

# FLAG & WHISTLE

Official Newsletter of the BC Soccer Referees Association – Summer 2011



## BCSRA AGM: A NEW CHAPTER AWAITS

Sunny, clear skies greeted participants at the 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Association, held Saturday, May 28th at the Hastings Community Center.

Members from all three remaining area association branches: Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island and Vancouver Area gathered along with a cadre of Direct members from the Sunshine Coast to bear witness to a change in the executive and chart a course over the next membership year and listen to a special report from the Referees Committee of BC Soccer who were having a meeting on the same day in the same building.

The participants elected a new executive as follows (changes shown in parenthesis):

*President*

**NICK HAWLEY**

(takes over from departing President for last year of a 2 year term)

*Vice-President*

**LAURIE MILLER**

(by acclamation for a 2 year term)

*Secretary*

**RICHARD BROWNIE**

*Treasurer*

**ROBIN WOODS**

(by acclamation for a 2 year term)

*Directors-at-Large:*

**LARRY CADE (VI)**

**DAVE MILLER (FV)**

**RON SCHAEFFER (VA)**

*Immediate Past President*

**ELVIO CHIES**

### Keep Fees the same but spend more money on Members

The new executive also received a mandate from the membership to form policies regarding educational information. Much discussion ensued about lowering members fees for the \$50 Area Association-based members. Members disagreed with this feeling that instead more money should be used further assist members in their refereeing experience.

In addition, the membership agreed to revise the By-Laws to allow the executive more flexibility in handling the Association's affairs.

**This included:**

1. Removing the need to have decisions made by Council
2. Replacing Council meeting with general meetings Removing the Fall and Spring Council Meetings but keep the Annual General Meeting
3. Lowering the quorum at general meetings from 15 (fifteen) to 10 (ten)
4. Change the term of Directors-at-Large, formerly called "Area-appointed Directors" from specific term lengths to a length chosen by the appointing area. These will still be chosen by the various branches
5. Form a new position: Director-without-portfolio to allow a Direct member or other keen individual an entry position on the provincial executive.

In addition, the position of Immediate Past President was re-instituted on the provincial executive, removing the need to vacate the position after the one year anniversary.

The meeting adjourned with those members who had purchased tickets at a special discount to make the trek to the start of the Whitecaps-NY Red Bull match two blocks away at Empire Field. The stage is now set for a new chapter in the life of the association.

# President's Corner

## Referees!

It is with great pride and some excitement that I take on the role of president of the BC Soccer Referees Association. I hope that I can do you proud in my term and that we can start to build the organisation up back up to the size and stature it was many years ago.

To do this, we the board – **Laurie Miller; Robin Woods, Richard Brownie, Elvio Chies**, and myself intend to take the following action:

- Embark on a communication and marketing campaign for the Association
- Establish many more education session venues around the province
- Deliver standardised education packages
- Work with the youth and adult leagues to help them develop and educate their referees
- Speak on behalf of referees at the provincial level and to BC Soccer
- Bring together the three remaining chapters to strengthen each other
- Dialogue with the CSRA either to



empower them to be the national voice of referees providing value for money or to agree to go our separate ways and save substantial funds to use for local education

I see the Association as being a lobbying group for referees, a source of educational materials and educators, a forum for referees to meet with peers and an organisation that can support referees in discipline/employment issues. I hope that this is what you want of your board and your Association. If it is then help us spread the word, increase membership and become a powerful and respected voice for referees in the province.

*Regards*

**NICK HAWLEY,**  
*President*

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UEFA will close the loophole where players get a "tactical" yellow card in order to miss an easier match, re Andres Iniesta, but can step on the field thereafter. That yellow card might get two games suspension in future.

## Members agree to affiliate with CSRA ... with Conditions

Despite the fact the Constitution of the BCSRA was changed at the recent Annual General Meeting to remove the need to affiliate with Canadian Soccer Referees Association (CSRA), the Association will continue to affiliate. Members' fees for the CSRA will be held in trust and CSRA Executive will be engaged to work to make CSA recognition of the CSRA a priority.

The CSA has withheld making the CSRA an associate member until there can be 6 provincial organizations under its umbrella which are also recognized by the provincial soccer associations they operate in.

The CSRA has currently three provincial associations in membership: BCSRA, Manitoba SRA (MSRA) and Ontario SRA (OSRA) with one city/district association in membership: Calgary District SRA.

Several other referee associations across the country have expressed interest in joining the CSRA, some being provincial referee associations.

## FRASER VALLEY BBQ

FVSRA President **Dave Miller** announced that this year's annual BBQ will be held on **Saturday July 9th**. Everyone is asked to bring their favourite beverage.

The event will be held at Dave's residence in Aldergrove:  
Start time is about 6pm.

Call **Dave** at **604-856-0215** for more information.  
5768-256th Street, Aldergrove, BC

# Know your Fellow Members

This issue, the **Flag & Whistle** presents two members, who, by coincidence are fortunate to be involved in different ways with MLS games.

Name:

**Mynor Campos**

Resident of: Vancouver

Connection to MLS:

Reporter for FutbolMLSsoccer.com

(Spanish)



Number of Years

Refereeing:

11 years

Reason for getting

Started in

Refereeing::

I wanted to be

involved in the

game

*Most memorable moment in Refereeing:*

I have two: I was able to sit beside Canadian FIFA Referee Silviu Petrescu at his 4th official bench during the Beckham game in 2007. I was also 4th official for the match featuring Zidane at Swangard. *Advice you give to someone starting to Referee:*

Listen to the senior referees (for me it was guys like Rene Parra and Mauricio Navarro). They have gone through the same experiences that you are going through now.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

While the majority of branches are now officially in summer recess, we can report the following meeting dates for Area Association monthly meetings:

### August 15:

VISRA monthly meeting: Gordon Head Fieldhouse at Tyndall Park in Victoria, 7:15pm

### August 29:

VASRA monthly meeting: Bonsor Community Center (South Bby Metro Club Room) in Burnaby, 7pm

An update will be made with the Fall edition of the Flag & Whistle and also posted on the website.

Name:

**Emil Udovich**

Resident of: Vancouver

Connection to MLS: Game-day

Statistician

Number of Years Refereeing:



I was doing

it for years

but now retired

from active

refereeing.

Reason for

getting Started

in Refereeing:

I refereed as a kid for extra money and then as an adult I enjoyed the game so much I wanted to keep involved.

*Most memorable moment in Refereeing:*

Nothing immediately comes to mind.

*Advice you give to someone starting to Referee:*

Be yourself, don't lose your personality.

## Volunteers needed for Beach Blast

The 15th Annual Beach Soccer Blast will be held at Spanish Banks the weekend of **August 5-7**.

The Vancouver Area branch (VASRA) schedules the referees under the supervision of President **Marc Bowley**. Games are played on the beach featuring 2x14 minute halves.

Everyone is asked to call **Marc** at **604-278-9302** or email **marc.bowley@shaw.ca** to list your name and availability. In return for volunteering their time, members receive a shirt, shorts and will be fed for lunch.

Members are asked for a minimum of 5 games over the course of the weekend, with the biggest need on Saturday and Sunday where games start at 9:00 am and go until 6:00 pm (depending on the number of teams entering the tournament).

A great time will be had by all. Come out and enjoy some fun at the beach.

# AWARDS NIGHT



BC Soccer held its annual awards night on Saturday, June 11th at the Coast Coal Harbour Hotel in Vancouver. Below **Rick Connors**, Chairman of the Referees Committee of the provincial governing body and a member of the BCSRA as well is flanked by Youth Referee-of-the-Year and BCSRA member **Stephen Lebrechthausen** (right) and Adult Referee-of-the-Year **Kevin Duliba**. Congratulations to both fellow colleagues!



# Carol Anne Chenard to blow whistle at Women's World Cup

By George Johnson, Postmedia News June 20, 2011

Anonymity is about the best you can aspire to. Some job. "Thankless?" **Carol Anne Chenard** considers the familiar description a moment. "No, actually, I don't consider it thankless. Personally, I get a lot out of refereeing.

"When we do a game, we hope people aren't talking about specific calls afterward; that they're focused on the quality of the game and the players," added Chenard, who'll be working her first FIFA Women's World Cup, which begins later this week in Germany.

"That's the goal. The possibility that someone's not going to be happy comes with the territory.

"I love refereeing. It's given me the opportunity to travel to so many wonderful places. Given me the chance to be on the field with some of the best players in the world, meet so many interesting people. "We may not get the medals or the awards ceremonies, but the officiating community, the people involved in our end of the sport, are a very tight, supportive group."

The combination of characteristics required to do the job at all, let alone well, is, quite frankly, astonishing: The hide of an armadillo. The decisiveness, the nerve of a high-risk Wall Street trader. The self-belief of a prophet. Amateur psychologist, professional authority figure (by turns benevolent and unstinting).

It takes a special person to point to the spot in, say, the 88th minute of a tie game, feeling an entire country's wrath cascading down on top of them.

Chenard herself uses the words "brave" and "communicative" and "conviction" in

describing the essential qualities of a top-class referee.

At 34, a part of the FIFA officiating umbrella since 2006, she is lone Canadian official selected to take part in this year's Women's World Cup.

Chenard announced herself at the highest level after being picked to handle last year's FIFA Women's under-20 championship. Selected to work the final in front of 24,633 at Bielefeld Stadium, the host Germans clipped Nigeria 2-0 in an incident-free 90 minutes plus stoppages.

"For the game itself, there were a few jitters. But actually I wasn't as nervous as I thought I'd be. I was more anxious before I left about the tournament as a whole. It was my second U-20 World Cup appointment. I'd gone to Chile in 2008 and had a good tournament there.

"But I knew with this being the U-20 leading up to the Women's World Cup that the entire tournament would have a huge impact on choosing referees for this summer. "So I wanted to show the assessors, the instructors, everyone watching, that I'd improved since Chile, that I was up to the standard required.

"I absolutely wanted to referee the final. Who wouldn't want that assignment? But, honestly, I was more interested in doing a good job overall than just being focused on the final.

"I was confident in my team, confident in myself. We were lucky, with the home team playing there was a wonderful atmosphere in the stadium and the players were great. I was just led them through it. "They did the bulk of the work."

In Germany over the next three weeks, the scope broadens, the scrutiny intensi-

fies. "I'm really excited about this opportunity. This is what I've worked for since I started refereeing.

"The bigger the stage, the more controversial any decision is going to be. I'm lucky that I didn't have any big decisions to make during the under-20 final.

"There are always going to be calls that influence the outcome of a game. Other people might call them controversial, but if you believe in the call you've made, it's not controversial at all.

"Fans, media, the teams, are always going to have opinions. You might be booed in the stadium or criticized in the newspaper.

"But there's always satisfaction involved in knowing deep down, no matter what anyone else might say, that you did a good job."



*... You can be charming  
You can be decisive  
You can be charming  
and decisive  
or you can show the  
yellow card ...*

**Biana Steinhaus**  
German FIFA Referee

## Soccer referee refused to officiate

**Sarah Benkirane has been barred from refereeing while wearing her hijab.**

Updated: Mon Jun. 20, 2011; 11:19:47 • [ctvmontreal.ca](http://ctvmontreal.ca)

Lac St. Louis Soccer Association referee Sarah Benkiran was denied Monday in her effort to referee for the soccer league while wearing a hijab, which is an Islamic headdress.

The Quebec Soccer Federation reaffirmed its stance that it will strictly follow the rules set forth by the world's governing body FIFA, which forbids wearing anything of a religious nature on the pitch.

"It's clearly said," said federation president Dino Madonis at a press conference

Monday. "A player and officials shall not display political, religious or personal or commercial messages or slogans of any language."

In the past, Muslim girls were told it was a safety concern, but that appears to no longer be the case.

Benkiran says taking off her hijab is a non-starter. "For me it's not really an option to take it off," she explained to CTV Sunday. "It's part of my religion. It's part of who I am. It's the way I express myself, so I think I should be allowed to

wear it as long as I'm not causing any harm to anybody else and I'm not."

The Quebec Soccer federation says it would request a change in the rule from FIFA if there were a huge demand for hijabs on the field, but there isn't.

"Personally, I don't see why they should change," Madonis said. "But if there is a change, we're going to apply it."

In the meantime, the only way Benkiran will get back on the field is if she leaves her hijab at home.

## Congratulations

A hearty round of applause went out to **Nathan Bird** of the Vancouver Island Area branch (VISRA-South) for being selected as this year's recipient of the VISL Referee-of-the-Year Award. Congratulations Nathan!



VISRA President **Mark McNally-Dawes** (left) with **Nathan Bird**.

## IN MEMORIAM: TONY TYERS PASSES

*(Ed note: this passage also appeared on our website. It has been reprinted here as the words penned by VISRA North Secretary Stu Power are quite poignant).*

### Esteemed Colleagues

It is with a very heavy heart that I inform you of the passing of Tony Tyers at 6pm last evening (May 27th) at St. Joseph's Hospital in Comox.

Tony had been in the hospital just over a week and had undergone a battery of tests to determine the cause of his sudden deterioration in health. Results of many of the tests were still pending at the time of Tony's death.

Tony was a well respected former National Referee and Assessor and a mentor to many within the local Referee Association (ed note: North Vancouver Island SRA (NVISRA), the Northern



Chapter of the Vancouver Island Area Association), an Association he helped to build from the ground up alongside Malcolm Cowie, another former colleague, who left us too soon.

Our heart goes out to Vicky and the family at this time. No other information is available at present. I shall endeavour to keep you

informed, as I become aware of developments.

Stu Power, Secretary  
VISRA North

*(Ed note: The Flag & Whistle wishes to make members aware that per the request of the family, as Tony helped in start the society, in lieu of flowers donations can be made to the North Vancouver Island Soccer Referees Association, 2284 Noel Avenue West, Comox, B.C., V9M 1J3).*

## VISRA elects a new Executive

At its Annual General Meeting on Monday, April 18 2011, members affiliated with the Vancouver Island Area Association (VISRA) elected a new executive as follows:

*President:*

**Mark McNally-Dawes**

*Vice-President:*

**Ryan Perkins**

*Secretary: vacant*

**Michael McNalley-Dawes**

(agreed to be Acting Secretary for the time being)

*Treasurer:*

**Christian Hauer**

*Directors:*

**Scott Bakker**

**Terry Russell.**

Congratulations to the new executive!

## BC Soccer AGM

The BC Soccer AGM was held at the Coast Coal Harbour in downtown Vancouver over the weekend of June 11/12. Delegates representing 305 votes were present as well as associate members like ourselves – the BCSRA.

The event was interesting and well attended. The meeting opened with a presentation by CSA which set out their goal this year as being to market the organisation and soccer much more intensively, bringing attention to the National squads and major tournaments.

This was followed by a presentation from the company that has built the operating/business management computer program for BC Soccer and are coming under a fair bit of attack for not meeting scope or deadlines. They explained the changes they had made and assured us that the system would be well worth the \$60k/year contract.

Then there were several motions put forward to ammend constitution and by-laws, most were approved. After lunch Joe Branco presented on the referee development program, explaining how much effort and care was going into training referees and trying to establish consistency amongst officials.

This includes the Head Referee program, the Mentor program and the Candidates program. BC Soccer has established themselves as the regulator of referees and the guardian of refereeing.

This presentation was followed by elections – the board has a full slate again with no competed positions. After this the meeting was adjourned to allow attendees to prepare for the awards dinner that night. There were several workshops on Sunday – Adult soccer, Youth Soccer and more .... which we did not attend.

# Beckham blasts MLS refs

By Paul Attfield, *Globe and Mail*

Last updated Thursday, Apr. 14, 2011 1:53PM EDT

After picking up his fifth yellow card in six games so far this season in Major League Soccer, the Los Angeles Galaxy star decided enough was enough.

"To be honest, over the last few games I've spoke too much about referees," he ranted after his team's 0-0 draw with Toronto FC.



David Beckham

"They're becoming the stars of the MLS and that's obviously not what teams what and clubs want. You want players to be playing out there, you want it to be fair, and I just don't think the consistency is there.

"There's bad calls – and we've had our majority of bad calls over the last few games – but it's ruining games, it's ruining our preparation for games, so I'll probably get in trouble but it's gone on too long now so we want that consistency to be there and we want our players on the field so I think that's enough."

Still, despite his frustration at the booking which means he will miss Sunday's visit to the Chicago Fire, the former England captain was quick to point out he's still enjoying his Major League Soccer experience, in the fifth year of his original five-year deal.

"I've enjoyed it. It's been great," he related. "I think off the field, it's been very, very successful. There's franchises coming into the league – I've spoke about it so many times – but I want to be successful with the Galaxy. We've been close the last two seasons and hopefully this is the season.

The draw in Toronto leaves the Galaxy with just nine points from six games, so despite their high-powered lineup, the team is yet to fire on all cylinders. Still, with a 34-game regular season this year, there's plenty of time to get everyone on the same page for the reigning Supporters'

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## Garber addresses recent rancor over referees

MLS working with US & Canadian federations on "inconsistencies"

Nick Firchau *MLSsoccer.com* April 15, 2011 – PORTLAND, Ore.

Speaking at halftime of the Portland Timbers' home opener at JELD-WEN Field on Thursday night, MLS Commissioner Don Garber addressed a growing chorus of discontent over the league's referees this season.

MLS referees have handed out 160 yellow cards and 17 red cards in 44 matches so far this season, numbers big enough to draw the public ire of stars like David Beckham and Shalrie Joseph.

"We've worked with [US Soccer] and the Canadian Soccer Association on creating points of emphasis that we're working on with our clubs, our players and our officials, to try and ensure that we're promoting attacking soccer and protecting the safety of our players," Garber said.

"I think there have been some inconsistencies in how that has been managed over the last couple of weeks," he added.

Garber's comments came on the heels of Beckham's outcry following the LA Galaxy's scoreless draw against Toronto

FC on Wednesday night, during which Beckham picked up his fifth yellow card in six games, earning a one-game suspension that he'll serve this weekend against Chicago.

"I think there's bad calls, and we've had our majority of bad calls over the last few games, but it's ruining games," Beckham said Wednesday night. "It's ruining our preparation for games. I'll probably get in trouble, but it's gone on too long. We want that consistency to be there, and we want to keep our players on the field."

Joseph echoed a similar sentiment on *MLSsoccer.com's* ExtraTime Radio on April 11.

"I think the referees have been reckless with the cards for the last couple of games," he said. "There's no need for them to start pulling out red cards like it's the end of the world."

While Garber admitted that players' making their comments so public is a concern for the league, he also argued that it

actually helps put MLS on the same level as other leagues around the world.

"I think it means that we're a proper league," Garber said. "We're no different than any other league. Every game matters now, and years ago it didn't count as much. Here we are in the first month of the season, and losing three points in the minds of a player or coach because they think the officials took those points away, that really matters to them.

"There's bit more pressure on everybody." Garber also said that players and managers league-wide have managed their public comments about the officials "pretty well" this season, and reasserted that players will be fined if the league deems their public comments out of order.

"Nobody wins if we try to bring disrepute to our overall business," Garber said. "As emotionally challenging as that self-control is, it's in everybody's best interests to keep their feelings to themselves."

# A Seattle Ref Looks at Issues from the Zakuani Tackle

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**Roberto Alvarez** is on the Board of the Seattle Soccer Referees Association.

A reader of the site, he has been regularly seen in the comments section of Prost Amerika talking about refereeing issues.

Such has been the detail and eloquence with which he has explained complex issues, that we decided to ask him to contribute his views as a columnist.

In his first article he looks at the issues that faced match

referee Silviu Petrescu in the immediate aftermath of Brian Mullan's tackle on Steve Zakuani.

He also talks about an incident in the Bolton game where a Gary Cahill's header appeared to cross the line before being cleared by a defender, but was headed back inconclusively by Cahill's team mate Sturridge. He answers whether the EPL's goals panel can decide whose goal it is, or if the decision still hangs on when the referee awarded the goal.

## Mullan Tackle Created Repercussions Throughout the Game for Ref

by Roberto Alvarez, Seattle Soccer Referee Association

From a referee's point of view, the tackle by Brian Mullan and ensuing injury to Steve Zakuani was horrifying in two different ways. First of all, the tackle itself, the sound of bones snapping, and the emotionally-charged reaction to it had to be managed calmly, compassionately and effectively.

Secondly, that incident created a ripple effect that completely shook up any of the referee crew's preparations for managing the match – as much as the teams were forced to adjust their game plans, so too did the referees.

This is the third time I hear that heart-stopping and completely sickening “crack” of bones breaking on the pitch – and the first time I saw it on TV rather than in person.

This is a sound you can never forget, and you hope never to hear again. I practically jumped off my couch when I saw the tackle happening, and knew right away he was terribly injured. In fact, I screamed so loud my neighbor came over to see if I was OK.

This incident is a good example of how one bad decision can have a huge impact on the match. At this point (only 3 minutes in) the referee had had little reason to get actively involved in play.

There had been a few physical challenges but nothing major, and the teams were just beginning to settle into a playing rhythm. There was no prior indication that play would be building up to anything like this tackle.

The first hint of trouble was when Mullan lost the ball and got a no-call on the challenge from Wahl. He then got up after that hard contact and started running

straight for Zakuani.

From this it was easy to tell that he was frustrated at not getting a foul called, and was not going to let the Sounders keep the ball – he wanted to strip the ball back from Zakuani. However, his judgment was clouded by emotion.

At that point, I am sure the referee was already starting to run in and say something like “easy, no foul...” but Mullan's reaction was so swift that there was no time to prevent the tackle. He left his feet less than 2 yards from Zakuani, at a high rate of speed, and from the side.

His leading leg got the ball, yes – but what caused the damage was his trailing leg. It was tucked in behind the other leg and under Mullan's body, but hit the side of Zakuani's planted foot with the force of Mullan's full body weight. The contact and ensuing sound was... well, terrifying.

So the referee's quick whistle and red card (you could see him reaching for the red card in his back pocket before he finished blowing the whistle) were good reactions – as was his immediate presence at the spot of the foul and the isolation of Mullan from the rest of the players.

We don't need to go into what was said – you can easily hear the emotional level of outcry (and colorful language) from the Sounders FC players – but we can identify that the referee did a good job of protecting Mullan from the wrath of the Sounders. This is important because it also protected the Sounders from themselves; they now had a 1-man advantage and the last thing they needed to do was lose that advantage because someone took an ill-advised retaliatory swing at Mullan.

Thankfully, cooler heads prevailed and

Mullan was escorted off without any further emotional outbursts. The match resumed after a 5-minute delay – but that was not the end of it. The match was profoundly affected by that incident. Yes, tactically, the Sounders now had a 1-man advantage. But the referee crew needed to think about more than that.

The revised tactical formation meant the referee needed to manage three changes for the remainder of the match:

**1.** His running pattern. Colorado switched to alternating between a 4-4-1 on defense and 4-3-2 on offense. This meant the referee needed to account for Omar Cummings roving between the midfield and forward positions. As a result, he tended to edge more toward the Colorado end of midfield for the remainder of the match.

**2.** Awareness of the impact that incident had on player's willingness to take risks. Players on both teams were visibly shaken by the injury, whether they were on the field or on the bench. This affected the level of risk taken during play for some time after the incident and created a dampening effect – but at what point was that effect going to wear off?

Who would be likely to spark that change in the level of risk? And what would that do to the emotional level of play?

**3.** Awareness of any lingering emotions regarding the injury. How soon would players be able to get back to play, or would any of them be harboring bad feelings or a desire to get revenge for the injury? Who needed to be watched for any signs of emotional instability?

*Cont'd on page 7*

# Ballboys' tricks puzzle Spanish league

By Paul Logothetis, AP Sports Writer Apr 25, 6:02 pm EDT, Madrid (AP)

Footballers are renowned for stretching the rules to breaking point to gain an advantage, and now it seems the ball boys are getting in on the act.

Zaragoza's 1-0 win over Almeria on Monday was marred by the latest example of what seems to be a growing trend in the Spanish league that has seen extra balls being thrown onto the field in order to stop play.

On two occasions, extra balls bounced onto the pitch with the hosts clinging to a 1-0 lead in the game's final minutes.

This was the second game in a row at La Romareda stadium that has been disrupted in this manner. Two weeks ago amid a flurry of balls tossed onto the pitch—a ball flew out of the Zaragoza dug-out as the financially troubled and relegation-battling club held on for a 2-1 victory over Getafe.

The same time-wasting tactics were employed during Sevilla's 3-2 win over Villarreal on Sunday and Real Madrid's

visit to Osasuna in January.

A video replay clearly shows a ballboy throwing another ball onto the pitch at Sanchez Pizjuan stadium as Villarreal pushed upfield late in the contest, and another ball was launched onto the field from the tunnel above Villarreal's goal.

Zaragoza and Osasuna were fined a paltry ?602 (\$877) in both earlier cases.

"Futbol is played with one ball...some people should learn before coming to stadiums and ruining a nice, exciting game," Villarreal striker Giuseppe Rossi wrote on Twitter after the defeat by Sevilla.

Referee Alberto Undiano Mallenco made mention of the extra balls at Sevilla in his match report, which means the Spanish football federation's disciplinary committee will have to study it. But it's unlikely to raise the penalty.

"We should look at altering the regulations," federation spokesman Jorge Carretero told The Associated Press on Monday. "The rules need to generate fines

that are relative to the penalty.

"The problem with the current regulations is that they say a higher sanction can only be applied if the penalty is of a violent nature."

Villarreal goalkeeper Diego Lopez even nudged over a ballboy after he hesitated in handing the ball over to the Spanish 'keeper, who decided to fetch it from behind the advertising boarding himself.

"It's something you shouldn't expect to see at the stadium. In those moments when you're losing and they do these types of things you feel ready to do act out stupidly but you have to control yourself," Lopez said afterward.

"What can you do? It's shameful. It's a question of sportsmanship."

Levante goalkeeper Gustavo Munua also experienced similar problems at Atletico Madrid on Sunday as ballboys wasted time and often let the balls land short when Munua asked for them. Atletico won 4-1.

In January, Madrid lost 1-0 at the Reyno de Navarra Stadium to see its league hopes begin to slip away. Balls were sent onto the field as Madrid attacked, forcing play to stop.

"If it doesn't break the law according to statutes, then the committee can't really do much," Carretero added.

## Tackle Created Repercussions

Cont'd from page 6

The natural strong-willed players to watch out for were James Riley and O'Brian White, both of whom showed the strongest reactions among the Sounders immediately after the injury, and Osvaldo Alonso, who as defensive midfielder had the most opportunities to inflict a hard contact on the opponents. Luckily, none of the three ever lost their heads – but it did not mean the referee crew could afford to ignore them.

The last effect this tackle had on the match came after it was over. Referee crews file a match report with the league immediately after each match.

This tackle and the ensuing red card will have been included in the report – and there was a choice to be made.

There is no question that excessive force was used, but this sending off could be classified as either "Serious Foul Play" (if the referee judged that Mullan was attempting to play the ball), or "Violent Conduct" (if the referee judged that Mullan had no intention to play the ball and was actually aiming to injure the opponent).

The difference between the two is significant. "Serious Foul Play" can result in as little as a one-match suspension, while

"Violent Conduct" can result in significant time away from the field.

At this year's Professional Division Referee Training Seminar, the league made their point regarding tackles like this one and a similar one on Dallas' David Ferreira by Jonathan Leathers on Saturday in Vancouver, that can cause significant injury to players and have a very negative effect on play. The message was loud and clear – "what may have been a strong caution last year is a sending off this year."

The MLS Disciplinary Committee can use this tackle and the ensuing suspension to Mullan to confirm that the league meant what they said at the pre-season message to referees. For now, we need to wait until that decision is taken – and send lots of positive thoughts to Steve Zakuani.

Now to the issue of the Bolton goal. It's not a goal until the WHOLE of the ball crosses the WHOLE of the line. From the replays, it looks as if this did not happen until Sturridge headed it back in. But unless the FA does things differently, the goal belongs to Sturridge because that's what the referee indicated in his report.

I don't think any goal panel would disagree with that.

## Tiger Liu Appointed Head of Referee Development

The Canadian Soccer Association has appointed Mr. **Tiger (Hu) Liu** as the Head of Referee Development. A former FIFA Referee Mr Liu has over 33 years of soccer referee experience at the international, professional and amateur levels.

Mr. Liu will assume responsibility for the continued growth of referees across Canada, developing and delivering excellence in officiating below the National Level in conjunction with the Provincial and Territorial Associations. As the former Director of Refereeing for the Lac St. Louis Soccer Association, Mr. Liu brings extensive experience in evaluating, educating, and coaching referees at all levels.

Mr. Liu will join the Association's Referee Department on 2 May and be based at the Ottawa office. He can be reached at [attliu@soccercan.ca](mailto:attliu@soccercan.ca)