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January, 2019
Newsletter Volume 3

The Vikings Explorer



SFVSC.org

IMPORTANT SFVSC DATES:

Jan 19th, & 26th:

Free 4v4 Dutch
Tournament

[\(Signups & info here!\)](#)

Jan 20th: Free 5v5

DOC Training Session

[\(Signups & info here!\)](#)

Feb 17th: Fairmont 5v5

Tournament

March 6th: Soccer

Information Fair

March 16th: Spring

League Starts

PHOTO CONTEST!

WIN VIKINGS GEAR BY
TAKING A PHOTO OF
YOURSELF IN VIKINGS
ATTIRE IN A RANDOM
LOCATION AND SUBMITTING
IT TO:

office.sfvsc@gmail.com



Vikings Mens Team Circa 1938 (San Francisco Vikings 1-1 Hollywood)

President's Free Kick

What brought you to the San Francisco Vikings Soccer Club?

The reason I came to the San Francisco Vikings Soccer Club was the same as so many parents; I had a high energy 4 year old, that wanted to have a similar soccer team experience that his parents were experiencing. We had weekend team games, and team uniforms, and tournaments,



Spirit Wear!



Vikings has club gear available for order to help show off your spirit! We have hats, sweatshirts, practice T-shirts, and customizable jackets and backpacks!

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What do you think of the Explorer? Send your feedback to office.sfvsc@gmail.com

and he wanted his own team. Pierre said to me “Mom, when can I have my own team?” so of course I went looking.

Google didn't exist at that time, so I had to use the phone book to look up SOCCER, and I found the SF Vikings Club and drove over to the office. I was shocked to be told that the entry age for children was 7 years old. I volunteered on the spot to start a program for the kindergarten age children, and that was the start of the microsoccer program and a volunteer effort that I did not expect at that time would change my life.

[Click here to read more of Libby's story.](#)

Event Highlight: Free 4v4 Dutch Tournament

Back by popular demand, our Free Dutch 4v4 Tournament will be held this Saturday and next! These lighthearted days of play are intended to give players plenty of time on the ball while creating a fun atmosphere for them to grow and learn the game of soccer while creating friendships along the way.



Sign up for one or both scheduled events and feel free to bring a friend too!

[Click here to be taken to our Dutch 4v4 webpage and register today!](#)

Meet Our Coaching Staff:

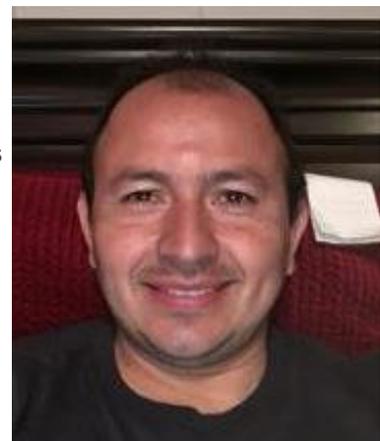
Name: Roger Arevalo

Age: 43

Birthplace: El Salvador

Years with Vikings: 1993-1994 as a player. 2003-2005 and 2017-present as a coach.

Team(s) you coach: All 2nd, 3rd, 4th grade rec teams SFVSC Town School Teams.



Favorite professional soccer team: Boca Jr (Argentina) and huge fan of EPL

Tell us a little about your family?

My family arrived from El Salvador in 1986 when I was 11 years old. We came to SF to pursue the American dream. I am the

youngest of three siblings. We are definitely a soccer family. We enjoy getting together to watch main events like World Cup, Copa America, Champions League and Olympic soccer.

What do you love about or what got you interested in soccer?

What I love about soccer is that it is a world sport. In all parts of the world you see boys and girls playing, talking, spectating, watching soccer. It is embedded in culture and young boys and girls grow up wanting to be like soccer superstars. The best part about watching a soccer game on TV is to see the fans on the stands. Everywhere is different but the objective is the same, to cheer, chant, sing, laugh and cry for their team as if it was the final match. I enjoy watching players from all nationalities in all the different leagues. EPL, La Liga, Ligue 1, Bundesliga, JSL.

Why or How did you start coaching?

I have played soccer all my life. It is my favorite sport to play. As a child I played on the streets of El Salvador every day after school in my neighborhood. Was so much fun. In the US I was fortunate to continue playing in Vikings club, high school, college and Vikings men's team. When I was 20 years old the opportunity came across to start coaching and I enjoyed it ever since. It was a smooth transition from player to coach.

Who has influenced you in your development as player/coach?

The one single person that has influenced me to develop as a soccer player has been Toby Rappolt. I met Toby when I was 17 years old, he was recruiting players for the Vikings men's team when I was in high school. His coaching methodology was straight forward, have fun and push yourself hard. I remember practicing at night, rain or shine at different soccer fields. We had players from a lot of parts of the world. As a soccer coach, Toby is also someone who I can bounce off new ideas with, talk about new approaches to coaching. He is a great resource for any coach.

Favorite part of being a coach so far?

My favorite part of being a soccer coach is that we have the power to make it fun. Especially in the younger ages. Another thing I enjoy about being a soccer coach is that I get to have a career that is rewarding. To see a player develop and improve their skills is also rewarding. More importantly, I enjoy seen a player enjoy just playing soccer.

What do you think makes Vikings special?

Vikings has a team for any player that wants to play soccer. We never turn a player down based on his ability. From the recreational team, to upper house to competitive teams any boy and girl in SF has the opportunity to participate and belong to a team. We are also a club that values player development over a

winning mentality. At the younger ages, this is the most important thing.

Get to Know Your Referee:

Name: David Reardon

Age: 26

Where did you grow up:

I grew up in Orange County in a town called Placentia in southern California!

Did you play soccer?

Where/what team(s)?

I started recreational when I was in 2nd grade and played on the Wolves! My younger siblings played club soccer and I had a couple of opportunities to join them but I opted to stay with my friends on the recreational side and played all the way till I aged out (our youth league had rec all the way up to U19)!



When did you become a ref?

I became a referee after one of the first years they decided to pay referees in JUSA (Junior United Soccer Association) when I was 15. My dad took myself, my sister, and my brother to a weekend referee course that crammed everything into two 8 hour days!

Was it easy?

No, it was actually kind of difficult. All that information in a teenager's face (in 16 hours over 2 days), in a college lecture hall, from an older than time instructor made it hard to stay focused and attentive. I was incredibly stressed out for the test; because they made it seem like you'd fail the course if you failed the test (though that is not the case, they work with you to pass the test). Looking back I think the fear of failure helped me focus; and ironically I can attribute that to my success in passing the class. It was also my first experience taking a standardized class with adults. Being seen as equals to them in the class was a nice boost of confidence.

What made you want to ref?

My passion for soccer is what got me in the door to begin with. It was a way to be independent from my parents, and increase my \$5 allowance a week. Despite taking the course with my Dad and siblings, we actually hated refereeing together because we all have our own style of interpreting the game. Nobody wanted to have to acquiesce to each others calls and get overruled (my dad did that enough at home already)!

Do you enjoy helping the refs?

I have always had the tendency to lead others, honestly I hate

being told what to do. You could say that comes from a strict upbringing. Being a referee in soccer is like being the "Auto Correct" that your phone. When you misspell a word, "Auto Correct" helps you find the right way to spell. When somebody disrupts the flow of the game in soccer by breaking the laws, it is the referees job to "Auto Correct" the situation. So in truth, when I see referees making mistakes in their game, it drives me crazy. If and when a referee asks for my help, I am happy to give it.

Advice for future refs?

Be confident and act like the smartest individual on the field, because you are.

Advice to parents regarding referees in general?

I grew up a lot, emotionally, through refereeing. You learn to let the harsh criticism roll off your shoulders. It is definitely not easy and there were moments where I thought "this is not worth it". Your kid will make mistakes, and they will punish themselves for it just like players do in crucial moments of a game. But just like a coach tells a striker to shake off the PK miss; you should always remind your kids to shake off the mean comments and rude behaviors they will encounter as they officiate soccer matches in this diverse culture of soccer in San Francisco.

B08 Red Semi Finalists

The SF Vikings B08 Red team advanced to the semifinal of the NorCal State Cup Gold division. In the quarterfinals, the boys defeated South Valley 5-2 despite being one man down. The team fell to Albany Thunder 2-1 (who ended up winning the final 5-1) in the next game. Overall, it was a great effort by the boys. Well done boys, and well done coach Joey Almeida!



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