

LCSRA OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER SPRING, 2010

Comments from the New President

by Dave Henry



With the start of a new year, many of us take stock of where we have been and where we may be going. Looking back at the LCSRA, I

notice that quite a few of us joined up about the same time. Only a few of us at our meetings now were on board before the mid-90's. The association was large then and had a strong core of dedicated members, some who had nurtured local reffing from its start and others who were giving LCSRA maturing strength and duties as soccer, on every level, continued to grow in the area. The association grew too, not just in numbers, but also in quality. That quality was noted in our assignments in the state at playoff time and by our sending officials on to the college ranks.

Looking around now at the LCSRA, many faces are gone, but some familiar faces remain. Fortunately, we have drawn new members who are also committed to high standards of officiating. Our total numbers may have slipped a bit, but our commitment to those standards has meant that our

quality of service has held up. Our quantity of service has been maintained also and improved, as evidenced by our covering 2084 games last year with only a dozen problems. That is a strong testament to each member's job being well-done at all of the levels of play.

Looking ahead, I see this thread of doing the best job we can all the time as our continuing mission. There are potential snags to doing so. There are increased requirements for certification and training that must be met. As an association we will need to buy into the processes to meet these and be willing to give a little more time so we stay ahead of the game. Keeping the LCSRA tradition going also means bringing on board new officials. As more of us hang up the whistle, we need to find replacements. The succession of providing soccer officiating is critical to the communities we serve. Like they say, you can't have a game without an official. It's right that in the LCSRA we emphasize, you can't have a good game without a good official.

Let's keep the ball rolling, Dave

Mileage Fee Review Proposed

By Vineet Wahi



Another exciting soccer season is soon to be upon us! The days are becoming longer and soon the

comforting thud of a kicked soccer ball will echo across Lane County. While officiating is fun and rewarding it is also an important source of income for many of those in our membership. There is certainly a cost to officiate in terms of transportation, training costs, uniforms and supplies. How we are paid as

referees for the service we provide varies by league and level of game.

While it may seem to be more art than science, the Association attempts to pay as much as possible to our officials while still retaining enough to cover operating costs. In particular, the issue of how mileage is paid is always a source of confusion for most everyone.

In reviewing the past few seasons as a Board and in an attempt to be sensitive to the concerns of members we would like to form a small subcommittee. It will be comprised of a few LCSRA members to advise on what the most fair and equitable way to pay mileage to referees is. This subcommittee will be chaired by me, as Treasurer and involve Paul Clements and hopefully at least two to three more members. If you are interested in volunteering to meet once or twice for an hour or so in the next two months, please contact me (vwahicpa@yahoo.com) or Paul (funkywoodman@msn.com) directly. If we don't receive any interest from the membership, we will likely continue with the current system. We hope to report back to the entire membership with any revisions before the season begins.

In closing, I wish to thank the membership for electing me to serve for another two years. It is an honor to be entrusted with collecting and disbursing the Association funds. I hope to continue being a valued asset to LCSRA.

Editor's Note: This is our first attempt at a newsletter and we've found that the Board is a very wordy group. Please bear with us and maybe we'll get it right next time. In the meantime, please refer to the Spring Schedule at the end of the newsletter and feel free to contact any of us at the email addresses on the website – WWW.LCSRA.ORG. - Dave Barta

The View from the Commissioner's Window

by John Hoffman

The Term "common sense" has always baffled me. Is "it" in everyone? Do we all have "it" in equal measure? How do we use "it" in referring?

Common sense has been referred to as Law 18. It's been described as the ultimate goal for soccer officials; yet its definition remains unwritten.

Let's use this definition: Intelligence in the perception of 1) the game, 2) the attitude of the players and 3) the place and time of the foul.

This definition is not mine, I'm paraphrasing a FIFA official who coined this in the mid 1990's. It works for me and I hope it will work for you.



Law 18 requires that intelligence be used in perceiving the game, the players attitudes and the place and the moment of the offense simultaneously during a match. Thus a game is never officiated in the box, mindlessly applying the 17 Laws of the Game. It is officiated outside the box using 18 Laws of the Game.

This application of the 18th Law of the Game is a daunting and intriguing undertaking! No wonder soccer is never dull and officiating it is such a challenge.

Good luck to us all in administering Law 18!



Training Coming Up

By Cindy Wilgus

Welcome to another season of soccer. I hope you all enjoyed the time off and if you were like me...you

enjoyed it so much you put on a few pounds from the needed rest. Well, it all comes to an end and now it is time to polish up those shoes, pull out those long sleeve shirts and get ready to hit the turf. We have a variety of leagues either going on or will be starting soon. So attending the meetings is very important to get up-to-date information on the leagues, rules and mandates.

Training will cover city league, kidsports, USSF and La Liga and be geared to only those ref's who are working those various leagues. If you have any specific questions or have experienced something you would like help with, please email me and we will try to incorporate it in our trainings.

I look forward to our first meeting in March. In the mean time, stay healthy, get fit and most of all be willing to work...there are a ton of games coming up.



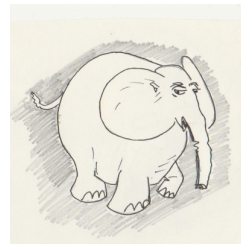
A trained official in action!

Seeing the Elephant

By Paul Clements

A fable tells of six blind men were asked to determine what an elephant looked like by feeling different parts of the elephant's body.

The blind man who feels a leg says the elephant is like a pillar; the one who feels the tail says the elephant is like a rope; the one who feels the trunk says the elephant is like a tree branch; the one who feels the ear says the elephant is like a hand fan; the one who feels the belly says the elephant is like a wall; and the one who feels the tusk says the elephant is like a solid pipe.



A wise man explains to them:

"All of you are right. The reason every one of you is telling it differently is because each one of you touched the different part of the elephant. So, actually the elephant has all the features you mentioned."

Possibly in our officiating we may resemble the fabled blind men, unable to see the whole of the game, due to the individual frame of reference we bring to our duties as referees. Who will see the whole elephant?

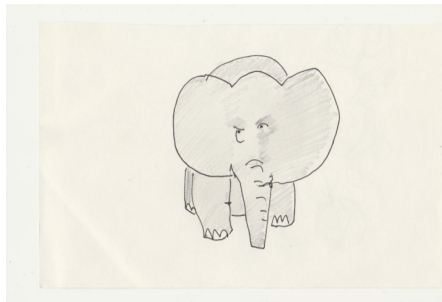
The parents of young players may see the children before them and at once imagine something yet to come, investing hope planning for a future to include matches not yet played.

Young players may see the game off and on, amid distractions of place, season and circumstance in spite of all encouragement from sideline parents.

In the younger less formal leagues, Parent / Coaches of young recreational players may lack an understanding of the game and the laws thereof to overcome a perception of unfairness when children in which they have a deep emotional investment do not succeed on the field.

More experienced and studied Coaches may see an individual player in the context of natural ability, motivation and skill set, and yet place the player in the whole of a team in yet another view.

Serious teams, players and coaches may see opponents and rely on experience to respond to the dynamics of a match, building a strategy for the game at hand, and games to come.



A single game may be seen in the context of a whole season, or a period of recovery from an injury, or as something in the schedule of a day or week that holds a number of other seemingly unrelated endeavors.

In a World Cup year, a young player may imagine their springtime Saturday match amid the color and spectacle of the global contest, while their grandpa watching from the stands revisits his own youth amid the flow and motion of U-14 match. Future, Past and Present meet at once ; the same elephant, but different views.

What does the referee see? From what frame of reference does the official bring

a view of the match? What does the referee expect to see?

Perhaps the rhetorical invective “Are you blind, referee ? “ speaks to the size of the elephant, and the number of times we get to touch the beast before rendering an opinion on what it really is. Each game is a different, unique collection of elements of every other game, a thing with a discrete conclusion toward which the officials usher all the participants on either side of the touch line. When all is said and done, everyone goes home with a unique vision of the game.

If all the men of fable combined their perceptions of the elephant, a more accurate, collective understanding of the animal might have been available to all. So as we go forward into a new year, and new seasons of competition, our participation within the Association will enable each of us access to different views, realms of knowledge, frames of reference and levels of insight. Lets work together to all have a clear effective vision of the games ahead, and our respective roles in them, for the good of each other, our Association, and especially the game itself.

Participation Keeps LCSRA Going

by Dave Barta

LCSRA is a great deal, no doubt about it. For \$40 you get organized training, all sorts of useful administrative information, assignments to games that are carefully chosen for you, the opportunity to make money, and regular chances to get together in a friendly but organized way with other people who share your passion and experiences.

That's a lot, and the secret is that it happens because an evolving core of people have given their time and creative energy over a couple of decades to build the organization and keep it going. Many of us are part of that legacy of service to LCSRA in some way, and every member should consider how he or she can contribute to keeping the organization strong.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Come to meetings and actively contribute – A big part of the strength of the organization is the comradie that comes from getting together with fellow referees. Plus, the meetings are one of the primary places where we get required training.
- Help find new referees – Encourage a friend. Talk to the parents on your kid's soccer team. Let your teenager know it's a good way to make a buck. Bringing in new referees and keeping them is one of the hardest and most important things we all can do in order to serve the game and keep our organization viable.
- Make yourself available for special projects – The Board is always looking for members who are willing to help. Vineet has proposed a committee in this newsletter to help address the question of how to allocate mileage payments. We have discussed asking members to participate on everything from

special committees to help with recruitment to mentoring new referees. Let a board member know if you're interested in helping.

- Be proactive – Think about the tasks that take place at the Memorial Day Tournament, for example, and volunteer to help with food, setup, or tear down. Or, if you have a particular idea for the organization, by all means, tell someone or come to a board meeting and present it.
- Run for office – Every year there are elections for two board members. Next November it will be for Board Secretary and Training Officer. If you're interested in serving in one of these positions, don't wait until the Annual General Meeting to think about it. Talk to the person who holds the job now to find out what's really involved, and/or come to a board meeting to see what goes on there.

LCSRA is your organization. If you consciously take steps to make it better it will be better and you'll feel empowered and connected to it.



Happy, involved, LCSRA members.

Important Dates in the LCSRA for Spring 2010

Spring Meeting Schedule

Sunday, March 14, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

- Membership meeting at Churchill H.S. Library
- Training for Kidsports and City League and possibly USSF changes
- Food will be provided by LCSRA

Monday, March 29, 2009

- City League Season begins

Saturday, April 10, 2009

- Kidsports season begins

Friday-Sunday, April 17-19, 2010
UO World Cup Tournament

Sunday, April 25, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

- Membership meeting, Churchill H.S. Library
- Training
- Availabilities announcement for Kidsports Memorial Day Tournament

Monday, May 10, 2010

- Kidsports Memorial Day tourney availabilities due

Thursday, May 20, 2010, 6:30 p.m.

- Membership meeting at Churchill H.S. Library
- Assignments for Kidsports Memorial Day Tournament discussed.
- Availabilities due for Summer City League.

- Training

Sat May 29 - Sun May 30, 2010
Kidsports Memorial Day Tourney

June 5-6, 2010

Junction City 6v6 tournament

Sunday, June 13, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

- Membership meeting at Churchill H.S. Library
- Prepare for City League Summer Coed league
- Training