



October 21, 2008

Sierra Valley Soccer Referee Association

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Thank you

The Stockton Triad soccer tournament was a success thanks in part to the good job you did refereeing games. Feedback cards have not yet been tallied for referee awards. They should be announced and delivered in the next two weeks.

Improving your referee grade

If you want to improve your referee license, two of the things you must do every year (there are other things, too) are to take a physical test known as a "Fun Run" and also a written test. If you are upgrading from 8 to 7, the test is the same as the test you took to get your license, just you have to get a score 85 or above. Here is when the tests will be conducted:

- Modesto Jr. College: 8:00 am on Sunday, November 9
- Delta College, Stockton: 8:00 am on Saturday, November 8

No reservations or fees are required. Please bring a clipboard and pencil for testing purposes, and water to drink. For further information, contact BarrettMeiselman@sbcglobal.net

Upcoming Tournaments:

November 15-16 Stockton Youth Soccer end-of-season rec tournament

November 22-23 US Club Norcal State Cup, Manteca

Dec. 6 Stockton/Manteca Inter-City rec championship

Dec. 6-7 Dennis Olson League/Kaercher League end-of-season tournaments

Dec.6-7 Stockton AYSO tournaments

If you need further information on any of these, please contact Doug Chard

Reminder:

SYSA referee schedules are being posted on this web-site: <http://www.stocktonyouthsoccer.org/>
Soon we hope to post newsletters there, too.

How long should you let the half last?

In tournaments and league play with games scheduled tightly back-to-back, you have little freedom to add time at the end of a half for time lost. It can be a frustrating experience for a team that is trying to catch up and the team with the lead milks the clock for all they can and the referee does little to encourage quick restarts, does nothing to discourage time-wasting, and then does not add time on at the end of the half. Following is an article "Ending a Period of Play" Jim Allen, USSF National Instructor Staff from 11/5/2005 that discusses some related issues.

Law 5 empowers the referee to act as timekeeper and to keep a record of the match. Law 7 instructs the referee to add time (at his or her discretion) for time lost in either half of a game or in any overtime period for the reasons listed in Law 7. Those reasons are: substitution(s), assessment of injury to players, removal of injured players from the field of play for treatment and wasting time, as well as "other causes" that consume time, such as kick-offs, throw-ins, dropped balls, free kicks, and replacement of lost or defective balls. Many of the reasons for stoppages in play and thus "lost time" are entirely normal parts of the game. The referee takes this into account in applying discretion regarding the time to be added. The main objective should be to restore to the match any playing time that was lost due to excessively prolonged or

unusual stoppages. Law 5 tells us that the referee's decisions regarding facts connected with play are final.

The Laws do not say precisely when the referee should end a period of play, but common sense suggests that the referee should weigh the factors listed above regarding time lost and then make the decision on how much time to add—and thus when to end the period. Although not written in the Law, common practice throughout the world is to wait until the ball is either out of play or is in an area from which a goal is unlikely to be scored in the next several seconds.

There is no requirement in the Laws for a half (first, second, or any overtime period) to be ended only while play is continuing. The only restart which must be completed even though time has elapsed is a penalty kick (Law 14). The referee is the sole judge of the amount of time remaining in a game. If the referee has added extra minutes to compensate for time lost during the period of play, then the referee is also the sole judge of when that extra time is completed.

Note:

As to ending the game exactly when the “required” minutes have expired: At least one famous FIFA referee suffered for ending play while the ball was still in play and a scoring opportunity existed. At the World Cup of 1978 in Argentina, this referee let Brazil take a corner kick versus Sweden and then blew the whistle just before the ball entered the Swedish goal. He retained his FIFA badge, but this was his last international assignment.

We all need to remember that there has never been a game played in which time was not lost somehow and needed to be made up.

Administrative Comments

I feel like I have contributed to a problem that has been nagging me for quite a while now. I do not believe in asking anybody to do things that are not necessary, or that I would not ask of myself. In recreational venues (Commodore and McNair) it is hard to ask referees to show up the full 30 minutes before games when they might be all by themselves. No goals to examine, no players present, and so on. As long as you get the fields inspected, players checked in, and games started on time, I have not been as strict about when you show up. Relaxing the standards like this does not work at upperhouse and competitive games and basically all the games at Arch Road where we have teams coming in from out of town.

Here are some of the reasons for arriving at the fields 30-minutes before your first game and starting to work right away. If we have been notified that a referee can not make their games, we will need to switch people around. Because the fields are farther apart, that takes a little time. Dennis Olson League and Kaercher League games need three officials or we will be fined. Typically we move a referee from the recreational games to the division 1 and 3 games. If we have particular concerns to address before games (problem players, coaches, unique rules of the competition, etc.) that takes time. Why should other referees do your job inspecting the field, checking in players, etc.? So, what happens if you do not show up on time? You might not have time to check players in properly? Do you check team names on player passes and check the photo and the player number against the roster? (You've got to be careful: Some teams do try to sneak in illegal players.) Games might start late. Why should you inconvenience people who planned their day around the published schedule? Some players must leave the venue at the published time to go to other events and if you start late, they may not get to play the full game. If there is a good reason to add time on to the halves, you have less leeway to do that if you started the game late. If we need to switch people from one field to another after a game or two, then we now have not only your field running late, but also the field where the referee is

moving to. If we have games all day long, the last game may end under unsafe playing conditions (darkness) or be shortened. Why should players lose playing time or have to play under unsafe conditions due to referee actions? The vast majority of them show up on time and they aren't getting paid like you are. If you show up late or at the last minute, you might lose your center (get paid less) or get moved to a lower priority and lower-paying game. One neighboring league used to welcome Stockton referees to their tournaments until too many showed up late and now we don't get the opportunity to earn money at their tournaments any more: They simply don't invite Stockton referees. That's a consequence. Should we schedule spare referees at Arch Road? If we did, we would have to pay them out of what? Would you be willing to take a pay cut to cover that expense? Enough of the negatives.

What are you supposed to do when you realize you are not able to do a game at all? If it is prior to the game day, call your assignor. The sooner he knows, the more options he has to get the spot covered. If you recruit a replacement for yourself, all the better. If it is game day and you cannot make your game(s) or are running late, call your assignor and the venue coordinator if you have their phone number. The actions we take may be different depending on whether we know you are on the way or will not appear at all.

For several weeks now, we had a "reward" program in place at Arch Road. The site venue coordinator had \$15 in cash. If all 3 referees assigned to the first game at any field were there a full 30 minutes before game time, and the game started on time, they got the \$15 to share among themselves. If more than one field qualified for the reward, then there would be a drawing. Only once has this happened. And two of the three referees were from out of town! I'm thinking of expanding the program to all our venues in the future.

For the good of the game.

Kudos for Stockton Referees

Olympic Development Program (ODP) gathers many of the best youth soccer players in an effort to identify the top talent from across the nation. In northern California, the ODP teams from each district play one another so that the coaches of the state team can evaluate the talented players to move them up to the state team. The following Stockton youth referees were invited to officiate at ODP games this fall:

Phillip Thompson
Sam Meyer
Cassie Potter
Adrianna Contreras

You may want to ask them about their experience when you see them next. Incidentally, the games were at Morgan Hill and they had to arrive at the venue 45 minutes before their first game. Higher level of play means higher expectations for the referees too.