

Special Interest Articles

In-Service Clinic

Interview with Ron Shaffer

Referees of the Year 2006

Ask the Ref!



Next LRA Meeting – Jan 22

Hello and Welcome. Meet LYSL's new president. **Brent Koch** was recently elected President of the Livermore Youth Soccer League. He is a new face to many of us, and we want to use this meeting to get meet him and hear some of his plans for the club and what the future holds for LYSL. In addition to meeting Brent, we have a couple of the video clips that **Steve Petrokovitz** showed us a few months ago to review, and LRA president **Bill Hoppes** will talk about what is coming up in the year ahead for the LRA. So start the New Year off right join us. We especially encourage our new referee's to attend this catered meeting! Come for the food, stay for the information and camaraderie.

Next LRA Meeting

January 22, 2007, 7:00 pm

Livermore Public Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue

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New Steering Committee

Officers for 2007 were elected at the LRA's Annual General Meeting held on Monday, December 11th, 2006.

We thank our outgoing Committee member, **Gary Lazar** as Secretary. His contributions to the association are appreciated.

Welcome back to our continuing members **Bill Hoppes**, **Bill Russett**, and **Bob Dasher** and to our new member, **David Bunch**, who returns to the committee and continues as an assignor as well.



2007 LRA Steering Committee Officers

l to r:
Bob Dashner (Treasurer)
Bill Russett (Vice President)
Bill Hoppes (President)
David Bunch (Secretary)

by Bill Hoppes,
president@livermorerefs.org

From the Touchline

"One of the other things that happen at this time of year is recruiting. This is beginning to really change."



Hi, it's me.

2007 is here, another year of refereeing. Even though our main season is over, there is always a lot going on. It is tough to fit everything in. Some of the things to be alert for: Association Cup and State Cup for youngsters is underway. Check the D3 website regularly for info on how to get these games. For experienced and want to be experienced referees, there is a terrific in-service clinic coming up the first weekend in February, look elsewhere in the newsletter for details. There is high school, college and adult soccer going on. Several of the leagues have spring seasons coming up. Keep as busy as you want to be.

Hope you made it to the annual meeting in December, I had a great time and we had a great turnout. Congratulations to all our award winners and especially to all of you referees. I was amazed at the coverage we had of our matches, I don't think we could have done much better; it really is a tribute to all of you and especially to our assignors who really beat the bushes to fill that one last slot.

One of the other things that happen at this time of year is recruiting. This is beginning to really change. In past years one of our main recruiting methods was to corner people at Livermore Youth Soccer League registration. I am sure that many of you reading this were recruited during one of those sessions. That is where we got most of the names of folks who were interested and then we would follow up with them when it was time for our referee classes. With online registration now, we really do not have that much chance to pin folks down. LYSL is planning on having only one day of registration this year on Feb 4. We will not be able to meet and talk to nearly as many folks as we have in the past. This is where you all come in. You will need to pick up the recruiting slack. If you know of someone who is interested in refereeing or you think might be interested, tell them to shoot us an email or a phone call so we can put them on our contact list and let them know when classes are scheduled. We are all going to have to do a bit of recruiting to make up for the reduced opportunities we will have during LYSL registration.

Have not been doing too many games, but did see something this weekend that I thought I would remind you of. A couple of months ago there was an excellent article in the newsletter by **Robert Fairclough** on how referees should be sure to get ten yards at free kicks. I was running a line recently where this was driven home. I will call the teams Red and White. Whenever a foul was called on Red in their attacking third, they presented no problem, they left the ball alone, retreated downfield, and all was well. Whenever a foul was called on them in their defensive third, giving White an attacking chance, Red's behavior changed. They were slow getting away from the ball and hung around 5-6 yards away. They gave the ball one extra tap after the whistle, sending it 15-20 yards away. Nothing blatant, but all designed to make sure that White never got a chance to take a quick free kick-never got the chance to take the kick "free from interference". And these were U12s. Kids do not come up with these tactics themselves, they are coached to do this and they will keep doing it until we referees put a stop to it. Maybe White never wanted to take a quick free kick or didn't mind waiting to take the kick until Red had their defense set up, or maybe they just didn't recognize what was happening or thought that's how we all play, but they were entitled to take that kick when they wanted and "free from interference" whether they took advantage of it or not. It is up to us referees to give teams that chance. Get in the habit of being alert to this type of cheating (I will not call it gamesmanship, because it is cheating) from the very first free kicks of your match. Do not assume that because they are little guys they will not cheat or that it does not matter until the older kids. Respond to it immediately with your presence, your referee loud voice, and if that has no effect, your cards.

See you on the pitch.

2007 In-Service Clinic

CNRA, the District III Referee Committee, the Livermore Referee Association, and the Livermore Youth Soccer League are pleased to invite you to an In-Service Clinic for Referees. We are especially pleased to have **Kevin Yant**, a National Assessor and member of the National Instructor Staff, as the primary clinician. **While all are welcome, this clinic is aimed primarily at the intermediate level referees- the advanced Grade 8, the Grade 7, and the Grade 6 referees.**

Among the topics to be covered: expectations of higher-level referees, positioning in dynamic play, 2006 points of emphasis, managing dissent (on and off the field), communication of the referee team, identifying persistent infringement.

Barring extreme inclement weather, this clinic will include a short **field practicum**; please bring clothing appropriate for winter in northern California.

2007 In-Service Clinic

February 4, 2007, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Robert Livermore Community Center
4444 East Avenue, Livermore, CA

While not required, we would appreciate it if you would RSVP if you plan to attend, so we can plan the seating and refreshments.

Contact:

Van Emden Henson,
 District III Director of Instruction
 D3Instruction@comcast.net
 (925) 351-7962



Kevin S. Yant

Training Opportunities



You can become a USSF certified referee by completing either the Grade 9 (Recreational Youth Referee) or Grade 8 training program.

Instruction Clinics are held throughout North California for new and continuing referees. From the CNRA web site, one can find

sessions that are in ones own district or a neighboring district. Clinics provide current education on the Laws of the Game (LOTG), the role of the Referee, and some great life examples.

Sign up to be a referee or upgrade today.

http://www.cnra.net/instruct/instruct_clinics.htm

Each local league sponsors courses during the year, usually between March and August.

Grade 9 "Recreational Referee"; Grade 8 and Bridging Grade 9 to Grade 8 clinics will be available in Livermore this year. Let us know you are interested and we will call as the clinics gets near.

Visit www.livermorerefs.org for the online version of this newsletter.

Previous issues are also available.



2006 Referee of the Year Awards

Pictured (left to right) are: **Dominic Mora, Ken Mitchell, Sam Hoppes, Jessica Clark, Ron Shaffer.**

2006 Referees of the Year

Each year, the LRA presents awards to outstanding individuals in the association that provide officiating service that benefits not only the local teams, but also sets a professional and positive example for others to follow. Congratulations to our award winners!

Selecting the final award recipient is often difficult since LRA is fortunate to have many fine referees to consider. We are proud to announce the following referees as the 2006 Referees of the Year in the following categories:

Referee of the Year	Ken Mitchell
Adult Rookie of the Year	Mark Meyer
Most Improved Adult Referee	Ron Shaffer
Youth Referee of the Year	Sam Hoppes
Most Improved Male Youth Referee	Brian Couberly
Male Youth Rookie of the Year	Dominic Mora
Female Youth Rookie of the Year	Jessica Clark

What Do You Do?

Situation A

Law 14: Penalty Kick

I was waiting to play my next game in a tournament. In the game I was watching, the girl on team A shot the ball and the goalie of team B deflected it. One of the defenders on team B picked up the ball with her hands and the other team is awarded a p.k. The kicker for the p.k. passed the ball to a teammate who dribbled in and shot the ball and wound up scoring. Because it was a Direct P.K., is this legal?

Source:

Ask a Referee
Jim Allen, National
Instructor/Assessor
www.drix.net/jim/

Situation B

Who is the 12th?

A goal is scored. Play is restarted. The assistant referee discovers that there were twelve team A players on the field when the goal was scored. The assistant signals the referee who stops play. When the assistant goes to find the extra players, A12 has apparently left the field without anyone noticing, on the side away from the assistant. What should referees do if they were unable to identify the extra player?

Source:

Referee Magazine
January 2007

Situation C

Unusually Handstand

In a U16 game, the referee awards a free kick to team B near mid-field. A5 sets up 12 yards away from the ball. B9 is in the process of kicking the ball. A5 does some kind of flip or handstand. As the ball is being kicked, A5 is suddenly 'standing in his hands', arms fully outstretched beneath him, his feet about 8 feet in the air. Sure enough, his feet somehow manage to block the free kick. A5 manages that without encroaching on the 10 yards. What is the call?

Source:

Referee Magazine
January 2007

Interview With...RON SHAFFER

This is the start of a new feature. Each month, we will be highlighting one of our Livermore referees. For our first feature we chose, Ron Shaffer, who was interviewed in 2006.

Ron Shaffer has not ventured far from his home town of Castro Valley. He grew up in Hayward and settled into Livermore in 1988. Straight out of high school, Ron has been working for Pitney-Bowes for 23 years. We hope he will have the same staying power as a Livermore referee. In his first year, this Grade 8 referee has given his time and energy for many games already. After refereeing a recently game late one night, Ron gave us a bit more of his time to know him better.

Livermore Referee Association (LRA): How did you become a referee?

Ron: A while back I volunteered to work the sideline for my son's game what was missing an Assistance Referee. Van (Hensen) saw me and thought I did a pretty good job. He suggested that I take the referee course.

LRA: What finally made you decide to sign up for the course?

Ron: As a member of the league for eight years, it was time to volunteer. I also wanted to become more knowledgeable about the game. Becoming a referee gave me that knowledge and the opportunity to help the league.

LRA: What does your family say about you becoming a referee?

Ron: Since I have enjoyed my referee work so much and signed up for a number of games, sometimes I hear "You have another game to do?" But the family really is supportive.

LRA: What is your favorite soccer team, besides your son's team?

Ron: I have been following the Celtic from Scotland.

LRA: Any activities outside of soccer?

Ron: I am a season ticket holder for the Oakland Raiders. Boy Scouts have been a large part of my family's life for the last eight years. I am currently an Assistant Scout Master.

Camping and bowling are also things my family does together.

LRA: What words of wisdom would you like to impart to others?

Ron: Refereeing is not as hard as it looks. In fact, it is a lot more fun than you might expect.

LRA: What has becoming a trained referee changed you?

Ron: I used to think I knew the rules of soccer. After becoming a trained referee and actually doing games, I can now say that I not only understand the actual Laws of the Game, but have a better understanding of how they are implemented in a live game.

LRA: Anything else you would like say?

Ron: Thank you to all the experience referees that continue to give me valuable feedback. Their input has helped me improve my skills and confidence on the field.

Thank you, Ron, for your time refereeing on the field and granting us this interview. See you on the fields!



Ron Shaffer, Oct 2006

"I used to think I knew the rules of soccer."



"If it's legal, why don't we see this very often?"

Answers to "Ask the Ref"

Situation A Reply:

Law 14: Penalty Kick

First, there's nothing known as a "direct PK". All penalty kicks are the same. They must be taken from the penalty mark.

According to Law 14 – Penalty Kick:

- the player taking the penalty kicks the ball forward
- he does not play the ball a second time until it has touched another player
- the ball is in play when it is kicked and moves forward

If the ball went forward, the play was legal. Direct kicks don't "have" to be blasted directly at goal. Direct only means a goal could be scored directly, without any other player touching the ball.

If it's legal, why don't we see this very often? Because it's difficult to bring off correctly. Remember, all players except the kicker have to be outside the penalty area and at

least 10 yards from the ball. They also have to be behind the penalty mark. Once the ball is kicked forward, any player can go for it, friend or foe. In most cases, trying to get the ball past the keeper and into the corner of the goal is a better chance of scoring than trying to pass the ball to a teammate.

Situation B Reply:

Who is the 12th?

FIFA does not allow the referee to show a card to the coach or a random individual so the referee is to report the circumstance to the governing authority.

Strictly following substitution protocol in matches should prevent extra players from getting on the field.

Situation C Reply:

Unusually Handstand

This is a not so common case of unsporting behavior. Issue a yellow card to A5 and order a retake of the free kick.



LRA referee Robert Fairclough admires Kevin Thomas' grace on the field. Kevin is also an LRA referee.

Common Soccer Acronyms

AR Assistant Referee
DB Drop Ball
DFK Direct Free Kick
DP Disciplinary Panel
FK Free Kick
FOP Field Of Play
GK Goal Keeper
HT Half Time

INDFK Indirect Free Kick
ITOOTR In The Opinion Of
The Referee
LOTG Laws Of The Game
OGSO Obvious Goal
Scoring Opportunity
PIADM Playing in a
Dangerous Manner

PK Penalty Kick
SOTL Spirit Of The Law
USB Unsporting Behavior
USSF United States Soccer
Federation
YSL Youth Soccer League
FIFA Federation Internationale
de Football Association

Links to More Information

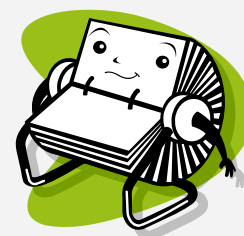
Livermore Referee Association www.livermorerefs.org/
 CNRA – District III www.d3refs.com/
 Cal-North Referee Administration www.cnra.net/
 United States Soccer Federation www.ussoccer.com/referees/index.jsp.html
 FIFA www.fifa.com/en/index.html
 Livermore Youth Soccer League www.lysl.org/

LRA Steering Committee and Contacts

The Steering Committee is comprised of elected officers and appointed coordinators. There are each deeply involved with the association and are committed to helping support local soccer officiating needs. Let us know how we can be a service to you.

President	Bill G. Hoppes	president@livermorerefs.org	925-606-7986
Vice President	Bill Russett	Vicepresident1@livermorerefs.org	925-455-0156
Treasurer / Web site	Bob Dashner	treasurer@livermorerefs.org	925-294-8623
Secretary	David Bunch	secretary@livermorerefs.org	925-455-1214
LYSL/LRA Liaison	Brian Hufford	refereeofficer@livermorerefs.org	925-373-7952
Instruction Coordinator	OPEN		
Mentor Coordinator	OPEN		
Assignors	Tanya Hoppes David Bunch	assignor@livermorerefs.org	925-606-7986
Newsletter Coordinator	Corey Nelson	coreynelsonagc@aol.com	925-455-1214

*Information and support
are all around you. Just
ask.*



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New Year, New Faces, Same Support

Welcome to a new year. Resolve to come to our meetings each month this year.

Each meeting is focused to bring a variety of news and current information to the attendees.

Our meetings offer information, news, and instruction to referees. Meetings are held at the Livermore Public Library main branch (next to the Police Station) at 1188 South Livermore Avenue, Livermore, CA. These

catered meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the fourth Monday of every month. The public is welcome to attend.

About Our Organization

The Livermore Referee Association is comprised of trained and registered referees that provide officiating services for the local youth soccer association.

Membership in the Livermore Referee Association is open to all persons in the community who have successfully completed an entry level soccer referee clinic, which requires attending the

required training sessions given by certified USSF instructors, having successfully passed the qualifying USSF examination *and* maintaining their status as a USSF-registered referee.

LIVERMORE REFEREE ASSOCIATION
IN ASSOCIATION WITH LYSL
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