

North Orange County Referee Association

March 2008 – Newsletter

Chuck Acocello will be our U.S.S.F. instructor/speaker at the March meeting. Chuck is a retired National Referee as well as college and high school referee. The topic at the meeting will be "Law Changes during the past Five Years."



President's Place

George Williams

I missed the last few newsletters, so I have much to report. We are in the middle of State Cup for youngsters with olders to come real soon. Our Assignor tells me we have a few tournaments coming in March and April, as well as Spring Soccer. As always please keep your Arbiter up to date.

The Board is working on some new programs for our members that include incentives, shirts, and upgrades for some referees. So as they say, stay tuned and attend the meetings to get all the details.

I want to congratulate our Referee of the Year, Gerry Irwin and all the other award winners. Fine job done by all. I have repeated as the Iron Man of NOCRA, not an award I aspired. So, please help me out next year, I don't want a three-peat. My very old knees will thank you very much.

I was approached at the end of meeting and was told he really likes working for NOCRA. I told him he didn't work for NOCRA he worked with NOCRA.

To borrow a phrase, we are band of brothers and sisters who help and look out for each other. That is what makes us NOCRA. Thanks and keep up the great job.



VICE-PRESIDENT'S CORNER



I know this has very little to do with NOCRA (not really), but as we speak, the High School season is in its PLAYOFF GAMES. I had a great game today, as many of you have. We're honing our skills and getting in shape. So now, we will focus **all** our attention to the STATE and NATIONAL games, locally and in Temecula, Rancho and Lancaster. Make yourself available to our NOCRA organization, please. WE GOT GAMES. The camaraderie is overwhelming at carpools. I won't tell you how Raul Gonzales feels when I start singing in French, in the car, on the long rides. All I want to say is that we're bonding. You got to be there...

Seriously, get involved; it's a beautiful time of the year. Call Cindy. Do games. Come to meetings and learn.

God bless you all

Armen 



ASSIGNOR's Alley

Cindy Talmage

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Hi Refs

Well youngers state cup is over. Thanks for all the refs who traveled for the games.

Spring Soccer begins March 8th. Please update your arbiter for games. The fields should pretty much be the ones we use for league.

NOCRA will be doing a tournament for the Police Academy. Games will be at Magnolia High School. The tournament is April 19-20. We are the association of record, so I will need EVERYBODY!

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FROM THE INSTRUCTOR/ASSESSOR

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TIME TO SELF-ASSESS: STAY AROUND OR HANG ‘EM UP OR?

Harvey P. Grody, State Referee Instructor

At the March NOCRA meeting our guest will be Chuck Acocello, a recently retired U.S.S.F. National Referee, and a soccer colleague of mine for many years. I also recently retired as an active game official. Which brings me to the subject of this article: When it is time, assess oneself as a referee, and what should be the result of that assessment?

Actually, there are two questions which precede the retirement question: (a) “When is it time to self-assess what I can do on the field, and (b) “What does that assessment tell me about what game levels I should be doing?” The answer to the first questions is easy: self-assessment should be a regular activity. The answer to the second question depends upon how honest you are with yourself when answering the first question!

If you are relatively healthy or new at officiating: The answer to question two should involve planning to maintain/improve your physical and mental fitness, and planning towards doing higher-level games. You should think about getting a formal **assessment** so you can (a) improve your officiating skills, and/or (b) move up in grade, e.g., from Grade 8 to 7 or from 7 to 6, etc. At the moment we have too many grade 8 referees in NOCRA. We need refs to be moving up, working more challenging games, and expanding their long-term officiating careers.

If you have been around for a while (which is a euphemism for getting long in the tooth): The answer to the second question may be more challenging. As I have said on occasion, “Getting older is easy, doing it with grace or dignity is the challenge.” It may be difficult to come to the conclusion that we simply cannot do things as well (physically or mentally) as we did in years gone by! But if we are honest with ourselves and admit it, then we should assess what it means for tomorrow and the rest of our officiating careers.

For me it meant going emeritus, cutting back the past several years to lower/younger level matches (e.g., my last two years I did Boys/Girls under 9 and 10), and spending more time mentoring than being on the field. Finally, it meant “Time to Hang ‘Em Up”!

Take a good look at yourself: Is it time to be challenged and move up? Is it time to cut back? Is it time to “hang ‘em up?”



Editor's Essay

Connor Duckworth

CHSA Assignor

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NOCRA T-Shirts

We are currently in the process of ordering NOCRA t-shirts with our new logo on them for our standing members. In order to receive your shirts, you must be present at one of the meetings. The date of the handout is yet to be determined, so this is another incentive on coming to the meetings! It looks like it won't be here for our March meeting, but might be for April.

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Harvey Grody, our instructor has recently been honored with an achievement award from Cal South.

“Our instructor/assessor Harvey Grody has officially retired from active officiating after more than thirty years as a referee. For twenty-five of those years, he was a U.S.S.F certified referee and had attained the grade of State Referee 5 before going emeritus a

few years ago. This year (2008), upon the recommendation of the Cal South Referee Committee and State Referee Administrator, Harvey has been registered by U.S.S.F. as an "Honorary Referee (17)." This status allows retired referees to retain their highest grade attained but remain inactive as game officials. Harvey remains actively registered with U.S.S.F both as a State Referee Instructor 5 and as an Assessor.”

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Know someone interested in becoming a referee?

CHSA, our recreation and signature organization that NOCRA provides, mentors, and assigns referees for is hosting a Grade 8 referee clinic for all new referees.

August 2-3, 2008 @ El Rancho Charter School, Anaheim Hills

Contact Connor Duckworth, duckworth92807@yahoo.com to sign up

Upcoming NOCRA Meetings

March 4, 2008 7:30pm @ El Rancho Charter School in Room 100

April 1, 2008 7:30pm @ El Rancho Charter School in Room 100

www.nocra.com