

# FLAG & WHISTLE

Official Newsletter of the BC Soccer Referees Association – April, 2012

## Annual General Meeting Saturday May 5, YWCA Hotel

The **Annual General Meeting** will take place **Saturday, May 5, 2012** at the YWCA Hotel's Royal Bank Room in Vancouver.

The venue was chosen for its close proximity to BC Place (across the street) and access to Skytrain (*the Stadium-Chinatown Station is about a block away at Beatty Street and Dunsmuir*).

Call to order has been set for 10:00 am to allow members from outside the mainland enough time to arrive.

As per tradition, a light lunch will be

provided after the meeting, which is expected to conclude close to 12:00 noon or shortly thereafter.

Dress code is business casual or jacket/tie. An agenda has been provided earlier to all members in advance.

*Event:* **AGM**  
*Date:* **Saturday, May 5**  
*Time:* **10:00 am**  
*Location:* **Vancouver**  
*Place:* **YWCA**  
**Royal Bank Room**  
*Address:* **733 Beatty Street**



### Members' Deadline for Whitecaps tickets is Monday, April 30

A reminder that the deadline for members wishing to take advantage of the special group rate on **Whitecaps** tickets for the Saturday, May 5th game against **San Jose Earthquakes** has been extended to Monday, April 30th.

Tickets are being made available to members and their family/friends for a special discounted rate of \$26 (\$28 price plus \$2 extra off the price via a private donation made to the association).

Those interested should contact Elvio Chies (email: [Lvo@direct.ca](mailto:Lvo@direct.ca), phone: **604-266-0741**).

Tickets will be made available for pickup at the Annual General Meeting of the association on Saturday, May 5.

## Fraser Valley Soccer League honours RA members

The Fraser Valley Soccer League (FVSL) honoured two members affiliated with the Fraser Valley branch (FVSRA) of the Referees Association at its annual Awards Banquet.

**Andy Pinter** was awarded the new **FVSL Referee-Of-The-Year Award** while **Martin Reid** was honoured with

the League's **Lifetime Membership award** for services to the League (22 seasons ... and still going).

Martin is the 2nd referee to receive this from FVSL, following **Rob Brown** last year.

Congratulations to both members on their respective achievement!

## Members moving up

Did you know that the BCSRA has a storied past of former members obtaining refereeing heights in other countries?

It's true! In the latest episode, VISRA Director-at-large **Larry Cade** informed us that **Niklas Kankonnen** will be appointed as a national referee in his home country of Finland.

Niklas and his family recently moved back there and Larry heard about this via his connection on LinkedIn.com.

Amongst other members who graced

our fields during their short stay in BC were **Jenny Bray** and **Alf Buksh**. Jenny was a member in the Vancouver Area branch (VASRA) in 1989-1990 and eventually became one of Australia's first female FIFA Assistant Referees.

Alf too was a member in the Vancouver Area branch in the early 1970s before moving back to England.

He eventually rose to refereeing in the English Premier League where he officiated from 1991 to 1993!

## 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 are two year terms.

Past President **Elvio Chies** has been named head of the Nominating Committee. Anyone wishing their name to be put forward should contact Elvio

*email:* [Lvo@direct.ca](mailto:Lvo@direct.ca)  
*tel:* **604-266-0741**



The referees who took part in the Dallas Cup tournament that took place in Dallas, Texas from March 31 to April 8. Front row left to right: **Alain Ruch**, **Amanda Cus**, **Michelle Pye**. Middle row: **MK Battle**, **Fabrizio Stasolla** (Ontario). Back row: **Jose Branco**, **Matt Wynne**, **Stefan Tanaka-Freundt**.

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 Vancouver, BC  
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## Canadian Referees appointed to 2012 Olympic Games

Congratulations to Canadian FIFA officials **Carol Anne Chenard (R)**, **Marie-Josée Charbonneau (AR)**, and **Joe Fletcher (AR)** on their respective appointments to the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The tournament begins before the July 27th opening ceremonies. The Women's side goes from July 25th to August 9th and the Men's tournament starts July 26th and finishes on August 11th.

A total of six venues have been

chosen, including the Millenium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales and Hampden Park in Glasgow, Scotland.

Both the Women's and Men's finals will be played at Wembley Stadium in London, England.

### Provincial Cup Appointments

As of this writing, Provincial Cup has not started. The **Flag & Whistle** would like to extend congratulations to everyone receiving appointments and best of luck in their games

You will do the Refereeing fraternity proud!

# Soccer refereeing delivers skills, good pay

By Martha Wickett, Salmon Arm Observer

Soccer is the world's most played, most popular sport.

Salmon Arm fits the trend, with more than 1,100 young people playing 'the beautiful game' last season, not to mention all the adults who participate in various leagues. While coaches and players are key to the game, so is another group. Referees.



Charisse Woods

**Charisse Woods**, 19, has been a referee since she was 12. She enjoys it, has developed skill from it and would recommend it to others.

"I enjoy refereeing soccer because it is a very different view of the game... It gives me the opportunity to see all kinds of different styles of playing the game, as well as different skill levels. Each level of soccer has its perks for the referee and each is very different," she says.

Woods has gained a lot of skills from refereeing, the main one, confidence in herself. Another is not caring too much what people think of her.

"They may call me the worst referee ever to my face, and I can smile back and say to myself, 'Thanks, I think I'm amazing.' Most of all it's the ability to realize soccer is a game, everything is in the moment, and what people may say is not what they mean.

Things may get heated, words may be said, but at the end of the day I'm out there to be fair and just to both teams so that everyone can have a safe, fun game."

And she highly recommends everyone becomes a referee – from players to parents – in order to either create confidence

or learn the rules of the game.

"If we all know the rules of the game there will be less angst on the side lines and on the field. We won't have those shy little girls crying on the side lines because the adults behind her are giving her such a hard time.

At the end of the day, soccer is a game played for fun, good-sportsmanship and some friendly competition. If we are all better informed and respectful of each other, we can all watch that shy little girl have the confidence to be herself."

**Peter Weicker** will begin his sixth season of refereeing this year. He, too, enjoys it, particularly the aspect of running the

game and making sure it's safe and under control. Plus, he's pleased with the wages.

"The money is nice – very, very nice. They reward us well for our time." He's also pleased referee-in-chief **Robert Hargreaves** has returned.

"One thing I'm very glad about, our coordinator from a couple of years ago is back and had his job reinstated. That's very nice."

Hargreaves, meanwhile, welcomes new and returning referees, noting the job "gives them management skills, communication skills, gives them self-confidence or grows their self-confidence if they've already got it."

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## New Addition to Member's family

Congratulations to **Phil Leung** and his wife who ushered in their first child in mid-March.

It was a boy and Phil and his wife Joanne have named him **Lucas** who came

in at 3.3 kg. At last report everyone is doing fine although Phil reports the baby has learned a few "simulation tricks" to get their attention. Sounds like it's time to bring out the yellow cards Phil!



# Raising the bar for MLS referees

By Nigel Reed, Posted: Sunday, March 11, 2012 | 11:53 PM as posted on www.cbc.ca

Admission of the problem is the first step to a cure. In the glass half full world of Major League Soccer, there are never really problems – only initiatives.

MLS, however, has a problem which needs fixing. Like anything worthwhile, it cannot be done overnight but the League wants it known a serious initiative is being launched to tackle the situation.

At the dawn of a brand new season, there's a new franchise in Montreal, a new stadium in Houston and a new broadcast partner across the United States. MLS continues to toot its horn on a range of issues from improved standard of play to the growing visibility of the sport in North America.

There is always a certain amount of window dressing involved but overall there's a relatively healthy glow about this teenage League now entering its 17th year. Expansion continues apace and box office business in recent years has been spectacular, particularly in Canada and the Pacific Northwest.

But as MLS kicks off 2012, one thing will not have changed. More teams means more games. More games, of course, need more referees.

Match officials of the required standard are not in abundant supply and the league knows it. So it is taking immediate action to alleviate the shortage.

The Professional Referees Organization, or PRO for short, is the combined brainchild of U.S. Soccer and MLS.

Its mission is to improve the overall standard or refereeing across North America, develop a larger pool of referees at a younger age, and prepare more of them to represent the U.S. and Canada at FIFA competitions.

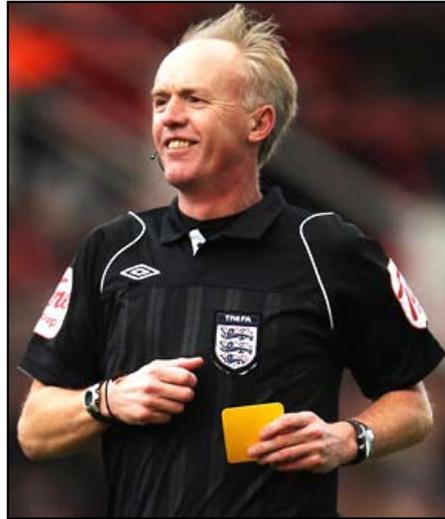
Noble goals, but where to start? Few MLS referees enjoy any respect from fans and not much more from the players they try to control. I have lost count of the number of times I have heard supporters moaning more about the performance of the referee than their own team.

Players and coaches rarely do so 'on the record' knowing a league fine is almost certain to follow any public criticism.

**Peter Walton** is the new sheriff in town. The vastly experienced English Premier League referee has been appointed PRO's General Manager and will take up his position at the beginning of next month.

After nine seasons in England's top flight, and with around 200 EPL games

under his belt, Walton is eager to pass on his knowledge to the next generation.



Peter Walton

There should be no lack of willing recruits. It is estimated more than 40,000 whistle blowers enter the refereeing ranks every year. MLS expects the PRO to identify and fast-track the most promising officials which, it's hoped, will result in a significant increase in the number of full time referees.

The theory is all good but will it work in practice? If there are so many raw recruits from which to choose why are so few deemed good enough to referee in Major League Soccer? How long will it take for this brave new Walton's world to make a tangible difference to refereeing standards in North America?

Players and fans alike should be able to take fairness and consistency for granted. I am prepared to believe the vast majority of MLS referees do their level best to give both teams the same length of rope. Mistakes happen of course – that's what occurs when you put a human being not a robot in charge and most of us accept it as such.

Consistency seems to be the larger issue. Some referees take a disciplinarian approach and cautionary cards are never far behind. At the opposite end of the scale, other officials seem hell bent on letting the game "flow" which, on occasion, results in serious foul play going virtually unpunished. Players must know they will be protected while the culprits must be deterred before the red mist descends.

The "Laws of the Game" are universal. All aspiring referees study the same rules

before they ever step over the white line, but interpretation and implementation varies widely. One of Walton's first priorities must be to get all MLS officials on the same page and operating under similar guidelines.

I applaud MLS for its latest "initiative." It demonstrates the league is listening to its performers and its patrons. Neither players nor fans are prepared to put up with sub-standard refereeing and the league's reputation, at home and abroad, is not helped by the constant carping.

Peter Walton has a big job on his hands. He will undoubtedly take time to come to terms with the soccer culture on this side of the Atlantic.

It is the same game but the general level of skill and decision making is very different from that to which he is accustomed. He will have to be cognisant of that and perhaps make allowances for it if he is to make a success of his new role

Finally – before we all starting booing the referee again in 2012, let's remember he doesn't make the rules – he simply applies them. Doing so with a little bit of common sense usually helps.

## Triple Punishment ... on its way out ...



Theo Zwanziger

*Sport Bild*

Tuesday April 3, 2012

The triple punishment for an infringement inside the penalty area will soon be a thing of the past, according to **Theo Zwanziger**, member of FIFA's executive committee.

"There is a clear understanding at FIFA and UEFA to get rid of the Law where a **red card** is handed out, a **penalty kick** awarded, plus a **suspension** given.

This is looked upon as a great injustice by many teams and associations. IFAB has come under pressure to change this situation.

A decision might come as early as July when the IFAB members will meet for its next meeting in Kiev Ukraine." IFAB consists of 4 British association and 4 FIFA members.

# Religious Garments and Refeing

Religious garments should not be allowed to get in the way of girls wanting to become a ref

By Dick Sawdon Smith March 21, 2012 As featured on [www.getreading.co.uk](http://www.getreading.co.uk)

A year or two back I refereed an English Schools FA girls' cup tie where three of the girls in one team, which came from Slough, wore tracksuit bottoms. Not any old track suit bottoms, but obviously specially made to match the shorts that the other girls wore. The teacher explained that the girls were Muslims and their religion looked down on too much flesh being exposed.

It seemed a sensible solution and I had no objection despite the fact that the *Laws of the Game* say players must wear shorts (goalkeepers are permitted the luxury of track suit bottoms). After that, I was faced at another game with a girl who also wore a hijab, the scarf-like garment that covers the head.

My mind went back to yet another girls' cup tie in Oxfordshire alongside the Brize Norton air base. It was unimaginably cold with a freezing wind coming across from the flat expanse of the air field and one girl wanted to wear a bobble hat without the bobble.

I checked that there were no pins or hair grips keeping it in place before agreeing that it was perfectly acceptable. I treated the hijab in exactly the same way. I believe that we should encourage boys and girls to play football and not put

unnecessary obstacles in their way. I was therefore surprised, even a little shocked, to learn last year that a 15-year-old referee in Canada, **Sarah Benkirane**, was prevented from carrying on refereeing because she wore a hijab.

She had been refereeing for some time in Quebec, but was told, after a complaint had been made, that she breached FIFA rules prohibiting the wearing of religious garments on the field. There is, believe it or not, a mention of religion in Law 4 of the *Laws of the Game*.

It says 'The basic, compulsory equipment of a player must not have any political, religious or personal statements.'

Nowhere is there any mention of what a referee should wear, except no jewellery is allowed.

Some time later I saw a photo of a course held in London, organised by the Muslim Women's Sport Foundation in partnership with the FA, for women to become Futsal referees.

Eighteen women of diverse ethnicities took part and the photo showed some of these prospective referees were wearing hijabs. I spoke to Lorraine Deschamps, who ran the course on behalf of the FA, and she told me that there was never any query about women wearing the hijab

becoming referees.

**But there is another twist to this story.**

It may come as a surprise to some to learn that Iran has a national women's team. In fact, they have been going since 1970 and they were runners-up in the 2005 and 2007 West Asian Football Females Championship.

However, their dream of competing at the London Olympics was crushed when FIFA unexpectedly said their team kit broke their rules. But it wasn't a question of religion, instead FIFA said the Hijab that the players wore, was dangerous because it extended to cover the neck.

But that has not been the end of the affair.

It was taken up at a high level and following a seminar in Amman last October, it was put on the agenda to be discussed by the International FA Board earlier this month, when it met to consider changes to the *Laws of the Game*.

I understand there was a long and positive conversation on the wearing of the hijab and that there is to be one final check on its safety before it is approved to be worn.

I only hope someone tells Sarah Benkirane and the Quebec Soccer Federation.

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## VIDEO: Goalline technology moves a step closer

From FA.com, Saturday, 03/03/2012

**IFAB discussed amendments to the Laws of the Game at its Annual General Meeting**

*Ed note: members are asked not to implement any changes listed in this article until officially instructed to do so by the provincial governing body.*

Goalline technology has moved closer to implementation after the latest tests were considered by the **International Football Association Board (IFAB)** on Saturday.

Under the chairmanship of The Football Association Chairman **David Bernstein**, IFAB – which sees the four home nations and FIFA come together to discuss the Laws of the Game – convened for its Annual General Meeting at the Pennyhill Park Hotel in Surrey.

The IFAB received a general evaluation of eight available systems by EMPA – the

Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology. The first phase of GLT testing was conducted between November and December 2011.

Of the eight companies, two companies, **Hawk-Eye** and **GoalRef** – following the set criteria and recommendation by EMPA – were approved by the IFAB to take part in the second phase of testing.

Hawk-Eye's system uses optical recognition with cameras, whilst GoalRef utilises a magnetic field with a special ball to identify a goal situation.

The second test phase – to take place between March and June 2012 – will rigorously assess the reliability and accuracy of each system, as well as how robust the technology is.

Following the conclusion of Test Phase 2, should one or more companies fulfil the criteria, a Special Meeting of the IFAB in Kiev on 2 July 2012 will decide on a

definitive approval of GLT.

The wearing of headscarves by female players will also be discussed for final endorsement on 2 July after a presentation was made in the meeting.

The IFAB agreed to the proposal in principle that headscarves be allowed, pending an accelerated review of health and safety issues.

**Alex Horne**, The FA General Secretary, said: "It was a fantastic meeting. It was good to see colleagues from member associations and FIFA. We had a good debate about a number of things, in particular goalline technology.

"We got absolute clarity from everybody that we are going to implement it when the technology is ready – so that is coming. There is quite a lot to think about for us in terms of how quickly we can implement it.

*Continued on page 6*

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

11. A player strikes an opponent using excessive force with the ball out of play. What offence does he commit?  
**a** The player is guilty of serious foul play  
**b**. The player is guilty of violent conduct  
**c**. The player is guilty of unsporting behaviour  
**d**. None of the above
12. The ball is made of ...  
**a** plastic  
**b**. leather  
**c**. leather or other suitable material  
**d**. synthetic material
13. A player pretends to be fouled in an attempt to deceive the referee. What decision should the referee make?  
**a** The player is cautioned only if the simulation took place inside the opposing team's penalty area.  
**b**. The player is warned but is not shown a yellow card for the first offence.  
**c**. The player is cautioned for unsporting behaviour and an indirect free kick is awarded to the opposing team.  
**d**. The player cannot be shown a yellow card for this offence, but the referee can draw attention to it so the player behaves more sportingly.
14. A goal cannot be scored directly from which of the following restarts?  
**a**. Throw-in  
**b**. Corner kick  
**c**. Direct free kick  
**d**. All of the answers are correct.
15. Are players allowed to use tape to cover jewellery  
**a** No  
**b**. Not if the jewellery is metal  
**c**. Yes, if the referee approves  
**d**. all of the above
16. The ball goes completely over a touch line. Before the throw-in is taken, a player strikes an opponent with excessive force. What decision should the referee make?  
**a**. The referee sends off the offending player for violent conduct and awards an indirect free kick from where the ball was at the time of the striking.  
**b**. The referee sends off the offending player for violent conduct and awards a direct free kick from the touch line  
**c**. The referee sends off the offending player for violent conduct and awards a throw-in  
**d**. None of the answers is correct
17. A player taking a penalty kick passes the ball backward to a team-mate who scores a goal. What decision should the referee make?  
**a** The referee disallows the goal and orders to retake the penalty kick  
**b**. The referee disallows the goal and play is restarted with an indirect free kick against the team who took the penalty kick.  
**c**. The referee awards the goal.  
**d**. None of the answers is correct.
18. A player is fouled by an opponent but keeps possession of the ball and continues playing. The referee ...  
**a** applies advantage and allows play to continue  
**b**. penalises the offence if he is not sure about the advantage.  
**c**. allows play to continue. The referee can never change a decision after advantage has been applied.  
**d**. None of the answers is correct
19. Can the referee show a yellow or red card to a player in the dressing room?  
**a** Yes, always  
**b**. No  
**c**. Yes, but only if it is for an assault.  
**d**. Yes, but only if a team official is present.
20. Is it an offence if a goalkeeper picks up the ball with his hands after it has been deliberately passed to him by a team-mate using his leg?  
**a** Yes, always  
**b**. No  
**c**. Yes, but only if it is picked up with his hands  
**d**. None of the above

Only a single winner will be chosen from those who answered all questions correctly.

## Quiz Result Laws of the Game

There was no winner to the *Know Your Laws* February issue quiz.

- Question 1: Answer d. A minimum of 9.15 meters and also outside the penalty area if the free kick is taken by a team from inside their own penalty area ... is the distance from the ball at a free kick if an attacker asks for it.
- Question 2: Answer d. All are correct
- Question 3: Answer b. A team cannot start without their goalkeeper. The minimum number of players is 7.
- Question 4: Answer a. Serious foul play if it endangers the safety of an opponent.
- Question 5: Answer d. A player is not offside if he is in his own half of the field, he is level with the second last opponent, he is level with the last two opponents.
- Question 6: Answer b. A captain can never caution a player from his own team for an offence punishable by a yellow card.
- Question 7: Answer c. A goal can be scored direct from a corner kick but only in the opponent's goal.
- Question 8: Answer c. The ball is in play after the signal is given by the referee, the ball is played by the foot and it moves forward.
- Question 9: Answer a. The referee awards a penalty kick, when a defender holds an attacker outside the penalty area but stops holding just inside the penalty area.
- Question 10: Answer d. at the intersection of the goal line and the penalty area is the correct position for the assistant referee when a penalty is taken during a match.

## Goalline technology

continued from page 5

“We also had a really positive conversation about headscarves and we received a strong presentation. We have approved that with one caveat; that we have to make sure it is safe.”

In relation to the proposed amendments to the **Laws of the Game**, approval was granted by the IFAB to amend **Law 1 (The Field of Play, Commercial Advertising)**, clearly defining the location of upright advertising.

Approval was also granted to The FA's proposal regarding modifications to the number of substitutions allowed in amateur football.

An option was offered to all four British Associations to carry out a two-year experiment.

The IFAB also approved an amendment to **Law 4 (The Players' Equipment)** and to **Law 8 (The Start and Restart of Play)**. Law 8 now clearly defines the action that should be taken by match officials, should the ball be kicked directly into the goal from an 'uncontested' dropped ball.

FIFA agreed to withdraw the proposed amendment to **Law 3 (The Numbers of Players)** in relation to a fourth substitution being used during extra time, and the proposal regarding **Law 12 (Fouls and Misconduct)** concerning the so-called 'Triple Punishment' will be reviewed further.

In other matters, the IFAB received a presentation on the Additional Assistant Referees (AAR) experiment.

Experiments are ongoing in the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Europa League, as well as competitions in Brazil, Morocco and Qatar.

A final report will be made at the Special Meeting of the IFAB on 2 July, following the conclusion of the UEFA EURO 2012 competition, in order that a definitive decision on the future of AAR can also be made.

The decisions concerning the **Laws of the Game** taken on Saturday by the IFAB will come into effect – taking into consideration UEFA EURO 2012 – on June 1, 2012.