

What Would You Do?

You arrive to your game 15 minutes early as required by the rule book but your partner is running late. You begin your pre-game duties and are about to finish when your partner walks on deck. What would you do? Now, consider the same scenario, and it's a partner who has made a habit of being late. Does this change how you handle the situation? Now, consider that the referee is someone you are close to, or someone that you look up to. How do these factors influence your response?

As we progress as an organization, it's important for us to remember that we are only as strong as our weakest member. The scenario above is an example of a small moral dilemma we have all faced. Each of us probably has a different response. I would suspect, however, that if the referee were a friend or mentor, that most of us would keep our mouths shut to protect that person. I ask you to consider how this response effects the association as a whole. Does it strengthen the organization, or weaken it? Do your perceived benefits of protecting a colleague outweigh the potential damage to referee/coach relationships we are all trying to foster? There is no one correct answer, and each situation can be different. But these things should be considered by all of us at SCAFWP.

Meet Your New SCAFWP Board con't

Fred Sicard (OC) – SCAFWP Senior Programs Chair. Freddy is married and has 3 children. He teaches middle school math and is in his 6th year. He is currently serving his 3rd term as SPC.

Mike Stewart (Foothill) – SCAFWP Junior Programs Chair. Mike is married to Missy and has 3 kids: Meaghan, Ambyr, and Austin. Mike works for SoCal Edison and has officiated since 2002.

Linda Simons (Los Angeles) – SCAFWP Member at Large. Linda has been married for 30 years and has 3 children. She teaches PE at Temple City HS. Linda has been officiating since 2004 and swims masters in her free time.

Tom Finwall (Inland) – SCAFWP Member at Large; Former President. Tom is married to Joani and has a daughter named Lauren. He teaches math at Riverside Poly HS. Tom has seen the sport of water polo from all 4 perspectives: player, coach, parent, official. In his spare time, Tom enjoys golf, skiing and watching movies.

Referee Spotlight-Salena Zapata

Salena is a talented young referee from the Foothill Association. She played high school water polo at Fontana High School and from there spent two years at Chaffey College. Her playing career was completed at the University of LaVerne. Salena started officiating in 2014 and has already gained the attention of Sandy Nitta who states, "Salena is an up and coming official. She is a go getter and is working hard to become a top official." Salena has whistled two ODP championships and last year whistled the gold medal 16u boys game in the gold division at JO's. In 2016 Salena attended Holiday Camp. In 2017 Salena whistled the Champions Cup and Dare to Dream finals. She currently works as the pool manager at the Fontana Park Aquatics Center in the city of Fontana.

Referee Spotlight-Dave Brown

Dave Brown played high school water polo at California High School in Whittier. After graduating, he made the team at Whittier College as a walk on. Dave is now a high school social studies teacher who began officiating in 2010. What began as a means of supplementing his income has blossomed. In the past year, Dave received his first CIF final assignment, and was also presented with the Aaron Chaney Distinguished Referee Award at the USA Water Polo Gala. Dave's goals include whistling at the NCAA level and internationally. Dave is married to his lovely wife Shelly and has seven children.