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Sierra Valley Soccer Referee Association

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Upcoming Events

Christian Middle School Tournament: Friday November 6, Arch Road. 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

SYSA end-of-season recreational tournament. Saturday Nov.21-Sunday Nov.22. All the u8-u19 recreational teams will have 2 games on Saturday and 1 or 2 games on Sunday. That's twice as many games as usual on Saturday, and a lot on Sunday, too. (u12 and u14 will use all 4 fields at McNair). Please keep your calendars free for games then. Note: Games will be shorter but same pay.

DOL/Kaercher end-of-season tournament. Saturday Dec.5 – Sunday Dec. 6 u14 girls division 3 and u15 girls division 1 and u16 girls division 3.

In-Service Clinic – Sponsored by California North Referee Administration Saturday, December 12th from 9 AM to 4:30 PM at the CARR America facility in Pleasanton. Instructor: David Olmos, retired National Referee and a National Assessor/Match Inspector from Texas. Topics include recurring themes from the Week in Review and new USSF material geared specifically for the youth game. Note: Stockton referees who complete this clinic get a 20% pay boost for a year.

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

Substitutions in the News

In case you didn't watch the game between the U.S. Men's national team vs. Costa Rica played in Washington, D.C. Wednesday October 14, something interesting happened that highlights the difference between youth games and international competition. Defender Oguchi Onyewu of the United States fell down on the slick turf and tore a the patellar tendon in his left knee. Because the U.S. had used its three substitutes, he couldn't be replaced. The U.S. had to play short-handed for the remainder of the game. As it happens, they tied the score while playing down and qualified for next year's World Cup as a result.

For CYSA and SYSA games, the substitution rules are: On team's own throw-in; Either team on a goal or goal kick; Either team at half-time. For injuries, the injured player must be substituted if they are attended to (except goalkeepers). If a player gets a yellow card, he or she may be substituted if you want to. (No other player may be substituted on the caution.) Please instruct the coaches to have their substitutes up and ready when they ask you. Tell them we will give you two signals-- the first to call your players off the field and the second to send the substitutes on.

Teamwork in the referee crew.

Before the game you need to have a brief "conference". Iron out how you will handle substitutions, how the ARs should alert center referees that they need to talk, etc. During the game it is important that at every stoppage all three officials make eye contact. It's most important to do this when there are fouls or misconducts. Center referees, you should not assume that you have all the information and saw everything. Assistant referees often have a better view of action that you have been screened from. And assistant referees have a duty to convey that information to the center referee. Teamwork starts with the pre-game conference and continues during the game with eye contact. Following is an example of a situation from a youth game that should help to make this vivid.

An attacker and the goalkeeper both go for a loose ball. The goalkeeper jumps on it trying to staple it to the ground. The attacker slides in cleats first in an attempt either to reach the ball first or to jar it loose. The goalkeeper gets injured and screams out in pain. What should you do?

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If you are the center referee, normally you would blow the whistle to stop play, make sure you have the number of the attacker, and then run to the goalkeeper to show some concern for the player and to check if he/she needs attention from the coach. Depending on what you figure out would be whether you call the coach onto the field. With the goalkeeper writhing in agony, you already should realize that he/she needs attention so cut the process short and wave the coach onto the field. This is not an occasion for spectators or substitutes to enter the field. If you decide that the injury is minor, you could let play continue, but you should make eye contact with the assistant referee on that end of the field in case they saw it differently and are signaling a foul. If you decide that the goalkeeper is faking the injury, let play continue and come back to caution the goalkeeper at the next stoppage. Again, you should make eye contact with the assistant referee to see if he/she has additional information. You need to be 100% sure of this call because it will be made in an emotionally-charged atmosphere.

Assistant referee furthest from the action, you have a responsibility not to let the coach onto the field until the referee invites him/her (assuming that you are on the same side of the field as the coach). I've seen a coach claim he was called on (but wasn't) and then proceed to lecture the officials. The quick vigilant assistant referee can stop such coaches and thus head off confrontations with the center referee.

While the coach is coming over to the injured player, the center referee should back over to the assistant referee nearest the incident. Check what they saw. Maybe the attacker should get a card. Regardless, this at least gets you away from the coach who understandably might be angry and tempted to question your call or criticize your officiating. Spectators will see the two of you (referee and assistant referee) conferring and realize that you are making an effort to get the facts straight so you can make the right call.

If coaches have been invited onto the field, it is to take care of the player. It is not to coach other players. It is not to question or criticize officials. Once they are done, they must leave the field. If they want an explanation of the call (or no call), they can get it from the mentor covering the field.

Assistant referee nearest the action, you have a responsibility to tell the center referee what you saw, and if you can, to make a recommendation (nothing there, simple foul, yellow card, red card). You need to give complete information (what you saw and player numbers). If you were closer to the incident than the referee, you may step onto the field to check on the injured player and can let the center referee know that assistance is necessary.

Center referee, get the call right. While play is stopped, do what you can with the help of your assistant referee(s) to get the information you need. The restart will depend on what you find out. If you initially signaled incorrectly, you can correct it. Once you restart the game, your decision becomes final. If the decision ultimately is that the goalkeeper was fouled, restart the game with a free kick for the defending team. If the goalkeeper was not fouled but you stopped play for the injury, it should restart with a drop ball where the ball was when you stopped play. If the goalkeeper had possession of the ball, you can have a drop ball with just the goalkeeper. The drop ball should be conducted at the location where the ball was when you stopped play. Nevertheless, if the ball was inside the goal area, bring the ball out to the 6-yard line.

Note the following tips regarding goalkeeper possession of the ball. While the ball is in the possession of the goalkeeper, it cannot be played by an opponent. Any attempt to do so may be punished by a direct free kick. "In the possession of the goalkeeper" is defined as the goalkeeper having the ball trapped between one hand and a surface (which may include the other hand, the ground, a goalpost, or the keeper's own body). The hand includes any part of the hand or arm. However, the goalkeeper is also considered to be in possession of the ball while bouncing it on the ground or while throwing it into the air. Possession is given up if, while throwing the ball into the air, it is allowed to strike the ground.

Once the goalkeeper has gained possession (also known as "control") of the ball, an opponent may not interfere with or block the goalkeeper's distribution of the ball. For example, players have a right to maintain a position achieved during the normal course of play, but they may not try to block the goalkeeper's movement while he or she is holding the ball and trying to distribute it. Nor may opposing players do anything to hinder, interfere with, or block a goalkeeper who is throwing or punting the ball back into play. The goalkeeper has already gained possession and is granted up to six seconds to release the ball back into play by other players. A goalkeeper in the act of distributing the ball may not be challenged under these circumstances. (This includes trying to head a ball out of the goalkeeper's open hand or playing a ball being bounced or tossed into the air by the goalkeeper.) An opponent does not violate the Law, however, if that player takes advantage of a ball clearly released by the goalkeeper directly to him or her, in his or her direction, or deflecting off him or her nonviolently.

When is Possession Lost? The referee should consider the ball as having been released into play after leaving the goalkeeper's hands only if the goalkeeper has completed a throw or kick (punt) and the goalkeeper is not able directly to possess the ball again in his or her hands.

Conflict of Interest

When you recruit club lines to assist you at the field, you are getting people who came there to support their teams as fans, not neutral officials. If you get licensed referees, and they have immediate relatives on the team (brother, sister, parent, or child), or they are coaches, then they have a vested interest in the outcome of the match. Do not let them make any call beyond telling you that the ball is out of play. If you get assigned to referee in your playing bracket, this also is a conflict of interest. If you realize you have a conflict of interest, swap assignments with a qualified referee on an adjacent field.