

# North Orange County Referee Association

## August 2008 – Newsletter

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## *President's Place*

**George Williams**

The Fall Season is upon us. The first weekend in August thru Thanksgiving we should be very busy.

Cindy is working on making assignments so that CAR POOLING is a definite option. When you receive your assignments accept or decline ASAP. It will make her job much easier. A happy Assignor is your best Friend. Once again, if you aren't getting assignments make a phone call. I don't want to win the Ironman Award Again!

This is your Association; tell us what we can do. We several ongoing programs to serve YOUR needs so tell us. Don't forget, if you come the meeting you have chance to win a new long sleeve shirt.



## VICE-PRESIDENT'S CORNER



**Summer's Here**

Hey there, fellow officials. Just a couple of pertinent things: Get ready for our August meeting; there will be GAMES...even before that...!!! Get your Arbiter schedule ready. You don't hear from our assignor...? Call Cindy. Her number is on the website.

This may be a bit premature but I need a show of hands as to who will **miss** the

SEPTEMBER meeting, since it falls on the same day (date) as the High School Clinic--- Sept. 2nd. I know I won't be at our meeting, neither will (possibly) Archie, Marty, Miguel, George, Hartun, Robert, Ken and many, many others. My proposal is to reschedule it on the following day, Wednesday, the 3rd. This will also give some of those absentees who have more important things to do on Tuesday nights, the opportunity to make a meeting. You need to let us know by email ASAP, so that we can discuss this at our Board meeting BEFORE our August Tuesday meeting. So please, E-mail.

Thirdly, and most importantly: Neither you nor I have seen Dr. Harvey Grody in the last two-three months. He is recovering from an ailment; suffice it to say. Please, pray for him for a quick and complete recovery. E-mail him; do NOT call. And congratulate him on a prestigious award that he received from STATE. Hopefully, He will make the September meeting, if not the August one.

Get yourselves ready for a full season. Please honor your schedule. Accept the games given to you. As a side note, I get tremendous enjoyment out of doing U12's. Plus, there's very little hassle from players, parents and coaches. God bless you ALL.

Armen ❤️



## **ASSIGNOR's Alley**

**Cindy Talmage**

714-381-0255 [Schedule4u@aol.com](mailto:Schedule4u@aol.com)

Hi Refs,

**Summer is here and tournaments begin in August. I do not have any concrete games yet, but just keep your arbiter up to date please. Also make sure that you have your equipment all in order... Maybe new cards, a few new pens in your bag, extra bandages for those blisters you might get with your new shoes!!!!**

**I need all of you to attend the next meeting in August to go over the tournaments we will get. Also please make sure your email address and phone numbers are up to date in the arbiter.**

**Cindy Talmage**

**714-381-0255 [Schedule4u@aol.com](mailto:Schedule4u@aol.com)**



## FROM THE INSTRUCTOR/ASSESSOR

Harvey P. Grody

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### Striking Memo from USSF

Harvey P. Grody, NOCRA Instructor

*[Below is a July memo on the subject of "striking" received from USSF. In addition I have included some comments from Cal South.]*

As a result of several recent incidents, as well as a general rise in actions which demonstrate disrespect by players toward each other in MLS matches, referees need to review the following guidelines regarding "strikes or attempts to strike" as a foul and/or misconduct, the appropriate action to take in each case, and the reasons why such behavior must be dealt with firmly.

Striking is not defined in the Laws of the Game. Referees must therefore apply commonly accepted usage and common sense in identifying the actions which would properly be called striking. As a foul, striking consists of a player making (or attempting to make):

- direct contact with an opponent;
- on the field during play;
- using a hand, elbow, arm, head, or knee;
- or by throwing any object at an opponent (including the ball).

Underlying the concept is the notion that the action involves at least some degree of force -- merely touching an opponent would clearly not be seen as a striking foul. There should be no hesitation in whistling the offense and indicating the correct restart (direct free kick or penalty kick) -- according to the IFAB, advantage is not applied to such behavior unless there is a clear, immediate possibility of a goal.

If the referee's decision is that a striking foul has occurred, the assumption should be that a red card should be shown and the player should be sent off (violent conduct). A red card must be given when the striking is performed:

- using the backhand, open-handed slap, fist, or poking fingers; or
- in a manner intended to increase pain, injury, or humiliation.

Particular attention must be paid to striking the head, face, or other vulnerable parts of the body (e.g., the eyes). Grabbing the hair of the opponent could be considered striking or holding but, in either case, would be evaluated using the above criteria. If the contact does not involve force and would thus not be considered a foul, the referee must still consider the likelihood of misconduct punishable by a red card if it is performed in an insulting, offensive, or derisory manner designed to provoke, intimidate, or humiliate the opponent (the card would not be reported as violent conduct but as insulting or offensive language, which includes gestures).

***[Note from H. Grody: there was a clip attached to this memo. Not available here; however, the description of the incident is still instructive, so I have included it. Also see additional notes from SRI Algattis and SDA Bennyworth following the memo]***

In the attached clip from a match involving Los Angeles Galaxy at DC United (June 29, 2008), United player Gallardo contacts the face of Galaxy player Donovan with a backhanded slap in the 42nd minute. Although not delivered with the aggressive force of a punch nor with the sort of "cocked and thrown" aspect of an elbow, it is nevertheless a clear case of striking (the foul) which must also be considered a send-off offense as the contact was to the face, delivered with enough force to produce bleeding, and done to intimidate. The fact that it was in retaliation for an immediately prior offense (tactical holding) neither excuses the foul nor mitigates the misconduct. It demonstrates the importance of the referee stepping in quickly in the absence of a clear advantage to prevent further problems.

From: Nick Algattas and John Bennyworth

Attachments: Striking Memorandum

Note: The following additional comments from the Pro web site.

Actions aimed at the face of an opponent must be dealt with severely REGARDLESS OF THE FORCE USED if the actions are:

- Deliberate
- Intended to intimidate
- Endangering the safety of an opponent
- Insulting and/or offensive in nature
- Potentially inciting further action on the part of opponents

The following lists some specific examples (but not all examples) of the manner in which the contact can be initiated are:

- Use of the backhand
- Open handed slap

- A push/slap to the face
- The jabbing of a finger(s) to the face
- Grabbing hair
- Use of a fist

When applying the aforementioned examples, the use of force becomes increasingly important as it relates to contact with the back of the player's head as the likelihood for injury is somewhat lessened as compared to contact with the face. Consequently, some discretion may be exercised on the part of the referee as it relates to contact with the back of the head depending upon the intent and the force used.



## *Editor's Essay*

**Connor Duckworth**

**CHSA Assignor**

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### **CHSA Mentor Program Updates**

For those of you that are interested in reffing games for CHSA this season let me know.

CHSA is served as our mentor program for many of our new referees. They take the clinic and we train them in order to be prepared for their first games starting in the fall.

We will be holding various classes throughout the month of August to help prepare our referees for the upcoming season.

We hold one in-class session that goes over many referee procedures and rule adaptations that CHSA uses. There will also be two or three on-field sessions where the referees learn the game by reffing a scrimmage game with the CHSA Signature teams. Referees can learn or polish their skills at these classes.

### **Important Dates**

Sat Aug 2- Sun Aug 3- Entry Clinic @ El Rancho

Wed Aug 6, 4:30-7:30pm @ Canyon Rim- On-Field Session #1

Tues Aug 12, 7pm- In-Class Session @ El Rancho Room, 100

Wed Aug 13, 4:30-7:30pm @ Canyon Rim- On-Field Session #2

Everyone is invited, as there is never enough practice or skills that a referee can learn.

Please contact me at [duckworth92807@yahoo.com](mailto:duckworth92807@yahoo.com) if you are interested.

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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](http://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.

### **NOCRA T-Shirts**

Have you picked up your NOCRA T-shirt yet? If not, contact me so I can get you one for the next meeting. I have sizes Medium and Large left.

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### **Upcoming NOCRA Meetings**

August 5, 2008 7:30pm @ El Rancho Charter School in Room 100

September TBA, 2008 7:30pm @ El Rancho Charter School in Room 100

[www.nocra.com](http://www.nocra.com)