

# MINUTES OF THE VANCOUVER AREA SOCCER REFEREES ASSOCIATION

Held: Monday, September 29, 2008 at South Burnaby Metro Club, Burnaby, B.C.

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FOUNDED 1969

**Call to order: 7:09 p.m.**

**GUESTS WELCOMED:** John Jukes (MWSL)

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED:** David Thistle and Yvonne Riopel

**ADOPT AGENDA:** Kim Davies, seconded by Michael Nemeth: M/S/C

**MINUTES OF August 2008 MEETING:** Minutes of the August meeting were previously circulated by email and were adopted on a motion by Laurie Miller, seconded by Joe Ciresci: M/S/C.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:** The ID badges for the VASRA mentor program are ready and were handed out to those in attendance .

## EDUCATION:

- A photograph montage was presented on Beach Blast 2008 with an observation exercise to count the number of referees in the photographs.
- Unfortunately the CD player was not working and the planned presentation of game clips could not proceed.
- Paul Ward discussed his game in Cancun Mexico. This was a Champions League game under CONCACAF with Atlante (Mexican team) v. Olimpia (from Honduras). Paul had a full Canadian squad with Hector Vegarra and Darren Clark as assistants. Paul found the style here was very different from the MLS style. He tried to manage the players but even so there were three cautions in the first half. Hector Vegarra at half time advised Paul not to try man management but just to use yellow cards. In the second half there were two cautions given in the first five minutes and then things seemed to settle down although there were six cautions overall in the second half which meant nine in the full game. However there was a much better flow and rhythm to the game in the second half.

Paul commented on the need to adapt your refereeing style quickly to match the game and deal with the players' expectations. Here they were expecting that if something happened a card would be given rather than trying to manage the situation. He thought a faster yellow card in the first half might have prevented some cautions later on since in this particular game the players did not respond to man management just the yellow cards. There was a good discussion that ensued. One of the comments that came out was to ask your fourth official, if you have one, on how the teams are responding. Another comment was to be hard in calling fouls and issuing cautions at the start to earn the respect of the players and then see if you can let the game flow more. You should also try to prepare as best as you can, looking at the history of the teams and, if available, any video on how they play.

Paul also mentioned that he has a game coming up in Washington for another Champions League contest. This one will be between D.C. United v. Cruz Azul (from Mexico) on Wednesday, October 1, 2008.

#### **LEAGUE ITEMS:**

- John Jukes for MWSL advised that their online system has not been working well. Please give comments to John if you have them. The League received a couple of complaints concerning referees not wearing their badges. John asked the referees to be careful in checking team lists as apparently some teams are using unauthorized players. Report problems with players and coaches to the League. The League would like referees to give out cards and warnings to, or toss, coaches and then write them up so that the League can deal with them. This means filing the reports and getting them in on time of course but the League wants to utilize those to lay down the law. John had a hand out for those in attendance.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ron Schaeffer reported that the liquid assets were: Bank account at \$3,318.03 and GIC at \$5,500.00. The GIC comes due in November and will be reinvested. These amounts are without the deposit of the funds from this year's Beach Blast.

#### **REFEREE ASSOCIATED REPORTS**

**BCSRA EXECUTIVE:** Elvio provided a reminder to everybody about renewing their BCSRA membership. He also provided a written report repeated here:

- Congratulations to Michele Pye for being appointed to the U-17 Women's World Cup in New Zealand.
- Reminder to renew your BCSRA/VASRA membership. The Referee's Association agreed to continue renewal with the start of the winter playing season unlike the CSA/BCSA referee registration which is due at the beginning of April. If questions see your Area Representative for details.
- Fall edition of the Flag and Whistle will be available shortly; it is now in for layout and should be available by mid month. Editor Jon Sealy (jonse@telus.net or 604-299-1993) is always looking for articles.
- 2008 Manual and directory/Handbook has been separated into two documents: a Manual and a Handbook. The Manual was sent out to those with email on September 10, 2008. The Handbook will be available very shortly on email, to be sent to area association secretaries first. All members with email should have received or shortly will receive a copy. Advise your area association secretary if you haven't. Those without email will receive both the Manual and Handbook by Canada Post shortly.
- BCSRA is looking for volunteers to act as moderators on the new Web Form that will be starting this fall. People will need access to the Internet and training will be given. A level of maturity is required. Please see a member of your area association executive.
- Vice President vacancy on the provincial executive: the provincial executive is still looking for a replacement for a position that came open when Suzanne Flannigan stepped down. Due to the full compliment of VASRA members on the executive perspective candidates will have to come from elsewhere in the membership.
- Fall counsel meeting is on Saturday, November 22 at Richmond High. See your area association executive to add your name to the list of delegates.

**CSA REFEREE COMMITTEE:** No report

**BC SOCCER REFEREE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:** José Branco was unable to attend, no report

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Mentors are signing up for the new season. Contact Marc Bowley (contact info at top) to sign up.
- A number of people still need to get their refresher course done. There are few courses left. However there are some still available (check the website at BC Soccer). Some discussion about the need for more courses in the Vancouver area and how they were filling up very quickly. Marc Bowley indicated he would request another course in Vancouver.
- A discussion ensued about the fitness component and fitness requirements. A number of members were unclear as to whether the full fitness test is required if you are not seeking to move up in your referee level. There was a request that the requirements for the fitness test be put into the Minutes. This is my understanding of the fitness requirements BUT in case of any discrepancy the BCSA Referee Rules and Regulations govern:
  - The BCSA Referee Rules and Regulations (revised August, 2008) state: “All referees, from Youth Referee to Provincial Referee are required to participate and complete an annual fitness test. (FIFA and National have additional requirements)”, and set out the various requirements to qualify as a provincial, regional, district or youth referee. Provincial Referees are required to do a 12-minute run and sprints. Regional Referees are required to do a 12-minute run. District and Youth Referees can do a 12-minute run, a beep test or a field run. The precise requirements for distances and levels are in the Rules and Regulations and vary by referee level.
  - The Rules and Regulations state that to maintain your classification as a Youth Referee or District Referee it is necessary to attend an annual BCSA refresher course and to “participate in the fitness component of the Refresher Course”.
  - To maintain your classification as a Regional Referee or Provincial Referee it is necessary to attend an annual BCSA refresher course and requires “successful completion of the annual fitness test” which means completing the fitness requirements for your level (Regional are required to do a 12 minute run, Provincial are required to do a 12 minute run and sprints). These fitness requirements might be done at a refresher course, depending on the type of fitness component and the numbers at the refresher you attend, but more likely will be done at one of the separate fitness test sessions.
  - To gain promotion from District Referee to Regional, or Regional Referee to Provincial, you must meet the appropriate fitness criteria to qualify as a Regional or Provincial Referee (that means doing the fitness test for the level you are seeking to attain).
  - Accordingly, if you are a qualified Youth or District Referee not seeking to move up it is not necessary to take a separate fitness test, just to participate in the fitness component of the Refresher Course. However, if you are a qualified Regional or Provincial Referee then just to maintain your classification usually means taking the separate fitness test because not often will the refresher course be able to offer the test you need. Of course Regional and Provincial Referees still need to attend a refresher course annually and are expected to participate in the fitness component of the course.
  - Regardless of your classification, I would encourage all referees to go to one of the separate fitness test sessions and try doing both the 12-minute run and the sprints, and try to achieve a level for the 12-minute run higher than your classification. It is good for you and can be fun, and then you know you can pass the next level for promotion or what you need to achieve to get there. We need people to strive to improve in their qualifications. It helps make us all better referees!
- VASRA added its congratulations to Michele Pye for her appointment to the U-17 World Cup in New Zealand.
- Laurie Miller brought up an issue concerning team reports on the BCSA online system. This can be very confusing if you do not know the district/club/team names, which are required in order to fill in the form. A suggestion was made to have BCSA require information about the district/club/team name on standard team lists

that are given to referees (the list of players). Standardizing the form information would make utilizing the BCSA online system much easier. It was suggested that Laurie contact Kelly at BCSA to pass along that request.

- Marc Bowley advised that Beach Blast has sent us a very nice thank you and a cheque for \$3,000 for the refereeing in 2008.
- It is hard to believe that jewelry is still an issue. Jewelry is simply not allowed. Marc Bowley related a story with a coach/coordinator who was trying to intimidate a young referee on allowing jewelry. The young referee stood their ground and did not allow jewelry but this kind of thing should no longer happen. There was a discussion (yet again) on jewelry and what can be done. Good management suggests handling the situation by a discussion although it's possible to issue a caution (yellow card) for dissent where someone refuses to take off jewelry after being requested to do so.

After the 50/50 raffle the meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD: MONDAY, October 27, 2008 @ 7:00 P.M. AT THE SOUTH BURNABY METRO CLUB.**