



October 27, 2011

**Sierra Valley Soccer Referee Association**

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**Handling Injuries**

Last Saturday, the first aid crew at Arch Road handled 38 injuries. That's an average of more than one per game. Depending on how you handle injuries, you can win friends or tick people off and make yourself vulnerable to the resulting critical comments. This can be one of the pivotal points in how players and coaches view your performance for almost every match.

1) You notice that a player has gotten injured. Your first decision is whether to stop the match or not. If it looks serious, blow the whistle to stop play, call the coach on, and go to step 5.

Otherwise, for the younger players, if they've gone down to the ground and not gotten up promptly, you might as well blow the whistle. For the older players, you might want to try to figure out if it's something they will shake off by themselves without stopping the match. Things that you should stop play immediately for include: Breathing problems, severe bleeding, head/neck/back injuries, and broken bones.

2) Once play is stopped, whether you stopped it or it stopped because the ball went out of play, run (don't walk) to the injured player. If you let play continue unnecessarily long with a player down, or if you walk nonchalantly to the player after play is stopped, people will get the impression that you don't care about the safety of players.

3) Once you get to the player, ask them if they need their coach's attention. Do not attempt to administer first aid.

4) If the answer is yes, or if the player does not respond coherently, beckon the coach onto the field. If the player's answer was "no", hold up your hand to stop the coach and let them know that the player doesn't need their attention.

5) If you beckoned the coach onto the field, step away from the player. My personal preference is for you to visit the AR on the end of the field where the player is. Walk or jog backwards to the AR keeping the players in view. If the AR is near the team bench or a group of spectators, have him/her come onto the field out of earshot of players. Ask them what they saw. This is important. You get away from the coach who might be tempted to criticize your calls, and it gets you potential helpful information from your AR.

6) If you are the assistant referee, keep an eye on the players. One team may try to get revenge while officials let their guard down.

7) Does the injured player have to leave the field? In general, if you've stopped play solely for the injury, or if you summoned the coach or first-aid crew on to attend to the player, yes. Exceptions: The injured player is a goalkeeper; Both the goalkeeper and another player got injured; Two players from the same team got injured; The injury is severe (e.g., head/neck/back) so there is a risk of harming the player more by moving him/her. In that case, the first-aid crew will decide what to do with the player.

8) Once the injury is taken care of, come back onto the field and restart the match. If you blew the whistle because of the injury and there was no foul, restart with a drop ball where the ball was when you blew the whistle. If play was stopped for any other reason, conduct the appropriate restart. Blow your whistle so everybody's attention is back on the match.

9) If the restart is a dropped ball, you do not need to have players from either or both teams participate. If the goalkeeper had possession of the ball when you stopped play, you can have a dropped ball with just the goalkeeper present.

## Pre-Game Responsibilities

I've noticed some games starting awkwardly on a recent weekend. It was clear that there was no pre-game, or if there was, some elementary things got skipped. So, what are the bare minimums that must be accomplished when you have little or no time?

### ***Check the field and goals for safety***

Then, check the players in. Make sure you indicate on the game card whom you checked in and have their player number. Fill out the front of the game card, including teams' jersey colors, and who is taking the kick-off (and the direction).

### ***Pre-game conference:***

Diagonal – where do you want your assistant referees?

Club linesman – If you must have one, have him/her stand at the corner flag on the side away from their parents. Their only responsibility is to tell you the ball is out of play, all the way out.

Game length – How long are the halves?

Ball size – What is the correct ball size for the teams playing?

Number of players – How many players on the field? Who will count them?

Fouls and misconducts - How do you want ARs to notify you of fouls or misconducts?

Throw-ins – Who watches what?

Ref attention – Signal from the assistant requesting the referee to come over.

## Upcoming Events

Friday Nov.4 Christian Middle School end-of-season tournament, Arch Rd, 3 fields most of the day, not affiliated with USSF.

Sunday Nov.6 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Oakmoore Golf Course clubhouse, 3737 N Wilson Way  
Referee association meeting. Please plan to attend. Refreshments: Pizza, soda, fruit.

## In-service Clinics

2 2.5-hour in-service clinics in December in association with the Founders' Cup games in Ripon Dec.10-11 and Dec.17-18. These are free and open to any already-licensed soccer referee.

***Stockton referees who complete 5 hours in-service training get a 20% pay boost for 1 year.***

Saturday Dec.10 6:00 - 8:30 pm, Nile Garden School, Manteca

Saturday Dec. 17 6:00 - 8:30 pm, Nile Garden School, Manteca.

Saturday Nov.5, Sunday Nov.6 SYSA rec games and competitive games

Saturday Nov.12, Sunday Nov.13 SYSA rec end-of-season tournament. Lots of games both days.

Location: Stockton Soccer Complex

Note: Following games are not restricted to Stockton referees.

Saturday Nov. 19, Sunday Nov.20 CYSA division 3 (upperhouse) tournament at Stockton Soccer Complex. Age brackets and numbers of teams:

u13/u14 boys - 8 teams

u13/u14 girls - 10 teams

u15/u16 girls - 8 teams

u17/u19 girls - 6 teams

Saturday Nov. 19, Sunday Nov.20 US Club u10 state cup, Manteca

Saturday Dec.10, Sunday Dec.11 CYSA Founders Cup u12, u14, Ripon

Saturday Dec.17, Sunday Dec.18 CYSA Founders Cup u12, u14, Ripon (qtr finals, semi-final, finals)