



October 7, 2009

Sierra Valley Soccer Referee Association

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Thank you for refereeing in the Stockton Triad Soccer Tournament. Enclosed is your paycheck.

It was gratifying that when I drove into the Arch Road sports complex parking lot at exactly 7:30 Saturday morning, there were already 6 referees present. I understand the same held true at the other venues: McNair High School, University of the Pacific, and Edison High School. This was a good omen for the weekend. We had a tight schedule and it was key to get the first games started on time if we were to have any hope of keeping the tournament on schedule. Thank you for your punctuality.

We received a lot of compliments and very few complaints about refereeing. The other mentors Antonio Garcia, Dan Bonnet, and myself spent time watching the referees on games and had very few suggestions for things to do differently because you all did such good jobs. Thank you for setting such high standards for officiating.

Upcoming Events

If you have upgraded your referee license or are considering upgrading it, please note that these requirements. (The complete set of requirements is posted on the www.cnra.net web-site. Go to the Upgrade menu and select General Requirements.)

Physical Test –

You must complete one physical test (Fun Run) each year. Upcoming Fun Runs will be as follows:

Sunday October 25, 8:00 am, Pitman High School, 2525 W Christoffersen Pkwy, Turlock

Directions: CA-99 to Taylor Road exit. Go east on Taylor Road. Go South on Golden State. Go east on Christofferson Parkway past the school. Go north on Kilroy Road. The track is on the north side of the school.

Saturday October 31, 8:00 am, McNair High School, 9550 Ronald E McNair Way, Stockton

Directions: CA-99 to Morada Lane. Go west on Morada Lane past West Lane. On the west side of the high school, go north on McNair Way to the end of the street. Park next to the baseball fields. The track is at the northeast corner of the campus.

Written Test –

If you are upgrading from 8 to 7, you must pass the entry level test with a score of 85 or higher. This will be administered back-to-back with the Fun Run (see times and locations above).

In-Service Clinic –

You must complete 5 hours of approved in-service training each year. We had two in-service clinics earlier this year, one in Turlock and one in Lodi. The next clinic on the calendar will be sponsored by California North Referee Administration Saturday, December 12th from 9 AM to 4:30 PM at the CARR America facility in Pleasanton. The instructor for this clinic will be David Olmos, retired National Referee and a National Assessor/Match Inspector from Texas. Since this clinic is intended to wrap up this year and lay the ground work for next year, David will be discussing recurring themes from the Week in Review and sharing with us any new USSF material geared specifically for the youth game.

Directions: Take I-580 to Hacienda Drive exit. Go south to Owens Drive. Go southeast to Rosewood Drive. Go north to 4400 Rosewood Drive.

For your Improvement

No matter how good you are as a referee now, there are no doubt things you can improve on. Here are a few general suggestions on how you can valuable insights to help you improve your games:

- a) Ask a mentor or assessor for feedback. If you don't know if there is a mentor or assessor associated with your league, just ask Doug. Most of the leagues have mentors or assessors who truly enjoy helping referees hone their skills.
- b) Read the "Week in Review" articles in the Referee section of the US Soccer.com web-site. The articles are designed to address issues facing referees at all levels by using video highlights from professional games as well as the U.S. National Teams. The insights you gain from checking these out once a week are well worth the time it takes to fire up your computer and navigate to the US Soccer web-site.
- c) Attend in-service clinics. The district 8 in-service clinics have a mix of classroom and field training to address topics of common interest.
- d) Always be working on one or two improvements to your game. Ideas for improvements may come from the above sources, your colleagues, or your experiences in games..

USSF Memo: Deception at the Taking of a Penalty Kick. August 25, 2009

In 2000, the International Board clarified its guideline regarding what the player taking a penalty kick may do to confuse or deceive the defending goalkeeper. Most recently, the new "interpretations" section of the Law book states:

Feinting to take a penalty kick to confuse an opponent is permitted. However, if, in the opinion of the referee, the feinting is considered an act of unsporting behavior, the player must be cautioned.

In explaining its new stance in 2000, the International Board noted that various forms of deception are allowed at a free kick restart and, in many respects (including this one), a penalty kick is similar to a free kick. What is the line between acceptable "feinting" and unacceptable "unsporting behavior"? In essence, it is "the opinion of the referee" -- informed by the specific circumstances of the kicker's actions and the referee's "feel" for the match at that point.

However, referees should keep in mind that USSF has previously provided three specific examples of behavior by the identified kicker which are not acceptable, i.e., which cross the line into unacceptable unsporting behavior:

- Running past the ball and then stepping backward to perform the kick
- Excessively changing directions or taking an excessively long run to the ball (thus causing an unnecessary delay in the restart, in the opinion of the referee)
- Making a hand or arm gesture which obviously distracts or deceives the goalkeeper

At the same time, referees should evaluate the behavior of the player taking the kick in terms of what would and would not be acceptable at the taking of a free kick. An action which clearly is consistent with acceptable behavior while taking a free kick should be considered as falling within the category of acceptable "feigning" where the restart is a penalty kick.

The gray area in between must be decided firmly and quickly by the referee. Hunt for a video clip on the Internet for a Confederations Cup match between DC United and Luis Angel Firpo (August 4, 2009) to see such a decision. The kicker's action was not clearly one of the prohibited behaviors nor can it be said that, if the player had been taking a free kick, the brief "stutter" would have been deemed anything other than acceptable deception. Accordingly, the kicker's action was not a violation of Law 14 and the resulting goal was properly allowed to stand.