comprises 18 hours of instruction, including 12 hours of classroom instruction, a 3-hour field session, and a 3-hour session of review and the written examination on the rules. The Grade 8 clinic is generally offered in 6 separate sessions over a span of 7 to 12 days. It is not required to get a Grade 9 before taking the Grade 8 course. We have a sign up list of over 60 individuals who have requested the grade 8 or grade 9 course. Our first grade 9 clinic is scheduled for May. If we have enough demand we will have additional courses. If you, or someone you know wants to take the course, have them drop an email to any member of the steering committee.



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

1. Play on. Although the referee's primary concern is the safety of the players, that has no bearing on this situation. The match-up is the concern of the league, not the referees. However this match of mismatched teams came to be, the referee's main concern has to be what actually happens in the match, not what might happen. If referees start making such decisions on what might be, he would find himself at the top of the proverbial slippery slope. Where would it end? Unless the matchup itself in contrary to the league's rules, the officials have no choice but to officiate and if individual players commit dangerous acts vis-à-vis individual opponents, they have the Law itself available to handle it.
2. They managed to come up with a few. If the referee stops play for a case of misconduct, such as dissent or unsporting behavior, that does not involve a foul, the game is restarted with an IFK. The referee could even send a player off for violent conduct (such as brutal threats) and restart with an IFK if the serious misconduct was why the game was stopped.

Thanks to Jim Allen's "Ask the Ref" website, and the ATR



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