



March 7, 2010

## **Sierra Valley Soccer Referee Association**

4824 St. Andrews Dr.

Stockton, CA 95219

Ph.209-603-3549

e-mail: [douglaschard1@aol.com](mailto:douglaschard1@aol.com)

Thank you for refereeing in the U12 girls Bill Meyer League end-of-season tournament games in Stockton. You were chosen by your assignors for these games because of the good job you have been doing on games in your own league. When you establish a record of doing good work as both center referee and assistant referee, more such opportunities should come your way. At events like this, teams deserve good refereeing and it is common for assignors to ask for help from referees in other leagues. Of course, there is more pressure on you to do a good job as there is more riding on each game's outcome. So while it's an honor, it also can be a challenge. That's one of the reasons that we prefer to assign referees who can and will do centers. They can put out lots of effort when they do their center knowing that they only have to work that hard for one game, their center.

### **It's a Public Act**

Any time you referee a game, it's a public act. Anybody and everybody there will see your appearance. Coaches tend to judge you based on how "professional" you look. How do you think they judge officials who don't have your uniform in order, or who have undergarments showing, for example? How do you think players feel when they are told by referees to remove jewelry by referees who are wearing jewelry? Or all the young players are in shorts and the referees are in sweats?

You never know who might be watching. You should always do the best job you can. When you are assistant referee, do you always run even with the ball after it is past the second-to-last defender? When you are center referee, do you penetrate the penalty area on 50-50 balls, or when you see a potential confrontation between attackers and defenders (or goalkeeper)? Or do you pull up short? If there are mentors or assessors present and they give you feedback, do your best to use it. Last weekend we had assessors or mentors for most of the games. Some of them can make opportunities happen for up and coming referees.

Things we noticed among a lot of referees that we would like you to work on include pre-game conferences and eye contact.

### **Pre-Game Conference**

It's tough to have a thorough pre-game conference among officials when games are scheduled tightly. In the pros, the pre-game conference is not held right before the game. It is held earlier and may last hours as the officiating team goes through scouting reports on the teams, likely/possible scenarios, and so on. In youth games you need to trim down what you do to fit in the time you have. Pay special attention to teamwork and divisions of responsibility. Here are essentials we recommend:

- Get each other's names
- What diagonal will the center referee run?
- Who takes charge of substitutions?
- How should the AR signal a card?
- What should ARs do on free kicks near the penalty area: setting wall, position with offside or on the goal line?

If you are assistant referee and the center referee misses giving you directions on any of these, ask them. Make sure you have it straight. Be an active participant in the pre-game conference: Ask questions.

### **Lost and Found**

Lost: Short sleeve yellow referee jersey. Found: 1 pair of flags; coffee mug, sweater, gloves  
soc1014.doc

## **Eye Contact**

After the pre-game conference, the one thing that is most important to teamwork is eye contact. All three officials need to make eye contact at every stoppage. If you don't look at each other, then how can you possibly coordinate what you are doing? When the center referee signals the ball out of play in her quadrant, the AR should follow suit. And when the AR has first dibs on the signal, the center referee should follow her signal, unless she is overruling it. All three officials. Every stoppage.

## **Goal Kicks: Review**

We did not have problems with goal kicks in the tournament but I happened on a wonderful video that reminded me that whatever can go wrong will go wrong at some point. So here is a quick review of procedures for goal kicks, with some tips to head off (or handle) problems.

When do we have a goal kick? When the ball goes over the goal line last touched by an attacker. Both the center referee and AR should signal the same thing. On the AR's side of the field, she has first dibs on the call. On the center referee's side, she has first dibs. If you have first dibs but are unsure, look at the other person for the signal.

What should the AR do next? Check that the ball is placed touching the ground on or inside the goal area. Next get in position where you are most likely to be needed next. If you suspect the players can't kick the ball out of the penalty area, position yourself even with the penalty area 18-yard line. For older teams, move to be even with the second-to-last defender. Remember: The player receiving the ball from the goal kick must not be called offside. That's possible for older players who can kick the ball past the halfway line, so you might not see this for years.

Where should the center referee set up? You need to set up so that you can see where the next play will be (i.e. where the ball will end up), plus the AR on that end of the field. Cues: Age level of the teams. Where players set up. This is the best cue of all. Finally, where they kicked the ball on previous goal kicks.

Upon being awarded a goal kick, the defending team wastes time if the ball is clearly placed within the goal area in preparation for the restart and then it is moved unnecessarily to another location. Warn them not to do it again. If they do, a caution (yellow card) can be given. If you are going to be strict on this with youth players, you are advised to alert the coach first since the players are doing what the coach taught them.

The ball is in play when it is kicked beyond the penalty area onto the field of play. If instead the ball leaves the field of play first, retake the goal kick. On a goal kick, the players of the opposing team need to remain outside the penalty area until the ball comes out of the penalty area onto the field of play. If any player on the opposing team enters the penalty area, (for example, cuts through it), or plays the ball before it has come out of the penalty area, stop play immediately and have the goal kick taken over again. Blow your whistle quickly before the opponents can shoot on goal. If you are slow and the ball goes into the goal before you blow the whistle, you may have a lot of unhappy fans. Better to act quickly and explain your call to the players so they don't do this again.

Only the team taking a goal kick can score directly from this restart. There can be no "own goal" on a goal kick. So saying, go to Youtube, search for "Wind scores own goal", watch the video, and you be the referee. Question 1: Is this a goal? Question 2: If not, what do you think the proper restart is? Question 3: If the goalkeeper had handled the ball in an effort to stop the ball from going into the goal, what would the proper restart be?

## **Upcoming Events**

CYSA Soccer Expo referee workshops. Saturday March 27, 9 am to 3 pm, at Santa Clara Convention Center. Details on [cysanorth.org](http://cysanorth.org)

California North Referee Administration (CNRA) Spring Clinic. Saturday, April 24, 9 am to 4:30 pm, at American River College in Sacramento. Details on [cnra.net](http://cnra.net)

Answer 1: No goal if nobody touched it. Answer 2: Corner kick. Answer 3: Indirect free kick.