

North Orange County Referee Association

March 2009 – Newsletter

Guest Speaker

Cal South Youth Referee Administrator, Larry Yee in March



President's Place

George Williams

Time flies by fast, it is March already and NOCRA has plenty to think about over the next few months. State Cup for youngsters is in progress. We were asked to pair out youth with our more seasoned referees. The idea is for the youth to learn from them what they do right as well as what they did wrong. Hopefully they will admit to their failings. That is how we pass along our knowledge of this dynamic game.

At our next meeting we will have Larry Yee, the SYRA. He will pass along any info about how youth can get into his program. Don't forget, you are our future. Without the youth, the referee program will suffer. Ask him all the questions

Spring Soccer starts in March, so update your arbiter and stay fit. If you are not currently registered, please ask at the next meeting when the next class will occur. NOT Registered---No referee. We have requested a LIVE SCAN session for April. It is going to happen, don't avoid it.

Last, the Annual General Meeting is in JUNE. That is when NOCRA elects a new BOARD and makes any changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. Some long time BOARD members would like to step aside for you younger types. This is your chance.

If you have any changes to the Constitution, please submit them to our SECRETARY thirty days prior to the AGM.

Don't forget, this your Association, the BOARD only tries to what is best for our referees.

Hope to see you all SOON!

George



Vice-President's Corner

Armen Keuilian

HAPPY 75th BIRTHDAY, DOC

If you didn't know it, our own esteemed instructor/assessor, Doctor Harvey Grody, just turned 75 years young. WE at NOCRA, have the pleasure of listening to his good advice on a regular basis at our monthly meetings, held on the FIRST TUESDAY of every month. On behalf of the Board...and the general membership, I am safe to extend a hearty HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the professor...and many more to come.

Please, do not miss this coming meeting on March the Third. Our very able SYRA, Larry Yee, will be speaking to us on various subjects. Please, let's honor him with your presence and have a FULL house. We will have our usual giveaway of a referee jersey, and another small surprise...

Rain has postponed the second and third leg of the younger State games. It has caused a nightmare for State and local assignors, such as our own Cindy. What has happened now is that the 21st and the 22nd coincide with SOCCER NATIONS EXPO. However, NOCRA has made a commitment to sponsor and man that event. And we shall do so. If you are helping out at the LA Convention Center on that 21/22nd weekend, please send Cindy an email and work it out with her, without giving up either. Let me know as well, so that I can tell the authorities at SNE what day (of the two) you will be available to help.

WE DID IT AGAIN!!! USA beat Méjico again...2-0 on those two fantastic goals by the coache's son, Bradley. What a sensation! It doesn't matter who the coach brings up, they all respond favorably. We have got a good, scrappy bunch of young Americans this time around. Let see how well and how far we go with them.

High School regular season games are over. **I had a ball.** I'm sure you did too. Even though I got one center and one line to do in playoffs, I am THRILLED at the nomination of our own **KEN TAYLOR** for the center duty on the FINAL. Let's hope he and his crew get the nod for this very prestigious selection. Go KEN !!!

With that, I sign off and wish you a dry experience on the pitch. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Armen 



ASSIGNOR's Alley

Cindy Talmage

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Hi Refs,

Hope you are all enjoying this rain. State cup has started. Unfortunately, NOCRA isn't getting a lot of fields.

Spring soccer begins in March and I will have more info at the March meeting. This is also the time to do your referee equipment "spring cleaning". Make sure all your uniforms have no holes, socks included. You should have 2 whistles that don't have to same tone. If you need to know how many games you did, please look at the arbiter. I'm deleting all the 2008 info at the next meeting. I know some of you use this info on your taxes. See you at the March meeting.

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FROM THE INSTRUCTOR/ASSESSOR

Harvey P. Grody

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Where am I in my Referee Career?

Harvey P. Grody, U.S.S.F. State Referee Instructor, NOCRA instructor/Assessor

Once a year or so, as a season ends, I like to ask my colleagues a question. It is one I asked myself a few times before I finally decided to "*hang 'em up.*" This is the question and some possible answers you may give to yourself:

Where are you in your head and body as far as continuing to be a soccer referee?

Here are several possible honest answers to consider:

1. I'm in better shape than last season and more mentally sharp re: the Laws and attitude toward the game. I've had growth experience and should start officiating higher level matches.
2. I'm just fine—as fit physically and mentally as ever. So I'll keep officiating at same competitive levels in the middle as I have been this season.
3. I'm o.k. but maybe not as fit or as fast as last season. Perhaps I might reduce the game levels I run in the center and perhaps do more lines, less centers.
4. I'm o.k. but clearly shouldn't be doing same level of games or as many as in the past. I should move down a notch or so in level and number of competitive matches I do.
5. I'm ready to wind up my career by doing easier, younger level games for awhile.
6. I'm ready to retire and get involved in soccer in ways other than being on the field.

On a very personal note to you, I asked myself the above question several years ago, and I began the process of winding down and ultimately retiring from active officiating. My last two years on the field (last game in spring 2006 = thirty-two years from my first game), I did girls and boys under 9 and under 10 games. Most of the games were for my local club (OJSC) in its recreational program. I had a great, enjoyable time, but finally realized that my body just wasn't up to it anymore. More importantly, I realized that ego had nothing to do with it. I had a fairly successful referee career, and I had no need to hang on to prove anything to myself or anyone else.

I hope some of you, my colleagues, will think about where you are in your referee career and make changes, if appropriate, for your benefit and for the good of the game.



Editor's Essay

Connor Duckworth

CHSA Assignor

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Cal South Soccer Expo

As you have received emails from me and read the article that Armen wrote, we cannot stress enough that if you are able to, please volunteer Feb 21 or 22 to represent NOCRA at the convention. NOCRA is in charge of coordinating all of the referee volunteers for the weekend and many of you have already offered your time and commitment to a few hours Saturday or Sunday. A BIG thank you to you all! You can work either day, and for however long you wish.

While you're there you can check out the many clinics, booths, and guest appearances by the who's who in soccer. Guest such as Marta, Abby Wambach, Anson Dorrance, Preki, USC and UCLA head coaches, National Referee Emeritus, Donald Wilbur, and players from the Galaxy and Chivas USA.

March Meeting

March's meeting will have the Cal South Youth Referee Administrator, Larry Yee speaking to us. Larry took over for Heros who sadly passed away last season. Larry is pushing the major drive for youth referees in soccer and will be a big influence in the way Cal South referees will be run. As you have already noticed, we have put many youth referees on State Cup games as his wishes were to put together the final round's games of all youth referees. Pack the meeting to show us how NOCRA is dedicated to soccer.

Assessment Reimbursement

There is a new form regarding a re-imbusement on an assessment from NOCRA. We encourage all of you to upgrade from a Grade 8 to a 7 or a Grade 7 to a 6. The higher level that you are, the better games you will get! Higher level games = More \$\$\$ and more of a chance to get games over referees that are at a lower level.

To access the form, please go to www.nocra.com and click on the FORMS link. It will be in the middle of the page.

If you have any questions regarding it, please contact any of the Board Members.

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Upcoming NOCRA Meetings

March 3, 3, 2009 7:30pm @ El Rancho Charter School in Room 100

Guest Speaker, Cal South Youth Referee Administrator, Larry Yee

April 7, 2009 7:30pm @ El Rancho Charter School in Room 100

Live Scan Requirement, Bring \$15 for fee

www.nocra.com