

# Livermore Referee Association

## Referee Calendar of Events



May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Livermore Referee Association Meeting
May 22-23 <sup>rd</sup>	LRA Grade 9 clinic
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	SF Cup Referee Symposium
May 27-29 <sup>th</sup>	SF Cup
June 10-12 <sup>th</sup>	Cal Cup Boys
June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Livermore Referee Association Meeting

## Meeting Agenda

**Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>** This month's program is from our own Van Henson. "Taking Advantage of Advantage"

The Advantage clause of Law 5 is one of the most important weapons in the Referee's arsenal. All too often, however, Referees use the Advantage clause incorrectly, either applying it where it should not be used or failing to use it when it would do the most good. In this clinic we examine the Advantage clause, discovering its use and misuse, and developing strategies for employing it to best effect.

Proper application of the Advantage Clause is an important step in your development as a referee. This is one you will not want to miss. 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.

## *Questions for the clever Refs!*

1. True or false, one of the duties of the fourth official include stopping play and informing the central referee of infractions that occur on the field of play
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.

## *Answers on page 7*



## **The Bleacher Clinic was a great success!**

The Livermore Referee Association held its annual Bleacher Clinic May 6-7<sup>th</sup> during State Cup finals at Robertson Park in Livermore. Approximately 25-30 referees from throughout District 3 attended the clinic each day. Several Cal North assessors, attending the finals, graciously provided commentary. Your editor attended the Sunday game, the U17 Boys final between Santa Cruz and River City. It was an exciting match with lots of action, and even though the ref crew did a great job, we still had plenty to talk about. Don't know if the finals will be in Livermore next year, but if they are, the LRA will do its best to make sure the Bleacher Clinic is there too.



# From the Touchline



Hi, its me

by Bill Hoppes

I was perusing some of our old newsletters and came across this article by former LRA president John Hinton. It was written in 2002 and is even more pertinent today. We are seeing more and more games coming our way, both from our own league and from D3 tournaments. I sat in the D3 meeting a couple of weeks ago as we were discussing the growth in demand for referees and we all just sort of shook our heads wondering where all these referees were coming from.

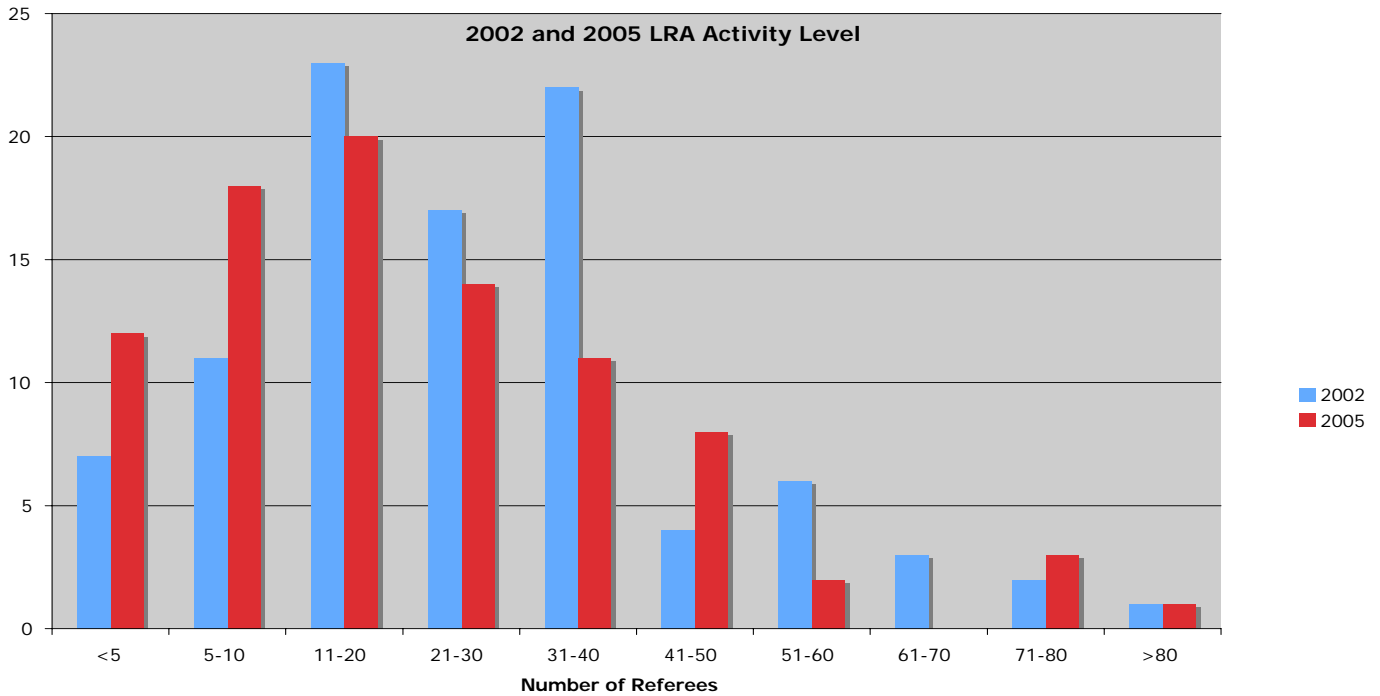
## The Referee Tree - by John Hinton

"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?!" Hmm... If referees did grow on a tree, what would it look like?

Last year (2002), 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 referee tree grows fruit of various sizes and quality. The average referee worked 27 matches, with the vast majority working between 11 and 40 matches. Sixteen referees did more than 40 matches each, with Bill G Hoppes leading with a whopping 91! Almost 20% of "active" LRA referees were not real active; working less than 10 matches each.

So how did 2005 compare to 2002? We started 2005 with 127 buds but by season end 25% of these buds were lost, leaving us with 95 referees who did at least one game. This is pretty eerie and almost exactly matches 2002. That may be pretty much equilibrium in Livermore, we have to find 30-40 new refs each year just to maintain a working cadre of about 90. In 2005 the average referee who did games worked 23 matches, down from 2002 (for those statisticians among you, the median number of matches was 18). This doesn't include the 17 refs who registered, but did ZERO games, yikes! Twelve referees worked more than 40 matches down from 16 in 2002. Your editor's 91 games was almost matched by Gary Lazar's 84 matches in 2005. Finally, and again only counting refs who actually did games, 32% of our referees did ten or fewer games in 2005 compared to 20% in 2002. Our biggest loss was in the number of referees doing 31-40 games. This is especially troubling as these refs are our "workhorses" and the ones who are gaining the needed experience to do more competitive matches. All these numbers are trending in the wrong direction. We don't have any more referees and the referees we have are doing fewer games.

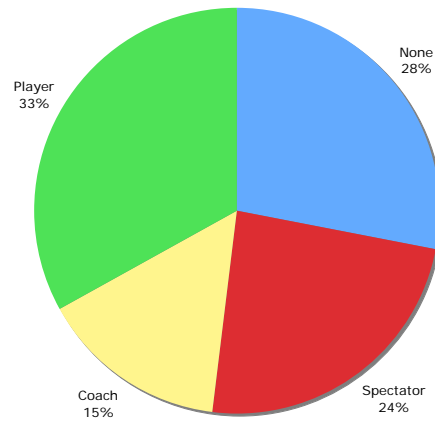




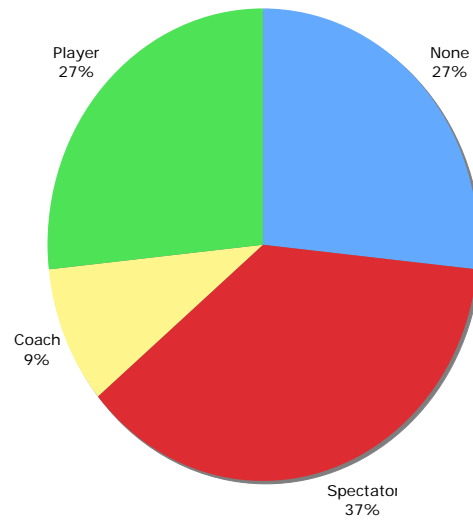
Our referee tree grows in an orchard of other referee trees that help each other. In fact, more referees *came* to Livermore to work matches than we produced on the LRA tree! Without the help of the 98 referees from neighboring communities and visiting teams, Livermore tournaments would have been grossly under covered. **(In 2005 about 10% of our games-and this doesn't count tournaments- these are our regular games, were handled by out-of-town ref-and this also doesn't include folks like E.G., M.B. S.M and P.K. who live out of town but we still claim as our own) 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.

We can compare 2002 and 2005 here as well. Here was the situation in 2002



And now in 2005



**Things don't seem to have changed too much. We have fewer coaches and more spectators. That is probably due to former coach/parents/refs who are no longer coaching but still in the referee ranks.**

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.

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.

**I don't think this has changed much. This group is producing fewer than 5 referees and those are from the rec side. This is also where demand is growing fastest. At first glance the trends are not encouraging. What is most disturbing is 47 registered referees who did ten or fewer, or zero games. About the time of John's article we found a similar situation and put effort into improving the minimum game count. We have since added a strong mentoring program and from often sitting nearby, I know that the bushes can't be beaten any harder to connect referees with games. This year we will implement self-assigning. That will be another step that should help with game count. The other good news is that we just minted 15 new grade 8's, and have about 25 signed up for our grade 9 clinic. It's old supply and demand. Demand for referees keeps growing with no end in sight, supply keeps dwindling. Where is a good economist when you need one? Anyway, enough on this for now. John's conclusion is just as accurate today as it was in 2002.....**

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.

**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, 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](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 see if you got any email.

## **First Grade 8 Referee License Course completed, more to come**

Sixteen new referees joined our ranks in the recently completed Livermore Grade 8 course taught by Duane Rueppel and Bill Hoppes. Joining us on the pitch this season will be Zach Addington, Suzanne Bateson, Jessica Clark (three Clarks now), Shane Clements, Ian Coolbear, Tony Crabb, Nicholas Crusco, Dillon and Brendon Graber, Jesse Hamblen, Ryan, Catrina and David Hickman (a full grew in one shot), Olivia Mowry, and Stephanie Roberts. Thanks, we really need you.

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

- 1.** You never should have taken this game. It's the first tournament of August an actually your first game of the season. You were 30 minutes early for your 8:00 AM game this foggy Saturday morning but at game time the Center still hadn't shown. The other AR is a 15-year-old second year ref, you scrounged a 14 year old who had been helping set up the snack shack prior to his first game later that morning. Now you are 20 minutes into a U16 B game between the Cobras and the Sharks. You've mostly centered U12 and done a couple of U14 recreational matches, but they really needed to get the tournament started on time, and everyone really, really understood how this game would be a stretch for you, but now you have that gnawing sensation that you are sinking deeper and deeper into a hole of your own making. The Cobra striker rips a shot on goal; the Shark goalie manages to block the ball down and snares it just as the hard-charging striker closes in on him. The striker holds his ground and the keeper shoves him out of the way before getting set to punt the ball downfield. All the very understanding people are screaming at you now. "Wow, what have I got? A foul? Misconduct? The keeper had it, was the ball even in play?" Think fast.....
- 2.** Somebody is yelling at you. Several somebodys are yelling at you. This U12B game between the Titans and the Timber wolves 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 Timberwolves 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 9***



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

- 1.** False, although the fourth official may delay the restart to give information to the referee, he or she may not stop play to do so. The fourth official either signals the referee in a manner they have agreed upon before the game or works through the assistant referee on the bench side of the field to get the information to the referee.
- 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.

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

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

Mom: So did you like the soccer league?

Child: Yes.

Mom: Do you want to do this again next year?

Child: Yes, but next year I want to be on the other team.

Mom: The other team? Why?

Child: I like their uniforms better.

Mom: You don't like your uniform?

Child: It's okay, but the other team gets a new uniform every week.

*From Ken Mitchell*



**Safety Tip: Drink plenty of water.**

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

1. While the goalkeeper may have been guilty of unsporting behavior, that would be in the opinion of the referee, he was certainly guilty of pushing an opponent. The restart should be a penalty kick for the Cobras. There is a misconception that the ball is “out of play” when it is in the goalkeeper’s hands. It is not “out of play”, but is “not playable”. The ball is out of play only when it leaves the field or the referee stops play. When the ball is help by the keeper, it (and he) cannot be challenged but the ball is still “in play”.
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.

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



President	Bill Hoppes	606-7986	hoppes1@sbcglobal.net
Vice-President	Bill Russett	455-0156	rose.bill@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Bob Dashner	294-8623	webmaster@livermorerefs.org
Secretary	Gary Lazar	455-9179	gebgb@comcast.net
LYSL Rep.	Brian Hufford	373-7952	brihuff@yahoo.com
Assignor	Tanya Hoppes	606-7986	thoppes1@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster	Bob Dashner	294-8623	webmaster@livermorerefs.org



[www.livermorerefs.org](http://www.livermorerefs.org)