



May 15, 2009

Sierra Valley Soccer Referee Association

4824 St. Andrews Dr.

Stockton, CA 95219

Ph.209-603-3549

e-mail: [doug @ e-chards.com](mailto:doug@e-chards.com)

Thank you

Thank you for refereeing games the last 2 weekends in Stockton.

Tips from Games: Coordinating Signals

Assistant referees and referees were not always on the same page. Specifically, assistant referees were signaling one thing and referees were signaling something different. For example, the two were pointing in opposite directions on throw-ins. Or one of them signaled a corner kick and the other signaled a goal kick. It's nice the coaches and spectators cut you some slack. If they had been more intense, they might have been on your case. So how can you remedy this? First, we want to be right, so don't get distracted. Second, remember who has first dibs on the signals. If the assistant referee has first dibs because the ball went out in her quadrant, she had better be prompt with the call so the center referee does not preempt her. Even so, what if the center referee disagrees with the call? It's simple, in the split second before you raise the flag, make eye contact with the center referee. If she is already signaling, copy the signal. If you are not sure who last touched the ball, do what you agreed on in the pre-game conference. Center referees, when you have first dibs, and you are not sure, look to your AR for assistance and he/she should give you the signal agreed to in the pre-game conference. What might that signal be? My suggestion: Just give the signal. Hopefully these tips will help you work together better for the good of the game.

Referees Creating a Presence

The closer you are to play, the more assertive you are with your whistle (loud), and the more decisive you act, the more that players will pay attention to you and everybody have confidence in you. If players ignore you, it's likely they did not hear your whistle. Get closer to play and blow it louder. You're in charge, yes! Try to avoid raising the whistle to your mouth and then not blowing it: It gives the impression that you are unsure of yourself. Read on. If players go down in a heap and you think there was no foul, do the following: 1) Take a quick glance at your assistant referee to check whether they saw a foul that you missed; 2) Look at the players again to make sure that there is no retaliation; 3) Gesture to them to get up so they know you saw them go down but there is no foul. Read on. There's more. If players get confused about how a restart should be done, or the goalkeeper "freezes" with the ball in his/her hands, tell them what they need to do. It gets the game going again more quickly and establishes your authority on the field. Control the substitutions along with your AR. That is, tell the coach to call exiting players off the field and hold up the subs until you gesture or call them onto the field.

Assistant Referees Positioning and Signals

Some new assistant referees have had problems with the mechanics of signaling (signaling while still moving). Come to attention first, square up to the field, and then give the flag signal. Also, remember the difference between an offside signal (no flag movement) and a foul (flag waved slightly). When you have a player who is in an offside position and then they get involved, raise the flag up and hold it up without waving it. You've made the decision. Don't lower the flag until one of these things happen: a) The center referee stops play for the offside call; b) The center referee waves you down; c) The defending team has intercepted the ball and gone on the attack in the opposite end of the field. If the center referee missed your flag that long, talk with him/her at half-time or after the game.

Assistant referees' position gives them primary responsibility for several things, including offside calls and goals. Being out of position will cause you to miss an even obvious offside calls. If you move with the play, your calls will be more reliable. If you tend to watch the ball to the detriment of keeping your position even with the offside line, realize that you are the key person making the offside call. If you goof, the center referee who is unlikely to be in a position to make the call, may not be able to correct your mistake. There is an exception to staying even with the next to last defender: On shots or when an attacker beats the defense, move with the ball towards the goal line.

If you set the stage correctly and adopt certain habits, you will make your job easier and end up making better calls. First, make sure that coaches and spectators stay 1 yard or more away from the field. This is for player safety and yours, and also so you have an unobstructed view of the touch-line and this area. An accident is more likely to happen with an out-of-balance player crashing into spectators or coaches if they are crowding the touch-line. If they force you to run onto the field, obviously they distracted you from giving full attention to the game, and your presence on the field may take away options from the players as to where to run or pass the ball. If players aren't running too fast, face square to the field and side-step. Side-stepping gives you the ability to change directions quickly. Side-stepping also gives you a better view of the field and your peripheral vision will pick up players that you might not otherwise see. When the speed of play picks up, and you have to sprint, look over your shoulder. Resist the temptation to check that nobody is in your way because in that split instant when you have shifted your attention away from the field, an attacker might pull on a defender's arm/shirt/shorts to get an advantage and you would miss it.

Some other things that assistant referees do that give bad impressions: a) Not standing still when there is no action; b) Fiddling with the flag; c) Checking cell phone; d) Not watching the game (looking at the ground, talking with spectators or coaches unnecessarily). You are getting paid to do the job, and need to look like you are absorbed in it.

Upcoming Events

- June 27. In-service training in Turlock. (Free)
When: Saturday, June 27, 2009. 9:00 – 3:00
Where: Monte Vista Chapel, Monte Vista & Berkeley Avenues, Turlock, CA. Directions to Site: Exit SR 99 at Monte Vista Ave. Take Monte Vista Ave. East to Berkeley Ave.
Keynote Presenter: Bob Evans, FIFA Referee 1979-1988, Formerly USSF National Director of Referee Instruction, co-author of the book "For the Good of the Game".
What will be covered: Intermediate-level training on such topics as deciding what fouls to call and what you can let go, game flow, setting walls, etc. Morning will be classroom. Afternoon will be on field. Lunch is on your own, although you can buy from fund-raising group in the parking lot.
Why to attend: You get higher-level knowledge that will help you referee better, in order to get higher-level games (and paid more). You get a 20% pay boost for regular league games scheduled through SVSRA for one year.
How to register: Contact Mike Lathum mike.lathum@lmco.com or phone 408-368-1387 by June 23. Clinic is free.
- August 20-26 Referee class in English. Details are on the StocktonYouthSoccer.org web-site. You may attend any portion of the clinic as a refresher for free. If you refer a new referee to the clinic and they pass the class, you get \$10 provided they tell Doug that you referred them.