

# FLAG & WHISTLE

Official Newsletter of the BC Soccer Referees Association – February 2012

## 126th IFAB AGM Agenda confirmed

(FIFA.com) Wednesday, 1. February 2012



The 126th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) will take place on Saturday, 3. March under the chairmanship of The Football Association in Surrey, [fifa.com/associations/association=eng/index.html](http://fifa.com/associations/association=eng/index.html) England. [www.fifa.com/worldfootball/lawsofthegame.html](http://www.fifa.com/worldfootball/lawsofthegame.html) "Laws of the Game."

These include a proposal for a fourth substitution to be allowed for matches that go into extra time; a new text to clarify what action the referee should take if a dropped ball is kicked directly into an opponents' goal; and a new text to tackle the 'so-called' Triple Punishment, following the recommendation by the FIFA Task Force Football 2014.

Currently a penalty-kick, expulsion and player suspension are the three sanctions



for a player who denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by an offence punishable by a penalty.

Also on the agenda for discussion is an update on the Goal-Line Technology (GLT) testing. The independent test institute EMPA will provide a report on the first test phase held between November and December 2011 with eight GLT companies, as well as outlining the procedures for Phase 2 scheduled between March and June 2012.

An update on the Additional Assistant Referee experiment (AAR), a discussion regarding the Hijab following a football seminar in Amman in October 2011, and more information regarding the use of Vanishing Spray by referees at the CONMEBOL 2011 Copa America – to mark out the 9.15m (10 yards) where defending teams have to stand for a free-kick – are also on the agenda.

Finally, the members will be asked to confirm the date of the Special Meeting of the IFAB as 2 July 2012, where a definitive decision on the future of Goal-Line Technology and Additional Assistant Referees will be taken.

## Agenda for the 126th International Football Association Board Meeting

### What will they be discussing?

Ref: FIFA.com

During the meeting, the various representatives will be considering the following proposals and amendments submitted under the regulations of the International Football Association Board.

#### • Law 1 – *The Field of Play, Commercial Advertising* (submitted by FIFA)

A proposal was made to better define where/how advertising boards may be placed. According to the reason included with the proposal: "Due to the increasing use of new advertising boards in an upright position very close to the boundaries of the field of play, according to the present text of the Laws it is necessary to define the location of these upright advertising boards, particularly behind the goal line because they may hide part of the net from a lateral view and can also be unsafe for players"

#### • 2 – *Notes on the Laws of the Game - Modifications* (submitted by The Football Association)

The proposed modification attempts to better distinguish provisions for changes in the amateur game. As listed in the reason behind the proposed modification: "We understand that the concern and reason why a previous proposal was not approved was because it was unclear that the proposal related to 'recreational' football only.

We are therefore submitting the above proposal which we hope makes it clear that the dispensation applies to 'recreational' football only.

"The appropriate way of defining 'recreational football' is to use the word 'amateur' which is consistent with the definition of

'amateur' in the FIFA Regulations for the Status and Transfer of Players (and its commentary).

The definition in the FIFA Regulations is outlined in Article 2.2 (Page 10) which states 'a Professional is a player who has a written contract with a club and is paid more than the expenses he effectively incurs in return for his footballing activity. All other players are considered as 'Amateurs.'

"The commentary in Para 2.1 of Article 2 (Page 12) states 'an Amateur is a player who pursues sport just for fun or as a hobby, without any material gain, and who has never received any remuneration other than for the actual expenses incurred. Furthermore, he basically has no written contract with the club with which he is registered. The social aspect of participating in the group life of the club as well as his own health and fitness play a predominant role for an amateur player.'

"Permitting modifications to the Laws regarding substitutions in amateur/recreational' football will help with the growth and retention of players within amateur/recreational' football. The change will allow member associations more flexibility to encourage people to take up the sport or to continue their participation in 'recreational' football without affecting the professional game in any way. We also suggest that such a modification not be permitted for a member association's most senior domestic competitions (where such a competition is solely amateur) and the proposed amendment makes that clear."

#### • Law 3 – *The Numbers of Players* (submitted by FIFA, with amendments by the Scottish Football Association)

Cont'd on page 2

## Agenda *cont'd from page 1*

This proposal relates to what a referee should do if a named substitute starts the game in place of someone listed for the starting 11 players but the referee is not informed. According to the published agenda: "It is not rare that a substitution is made prior to the start of the match and after the referee has been informed of the names of the players and substitutes. This is normally due to an injury of a player during the warm-up. If the referee is informed of the substitution, this is permitted but it is necessary to clarify how to proceed if the referee is not informed of the change."

### • **Law 3 – The Numbers of Players, Number of Substitutions (submitted by FIFA)**

A proposal has been put forth to allow the use of a 4th substitute in games that require extra time. In the agenda the reason for this proposal: "The FIFA Task Force Football 2014, the Medical Committee and the Football Committee support the proposal in order to maintain the technical level until the 120th minute and to protect the health of the players (as a means of preventing injuries)."

### • **Law 4 – The Players' Equipment (submitted by The Football Association)**

The reason for this proposal is listed as "An increasing number of players are using excessive amounts of tape externally on their socks. This can be a multitude of colours and it completely changes the look of the sock. This can cause confusion particularly for assistant referees who may need to look at the sock to determine who last played the ball before it has gone out of play."

### • **Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play (submitted by The Football Association)**

This proposal aims to rectify a conun-

drum with respect to goals scored from drop balls. Per the reason stated in the agenda: "There have been a number of occasions where goals have been scored from 'uncontested' dropped balls. This has put a great deal of pressure on the referee as he has to allow the goal to stand. We then have the unseemly situation where the opposition allow the team to score from the kick off without any players trying to stop them in order to rebalance the game."

### • **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct, The use of the word "blatant" (submitted by FIFA)**

"It is more important to punish the consequence that the hand ball created rather than the fact that it was blatant. In fact, a hand ball could be inconspicuous but certainly very important. Furthermore, it is difficult to define what is meant by "blatantly" (p.113) and therefore to have a uniform interpretation, especially by referees from different countries or continents, with very different experiences. Deleting the word "blatantly", and providing that if the hand ball prevented the opponent from gaining possession the player must be cautioned, makes the interpretation easier (p.117)."

### • **Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct, Sending-off Offences (submitted by FIFA)**

This last proposal looks into Sending Off Offences and has significant implications. According to the reason for the submission: "The triple punishment (penalty kick + red card + player suspension) for a player who denies an obvious goal-scoring opportunity to an opponent moving towards his goal by an offence punishable by a penalty is widely considered to be too severe."

"A player would still receive a red card for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity outside of the penalty area as well as for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity by deliberately handling the ball, by holding or an offence committed from behind inside his own penalty area when he has no opportunity to play the ball."

"A penalty kick and a yellow card would be enough sanction for other offences that deny an obvious goal-scoring opportunity committed by a defending player inside his own penalty area."

Should this amendment pass, a further amendment to Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct, Cautions for unsporting behaviour (page 117), which was also submitted in the event that the proposal was approved, would be required.

### **Other items for discussion will include the following:**

• **Additional Assistant Referees (AAR)** experiment update on the current experiment status

• **Goal-Line Technology (GLT)**

a) Information on the first test phase,  
b) Second test phase and consequent procedures

• **Vanishing Spray**

To receive update on the experiment of the vanishing spray during CONMEBOL's 2011 Copa América

• **Law 4 – The Players' Equipment**

To receive an update on the discussions regarding the "Hijab" during a football seminar in Amman on October 24, 2011. • **2014 FIFA World Cup™ Regulations - Preliminary Competition Section 17 – Approval of additional substitutes.**

## Annual General Meeting of BCSRA

This year's annual gathering of the Referee Association family will take place on Saturday May 5th in Vancouver. Due to the success of last year's event, which coincided with the MLS match between NY Red Bull and the Vancouver Whitecaps, it was decided to repeat the event on the same day as a home game for the local professional side.

**Members would be able to view Whitecaps match on same day.**

The venue for the meeting has tentatively been set for the *Hastings Community Association* (located across from the PNE on the corner of *Hastings* and *Lillooet*) but a venue closer to BC Place is being investigated – details were not available at press time.

A traditional light lunch will be served afterwards.

In order to allow members to attend the **Whitecaps vs San Jose Earthquakes** match at BC Place in mid-afternoon, the meeting will start in the morning with ample time for participants to make their way downtown for the match. A traditional light lunch will also be provided at the end of the gathering.

The meeting is the first gathering of the association since a new executive was elected in May of last year.

The By-Laws of the association were changed at that time to remove the need to have interim Council meetings so as to allow more decisions to be made offline by the provincial executive.

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*Editor* **Elvio Chies**  
*Staff Writer* **Tom Babic**  
*Research* **Emil Udovich**  
*Production* **Dieter Freundt**

Letters to the editor are welcome and should be directed by email to:  
**Lvo@direct.ca or stdy@shaw.ca**  
or by mail to:

**BC Soccer Referees Association**  
c/o 8130 Selkirk Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V6P 4H7

# Asia urges IFAB to approve headscarves for women

Reuters (as seen on ProReferee.com)  
SINGAPORE

Asian soccer's acting president has urged the sport's rule-makers to change the laws to permit women to wear a headscarf in official matches.

China's Zhang Jilong reiterated the Asian Football Confederation's favorable stance ahead of an International Football Association Board (IFAB) review in March.

"Many women footballers in Asia wear headscarves," Zhang said on the AFC's website on Monday.

"I would like to request the IFAB to favorably consider FIFA's proposal and review the rule and allow women players to play wearing a safe headscarf that covers the neck."

"I think it is in the interests of women's football worldwide. I have personally seen the new designs with a Velcro joined at the



neck, which releases if the headscarf is pulled, ensuring the player's safety," he added.

World governing body FIFA's Law 4 regarding kit states that a player must not use equipment or wear anything that is dangerous to himself or another player, including any kind of jewelry. It lists the "basic equip-

ment" as a jersey, shorts, socks, shin-guards and footwear.

Iran's women's soccer team were banned from an Olympic qualifier last June because of their full-body strip, which includes a headscarf and conforms to the Islamic dress code. Opponents Jordan were awarded a 3-0 win and Iranian officials said the decision could cost them a place in the 2012 Games.

FIFA's rules for the 2012 Olympics state: "Players and officials shall not display political, religious, commercial or personal messages or slogans in any language or form on their playing or team kits."

IFAB, formed in 1886, is soccer's ultimate law-making body comprising four members from FIFA and four from the British associations. It will meet in Bagshot, England, on March 3.

## The Anatomy of Foul Recognition



Rudolfo Sibrian

Photo: Mynor Campos

Foul recognition- the bane of a referee's existence. Getting it right is crucial to the success of one's performance. But what is the thought process of calling a foul?

**Rudolfo Sibrian**, former FIFA Referee and now a FIFA Referee Instructor, took a stab at such a big topic at a recent gathering of referees involved in the BC Soccer Candidates Program while he was here for the recent CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament at BC Place. In essence, the process of calling a foul involves four steps:

### 1. Detecting there's a foul

2. Assessing the nature of the foul
3. Deciding the level of punishment
4. Managing the restart

Breaking each section in detail, Mr. Sibrian explained as follows:

#### Detecting there's a foul

Right off the top, Mr. Sibrian indicated one needs an exact knowledge of the Laws of the Game. If you make things up as you go along you're in trouble.

We also need to prepare ourselves. Preparation takes two forms: invisible preparation (being confident) and psychological preparation (being mentally prepared). Also mentioned were:

- *Possessing a high degree of common sense*
- *Excellent fitness*

Why an excellent level of fitness? So much has been made about this subject that it's reasonable to ask such a question. Mr. Sibrian explained it's not only to be able to last an entire game but more so that one has enough energy to make it to the position needed to detect a foul.

"(Because) one's angle of vision depends on the nature of the contest," he said.

Good positioning via reading the game is critical, i.e. Knowing where the ball will be for the next phase of play. Which led to a stern warning:

"You will never be able to read the game if you are ahead of the ball carrier because

you won't be able to see the play develop."

Lastly, determining (whether a foul occurred or not) has to be done in the moment. Mr. Sibrian joked that you can't go running to your friends in the stands and asking them what they thought!

#### Assessing the nature of the foul

Mr. Sibrian started off by saying that the root of every foul recognition process is simply, is the action (committed by the player) fair or unfair? One has take into account the speed, distance, force of the player committing the foul and also the reaction of the player being fouled. Additional considerations:

#### Is there an opportunity to play the advantage?

- The action used to play the ball
- Position of the attacker
- Opportunity to play the ball
- Part of the body used (in the challenge) but also where it hits on the body (of the ball carrier).

#### Deciding the level of punishment

Mr. Sibrian instructed that once a foul has been recognized and called, there is still requirement to judge the level of punishment considering if the action was careless (in which case only a foul is necessary), reckless (i.e. the action is deserving of a caution) or performed with excessive force (which requires a send off).

Cont'd on page 4

# RA Member invited to MLS Camp

**Ed note:** The MLS held their annual pre-season camp for referees last month in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. **Marco Arruda** was one of the referees invited and presents a brief summary of his experience.

I departed Friday, January 6 and returned Monday, January 9 after having been emailed by **Tiger Liu**, Director of Refereeing for the CSA.

The camp lasted Friday evening, all day Saturday and Sunday morning. Joining me from Canada were Canadian FIFA Assistants **Joe Fletcher**, **Phillipe Briere**, **Daniel Bebeau**, **Kevin Duliba**, Canadian FIFA Referees **Dave Gantar** and **Paul Ward** as well as other Canadian National officials **Geoff Gamble**, **Drew Fisher** and **Mathieu Bourdeau**.

In turn we joined all the MLS officials from last year that did not retire (too many to name) as well as 50 rookies that were there for the experience and to run the fitness test.

Some famous US names included US FIFA Referees Terry Vaughn, Baldomero Toledo, Ricardo Salazaar, Mark Geiger, Jair Marufo and Kevin Stott.

The course was led by **Asher Mendelsohn**, Director of Referees, Coaching Administration and Development Academy Programs at U.S. Soccer Federation, Herb Silva, Director of Professional Referees and Alan Brown, Professional Referee Assignment Coordinator. During the sessions they emphasized, as I understand it, the same points as last year:

- Protect the players
- Crack down on lunging tackles (excessive force, send-off)
- Beware of the arm use as a tool (caution) vs. as a weapon (sendoff)
- Teamwork and communication is essential for referee team

What did I pickup that could be used in our local games? I would say to be more

willing to send off a player if they leave their feet to commit a challenge (lunge).

We all ran the fitness test at this pre-season camp which was the most pressure I have ever felt in my referee career. I'm glad I passed!

In closing, just seeing the way the officials carried themselves was a learning experience.

People like **Mark Geiger** (who refereed the U20 World Cup Final) and Ricardo Salazaar (who refereed the MLS Cup Final) were at the same time supremely confident and easy to talk to.

When Tiger Liu addressed the Canadian officials, he said to represent Canada well and I hope to do so this season!

(Ed note: the F&W will be charting the progress of Marco and fellow Canadian officials during the upcoming MLS season. First home game for the BC-based Vancouver Whitecaps is March 10th at BC Place.)

## CSA gathers its National Officials

**Ed note:** The CSA hold an annual gathering of National officials. The Flag & Whistle would like to thank National Referee **Alain Ruch** for his summary of this year's symposium.

The MA course (Members Association) was put on by the CSA and replaced the annual National Training Camp for National List Officials.

It was led by FIFA Referee Instructor **Mr. Peter Prendergast** (Jamaica) and FIFA Referee Fitness Instructor **Mr. Edwin Silva** (Hondurras).

The focus of this symposium was on current "Hot Topics" (**ed note:** this is a FIFA-developed curriculum of specific topics that have occurred in the game), fitness, and practical on field sessions.

The course is designed by and paid for by FIFA to ensure all 208 Member Associations are interpreting the Laws of the Game as per FIFA standards and expectations.

I first learned about this through the CSA. As a National List Official, it was mandatory to attend. This year's camp was held in Montreal (Laval) at the Quebec Soccer Federation Headquarters from February 7th to 12th.

Accompanying me from BC were my fellow National officials **Rubin Smilev** and **Andy Foster** along with Canadian FIFA Assistant **Darren Clark**. As I mentioned above all National List and FIFA Officials in Canada were there minus the referees who referee in the MLS.

The main point of emphasis for the entire week was the KIS Principle (Keep It Simple).

The laws of the game are simple and everything you need to know is in the little blue book.

Referees get themselves into trouble when they stray away from the laws, so the main high point would be:

**Keep It Simple!!**

## Elections for Provincial Executive

The positions up for election at this year's **Annual General Meeting** will be as follows: **President**, **Secretary** and **Director-without-Portfolio**, all two year terms. An announcement will be made shortly as to who will head the Nominating Committee.

## Foul Recognition

*Cont'd from page 3*

### Managing the restart

This last section concerns the logistics and mechanics of handling the restart. Those of us who attended the annual refresher clinic a few years ago will remember being introduced to seven steps for managing a free kick. In the session, Mr. Sibrian introduced the same subject in slightly different manner by condensing essentially the same points into **four key elements**:

**1. Position of ball (which is where the free kick is relative to the field), making eye contact with kicker, having him wait for whistle**

**2. Position of wall/defenders**

**3. Making eye contact with AR, make sure the play is between you and AR**

**4. Anticipating the next phase of play**

In retrospect, looking at the entire process seems daunting given that all of perform this action in mere seconds, or shorter in some cases.

Yet, one was left with the impression that being aware of the four stages of foul recognition will go a long way to ensuring the entire process of recognizing and calling fouls, a referee's bread and butter, will allow us to perform to our best.

# BC Soccer officials put through their paces by FIFA instructors



FIFA Referee Fitness Instructor **Edwin Silva** – left front in crouching position – had Referees from the Candidates' program compete in the very tough YoYo fitness test. This was followed by a classroom session where 3 FIFA referees attended who also officiated during the recent women's olympic qualifying tournament of CONCACAF being held in Vancouver.

Photo: Mynor Campos

FIFA's top regional instructors provided a number of BC Soccer match officials with two nights of intensive training as part of CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament which concluded Sunday in Vancouver.

CONCACAF Director of Referee Administration and FIFA Referees Committee member **Carlos Batres** of Guatemala, **Rodolfo Sibrian**, FIFA Referees Assistance Program Instructor from El Salvador, **Edwin Silva**, FIFA Fitness Instructor from Honduras and **Brian Hall**, CONCACAF Director of Referee Administration of the USA were able to put 24 of BC Soccer's aspiring match officials through their paces with

extensive fitness and practical technical sessions.

**Lisa Mather**, BC Soccer District Level referee from Coquitlam said, "After attending the technical session, I feel more confident in being able to practically apply the laws of the game which will help me to better perform on the field of play."

Also attending the educational sessions were members of the BC Soccer Referee's Committee as well as a number of the FIFA officials who were officiating at the CONCACAF Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

**Jose Branco**, BC Soccer Referee Development Coordinator said, "It was

a great opportunity for some of our match officials to learn from some of FIFA's and CONCACAF'S senior refereeing instructors."

**Rick Connors**, Chairman of the BC Soccer Referee's Committee said, "We are thrilled that the FIFA team was able to provide some of BC Soccer's officials with expert training and fitness assessments.

The opportunity for our referees to learn from officials who have participated in World Cup finals tournaments is invaluable and we appreciate them taking the time to share their knowledge with us."

by Paul Mullen



Classroom session in Burnaby

Photo: Mynor Campos



The referee gives a stern warning

Photo: Mynor Campos

# Local Referees with Carol



Canadian FIFA Referee **Carol Anne Chenard** took time between games at BC Place to kibitz with local officials. Left to right: **Phil Allen**, **Robbie Battle**, **Phil Barrington**, **Marco Arruda** (in the background) **Carol Anne Chenard**, **Korrina Busse** (at right).

## AGM Date of FVSRA

All Fraser-Valley area branch (FVSRA) affiliated members of the BCSRA are duly informed that the **Annual General Meeting** of the branch will be held **Tuesday, March 6th** in the meeting room of the Langley Legion, located at 56th Ave and 206th St. in downtown Langley. Start time is **7:30 pm**.

The positions up for election are **Vice-President (VP)**, **Treasurer** and one **Director** position. According to Area President **Dave Miller**, current VP **Martin Reid** has indicated his intention to step down after six years in the position.

No information was available going to press as to whom would chair the nominating committee.

All interested parties should, however, contact President Dave Miller at **(604) 856-0215**.

## Vancouver Area Branch elects new Executive

BCSRA members affiliated with the Vancouver Area branch (VASRA) elected a new executive at the Annual General Meeting of the association on Monday, January 30, 2012. The new executive is:

### **PRESIDENT**

**Marc Bowley**

(marc.bowley@shaw.ca)

### **1ST VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Art Duran**

(taking over the last year of a 2-year term)

a\_duran@shaw.ca

### **2ND VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Mynor Campos**

(elected by acclamation to a 2 year term)

m.campos@shaw.ca

### **SECRETARY**

**Bill McNaughton**

(wmcnaughton@blg.com)

### **TREASURER:**

**Ron Schaeffer**

(elected by acclamation to a 2 year term)

(ron\_schaeffer@hotmail.com)

### **DIRECTORS**

**Mladen Herceg**

(elected to a 2 year term)

**Jose Fraguas**

(fraguas@shaw.ca)

Best wishes to the new executive as they take up the torch to move the Vancouver Area region of the BCSRA onward and upwards!

## Date change for Fraser Valley Meetings

Due to a change in venue operating hours all Fraser-Valley area branch (FVSRA) affiliated members of the BCSRA are duly informed that until further notice all monthly meetings will be held on the **first Tuesday** of the month.

## Off to Dallas

The Executive Committee of the **Dr. Pepper Dallas Cup Tournament XXXII** in Texas, U.S.A. has again approached **Jose Branco** to enter referees for this prestigious week-long tournament.

Leading the group are **Jose Branco** and **Michelle Pye** as overseers. Selected referees are **Alain Ruch**, **Matt Wynne**, **Stefan Tanaka-Freundt**, **Mary Katherine Battle**, and **Amanda Cordua-von Specht**. Best of success to the participants.

## New Additions to Members' Family

Since the last issue, two members became fathers. On December 22nd, **James Bellavance** and his wife welcomed the birth of their baby boy **Nathaniel**. A few weeks later in January, **Mladen**

**Herceg** and his wife **Bo** became parents to their little boy **Borzan**.

Congratulations to both members on their respective new additions to their family!

## First MLS match

Congratulation to **Marco Arruda** for officiating his first ever MSL match between Portland Timber and San Jose Earthquakes at Jeld-Wen Field in Portland on Monday, February 27.

# MLS planning crack down

Steven Goff, Soccer Insider, Washington Post Sports, [www.washingtonpost.com/2011/02/24/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/2011/02/24/)

In an effort to better protect players against dangerous tackles, MLS will take a harder stance against physical play this season, and, when necessary, impose greater penalties.

"We remain concerned about player safety and the frequent nature of certain challenges," **Nelson Rodriguez**, MLS's executive vice president of competition and game operations, told the Insider. "As a result, and as part of an overall disciplinary code, we'll put players and clubs on notice that, if this continues, they will be met with a more active disciplinary body." That means the five-member disciplinary committee will penalize players for over-aggressive tackles – even if no injury is suffered and no yellow or red card issued.

In the past, injuries were usually the threshold for disciplinary action on plays not witnessed by the referee. Not anymore.

The aim, Rodriguez said, is to ensure "the man on the ball is better protected and less susceptible to rash challenges than in previous years."

The league hopes stricter parameters will lead to changes in coaching tactics and decision-making by players.

Essentially, MLS wants to promote modification in behavior.

"We need a recognition and acceptance that the [players, coaches and referees] are intertwined," Rodriguez said. "It's not just the referee."

Last spring, three of the league's most influential players – Seattle Sounders winger **Steve Zakuani**, FC Dallas central midfielder **David Ferreira** and Real Salt Lake playmaker **Javier Morales** – were sidelined for long periods after suffering injuries caused by hard challenges. The disciplinary committee issued suspensions in the Zakuani and Morales incidents.

This winter the MLS board of governors, competition committee and technical committee "felt strongly" about a more proactive approach toward curbing unacceptable tackles, Rodriguez said.

The league, in turn, shared their thoughts with the players' union.

"They expressed concern about it swinging too far" and excessively penalizing players, Rodriguez said, "but in the end, we are aligned with looking out for the well-being of our athletes."

The disciplinary committee will continue to review all matches and incidents

– clubs do not need to request reviews. As in past seasons, the committee has the power to take additional action against a player who receives a red card or commits an egregious or reckless act that isn't witnessed by the referee.

In cases where a referee sees an incident and, in the committee's unanimous opinion, should've taken action, MLS is more likely to hand out suspensions and fines this season.

Rodriguez supervises the committee but doesn't vote. The group includes a former MLS coach, a former referee and three ex-players, one of whom is appointed by the players' union.

Their identities are not made public, Rodriguez said, in order to "prevent undue pressure" during the disciplinary process and harassment after a decision is rendered.

Officiating has also become a point of emphasis this year, and MLS is working with the U.S. and Canadian federations – which oversee referee identification and training – to improve the quality of performances. Details of the enhanced officiating programs are expected in the coming weeks.

## New Website Forthcoming Come Join in on the Ride

VP Laurie Miller

BCSRA will have its new website in place by the next newsletter. We want the website to be the definitive location for all information of interest to our referees. **To do that we'll need your help!**

Send us information what you want us to include. It could be website addresses that you visit, contact information about referee schedulers, links to YouTube videos to share, or photos!

The website is our resource and we're hoping our members will help us make it a place that all referees go to first when looking for information.

One feature is our calendar. Any event of interest to fellow referees should be posted.

If a referee is taking a trip to another area of the province they should be able to find out what soccer/referee events are happening elsewhere in the province.

We're including a tab to list referee schedulers; the who's who of scheduling!

We've got a new email address too!

Send your ideas to:

[bcreferees@gmail.com](mailto:bcreferees@gmail.com).

## Pumas in Trouble

(from ProReferee.com)

MEXICO CITY

Pumas UNAM's broke FIFA rules by painting a giant letter 'U' on their pitch for their home league game against Guadalajara and could be sanctioned, the Mexican Football Federation (FMF) said.

The university side, held 0-0 by Guadalajara at their Olimpico Universitario ground in the capital in the Clausura championship, were celebrating the 50th anniversary of their promotion to the first division in January 1962.

"The reproduction, whether real or virtual, of representative logos or emblems of FIFA, confederations, member associations, leagues, clubs or other bodies is forbidden on the field of play, the goal nets and the areas they enclose," state the laws of world governing body FIFA.

A FMF statement said the "violation of FIFA's Laws of the Game 2011-2012 committed by Pumas club ... will be forwarded to the Disciplinary Commission of the Mexican Football Federation ... for its analysis and to determine a sanction."

**DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS MADE FOR THE NOTES CONCERNING UPCOMING IFAB MEETING, LOCAL LEAGUE FOCUS RETURNS NEXT ISSUE.**

# You are the Referee – know the Law of the Game

1. What **distance** must opponents be from the ball at a free kick, if an attacker requested the required distance?

- a 10 feet
- b. An approximate distance of 9.50 metres
- c. A minimum of 9.50 metres
- d. A minimum of 9.15 metres and also outside the penalty area if the free kick is taken by a team from inside their own penalty area.

2. Of the following infringements, indicate which is stated in the **Laws of the Game** as an offence punishable with a **caution** under **Law 12?**

- a Entering or re-entering the field of play without the referee's permission
- b. Being guilty of unsporting behaviour
- c. Dissent by word or action
- d. All are correct

3. The minimum number of players who are required to start a game is 7. Can a team start the match with 10 players and without their goalkeeper, who joins as soon as he reaches the field of play??

- a Yes
- b. No
- c. It depends on the Rules of the Competition
- d. It is at the discretion of the referee

4. How should a challenge which endangers the safety of an opponent be penalised?

- a. Serious foul play
- b. Violent conduct
- c. Unsporting behaviour
- d. Dangerous play

5. A player is not in an off-side position if ....

- a he is level with the second last opponent

b. he is level with the last two opponents  
c. he is in his own half of the field of play  
d. all of the above

6. Can a captain caution a player from his own team for an offence punishable by a yellow card?

- a Yes, to prevent him from being sent off
- b. No, never
- c. Yes, as captain of his team and after consulting his coach
- d. No, only after consulting his coach can he substitute the players.

7. Can a goal be scored direct from a corner kick?

- a No, never
- b. Yes, in all cases
- c. Yes, but only in the opponent's goal
- d. Yes, as long as the kick is taken by any player except the goalkeeper

8. When is the ball in play during kick-off

- a When after the signal is given by the referee, the ball is played by a player
- b. When after the signal is given by the referee, the ball is set in motion by the team that takes the kick-off
- c. When after the signal is given by the referee, the ball is played by the foot and it moves forward
- d. None of the answers is correct

9. A defender holds an attacker outside the penalty area but stops holding just inside the penalty area. What decision should the referee make?

- a The referee awards a penalty kick
- b. The referee awards a direct free kick as the action of the holding started outside the penalty area
- c. The referee awards an indirect free kick inside the penalty area
- d. Play continues

10. Which position is correct for the assistant referee when a penalty kick is taken during a match??

- a Behind the corner flag
- b. Beside the goalpost
- c. At the intersection of the goal line and the goal area
- d. At the intersection of the goal line and the penalty area

## Quiz Result Laws of the Game

Congratulations to **Nathan Bird** for having the most correct answers in our Holiday issue's Know Your Laws quiz. (Note: all page references in the answers relate to the 2011-2012 edition.)

• **Question 11: Answer d.** Signaling if the kicker has infringed the Laws of the Game. (Law 6, pg 27 #7)

**Question 12: Answer b.** stops play and restarts the match with a dropped ball. (Ref: p62 #1, 3 )

**Question 13: Answer c.** Holding an opponent is not always unsporting behaviour. (Ref: p112 "Disciplinary actions")

**Question 14: Answer c.** he uses excessive force or brutality against an opponent when challenging for a ball in play. (Law 12 p120 para 1)

**Question 15: Answer c.** The team that loses the coin toss. (Law 8 pg 29 "Procedure")

**Question 16: Answer c.** Stop play, caution the player for unsporting behaviour and restart the match with an indirect free kick against the kicking team from the penalty mark. (Law 14 chart on p127)

**Question 17: Answer d.** All previous answers are correct (Ref Law 12 p34 #3,#4,#5)

**Question 18: Answer b.** The referee awards a penalty kick to the opponents. (Law 12 p34 #10)

**Question 19: Answer c.** From the position of the player who commits the offence. (Law 12 p117 #12)

**Question 20: Answer d.** No, he should be cautioned, not sent off. (Ref:Law 12, p111: "A player's reckless manner must be cautioned")

**Only a single winner** will be chosen who answered **all** questions **correctly**. The Quiz is open to all paid up members except for those who are certified referees' instructors or assessors. Send answers to **bcreferees@gmail.com**

## Beckham red carded during children's match

The Province, February 9,2012



Always the composed, corporate-friendly gentleman away from the game, David Beckham is a fierce competitor on the pitch who has never shied away from

telling a referee exactly what he's thinking. This has gotten him in trouble from time to time and as he revealed during an episode of The Jonathan Ross show, it's even gotten him kicked out of a Los Angeles area children's match (7:28 into the video above) just for trying to defend a seven-year-old kid.

Said Beckham, with a smile:

"I was watching the kids play the other day, it was the younger kids of [middle son] Romeo's club, and there was a penalty given.

"And the kids are seven years old and he [the referee] sent the kid off. And I was like, 'Come on, he's seven, referee, you ca't send

him off.' And he looked at me and was like, 'Yes, I can.'

"And I said, 'Well, you can't, he's seven years old.' And he came over and he gave me a red card. He told me to get out of the park. For real.

"The gate was only 20 yards away so I went to the other side of the gate and I came back when my son's game was on."

Did the ref realize who he was sending off? Was he a Manchester City fan? Was that really all Beckham said to get a straight red? We may never know. At least until the inevitable paparazzi video shows up. This was in LA, after all.

Beckham went on to say that while the referees might not appreciate his presence, the other dads enjoy having him around and that sometimes he helps coach the kids. Whenever he does end his playing career, maybe he will roam the land, arguing with refs who send off random seven-year-olds and then waiting behind a nearby gate until the next youth match begins.