

FLAG & WHISTLE

Official Newsletter of the BC Soccer Referees Association – Fall 2011



A Referee's Women's World Cup Experience

It was a dream come true when I received the letter officially appointing me to the Women's World Cup (WWC) in Germany. Although I had performed well at the selection camp and had also had two strong U20 Women's World Cup performances, nothing is ever a sure thing until you receive the invitation letter (and even then, I always say nothing is for sure until you are walking onto the pitch).

This time around in Germany was a different experience than my previous FIFA events as all of Frankfurt (the referees home base) was decked out and ready to support this great event and all the teams participating.

Signs, advertisements and fan zones were all over. The referees arrived 10 days before the event in order to have our medicals done, participate in classroom and on field training sessions and of course pass the fitness test. I am proud to say that only one 4th official (out of 51 officials) did not pass the fitness test and this was due to injury. Only after the successful fitness test, can we truly say that we are World Cup referees!!!

The referees at the WWC were not isolated like the referees are at the Men's World Cup. We stayed in a hotel in the heart of Frankfurt and that allowed us to explore a little during our free time. We did have security but for the first time (at least for me) we did have photographers try and sneak around and take pictures of us. We also weren't as anonymous as we usually are. The fans were very knowledgeable and several times we were asked if we were referees while we were out. We were even asked to get our photographs taken with fans.

Overall, this event went very well from a refereeing standpoint,



(Left to right in photo): Emperatriz Ayala, Carol Anne Chenard, Therese Neguel, Cindy Mohammed

but of course there were some controversial moments. Perhaps the most talked about controversy was the missed handball in the penalty area by Equatorial Guinea in their game against Australia. After every set of games, there is a debriefing where only the referees, the instructors and the referee committee members are present. We look at clips and decisions, both good and bad, in an attempt to learn from other's experiences.

I did not see this game live, nor was I present at the debriefing as I was working a game on the same day and then travelling directly to my next game. I will say that the atmosphere was not great when I got back to our home base, as no referee or crew wants to make a mistake, let alone one on the biggest stage. Mistakes affect all referees, as we truly are a big support to one another. During the debriefing, we discuss why the decision was missed, how information is communicated from other members of the officiating team to the referee, the responsibilities of each member of the team (and when you must overstep them) and what to do if this type of situation happens in your game.

This mistake arose because of a simple miscommunication and misunderstanding. I will say that after this incident, I added something to my pregame regarding how to get me to stop play if one of my crew have attempted to communicate something to me and I am not responding or understanding.

Another new experience for everyone at this event was the fact that some referees were released unexpectedly after the round robin prior to the first planned release, which was scheduled for after the quarterfinals.

It's not easy seeing your friends and colleagues go home, and it also meant that my two "original" assistants were sent home.

I experienced the WWC slightly differently than most referees. As mentioned above, I was one of very few officials that did not work with the same assistants throughout the tournament. In fact, I did not work any game with the same assistants.

This can be difficult, as we did not have the luxury of having worked many games together in preparation for the tournament and in my case, we spoke 3 different languages, with me being the only one that could speak all three. Speaking multiple languages is definitely a plus.

A very clear pre-game, confidence, decisiveness and leadership on the pitch also become more important when trying to overcome the language barrier. I refereed 3 games (COL vs. Sweden, England vs. Japan and the semifinal Japan vs. Sweden) and was 4th official for 2 games (Norway vs. Brazil and Germany vs. Japan). In all, I was involved in the most games of any official at the event. All of my games were a pleasure to be a part of. The teams were there to play soccer and to showcase their talent. Almost all games were played with a great spirit of fair play.

Cont'd next page

Referee's World Cup *Cont'd from page 1*

Imagine being involved in a WC semi-final, where the referee can let the game flow and only call 11 fouls. It was truly a pleasure to be part of these games.

If I had to share with you one thing that I learned at this event, even though there were many, it was made very clear that **each** official involved in the game, referee, assistant or 4th official, **must** have an opinion on what is happening in the game.

Critical decisions cannot be missed and even though something occurs outside of what we might consider our area of responsibility, the referee team must get it right. All members of the team must be ready to make decisions and give their opinion.

There is nowhere to hide in these games. There were up to 25 cameras around the field, capturing each incident. In reality, there are no referee decisions or assistant-referee decisions when it comes to important moments in the match. As an example, the 4th official must be ready to help the referee crew out when necessary.

With the communication system, this help can actually be quite seamless and make the referee team look good no matter where the decision is coming from.

Overall, the atmosphere in the stadiums, the level of soccer knowledge of the fans and the quality of the soccer, made this the best WWC. I have never spoken to so many people who watched and followed this entire event from start to finish. I believe it has made many lifetime fans of women's international soccer.

What a great way to showcase what is to come in 2014 and 2015 when Canada hosts the U-20 WWC and the WWC.

Carol Anne Chenard, Sept 10 2011

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Life member Dante Maglio introduced into Italian Cultural Center



(L-R) Michael Cuccione, President Cultural Centre society; Dante Maglio; Frank Spatrano, Chair Life Membership Committee

In conjunction with the Italian Cultural Center's 34th Anniversary Banquet in Vancouver on September 16th, BCSRA Life Member **Dante Maglio** was honoured as the newest inductee into the Italian Cultural Center's Hall of Fame.

On hand to witness Dante's achievement were BCSRA Immediate Past

President Elvio Chies and Vancouver Area branch President Marc Bowley.

The Hall of Fame was created in 1981 with the scope of recognizing and celebrating the extraordinary accomplishments of individuals who have distinguished themselves in Vancouver's Italian community and in the community at large.

The Centre inducts a particularly deserving nominee or nominees to its Hall of Fame at its annual Anniversary Banquet.

Inductees are to distinguish themselves in one of several areas including Arts and Culture, Social and Humanitarian, Science and Technology and Sports.

Past inductees include the Hon. Phil Gagliardi, Herb Capozzi, Sam Lenarduzzi (brother of Whitecaps FC President Bob Lenarduzzi), Dominic Mobilio and former Vancouver Canucks Darcy Rota and Cesare Maniago.

Congratulations to Dante Maglio on his induction.

Criminal Record Check for Referees

Members are asked to take note that BC Soccer Rule 22 has been amended this year, requiring all referees who are over school age and may work with school age assistant referees to have current criminal record checks on file.

BCSRA was consulted and advised against this requirement. However, BC Soccer decided to implement it anyway.

While acknowledging the need for the provincial governing body to protect itself against potential abuse cases, in explaining the issue, President-elect **Nick Hawley** explained,

"My opinion is that in the case of a coach who is with kids at practice and in a car and at restaurants and with the same kids week after week they will build a relationship with those kids that they could abuse.

A referee will arrive at a field and meet their

assistants in full view of the parents, having to go through a criminal record check for that is excessive."

BC Soccer has partnered with a company called MyBackCheck to help one get started on a criminal record check.

A link to the company's website, **mybackcheck.com** can be used to get to. These checks can also be shared with other organizations one requires a criminal record check.

But you will need to print out the documents and take them to a post office for scanning and transmitting to mybackcheck.com.

A Canada Post office uses their infra-red check out scanner – and many don't know how to use it in this manner.

In some cities you can go direct to the RCMP who will carry out the process for free if you say that you are a volunteer.

Change in the guard for CSA Refereeing Post

CSA Director of Officiating Joe Guest will be handing over his portfolio to former Canadian FIFA Referee Tiger Liu in order to concentrate more heavily in his role as Deputy General Secretary of the National body.

In a report made at the September Fraser Valley Area branch meeting, CSA Referees

Committee and Fraser Valley Area branch Life Member Bob Sawtell indicated with Canada due to host both the FIFA Women's U-20 and Women's World Cup, the demands of Mr. Guest's time stretched the ability to focus on both the Director of Officiating and Deputy General Secretary's duties.

You are the Referee – Know the Laws of the Game

Try your hand at these questions on the Laws of the Game. As a referee, knowledge of the laws is paramount. Without it, our performance can suffer as we cannot manage the game properly. Answers for this quiz will be available in the Holiday 2011 issue of the Flag and Whistle. Be on the lookout for a new quiz in this next issue as well.

1. A player is guilty of unsporting behaviour while the ball is in play. The referee stops play and cautions him. How should the game be restarted?
 - a. Play is restarted with an indirect free kick
 - b. Play is restarted with a direct free kick
 - c. Play is restarted with either a free kick, penalty kick, or dropped ball
 - d. Play is restarted with a dropped ball
2. What is the difference between serious foul play and violent conduct?
 - a. Excessive force or violence
 - b. Serious foul play is committed against an opponent, team-mate, substitutes, referee, officials, or spectators
 - c. Serious foul play can only occur in the process of challenging for the ball while it is in play
 - d. None of the previous answers is correct
3. With the ball in play, a substitute throws an object with excessive force from his technical area, hitting an opponent who is on the field of play. What decision should the referee make?
 - a. The referee sends off the substitute for violent conduct and awards an indirect free kick to be taken from where the ball was at the time play was stopped.
 - b. The referee cautions the substitute for unsporting behaviour and awards an indirect free kick to be taken from the place the ball was at the time play was stopped.
 - c. The referee sends off the substitute for violent conduct and awards a dropped ball to be taken from where the ball was at the time play was stopped
 - d. None of the previous answers is correct
4. After a goal kick is taken, the ball strikes the referee before leaving the penalty area. What decision should the referee make?
 - a. The referee orders the goal kick to be retaken
 - b. The referee awards a dropped ball
 - c. The referee allows play to continue
 - d. None of the answers is correct
5. A player is leaving the field of play to be substituted after having received permission from the referee. Before leaving the field of play, he strikes an opponent using excessive force. What decision should the referee make?
 - a. Referee sends off the player and allows the substitution. Play is restarted according to the Laws of the Game
 - b. The referee sends off the player and does not allow the substitution. Play is restarted with a direct free kick.
 - c. The referee sends off the player, allows the substitution as it had been requested previously. Play is restarted with an indirect free kick
 - d. The referee sends off the player and does not allow him to be substituted, however another player could be substituted during the stoppage. Play is restarted according to the Laws of the Game.
6. May a free kick be taken by lifting the ball with one foot or both feet simultaneously?
 - a. No, the referee should caution the player for delaying the restart of play
 - b. Yes, the ball is in play when it is kicked with one foot or two and it moves
 - c. No, the ball is in play when it is kicked with only one foot
 - d. No, the referee should caution the player for unsporting behaviour
7. Which answer is correct
 - a. The referee should always stop play for infringements of Law 3 and Law 4
 - b. The referee should not always stop play for infringements of Law 3 and Law 4
8. Are rubber or aluminum studs permitted?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Yes, as long as the material is approved by the organisers of the competition
 - d. Yes, provided they are not dangerous
9. What decision should the referee make if a player delays taking a throw-in?
 - a. The referee cautions the player for delaying the restart of play
 - b. The referee cautions the player for unsporting behaviour
 - c. The referee cautions the player for delaying the restart of play and orders a new throw-in to be taken by the opposing team
 - d. The referee takes no action. The ball is not in play
10. A player takes a free kick quickly. An opponent who is close to the ball deliberately prevents the quick kick. What decision should the referee make?
 - a. Let play continue
 - b. Caution the player for delaying the restart of play during the next stoppage in play
 - c. Caution the opponent and order the free kick retaken
 - d. None of the answers is correct
11. The referee should always stop play for infringements of Law 3 but not for all infringements of Law 4
12. The referee should always stop play for infringements of Law 4 but not for all infringements of Law 3

“Answers must be submitted via email with subject title **“BCSRA Fall newsletter Quiz”** to: bcreferees@gmail.com and received no later than **October 31, 2011**.

The Quiz is open to all paid-up members except for those members who are certified BC Soccer Instructors or Assessors. A Fox 40 whistle will be given to the member with the most correct answers. In case of more than one member with the same number of correct answers The recipient will be drawn from a hat

containing all names of those with the equal amount of correct answers.

In order to accept the prize the winner must be willing to have their name published in the Flag & Whistle newsletter.

Example for answer

1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, 5, 6a, 7a, 8a, 9a, 10a
or
1a
2a
3a
4a
etc

Massimo Busacca appointed as Head of FIFA Refereeing Department

(FIFA.com) Wednesday 13 July 2011

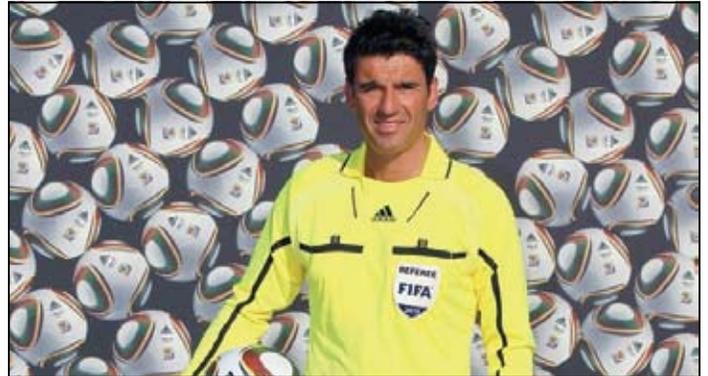
FIFA announced the appointment of **Massimo Busacca** as the Head of the FIFA Refereeing Department. Having recently called time on his refereeing career, the former Swiss international referee will join the ranks of world football's governing body on 1 August 2011.

"As I have said on many occasions, I have made refereeing one of my main priorities. Massimo Busacca's experience will prove to be particularly useful to our mission and to our efforts to continue the groundwork we have put in place with the confederations and member associations in this particularly important area. I am very happy that he has joined us," said FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter.

During a refereeing career spanning more than 20 years, including 12 as an international referee, Massimo Busacca officiated at two FIFA World Cups (2006 and 2010) as well as at EURO 2008. He also took charge of the UEFA Champions League final in 2009, the UEFA Cup final in 2007 and the UEFA Super Cup in 2010. In addition, he also refereed more than 250 matches in the Swiss top flight, the AXPO Super League.

Busacca, who is 42, married and multilingual (Italian, English, French, German and Spanish), is also a member of the new FIFA Task Force Football 2014 chaired by Franz Beckenbauer.

"I have learned an enormous amount during the years I have dedicated to refereeing. I now intend to pass that knowledge on to my refereeing colleagues to ensure that refereeing continues to improve and to help it to prepare better for the future. This is something that I am very passionate about, and it is a role that I have accepted with great pride and pleasure. I would like to thank FIFA for the faith they have placed in me," said the new Head of FIFA's Refereeing Department.



World's oldest football rule book from oldest club sells for Can \$1.36 million

The Associated Press – London

While English Premier League clubs splash their cash on high-profile players in the off-season transfer window, one buyer has spent plenty on a veteran of world football.

The sport's oldest rule book, dating from 1857, was sold at auction in London on Thursday for 881,250 pounds (\$1.36 million Canadian).

The handwritten pamphlet was sold to a telephone bidder at Sotheby's auction house as part of an archive of Sheffield FC, the world's oldest football club. Sheffield FC sold the 154-year-old document to raise money for the amateur club, which plays seven tiers below the Premier League.

"There was huge international interest, reflecting the truly global appeal of both the game itself and its remarkable evolution," Sheffield FC chairman Richard Tims said. "We are delighted with the sale of this extraordinary piece of sporting history, the proceeds of which will allow Sheffield Football Club to develop its facilities and secure its future as the home of grass roots football."

The rule book contains many innovations by Sheffield FC that are still part of the modern game, such as the corner kick, crossbar and indirect free kick. Also included are many other elements still familiar to current fans, such as throws, goal kicks and restrictions on handling the ball.

Just as modern greats Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo enjoy protection from the attentions of burly opposition defenders, players in the 19th century were also shielded from the worst excesses by restrictions on fouls. But things were still a lot

more physical back then. "Pushing with the hands is allowed but no hacking or tripping is fair under any circumstances whatsoever," the rule book states.

Metro Women's Soccer League

The Metro Women's Soccer League is the biggest league in North America with over 4,000 players. Approximately 110 games are played each weekend in the Winter Season. The league also has a Summer season. The leagues encompasses various levels of play: from U-21 to Open Women's to Classics (Over-35).

At the time of this writing, the League had instituted a "No slide tackling" rule for its 4th Division and Classics Section (members officiating games in the MWSL are asked to contact Head Referee **Michelle Pye** to confirm whether this rule still exists).

Referees are instructed to keep in mind a slide tackle is defined as challenge for a ball with an opponent while sliding. Keepers, as a part of playing their position are allowed to slide for the ball in these situations. However, if in the opinion of the referee, the keeper's slide tackle was reckless, a foul can still be called and the keeper being given a caution.

The Premier Division constitutes of 5 teams.

Metro Women's League goes in different direction

Local League Focus

(Ed note: "Local League Focus" is a new feature in the Flag and Whistle whereby each issue we will highlight a local league, be it at the adult or youth level. Here, we present a story on the Metro Women's Soccer League, which plays in both the Vancouver and Fraser Valley areas).

In a move to try and build bridges between referees and the league, the executive of the **Metro Women's League (MWSL)** has not only changed the way they schedule referees in the league, but also created a new position of Head Referee.

To this end, at a meeting hosted by the league on September 7th at the Burnaby 8 Rinks complex, Canadian FIFA Referee and BCSRA member **Michelle Pye** was officially introduced to the 130 attendees, as the league's new, and first, Head Referee. Michelle has been on the FIFA Referee list since 2007 and has participated in several high profile tournaments at both the FIFA and CONCACAF level, including two FIFA U/17 World Cups and the inaugural Youth Olympics held in 2010 in Singapore. She is also a BC Soccer certified Assessor and Instructor, and is currently on maternity leave from her job as a teacher in the North Vancouver School District.

In leading the meeting, Michelle indicated that her role is to liaise between the league and referees and also between teams and referees – the role is essentially designed to have someone responsible for all matters relating to refereeing in the MWSL.

The need for the position arose when the league realized that their referees needed some support and acknowledgment of a job well done. They also needed someone to help out when referees needed more evaluation and education to improve in their trade.

While Michelle has acknowledged that there will be some changes instituted – most notably with regards to scheduling and the introduction of an "evaluation" process of all referees – she hopes to implement these changes in a manner where everybody (league, teams and referees themselves) can benefit and get better."

She stated, "I can't change the past. I can only move forward and build a better future. I look forward to working with all of you this season."

The meeting began with Michelle presenting a list of expectations the League expects from everyone officiating in their games. Some ranged from obvious items,

e.g. work hard, follow the FIFA Laws, check the cards, show up at least 20 minutes prior to a match, etc. Others were on-going bones of contention from the league or teams.

Referees in attendance were asked not to "coach" players (e.g. telling a player they have an open teammate on the wing). Everyone was asked to ensure all jewellery was taken off (it was reported that many times players lie about not being able to remove jewellery in order to test the referee's conviction!) and to ensure they fill in the required reports within 24 hours.

The importance of the last point was emphasized by League President **Laurie Robertson**. The report also includes the score and is used by the League to update their website.

The new online scheduling system is the League's attempt to make the allocation of appointments easier and more efficient for everybody.

In order to receive appointments, referees are asked to fill in a profile via the League's website (www.mwsl.com). At the time of this writing, over 200 referees had completed their profile. Games will be scheduled on a weekly basis, taking into account the referees' availability and level of game, and then automatically sent out via email for confirmation.

All officials were asked to confirm their games within 24 hours so that a replacement can be found if they are unavailable. The on-line system is brand new and is being designed specifically for the MWSL.

"While there will undoubtedly be some minor growing pains during its implementation," Michelle explained, "ultimately this system will make everyone's jobs easier and will be very user friendly for referees to update their profiles, accept or reject games, and complete their game reports."

In wanting all referees that officiate in the League to be evaluated so they can find their place within the League's pyramid of appointments, the MWSL has worked with BC Soccer Referees Committee member **John Nielsen** to develop an evaluation form to be filled in by a group of experienced referees. The

form highlights eight different areas to be looked at including Pre-game checks, proper uniforms, appropriate behaviour, and proper positioning and foul recognition. Each area would be "scored" with either 1 point or zero.

The goal is to get a "1" in all 8 areas. While referees may or may not know they are being evaluated, John Nielsen explained that the evaluation is **not** counted as an assessment and was also quick to point out that it's not a pass or fail device.

The purpose of it is merely to give the league and Michelle an indication of referees that are doing a good job and should be considered for higher profile matches as the season progresses.

Lastly, another aspect of Michelle's role would be to help nurture and retain female referees. With FIFA's expectations of using female referees in female games, the MWSL has stated that they would love to get more female referees involved in their games.

Michelle stated that, down the road, she would love set up certification clinics for women interested in becoming involved with refereeing.

All things considered, the introduction of a Head Referee in the MWSL (and some of the proposed changes) stands to benefit everyone involved in the league.

If you would like to become involved in officiating in the league, please visit the MWSL website at www.mwsl.com

CSA National Championship Appointments

The CSA has appointed the following referees for the upcoming National Championships this Fall:

U18: **Rubincio Smiley,**

Phil Barrington*

Seniors: **Alain Ruch***

Marco Arruda*

CIS Men's Championships:

Mauricio Navarro, Paul Ward,

Martin Reid*, Darren Clark,

Kevin Duliba, Marco Arruda*

Congratulations to all referee colleagues on their appointments.

*Denotes BCSRA member 2010-2011

Faking it on the Soccer Field

By Peter Gwynne, ISNS Contributor

A study shows that elite women soccer players are less likely than top male players to fake on-field injuries

(ISNS)-As the U.S. women prepared for a showdown with France in last July's semifinal of the World Cup of soccer, a research group has reported two tantalizing tendencies in the game. Top female soccer players aren't beyond faking injury to deceive referees and gain an advantage over their opponents. But they don't do it as much as their male counterparts.

"It looks like there may be some injury simulation in the women's game," concluded Dr. Daryl Rosenbaum, assistant professor of family and community medicine at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in North Carolina who headed the study. "But if you compare it with the men's game, it's half as much."

The fact that women players simulate injuries doesn't surprise Lisa Cole, associate head coach of the Women's Professional Soccer League's Boston Breakers.

"It comes from getting the referee to make the right call," Cole said. "The best players are getting kicked a lot. But if they don't go down, the referees aren't sophisticated enough to give a foul."

Simulation of injuries is common in top-class men's soccer today. In the 2006 men's World Cup, only half of the apparent injuries that received treatment on the field corresponded to real injuries, according to team physicians.

In a typical scenario, a player falls to the ground after a hard slide tackle, crying out in apparent agony, perhaps rolling over several times, and staying prone. But once the referee has awarded a free kick and possibly a yellow card against the tackler, the "injured" player miraculously recovers, often getting up with a smirk on his face.

FIFA, the Switzerland-based organization that oversees world soccer, expressed concern about the issue in 2008.

It called for the soccer family "to unite in denouncing simulation and working to eradicate this scourge from the game in order to assist the referee's identification of serious injuries and, more generally, to uphold the fundamental principles of fair play and preserve the integrity of the game."

Most of the incidents that sparked FIFA's statement occurred in top-level men's soccer. Last year, Rosenbaum's

team reported in the International Journal of Sports Medicine, a video study of international men's tournaments on four continents showed a large majority of questionable injuries.

"Only 7.2 percent of apparent injuries met our definition for a 'definite injury,'" Rosenbaum said.

Now the same group of researchers has tackled injury simulation in the women's game.

The team studied videos of 47 games from the 2003 and 2007 women's World Cup tournaments.

They chose the same criteria for apparent injuries that they had used for the men's study. "A player had to go to ground, writhing or rolling, grabbing a body part, yelling, having an anguished facial expression, or hiding her face," Rosenbaum said.

To qualify as a definite injury, the team decided that the player would have to experience visible bleeding or leave the field within five minutes of the incident. "All other incidents were labeled as questionable injuries," the team wrote in the journal *Research in Sports Medicine*.

During the two women's tournaments, the researchers found that only 13.7 percent of the apparent injuries met the criteria for definite injuries.

And for the 2007 World Cup, team physicians reported only 2.3 injuries per game, while the video review of players' behavior suggested six apparent injuries in each match. In addition, questionable injuries were associated more than definite injuries with situations that led the referee to penalize the team causing the injury.

"So it looks like there may be some simulation in the women's game," Rosenbaum said. "But this study shows that women are less likely than men to fake soccer injuries."

What might explain the gender differences?

"Men are bigger and faster and playing on same size field as women, so they experience more contact that can cause immediate contusions but do not require a player to withdraw," Rosenbaum says.

However, he suspects that more cynical reasoning also plays a part in the difference. "The pressures and the money at stake in the men's game are so much higher," he said. "Desperate times call for

desperate measures."

Higher stakes can also have a role when women players feign injury. Coach Cole sees more temptation to simulate in the women's professional game than in college soccer. Because of the skills of the players, she said, "a free kick at the professional level is that much more dangerous. Players want those calls more often than not."

Rosenbaum plans to seek more precise answers to the gender question in his next research project.

"I've developed a survey to distribute to elite clubs, professional players, and youth players, which will ask them (anonymously) if they've engaged in the injury simulation behavior and why," Rosenbaum said.

Meanwhile, soccer fans can take heart from one conclusion of the study of women players.

The researchers found no evidence that teams that simulated injuries more frequently won more often.

A new addition to the referee family

Alain Ruch and Michelle Pye welcomed the birth of their baby daughter **Andison Elizabeth Ruch** in late July. Congratulations to both on their new addition to their family.



Goal-Line Technology

At last, the football authorities move to embrace goal-line technology

By: Dennis Ndaba 29th July 2011

The ruling out of England's Frank Lampard's goal during the 2010 FIFA World Cup, even though the ball clearly crossed the line, sparked a flood of calls for the introduction of goal-line technology (GLT).

It is also debatable whether, if the goal had been awarded, it could have changed the outcome of the World Cup, with others believing that it was not going to spare the annihilation of the England team 4-1 by Germany.

FIFA president **Sepp Blatter** issued an apology to the English Football Association (FA) for the disallowed goal and promised that the federation would revisit the issue of GLT.

GLT determines whether the ball has crossed the goal line, thus indicating if a goal has been scored or not.

Whether GLT should be used or not was first raised in 2005, when midfielder Pedro Mendes hit a shot 45 yards from goal and goalkeeper Roy Carroll caught the ball and then dropped it at least a yard behind the line before clawing it back out, with neither the referee nor the linesman seeing the ball crossing the line.

Blatter then decided to run trial tests on the accuracy of the technology at the under-17 World Championship, in Peru, also in 2005, after which more tests were to follow in other junior competitions in 2007. However, those trials did not materialise and, by 2008, Blatter had rejected the system outright, describing the technology as "only 95% accurate."

At the 125th International Football Association Board (IFAB) annual general meeting in Wales, on March 5, the board agreed to the further extension of experimentation with GLT.

The IFAB comprises representatives from each of the UK's pioneering football associations, such as the FA, the Scottish Football Association, the Football Association of Wales and Northern Ireland's Irish Football Association and FIFA, the international governing body for football.

The IFAB appointed FIFA to further evaluate the current technology status. An independent testing institute will verify the accuracy and functionality of different technology providers' systems, in line with the principles laid out in October

2010 by the IFAB.

During the meeting, the IFAB agreed to reopen discussions on GLT and the members of the IFAB agreed on principles including that the technology would apply solely to the goal line, and only to determine whether a goal has been scored or not.

They also agreed that the system must be accurate, the indication of whether a goal has been scored must be immediate and automatically confirmed within one second, and the indication of whether a goal has been scored will only be communicated to the match officials.

To evaluate the current technologies available, FIFA invited interested GLT providers, including those who took part in tests carried out at the home of FIFA, in Switzerland, in February, to participate in the further extension of experimentation with GLT.

The initial series of tests that month resulted in ten companies not being able to meet the testing criteria.

Blatter said at the time there was a need to first have the answer to the basic principles – accuracy and speed – which meant the immediate delivery of the result and a system that was not too complicated to implement. He added that the federation had not achieved these things so far with its independent laboratory tests.

"Therefore, it is a question of one year. What is one year? It is nothing. Just a little bit of patience is needed. But it was a positive approach in the meeting today, and there was not a single person there, despite the fact that we had a lot of special guests today, going against the tests."

He revealed that the IFAB would want to test the technology in a match situation before any decision was made.

FA chairperson David Bernstein commented: "The words of the president on GLT are positive. The FA might have liked to be a little bit firmer about adopting it now but, nevertheless, it is a very realistic position. We are encouraged by a much more positive feel around the table about GLT, so, on both fronts, I think it is good progress."

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research sports technology centre head Dr Tony Kirkbride tells Engineering News that there are arguments both for and

against the introduction of GLT.

The centre specialises in soccer performance analysis and provides support for the South African Football Association in preparing teams for competition.

It has developed bespoke software that is used alongside commercial products to provide technical and tactical analysis support to Bafana Bafana coach Pitso Mosimane.

"Clearly, it is in everyone's interest to improve refereeing decision-making in soccer, and determining when a goal has been scored or not is a critical area for adjudication," says Kirkbride.

He adds that FIFA did issue a request for proposals and two competing systems are known to have responded – Hawk-Eye, a well-known visual/image processing solution, and Cairos, a sensor-based solution.

He points out that both systems are expensive and pose different challenges in their implementation, in particular, a large amount of equipment and technical personnel is required to implement and monitor the systems.

"Simple video replays of events, such as run-outs in cricket and tries in rugby, add a certain degree of tension through anticipation of the result.

This may be the simplest solution to implement in soccer – no 'technology' other than simple video replays. However, the additional time taken to adjudicate the correct decision will need to be factored into broadcast deals and transmission times. It will certainly add a new dimension; whether this approach will add impetus remains to be seen," stresses Kirkbride.

He explains the benefit would be improved refereeing through correct decision-making.

He argues, however, that, in all likelihood, the game will probably be slowed down while a nominated person reviews the output of the technology, whether this be a 'decision' made by image processing, sensors or simply video slow motion review.

"Many sports have embraced the use of technology in officiating – soccer lags behind and I am sure this will not be for very much longer.

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Goal-line technology

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Any technology that improves refereeing and a spectator's enjoyment of the game, without too much interference in the broadcast time and sponsors' rights, I am sure will find acceptance in soccer."

Kick Off Magazine editor Richard Maguire tells Engineering News that GLT is separate from other types of technologies that are used in other sporting codes and is solely used for goal-line incidents.

"I think there is no longer a compelling argument against it. We have seen frustrating situations recently and over the years, where everyone in the stadium except the referee has seen that the ball has crossed the goal line, or that the referee is behind players and it is impossible from that angle to make a call that the ball has crossed the line," says Maguire.

He argues there is no longer a valid argument to say that type of technology should not be used. FIFA and Blatter always used the human angle in their arguments, saying that football would lose its human element if the technology were implemented.

"It is a valid argument to a point but they need to come up with a compelling one as to why, at top level – where a lot of money, careers, fortunes of nations and of big clubs are at stake – one cannot introduce GLT when the various stakeholders of the game, including players, managers, supporters and some sponsors, are in support of it."

Maguire says no one is advocating that the technology be used at lower level or in amateur leagues, but it should not be difficult to pass a rule that the technology should be used at every FIFA or continental federation match.

He suggests that it should also be phased in at top-level leagues. FIFA has money and billions of rands are pumped into football each year – why not spend some of the money on technology?

FIFA spends a lot of money on so-called football development projects, such as the goal project, as this has political benefits for FIFA; one must assume that FIFA does not see the same benefits in spending money on GLT, he says.

"We see the Hawk-Eye technology working in cricket and tennis. To use the argument that football will lose its 'human element' is maybe a red herring."

Maguire believes that GLT will make the game fair when there is a contentious decision, and the technology allows for snap decisions as, within seconds, the referee will have been informed whether the ball crossed the line.

Other technologies, for example, video replay, may not aid the game, as some proponents argue. Soccer is a fluid and fast-moving game and to stop the game for video replays will make the game lose its appeal, but rugby and cricket are slow and have many breaks.

"Football is a fast game and [whether] to stop and review the footage is a difficult [discussion] and one has to look at

various arguments for or against it. There have been arguments that they need to introduce something similar to what they have in tennis and are trialling in hockey, where a team can only appeal on two occasions. This is dangerous in soccer because players and coaches will quickly work out ways to use that to their advantage."

Maguire maintains that GLT is clear and there should be no debate about it as the technology will advance football. Most people in soccer are ready for it.

"I just think FIFA and the IFAB seem not to be ready to move, but the rest of the football fraternity will welcome the introduction of the technology at top level where a lot is at stake. GLT is definitely a solution going forward; there is no strong argument against it and FIFA is dragging its feet on this one."

FIFA confirms to Engineering News that 13 companies met the first deadline of June 3 to submit an expression of interest and, of these 13 companies, 11 are from Europe, one is from North America, and one from Africa.

The next deadline was for companies to formally register for the testing phases by July 7.

Phase one testing is scheduled for September to December 2011, with the second phase between March and June 2012, which will be followed by a special IFAB meeting in July 2012.

Edited by: Martin Zhuwakinyu Creamer Media (Pty) Ltd



*The Officiating Crew for the opening match of the CIS season between Trinity Western University (TWU) and University of Fraser Valley (UFV)
Left to right:
Stefan Tanaka-Freundt, AR-2
Phil Allan 4th Official
Phil Barington, Referee
Peter Dragan, AR-1
Approximately 1,000 fans were watching the match.*