

### Special Interest Articles

LRA Referee Facts

Drunk Referee (NOT LRA)

Assessments



## LRA Meeting – Jul 28, 7pm

**Livermore Public Library, 1188 South Livermore Avenue**

Our guest speaker this month is **Duane Rueppel**. Mr. Rueppel continues to be an active referee, instructor, and mentor with LRA. As the District Referee representative for the Disciplinary Committee and with his vast experience, Mr. Rueppel has unique perspective on what it takes to write an effective Send Off report. Examples to follow (and some not to) will be presented as part of his tutorial.

**Tanya Hoppes**, an LRA Assignor, will be presenting a short run through of the Arbiter system for new referees. There will be a valuable handout.

## New Referees in Livermore

Congratulations to our recent Grade 8 Referee course in June. Look for them on a field this fall!

**Erik Blaze, Alison Burkeland, Andrew Cable, Ryan Chaney, Matthew Choumas, Jeffrey Felker, Raul Fergoso, Cecilia Gonzales, Morgan Melendez, Alex Milinkovich, Dylan Neitzel, Amanda Nguyen, Raney Shimozono, Jeremy Stanley, John Wilker, and Jason Zielinski.**



Remember that first year referees that do 10 games or get \$50 bonus to help pay for referee uniform and equipment.

**NEXT GRADE 8 Referee Course in Livermore starts August 8, 2008!**

**For more information, contact Tim Sheppod at  
secretary1@livermorerefs.org**

EVERY referee that does at least 10 games in the calendar year gets their USSF referee registration fee reimbursed.

Referees can also get a \$50 bonus if they recommend another person that passes the course and that new referee does at least 10 games in the year.

**RECRUIT! RECRUIT! RECRUIT! There at more openings than referees available!**

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## From the Touchline

by **David Bunch**  
 president@livermorerefs.org

Referee coverage for the Spring League was great. Nothing is perfect, as always. There were number of games where referees were assigned and showed up but teams did not. A few times referees were not present when a game popped up that we did not know about. Overall, the games were fun and the referees filled almost every spot. Thank you all that participated and to the assignors for helping find spots for those looking for games.

As we move into a more formal mentoring program, the spring referees saw more mentors on the field. We are working to get more trained mentors on the fields because long-term, we can help more referees grow faster and in the areas that they are interested in. If you are interested in more direct mentoring, please contact LRA Vice President and Mentoring Coordinator, **Bill Russett** at vicepresident1@livermorerefs.org.

Many of you are experienced referees and seeking advancement in a variety of aspects. Reaching your potential; deciding where you want to be; what makes you happy and strives to be your best at that level. Not everyone is destined or desires to be a FIFA and that is just fine. Many of us are here simply to do the youth games and help to the best of our ability. If you seek grade upgrades (grade 8 to 7, etc), keep in mind that these take time. You need early assessment games. We strongly recommend D&G feedback ahead of time. Assessors had said that there are assessments that have failed on things that could have been more easily caught earlier in a D&G. Contact Bill Russett. He can help.

Watch the top level referees during the 2008 Summer Olympics. You learn by watching and by doing. See some of the top referees in the world include Keri Seitz and Veronica Torres.

<http://en.beijing2008.cn/sports/football/index.shtml>

August is the start you have been waiting for! Fall season begins. New and returning referees should all attend the August 25 LRA Meeting. The rules and process for the Fall 2008 LYSL season will be reviewed as well as some key reminders regarding Arbiter. Sure, most referees have been working in Livermore for some time, but things change every year. Attending this meeting is important to get the latest news. There is also benefit of key minds and experienced referees in the meeting that are waiting to answer your questions and help you out.

Start increasing your conditioning now in preparation for tournaments and games. They are coming sooner than you think.

*"Assessors had said that there are assessments that have failed on things that could have been more easily caught earlier in a D&G."*

Visit  
[www.livermorerefs.org](http://www.livermorerefs.org)  
 for the online version of  
 this newsletter.  
 Previous issues are also  
 available.

## Recent Photo



Garrett Clark (LRA), Kristy Lyons (LRA), and Ben Rigel (SRR) at Association Cup Jan 2008

## Calendar

This is the 2008 LRA meeting calendar so fill out your calendar now so the dates are handy throughout the year. Always check web site for updates.

- Jul 28, 7pm**    **LRA Meeting (Livermore Library)**
- Aug 11**        LYSL Positive Coaching Alliance "Parent Workshop"
- Aug 18**        LYSL Positive Coaching Alliance "Double-Goal Workshop"
- Aug 25, 7pm**    **LRA Meeting (Livermore Library) TOPICS: New Referees, Rules for Fall 2008 (there were four sets last year.)**
- Sep 22, 7pm**    **LRA Meeting (Livermore Library)**
- Sep 27-28**      LYSL Fall Classic Tournament
- Oct 27-28**      LYSL Halloween Classic Tournament
- Oct 27, 7pm**    **LRA Meeting (Livermore Library)**
- Nov 7**          LYSL World Cup

## In the News

### LRA Referee Facts

With 30 new referees added to last year's roll, this year we have 126 registered 2008 Referees compared to last year's 121- a whopping gain of 5. By comparison San Ramon has 233, Pleasanton 271, Newark 76, Danville 402, Fremont 231, and Dublin 100. LRA makes up almost 9% of District III referee population.

Of the 126 referees here in Livermore, 64% are adults, 36% youth, 6% Grade 9, and 94% Grade 8s or higher. Of the four Grade 5 referees in the District, we have one: Robert Fairclough-Yeah! Eighteen referees in the District hold Grade 6 badges, and we have 3: John Hinton, Rob Cole, and Van Henson (who is also an assessor, as is Ken Mitchell-I think there are 7 assessors in District III). Note - Peter Kit finally acknowledged he lives in Union City and it's time to become one of District II referees this year. LRA has nine of D-III's 36 Grade 7 referees: David Bunch, Garrett Clark, Susie Gazzuolo, Kristy Lyons, Bill the Kid Hoppes, Bill the Dad Hoppes, Sam the Man Hoppes, Jimmy Hufford, and

Bill Russett. For each grade, LRA contributes 25% of the people for each of these grades.

District wide, youth make up 40% of our referee population; 72% are male, 22%, female, and 6% are something else, or undecided, or not determined. Within the District, we have one FIFA ref, Chris Strickland of Fremont, and one national referee.

Within Northern California (CNRA), we have 4 FIFA referees, 11 Nationals, 65 Grade 5s, 78 Grade 6s, 171 Grade 7s, 11,089 Grade 8s, 676 Grade 9s, and 160 Grade 13-16 or Emeritus Referees, of which Duane Rueppel is one.

Two LRA referees have over 20 years experience: Ken Mitchell and Duane Rueppel. Just behind them is Brian Hufford with 17, John Hinton with 16, Peter Kit with 15, and Bob Dashner with 14 years. Mike Wallace and Earle Ginton have 12 years behind them, while Robert Fairclough, Bill the Kid Hoppes, Bill the Dad Hoppes, and John Wein come in with 11 years of experience. Jim Hufford stands

alone at 10 years. That's incredible!

### "Drunk" Referee Helped from Field

Most football fans will, at some point, have wondered aloud whether the referee was drunk when he gave that penalty or missed that blatant foul. Sergei Shmolik was refereeing a Belarusian Premier League match on July 5 when, during the second half, the crowd noticed that he had begun behaving strangely.

By the end of the match (which ended in a 1 - 1 draw) reports suggest that Shmolik was barely able to move. Following the final whistle, after complaining of 'back pain', he had to be helped from the field - a tricky process which seemingly involved him walking like Jack Sparrow in Pirates of the Caribbean. Shmolik was taken to hospital to receive treatment for his 'back pain' - where tests discovered that he had a high level of alcohol in his blood.

According to reports, the Football Federation of Belarus will have a disciplinary committee investigate Shmolik's behaviour. (NOT with LRA!)

## Interview With...Robert Fairclough

Robert Fairclough is a Livermore referee, coach, and parent of two youth referees that also played (one still does). He has been a long time top contributor to the league and referee association and this month he is our focused interview.



Livermore Referee Association (LRA): You have been an outstanding supporter and contributor to LRA. Where did it begin?

**ROBERT:** I began coaching my son, Alex, in U10. Still coaching today for High Comp girl. I play as an adult also. Years ago I too the referee course to be more educated about the Laws of the Game. I use to think anyone could referee. Very quickly I learned how it is not for everyone, but it was for me.

LRA: You do have a positive reputation as a referee/coach. It has been often noted that you are honest and fair with your feedback later, but during the game, you are one of the best

behaved coaches on the sideline.

**ROBERT:** Being a referee is not easy, everyone has room for improvement...even me.

LRA: What are your goals as a referee?

**ROBERT:** I have achieved a Grade 5 so far. Challenging adult games and youth games at all levels are where I spend my time. Being a referee is fun most of the time. One must have the desire to officiate, be committed to do well, and have passion for the game and the role.

LRA: You have a ton of experience at all levels. What would advise do you have for our referees on the youth games?

**ROBERT:** Work on mechanics, the basics. Make sure to be ready for the game (equipment, know the rules of the match). Be fit mentally and physically for the level of game you are doing). Do not just show up to the game, regardless of the age group. Start at your appropriate level and take the time to train and learn. Always

remember that the game is for and about the players.

LRA: What is your normal job off the field?

**ROBERT:** I am a Machinery Breakdown Risk Engineer. I do inspections all over California and Nevada for big and experience equipment. I work from home when I am not traveling to sites. Refereeing works for me since it is flexible to my work schedule.

LRA: What do you find rewarding as a referee?

**ROBERT:** There are many things, but something small with a big payoff is when I get an honest and positive compliment. That can wipe away 1,000 negative comments on the right day.

*Thank you for your time, Robert. Your active and consistent support of Livermore even with your many outside activities is truly appreciated.*



**Robert Fairclough**  
**Grade 5**  
**Livermore Referee Association**



Congratulations to Robert's U17 Boys center at Regionals in Hawaii!

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?Category=SPORTSF RONT>

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080619/SPORTS/806190363/-1/SPORTSFRONT&referrer=NEWSFRONTCAROUSEL>

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Site=M1&Date=20080619&Category=SPORTS01&ArtNo=806190803&Ref=PH&Params=Itemnr=4#gallerytop> (photo above)

## Assessment Process - CNRA

Since a recent topic was assessment and feedback, below is information on assessments from the CNRA web site.

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Assessors observe a crew of officials perform on the field, and provide verbal and written feedback to the crew after the match.

To be assessed contact your District Director of Assessment (DDA). Tell them your goals. Your DDA will ask you questions about your current experience and will recommend a course of action or Development Plan. The Development Plan may include:

- Mentor Program
- Informal evaluation
- Assessment
- Collaboration with assignors at an appropriate level of competition

- Upgrading  
Assessments at an appropriate level of competition are required for all USSF upgrades and for maintaining current referee Grades 6 (State 2 Referee) and above. See Renew or Upgrade for specific requirements and further information.

Assessments for all referees who wish to maintain a Grade 5 (State 1 Referee) or below, or to upgrade to a Grade 5, must be coordinated by the referee's DDA or designated delegate.

Assessments for National Referee Candidates and National Referees must be coordinated by the State Director of Assessment, Mr. Fernando Alvarez.

Referees must be assessed between January 1 & December 31 of each year in order for the assessment to count for the following registration year.

No assessments shall be conducted during the month of December.

All assessment reports must be submitted by the assessor within 10 days of the assessment. Assessors will not be paid for late assessment reports.

Assessors must satisfy an annual quota in order to renew their assessor license:

- National Assessors: 10 assessments
- District Directors of Assessment: 10 assessments
- State Assessors: 5 assessments
- Assessors and Associates: 3 assessments

NOTE: For Assessors having performed assessments between September 01, 2002 and November 30, 2002. If you did not count matches done during this time frame for your 2003 registration, you may count them for your 2004 registration.

**District III  
Director of Assessment**

**Bill Miller**

3680 Andrews Drive, #305  
Pleasanton, CA 94588

415-385-9487

assessor911@comcast.net

(continued on page 8)

## What Would You Do? (answers on page 8)

### Situation 1: CHANGING ONE'S MIND

In a GU11 club game, defending team is whistled for a handball in the penalty area. Keeper drops her arms and the other defenders slow down, attacker strikes the ball a second or two after the whistle and it goes into the net. Referee disallows the goal at first, then walks over to the near A/R and talks to him as the parents from the attacking team start yelling.

Referee signals for the kickoff and tells our coach that he should have called "advantage" and that was why he decided to allow the goal. The ref went on to say, "never replace a scored goal with a PK." Was the referee correct?

Source: "Ask A Ref"

### Situation 2: FREE KICK IMPEDING?

The defending team decides to place a defender on each post, a la a corner kick, so there is no immediate potential for offside.

Seeing this, an attacking player takes up a position one yard in front of the GK, with the intent (in the opinion of the referee, who I realize does not judge intent...) of obscuring his line of sight. So far, so good. If the kick is taken at this moment, and the attacking player maintains his position and does not attempt to impede the movement of the GK, then all is good. What if, prior to the kick being taken, the player who has taken up

the position in front of the GK, starts jumping up and down: 1) with arms at his side; 2) with arms raised over his head and waving back and forth (potentially further obscuring GK's vision)? Unsporting behavior in either instance?

### Situation 3: TACKLING AND RETALIATION

In a recent game, player A is dribbling the ball and player B tackles from behind. They get tangled up and both players trip. Both players stand and player A swings at player B. B puts up arm to block the strike and protect self. Should player A be cautioned or sent off? Should player B be cautioned?

## Past Meeting Recap – Recognizing Fouls – Feb 2008

After the regular reports from the President, Assignors, and Treasurer, open discussion included comments on the Morgan Hill site upgrades. This is the site of CYSA fields used in state tournaments. Over the last year there is a new clubhouse, some all-weather fields, new goals, and a new fee to park.

LRA Referee, Robert Fairclough, was the guest speaker. His topic on "What is a Foul" gave his perspective on recognizing fouls on the field.

Robert's discussion led the audience through a series of things to do to allow the referee to see the play better to allow the opportunity to see the fouls,

what to look for, and how to handle the event.

Positioning is key - you can not address what you do not see. He went on to describe popular methods seen on the field that player create fouls and sometimes use trickery to hide them.

Robert outlined the benefits of calling fouls and the repercussions if you do not.

Amanda Fairclough deserves recognition as his able-bodied assistant for the demonstration of techniques and examples.



Photos from Feb 2008 LRA meeting  
– Robert Fairclough speaker

## High Comp Challenge Refs

By Tanya Hoppes

The High Comp Challenge was once again a success – 100% coverage, and a blast. The weather cooperated giving us cool weather, nice breezes, and light sunburns for those of us who forgot their sunscreens. Coaches behave cool, calm, and collected and parents rooted for their kids enthusiastically. The tournament is such a pleasure to ref: low-key, just for fun, no scores.

Quite a number of our brand new referees stepped up and out to ref; seven in all. Alex Milinkovich, Haley Folta, Jeffrey Felker, Matthew Choumas, and Dylan Neitzel reffed their first games Saturday while Austyn Byassee and Jason Zielinski reffed their first games Sunday. Rene Guerrero of Pleasanton tried out Livermore and reffed his third and fourth games since

becoming a referee this year. All professed to be scared out of their wits, but every one did well. Seven of our returning first years showed up to ref: Brianna Koch, Brent Koch, Tanya Hoppes, Vincent Opipari, Dan Chiba, Matthew Flores, and Ryan Emanuel.

Our second year veterans came out in force too, helping with the centers. Jessica Clark centered her first, second and third games ever. Looked like a pro. Mark Meyer, wrapping up things before he has to return to England, Dennis and Kelsey Parsons, David and Catrina Hickman, Jim Choumas, and Amanda Shepherd centered and ARed.

Laura Ullrich, after a two-year hiatus to Sac State, returned to ref for us and will ref the season for us this year. Of course, no tournament is complete without the veterans. Paul Kline, Brian Couberly, and

Bob Dashner reffed and Cheryl Clark not only reffed but on Saturday, passed out flyers during half-time encouraging High Comp parents to sign up for our upcoming Grade 8 course in August. Of the 21 games, we had mentors on 11 of the games. Tim Shepodd, Gary Lazar, Steve Compton, and Bill the Kid Hoppes did the mentoring honors. Gary and Steve ended up centering the very last games on Sunday after mentoring three games each. It was a great tournament and we all had a wonderful time.

## “What Would You Do?” Answers



### **Situation 1: CHANGING ONE'S MIND**

#### **USSF answer (March 11, 2008):**

You are correct. The referee cannot change his decision to stop play after having blown the whistle, no matter what input the assistant referee provided in their brief conference. No goal. Restart with the penalty kick.

### **Situation 2: FREE KICK IMPEDING?**

We agree that the attacker in question is likely engaged in misconduct. There might be some room for argument if the attacker merely stands his ground, but misconduct is absolutely clear cut if he jumps around and/or waves his arms. This would be the functional equivalent of shouting to distract and we have no problem declaring this misconduct. As to the “merely standing” — this would be acceptable behavior unless (a) the attacker moves as the goalkeeper moves (which makes it similar to such behavior at a corner kick) or (b) is so close physically to the goalkeeper that it could be interpreted as an aggressive occupying of “personal space.”

If it can be done in time, yes, warn the player. If not, call the misconduct — not impeding.

Players in the wall are allowed to jump up and down,

whether members of the defending team or the attacking team. But the attacker in this scenario was not in the wall and was clearly committing unsporting behavior.

### **Situation 3: TACKLING AND RETALIATION**

In all events player A must be sent off for violent conduct.

The situation with player B is different. The referee must make a decision as to the nature of the tackle. If, in the opinion of the referee, the tackle by player B endangered the safety of player A, then we must follow the instructions in International F. A. Board Decision 4 to Law 12: “A tackle, which endangers the safety of an opponent, must be sanctioned as serious foul play.” However, if the tackle did not endanger the safety of player A, and player B did nothing else but raise the arm to block the blow to protect him/herself, then there is no need to caution B.

## Assessment Process - CNRA <continued from page 5>

### **Assessment Program Update**

Beginning on March 1, 2005, the fee for assessment will be as follows:

- Grade 8 to 7 upgrade and Grade 7 evaluation request: \$40.00
- Grade 7 to 6 upgrade and Grade 6 maintenance: \$50.00
- Grade 6 to 5 upgrade and Grade 5 maintenance: \$50.00
- National Candidate upgrade & National Referee Maintenance: \$50.00

### **POLICY FOR SEEKING OUT OF DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS**

The process for requesting out of district assessments was reviewed and ratified.

1. The referee should contact the DDA from their home district before requesting an assessment in another district. Your DDA will work with the DDA in the area in which the match will be held to insure that an assessor is assigned from the home district or from the district hosting the match.
2. After the two DDA's assign an assessor, the referee is to send to the home DDA the appropriate assessment fee. The home DDA will confirm receipt of fees with the hosting DDA.

## 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 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?*

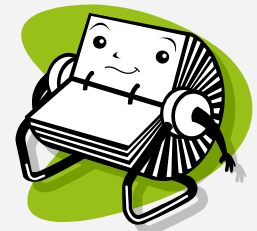
## Links to More Information

- 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>David Bunch</b>	Dbunch2@aol.com	925-455-1214
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Bill Russett</b>	vicepresident1@livermorerefs.org	925-455-0156
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bob Dashner</b>	treasurer@livermorerefs.org	925-294-8623
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Tim Shepodd</b>	Secretary1@livermorerefs.org	925-373-7821
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## Keri Seitz Shares Her WWC Experience

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

This month we are very proud to have FIFA Referee Keri Seitz as our guest speaker. She will be sharing her experience at the Women's World Cup 2007 in

China. Come by and listen to some of her preparations for one of the world's biggest sports events. What is it like to be the center of such widely viewed games? What does officiating at that level feel like? How was the city? What is it like to work with such a diverse set of 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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LIVERMORE, CA 94551-0054

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