

## Special Interest Articles

Blog of a Reluctant AR

Follow up on the Vatican Game



## Next LRA Meeting – April 23

All Right! We have a brand new video!!!!!! We shown some of John Nielsen's videos before and he has a new one out. It is his Referee Video Test. These are always fun. Match your wits and skills with the best video clips this former FIFA assistant referee and Canadian Referee Instructor can come up with.

Come for the snacks and stay for the great videos and great referee camaraderie.

### Next LRA Meeting

April 23, 2007, 7:00 pm

Livermore Public Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue

*Open to the public.*

## Eight Referees Make the Grade!

In early April, most of the active Grade 9 referees in Livermore took the bridge course to Grade 8. All passed! **Duane Rueppel** and **David Bunch** did a superb job with instruction.

Two Grade 8 courses and one Grade 9 are planned in Livermore June - August. Watch [www.livermorerefs.org](http://www.livermorerefs.org) for details once they are finalized.

*Watch for a new bounty program. You find an adult that becomes a registered referee and does games, you get some cash! Stay tuned!*

### Congratulations, New 8s!



Left to right: Duane Rueppel, Corey Nelson, Edwin Hernandez, Jim Choumas, Sheble Mitchler, Mark Aubel, Kyler Peterson, Kelsey Parsons, Dennis Parsons. Photo by David Bunch

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by **Bill Hoppes,**

president@livermorerefs.org

## From the Touchline



*"So I was in the shoe store and spotted a pair of Adidas Defiants...black."*

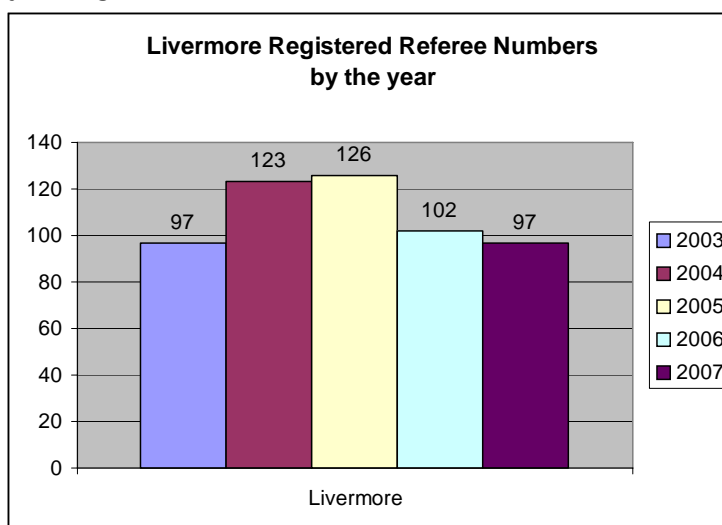


Well I am finally going to give them a try. My current pair of Adidas Mundials finally bit the dust and it was time to get a new pair. For the past year or so I've been intrigued with those refs who have given up cleats and opted for running shoes. So I was in the shoe store and spotted a pair of Adidas Defiants...black. They were on sale, so I bought them. I am going to give them and try and see how I like them. I will probably get a pair of turf shoes as back up, but I will see if these make me run any faster.

The Bleacher Clinic is coming up. Don't know if we will have all the details in time for the newsletter, but this is something you don't want to miss. LRA does this each year with the help of Cal North and D3. We have a referee clinic during one of the State Cup Older finals. A group of us sits very quietly during one of the matches on the team side with several assessors who go over the match with us. It is always a great learning experience, a good opportunity to meet refs from all over and see some great soccer. Look for an email from the LRA with details.

Congrats to our grade 9 referees who took the recent "bridge" course to upgrade to grade 8. Last season LRA had about twenty grade 9's, eight took the course and upgraded. That's terrific! Our new Grade 8 referees are: **Dennis Parsons, Kelsey Parsons, Shelby Mitchler, Jim Choumas, Corey Nelson, Edwin Hennigvez, Mark Aubel, Kyler Peterson.**

Our Grade 8 and Grade 9 clinics are coming soon. Below you see the decline in number of Livermore Referees over the last two years. Please encourage at least one potential ref to take a course. Thanks to LYSL, our classes will be held in LYSL's new offices. The Tri-Valley Church of Christ has, for the past several years, graciously offered us the use of their meeting room for our classes. We greatly appreciate the support they have given us.



Hope you are enjoying the "off season". We have a few games coming up for the NorCal spring league; we will let you know when the games are up on Arbiter. Make sure that you update your availability in arbiter from time to time.

### Classic Photo



**Glen Held, Doug Fields, and Duane Rueppel** chatting after the December 2004 Livermore Referee Awards Meeting.

Doug passed away last year, but is remembered by so many people. Duane is still an active referee and instructor with LRA. Glen referees also (but we'd like to see him more, hint hint).

## Calendar

There are a number of events coming up soon. Mark your calendar now. Always check web site for updates.

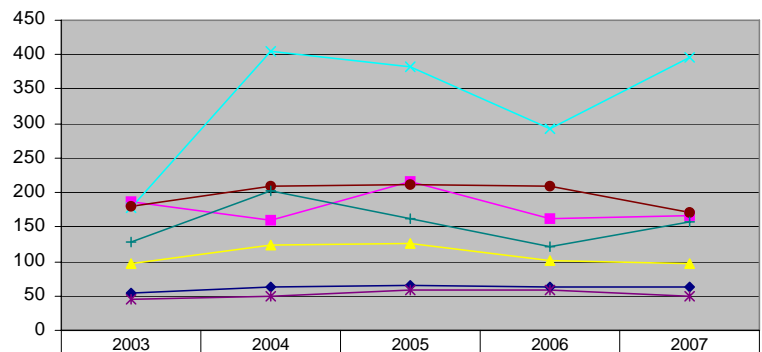
- Apr 21 CYSA State Cup U114-U18 B/G Semi-finals
- Apr 22 CYSA State Cup U114-U18 B/G Finals
- Apr 23, 7pm LRA Meeting (Livermore Library)
- May 12 U.S. Women vs. Canada, 4:30 p.m. PT (Fox Soccer Channel)

**June 2** (Spartan Stadium, San Jose) **U.S. Men vs. China**, 5:00 p.m. PT [Click here for US Men's Team Ticket information.](#)

### May NO LRA MEETING

- May 26-28 San Francisco Cup Tournament
- May 26-29 Pleasanton Adult Tournament
- June 22-24 Cal Cup Boys Tournament (Folsom)
- Jun 25, 7pm LRA Meeting (Livermore. Library)**
- Jun 29- Jul 1 Cal Cup Girls Tournament (Folsom)

### District III Registered Referees



## Referee Numbers

The District III (DIII) Referee Committee recently provided their annual statistics on registered referee numbers for District III referee associations. California-North Referee Association (CNRA) numbers are also provided to show how DIII compares to our state. The numbers show that overall; DIII's adult/youth ratio matches the state numbers almost exactly.

	CNRA	% CNRA	D3	% of D3
Total Adult	4503	57.4%	638	57.9%
Total Youth	3345	42.6%	464	42.1%

A concern to some is the how many of the available referees are youth versus adults. There are some tremendously great youth referees, no question. However they grow through direct experience and adult mentoring. Youth referees in a league grow over a number of years and then before you know it, they go off

to college. College towns love this influx of new referees. Non-college towns (more common) lose these officiating resources.

Adults tend to stay with the league town as their kids go through the league. A rare few stay a long time after their kids have moved on from the soccer league. We need these adults.

There are a total of 1,101 registered referees in District III, roughly 14% of the 7,848 registered within CNRA.

Grade	CNRA	% CNRA	D3	% of D3
6	66	0.8%	21	0.8%
7	128	1.6%	29	2.6%
8	6,823	86.9%	651	59.1%
9	646	8.2%	381	34.6%

## Interview With...BILL HOPPPES

As an active referee for the last nine years, **Bill Hoppes** has been a cornerstone of LRA. His wife Tanya is an LRA assignor. Both sons (Bill and Sam) are top referees and support Bill the Dad's love of the game and refereeing. He is even a player on a mixed adult team. Bill is currently in his second year as President of the LRA and the focus of this month's interview.



Livermore Referee Association (LRA): What made you take the course years ago?

**BILL:** To learn more about the rules of the game and support my son Bill taking the course also. My instructor was Michelle Kuiee.

LRA: What are some similarities and difference between LRA and officiating then and now?

**BILL:** Well, some of the older, more experienced referees we have now were active then. They have continued to show support of LRA over the years. John Hinton, Duane Rueppel, Ken Mitchell, Earle Ginton, and a few others...all strong contributors even in the last season. This has provided a solid core for LRA. The mentoring process was far less formal and comprehensive than it is

today. As we have improved the process, we have generated more high level referees that have moved on to District and State Referees of the Year.

LRA: What was a memorable match for you?

**BILL:** My first center. It was a U12 House game at the Delta Tournament my son was playing in. I was a coach and a referee at the time. It was exciting and fun.

LRA: We hold monthly meetings. Has it always been that way?

**BILL:** Yes. The key draw for the meetings years ago was still the learning opportunity and camaraderie of fellow referees, but that was also how we got our assignments...on paper. Now we have online assigning. The personal touch and phone calls remain a great way to keep in contact with our referee base and fill in assignment gaps.

LRA: We are in our main recruit cycle until the season begins. What are some challenges to recruiting referees?

**BILL:** Time is precious for everyone. There are a lot of options one has for their valuable free time. We work to make refereeing something one looks forward to doing each week (seeing friends and peers on the field,

challenging matches, improving fitness).

LRA: What other enticements are there for being an active referee?

**BILL:** Do at least 10 games, get your registration fee reimbursed. Great mentoring for youth and adult referees. Year round support of the referee's goals.

LRA: There are currently 97 registered referees. Are all of them active?

**BILL:** Only about 50% are doing games. Many do less than 10 games a year, too many do none.

LRA: What does the future look like for LRA?

**BILL:** Continuing to balance covering matches at all levels and get referees enough games that challenge them as they grow. Most experienced referees will do a lot of the general matches for "one good challenging" match that weekend that will really test their skills. There is no better teacher than experience in refereeing.

LRA: What are some expectations of new and more experienced refs?

**BILL:** We want new refs to have fun. They also need to be patient with their growth. Some referees want to move too quickly on to more challenging games...until they hit a game does not out as planned where



**Bill Hoppes** and his wife **Tanya** at the LYSL Annual Dinner Dance

**October 2006**

(continued on page 7)

## Blog of a Reluctant AR

### My future offers of assistance will likely be turned down.

Busy Girl had her first volleyball game of the season yesterday.

This year has taken a more serious turn, as the previous years have been a "learning league", so, now there is a state athletic association referee, line judges, etc.

I was minding my own business before the game started. OK, I was contemplating what I was going to buy from the snack bar after Busy Girl left to warm up, so I wouldn't have to buy her anything since I had very little money.

So, sue me. I was broke, and, she makes more money as a soccer referee than I make in a month. She should have been buying me a snack.

Anyway, I was approached by the coach, and, I greeted her thinking she was coming over to chat, since I know her:

Coach: "I need you for a line judge."

Me: "Do what?"

Coach: "You ever done it before?"

Me: "Never."

Coach: "OK, come on, then."

Me: "Huh?"

Coach: "Get up."

So, I got up, and, made my way to the scorer's table where I was met by a very professional, "Volleyball is my life", referee.

Referee: "You the line judge?"

Me: "Yep."

Referee: "You ever done it before?"

Me: "Never."

Referee: "OK" (translated: "damn newbie")

Me: "I'm trainable."

She explained what I needed to do, and, put me on the same side as her perch so she could watch me.

It wasn't too bad, though Busy Girl was mortified I was out there in some official capacity, and, I was wishing I hadn't chosen to wear shorts for the first time this season, as the white of my whiteness was clearly displayed for everyone else who got to the snack bar.

The referee quizzed me about a couple of calls that I knew she could see, but, other than that, I wasn't having much action.

Apparently, I zoned out at some point.

Busy Girl went for a dig, and, missed, but, I guess the ball must have been close to the line.

The referee stopped the game, and, looked at me expectantly:

Referee: "Well?"

Me: "What?"

Referee: "What was it?"

Me: "Huh?" (I had been watching Busy Girl play)

Referee: "Was it in or out?"

Me: (Oh, shit) "Yes."

Referee: "Huh?"

Me: "It was i..ou..IN! It was in."

Referee: "Are you sure?"

Me: "Completely."

Source:

<http://www.busymom.net>

### Follow up on the Vatican Game

VATICAN CITY, Feb. 25

Two teams of priests ended all hopes for a peaceful soccer match when their Vatican City league match included penalties and one hospital visit.

Despite a pre-game plea for fair play from Cardinal Pio Laghi, Saturday's soccer match between the Brazilian students from Pontifical Gregorian University and a Mexican team of trainee priests from Mater Ecclesiae seminary quickly turned violent, the Daily Telegraph said.

You are in sight of St Peter's, so behave! Laghi said before the game. The referee had been asked to use blue penalty cards primarily to assess violations, but he wound up issuing two yellow cards for major penalties.

The low-point may have come when one player had to be assisted off the field by an ambulance crew.

The Mexicans of Mater Ecclesiae and their appropriately named goalie, Jesus, won the match, 6-0.

*"Apparently, I zoned out at some point."*

*"The low-point may have come when one player had to be assisted off the field by an ambulance crew."*



## What Would You Do?

### Situation 1: Ball Placement at Corner Kick and Penalty Kick

FIFA's Laws of the Game states that on a Corner Kick "the ball is placed inside the corner arc...". My question is: Does "inside the corner arc" mean that the ball cannot touch any part of the goal line, side line or arc marking? Or does it mean that any part of the ball touching any part of the goal line, side line or arc marking is considered "inside the arc"? Inside the "Field of Play" is any part of the ball still touching the goal line or side line? Would not the same interpretation hold true for the goal line, side line or corner arc marking when taking a Corner Kick? For that matter, would the same hold true for the placement of the ball for a Penalty Kick, i.e. the ball can be placed anywhere, as long as the ball is still touching the Penalty Kick marking?

Source: Ask a Referee

Jim Allen, National Instructor/Assessor

[www.drix.net/jim/](http://www.drix.net/jim/)

### Quiz:

**1. A9, in an offside position, realizes that and steps off the field of play to show non-involvement with play. A4 scores a goal. The referee should:**

- Award the goal to team A.
- Caution A9 and restart with an indirect free kick to team B.
- Send off A9 and restart with a direct free kick to team B.
- Restart with a dropped ball.

**2. From a throw-in, B5 throws the ball toward goalkeeper B1, who does not play the ball before it enters team B's goal. The proper restart is:**

- Kickoff (award a goal to team A).
- Goalkick.
- Retake the throw-in.
- Corner kick.

**3. A9, playing with an existing injury to one arm, prepares to take a throw-in using only the healthy arm. The referee should:**

- Allow A9 to take the throw-in using only one arm.

- Allow A9 to take an indirect free kick in place of the throw-in.
- Inform A9 that two hands are required when taking a throw-in.
- Require another player on team A to take the throw-in.
- Allow A9 to take the throw-in using only one arm and awarding a throw-in to team B upon completion of A9's throw-in.

**4. B4 refuses to remove religious jewelry. The referee considers the objects to be dangerous to other players. The referee should:**

- Allow B4 to play provided team A agrees.
- Allow B4 to play regardless of the potential danger.
- Allow B4 to play only after removing the religious object.
- Allow B4 to make changes (i.e. tape a medical necklace to the chest) and permit B4 to play when the referee considers the danger to no longer exist.

Source: Referee Magazine, March 2007

## Last Meeting Recap

When you have to take the unfortunate step of ejecting a player or coach, there is paperwork involved. Our speaker was Duane Rueppel, a State Referee Emeritus that has been an instructor and referee working with Livermore for years.

Remember the ABCs of send off reports: accurate, brief, and concise. Stick to the facts and only the facts. Give the exact words of what was said in the main points of the incident. If a foul word was said, write that word verbatim. Do not try to hide it with a euphuism or symbols. That clouds the reader's understanding of what you experienced. Do not add more details than necessary (avoids

confusion of the reader). Say enough to be clearly understood. Use the words as written in the Law book. Please remember to spell check the report and make sure that the correctly spelled words are what you intended to say. Caution: it is important that the report is legible. Handwriting and difficult lettering lessens the disciplinary committee's ability to understand and appropriately address the issue.

Before mailing your send off report to the disciplinary body, have a steering committee person proof-read it and give any input that might help you present an effective report.



Photos from the March LRA meeting. (3/26/07)

## For New Referees – 1. Get Trained

The referee community is comprised of individuals with a wide range of skill levels and experience. For that reason, we are starting a special area of the newsletter. Each month we will provide some information on topics for new (or soon to be) referees.

Getting trained on the "Laws of the Game" is the first step in becoming a referee.



### Get the Training

Clinics for training and a badge are given by the local and surrounding referee associations. These are usually given in the late spring and summer in preparation for the busy fall season.

There are a number of written resources available as well. The "Laws of the Game" and "Advice to Referees on the Laws of the Game" are key to officiating. They are available online and through the courses. [ussoccer.com/referees/refdev/faq.jsp.html](http://ussoccer.com/referees/refdev/faq.jsp.html) offers a lot of guidance also.

Upcoming clinics in Livermore are on our site ([www.livermorerefs.org](http://www.livermorerefs.org)). Full list is on the CNRA site. [www.cnra.net/instruct/instruct\\_clinics.htm](http://www.cnra.net/instruct/instruct_clinics.htm)

Referees that are not registered with USSF are not affiliated and will not be assigned to affiliated games, such as LYSL games league games.

Livermore Referee Association only assigns referees to USSF affiliated matches.

### The Difference in Grades

GRADE 9: A recreational referee that is assignable to U14 and below recreational games and some high comp AR positions.

GRADE 8: Assignable to referee recreation and high competition games, depending on the skill level at the time.

There are no required maintenance tests to continue to register as a Grade 8 or 9 referees. However, if you have not been active for a while, the association reserves the right to commend current training before they will assign such a referee to games.

GRADE 7: Same as a Grade 8, a Grade 7 referee is assignable to

any game, depending on the individual's skill and competency level. The difference is the expectation of skill and experience. Increases as the Grade increase (9 being the lowest grade).

GRADE 5-6: To upgrade to a State Level referee, one needs to pass a test, pass an evaluation by a state assessor, and pass the physical requirements.

### Learning from Experience and Mentors

Remember that individuals vary in their skill and speed of development. The local referee association works very closely with each referee to help mentor and give feedback. Our goal is to help everyone reach their potential.

*"Livermore Referee*

*Association only assigns*

*referees to USSF affiliated*

*matches."*



**David Bunch** and **Bill Hoppes** conducting a Grade 9 Referee course recently in Fremont. Small class, but it is early in the season and every active referee matters!

## “What Would You Do?” Answers



These are the answers from WWYD on page 6.

### Situation 1: Ball Placement at Corner Kick and Penalty Kick

USSF answer (April 16, 2007):

On a corner kick, the ball need only break the plane of the arc or the touch- or goal lines to be considered in the proper position.

On a penalty kick, the ball must be ON the penalty mark.

### Quiz Answers:

- 1 — All – a (FIFA 11)
- 2 — All – d (FIFA 15, 17)
- 3 — FIFA – a (15, Advice to Referees 15.3)
- 4 — FIFA – c, d (4, Advice to Referees 4.3)

## Interview . . . (continued from page 4)

experience would have helped them. Experienced refs set the bar for presence on a field and provide constructive feedback (as well as accept it). New or experienced, all referees make errors. Games are where referees practice; each one provides additional skill and confidence.

**LRA:** What should referees do when they want to grow in their skills and experience?

**BILL:** Let us know you are serious about moving up. We watch, but we do not see all. We have a strong mentoring program. Many of the senior referees can provide additional support. Sign up for tournaments in pre-and post-season. Get seen. Let others get a feel for you and your skills. Always ask others for feedback. We can assign them to the appropriate games to prepare for upgrading. For youth, there is an excellent district youth program for recommended individuals.

Remember that the players decide the game. The referee is there to ensure safety, fun, and fair.

**Thank you, Bill! You are a great asset to LRA.**

### State Cup Action



## What's Your Story?

Everyone has a story they tell often to other referees. That one odd situation where previous instruction did not exactly cover in class. The time something obscure or completely

unexpected happened.

Share that story with the rest of the group. Let others consider how they might have handled the situation.

So, what is your story? Send in your tale (removing real names) to [coreynelsonagc@aol.com](mailto:coreynelsonagc@aol.com) for an upcoming issue. Anonymous entries are accepted.

*What stories to you have to share?*

*What do you need to know?*

*What can we help you with?*

*How can you help?*

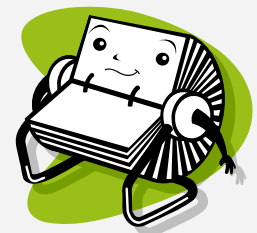
## Links to More Information

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

<b>President</b>	<b>Bill G. Hoppes</b>	president@livermorerefs.org	925-606-7986
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Bill Russett</b>	vicepresident1@livermorerefs.org	925-455-0156
<b>Treasurer / Web site</b>	<b>Bob Dashner</b>	treasurer@livermorerefs.org	925-294-8623
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>David Bunch</b>	secretary@livermorerefs.org	925-455-1214
<b>LYSL/LRA Liaison</b>	<b>Brian Hufford</b>	refereeofficer@livermorerefs.org	925-373-7952
<b>Instruction Coordinator</b>	<b>OPEN</b>		
<b>Mentor Coordinator</b>	<b>OPEN</b>		
<b>Assignors</b>	<b>Tanya Hoppes David Bunch</b>	assignor@livermorerefs.org	925-606-7986
<b>Newsletter Coordinator</b>	<b>Corey Nelson</b>	coreynelsonagc@aol.com	925-455-1214



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## Match Wits with the Video

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

We have some great videos that will test those attending this month's meeting.

Did you see anything? Is there a call? What is the call? What are the other options available? What is best for the game?

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  
PO BOX 54  
LIVERMORE, CA 94551-0054

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