

# MINUTES OF THE VANCOUVER AREA SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Held: Monday, October 26, 2009 at South Burnaby Metro Club, Burnaby, B.C.

President:	Marc Bowley	(604) 278-9302	(marcbowley@primus.ca)
1 <sup>st</sup> V-President:	Philip Leung	(604) 723-1823	(philip.c.leung@gmail.com)
2 <sup>nd</sup> V-President:	John May	(604) 298-2561	(johnmay429@hotmail.com)
Secretary:	Bill McNaughton	(604) 986-4529	(wmcnaughton@blgcanada.com)
Treasurer:	Ron Schaeffer	(604) 922-6628	(ron_schaeffer@hotmail.com)
Directors:	Mauricio Navarro	(604) 253-0042	
	José Fraguas	(604) 929-0736	(fraguas@shaw.ca)

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**Call to order: 7:14 p.m.**

**GUESTS WELCOMED:** Robin Woods

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED:** none

**ADOPT AGENDA:** On motion by Joe Ciresi, seconded by Werner Winsemann, M/S/C.

**MINUTES OF September, 2009 MEETING:** Minutes of the September 2009 meeting were previously circulated by email and were adopted on a motion by Werner Winsemann, seconded by Joe Ciresi, M/S/C.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:** The Christmas Referee's Party is November 20, get your tickets!

**EDUCATION:** Our guest speaker was **Nick Hawley**, who spoke on Law 5 and dealing with injuries:

- Both José Branco and Nick Hawley had received emails about the lack of professional conduct by referees which lead to this session on Law 5: The Powers of the Referee.
- Some general comments about refereeing: Control yourself and manage the game but do not "boss" the game. Do not use foul language. You can't expect to penalize players and enforce the laws if you are not observing them yourself. You have 18 powers and duties under Law 5. Nick reviewed each of them. Do match reports: Good or bad it helps BC Soccer and the leagues to improve the game.
- First Nick reviewed Law 5 and the language there about dealing with injured players. Stop the match for serious injuries, you need not stop the match for minor injuries. Having stopped the match you restart usually with a dropped ball. Players may have kicked the ball out in which case you restart with a throw in. It is not the referee's job to ask players to put the ball out of play. That is not one of the referee's powers. If you let the players decide whether to put the ball out or not then you are giving them control of the match rather than managing the match yourself.
- What is serious injury depends on the level of play, the level of players and their age, whether they are amateurs or professionals, men or women, boys or girls and whether the injury is to the head, torso, arms, legs, fingers, etc.: is anything broken? Bleeding? Is the player screaming? Writhing on the ground? How are others reacting? Head injuries are considered "serious" so stop the match.
- In dealing with the injuries, the referee goes to where the player is located. Question the player: do they need assistance?; and decide if it is necessary for a trainer or coach to come on. If so call them on the field to assess the injury. They, and you as the referee, assess the injury and then remove the player from the field. Treatment is to take place off the field in most cases. Stretcher bearers if available come on to remove a player or parents/teammates to help carry them off. In some cases, treatment is on the field if it is very serious (back injury, compound fracture, etc.)
- If a coach, a trainer or medical personnel comes on, then the player must leave the field of play. This is why you ask the player if they are all right or if they need a trainer. Don't touch the player. And hold off the trainer until you signal them to come on. There is an exception: the goal keeper can be treated on the field of play by a trainer and need not leave. Note: if both a goal keeper and another player are injured, then both can be treated and stay on the field.

- As the referee, you must consider the impact of the injury when you restart the game. You and the players need to get over the shock of an injury. Everyone has to get their “head back into the game”. Take into account the players state of mind, muscle conditions (has everybody been standing around in the cold?), potential for retaliation and the “temperature” of the game. An injury can result in a hot spot occurring in the subsequent play.
- Nick used a number of video clips as examples.
- When can a player who has left for treatment come back into play? Play must have restarted and then the player can come back on. They re-enter from the touch line if play is underway when they come on. If play has restarted and then stopped again, they can enter at the stoppage from anywhere on the field including the goal line. Do not allow a player back into play with the play occurring right in front of them. Doing so means they can jump into the play when someone is not expecting them to come in from off the field.
- Blood must be dealt with. Players who are bleeding must be sent off and the blood attended to (washed off/removed) and the player checked before they are allowed to re-enter the field. Players are not allowed to wear clothing with blood on it. If blood is spotted, play must be stopped, the player must leave the field and must be checked before being allowed to play again.
- It is important to be consistent. This applies to requiring players to leave the field if a trainer or coach comes on as a result of an injury. Only the referee can allow that player back onto the field (assisted by their assistant referees and a fourth official, if available).
- You do add time for injuries at the end of the first half or at the end of the game.
- After a number of questions, the meeting gave a warm round of applause and thanks to Nick for his excellent presentation.

#### **LEAGUE ITEMS:**

- Burnaby Men’s League: Joe Ciresi advised people to contact Dante Maglio [(604) 522-0191] if you wish to get some games.
- Metro Women’s Soccer League: John Jukes sent his regrets at being unable to attend. Marc Bowley forwarded a request to get reports in promptly, and of course to mention for the bazillionth time: no jewelry!

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Ron Schaeffer advised our current account situation was: Chequing Account \$5,308.21 and GICs \$5,500.00.

### **REFEREE ASSOCIATED REPORTS**

#### **BCSRA EXECUTIVE:**

- Elvio Chies had a written report handed out at the meeting but also mentioned that: BCSRA has made a very professional submission to the BC Sports Hall of Fame for the inclusion of Werner Winsemann; at the next meeting, Elvio hopes to be able to pass out a DVD featuring Mauricio Navarro being interviewed by Joey Kenward; fall Council meeting will occur on December 5, 2009 in Langley.

**CSA REFEREE COMMITTEE:** No report.

**BC SOCCER REFEREE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** José Branco was present but had nothing to add..

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Reminder for the Xmas party. The party is not only for referees but also for their friends and family. This also includes referees who are not VASRA or BCSRA members. We want the party to be open to all referees and their friends. There will be lots of room in the new hall that we are utilizing. Buy tickets from Marc or any of the Executive.
- Beach Blast has indicated that a cheque is coming to us for \$3,000. The meeting got to recognize Ali Virani for the Iron Man trophy and Ali was actually at the meeting to receive the trophy.

- Ali Virani raised an issue regarding assignments: it appears to be the same referees who are always at the meetings, who attend and who are upholding the laws of the game. Yet others who do not still get games. They don't attend meetings, they don't uphold the laws and he questioned why they are still getting games and what the governing body (BC Soccer Referees Association) is doing to improve the situation. A discussion ensued:
  - Marc Bowley indicated that VASRA does not control referee assigners. As long as a referee is registered with BC Soccer, they do not need to belong to the BCSRA or one of the area associations.
  - Laurie Miller mentioned that in her view there appeared to be a lot registered referees that don't apply the laws. There is a great need for local education. She benefits from the fact that on the Sunshine Coast they are in a small geographic area with a small club so that they can ensure that education gets out to their members.
  - Elvio Chies indicated that BCSRA supports the concept of central scheduling and he has noticed there are many leagues now where accountability is appearing. Leagues that will not pay referees without getting reports or will not use referees who refuse to do reports. And leagues that require schedulers to use only registered referees.
  - Werner Winsemann indicated that many years ago the referees tried a strike which did not work. BC Soccer says the leagues are allowed to do the scheduling.
  - Joe Ciresi suggested it would be better if games were given to those that attend meetings and education sessions.
  - José Branco thought this was a good issue for consideration and a good discussion. He will utilize the Minutes from the meeting and bring it up with the Referee Committee seeking to put the matter before the BCSA Board of Directors. BCSA does not control leagues. Even though leagues and teams complain about refereeing, they allow the assigners to continue to use the same referees where complaints have occurred. It would be better if leagues told the schedulers that they would not accept use of those referees that continue to get complaints. José recognizes that there are problems and some schedulers do not accept the need to improve.
- Bill McNaughton mentioned the address to send cards to José Fraquas arising from the heart attack which he suffered on October 23. Bill will also be sending out updates to people by email.
- Laurie Miller mentioned that she had attended and refereed at the World Masters Games in Sydney, Australia. This was the sixth such games which occur every four years. There were 28,000 competitors in many different sports. Soccer was one of the "big events". Australia had the largest contingent but Canada had the second largest. The event took place from October 10 – 18, 2009. The main referees for each soccer game were paid and the teams each supplied their own assistant referees or they paid extra fees in order to have the organizers supply the assistant referees. Since each of the teams had to have a referee, Lori was there as a volunteer to do some games. She only expected to do two or three games, but it turned out she did seven games as an assistant referee and had a great time doing it. She would recommend the experience to anyone who is interested in the next Masters games. [WKM – which will be in Torino Italy in August 2013]

The 50/50 draw and the raffle was held and the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD: MONDAY, November 30, 2009 @ 7:00 P.M. AT THE SOUTH BURNABY METRO CLUB**