

# FLAG & WHISTLE

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



## BEACH BLAST

### Mixing Soccer and Beach Life together

Vancouver Area branch President **Marc Bowley** would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance either officiating or assisting with administration at the recent Beach Blast Soccer Tournament over the August 10-12, 2012 weekend:

Amanda Cordua Von Specht, Asia Robinson, Aleks Lakovic, Ali Virani, Art Duran, Bob Dumont, Chantelle Schwartz, Chris Cyr, Corey Strohan, Dave Hargreaves, Dave Sinclair, Eduardo Rivera, Emil Udovich, Evan Jones, Ezra Parker, Gord Vandersar, Harry Short, Hector Cortez, Holly Terhune, Iain Andrews, Jackson Cowie, John Tsang, Kevin O'Malley, Megan Hoy, Meghan Luk, Mike Carpenter, Mike Vanry, Mladen Herceg, Nick Hawley, Phil Barrington,

Robbie Battle, Robin Woods, Ron Schaeffer, Ross Graham, Sasa Jekanski, Sean Stewart, Stephen Lebrechthausen, Subrina Pratt, Theo Sanchez

As with every year, the Vancouver Area branch gives out certain awards to those referees that distinguished themselves in the tournament. Congratulations to the following individuals:

*Iron Man*

**Ali Virani**

*Iron Woman*

**Holly Terhune**

*Most Promising Referee – Male*

**Ross Graham**

*Most Promising Referee – Female*

**Meghan Luk / Megan Hoy (tie)**

A further thanks goes to BC Soccer Referee Development Coordinator **Jose Branco** for announcing the tournament at recent sessions of the Candidates Program. Also many thanks to Joe Ciresi for his recruitment efforts.

This year there were over 140 teams participating, more than last year. The tournament was played under hot, sunny skies (see photos in this issue). Congratulations to all officials and helpers!



# BC Referees at CSA Annual Provincial Referee Course

*Ed note:* Each year the CSA holds a clinic for all those referees looking to be upgraded to Provincial status. This year's BC contingent to the annual symposium, held over the Victoria Day weekend, included **Matt Wynne** of Kelowna, **Chang Joo Jang** of Vancouver and Vancouver Island Area President and RA member **Mark McNally-Dawes**. Here, we present Mark's shortened report on the trip.

Matt Wynne Chang Joo Jang and I all left BC on different flights May 18 to attend the *three-day CSA Provincial Referees Course* in Vaughn, Ontario.

We all arrived between 7:30 and 8:00 pm EST. that night and just missed being able to attend a local match with the group.

I was roomed with Chang Joo and we had a great time during the course of the weekend (he kept on apologizing for his less than perfect English but I assured him that was better than my Korean).

On the morning of the first day there was a video review of the previous night's game. This led to the focus for the clinic which was *alertness and awareness, player and game management*.

Our head instructor for the weekend was **Tiger Liu** who is the head referees' instructor for the CSA.

Along with Tiger were a team of 3 other very knowledgeable instructors one of which was a former FIFA referee.

We had approximately 60 referees attending the course the majority of whom were from Quebec and Ontario. The only

province that didn't have a representative was Saskatchewan.

Each day began at 8:00 am with roughly four hrs of in-class instruction which was split by lunch, a 2-3 hrs on field practical session followed by an hour or so of classroom instruction.

Each day also included two 20-question *Laws of the Game* quizzes. Apparently this is a Canadian ritual for all Canadian National and FIFA referees during and between assignments.

At FIFA training sessions, Canadians are consistently among the top scorers at these tests.

The last hour or so of in class instruction acted also as a cooling down period as temperatures for the weekend were

between 26-29 Celsius before you factor in the turf field we were on.

The Sunday (last day was toned down a bit on field due to the heat) was classroom instruction and indoor training on turf.

All the instruction was excellent and I would like to comment that we here in BC at the local level are definitely on track when it comes to education and physical training.

The whole weekend seemed to fly by helped by the time difference as it felt that we were always a little tired by day's end. The camaraderie was great as I met two fantastic BC referees and left with great memories and the fact that I still have a long way to go on improving as an official. It's all about the education.

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## Up-and-coming Referees



These are some of the young referees who helped out at the Beach Blast.  
*Left to Right: Meghan Luk, Subrina Pratt, Megan Hoy, Ezra Parker, Andrew Balzer, Theo Majia. Missing: Ross Graham*

*Photo: Mynor Campos*

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# Referees at the FIFA Fitness Test



*National Referee **Alain Ruch** sprints the 40 meter while National Referee **Rubin Smilev** waits for his turn*



***Martin Reid** from the Fraser Valley Referees Association is doing one of his 40 m sprint*



***Phil Leung** at the third run of his total of six runs*



*(L-R) **Josh Miller**, **Dave Bazett**, **Martin Reid**, **Vladen Herceg***



*(L-R) **Chris Wattan**, **Phil Leung**, **Phil Barrington**, **Stefan Tanaka-Freundt***



***Bob Sawtell** (left) instructs one Assessor-Instructor group on how to oversee the control points for the fitness test ...*



*... while **Tiberio de Frias** (4th from left) listens to questions put forward by another group of Instructors-Assessors.*

# Noticable Achievement

Retired FIFA officials and RA executive branch executive members **Mauricio Navarro** and former RA branch executive **Martin Reid** were recognized with specialized pennants from the CSA indicating their years of service.

The presentation was made by BC Soccer Referee Development Coordinator Jose Branco at the request of the national governing body at the recently completed BC Soccer Instructor and Assessor Symposium on Saturday, August 11th.

In speaking to the assembled group of instructors and assessors, Mauricio made mention of a few individuals that helped him along the way, some who were in attendance.

Looking forward, now that he's on "the other side" (i.e. Mauricio is now off the FIFA list and is looking to becoming either an assessor or instructor), he impressed upon everyone how important a role they played in a referee's development.



*Paul Ward (left) and BC Soccer Referee Development Co-ordinator Jose Branco.*

Canadian FIFA referee **Paul Ward** was presented with an award from the CSA at the recent BC Soccer Instructor/Assessor Symposium for his participation in the CONCACAF U-17 World Cup Qualifying Tournament.



*Mauricio Navarro (left) and Martin Reid*

## BC Soccer recognizes Officials of the Year

This year's Officials-of-the-Year were presented in a special ceremony at halftime of the Vancouver Whitecaps-Colorado Rapids match on Saturday, June 16th. This year's recipients are: Adult Official-of-the-year **Rubin Smilev** and Youth Official-of-the-Year **Thomas Davies**.

The annual awards are presented as part of BC Soccer's Awards and Scholarship Celebration. This year the event was held inside the banquet rooms at BC Place in order to coincide with the Vancouver Whitecaps FC match.

Congratulations to both Ruben and Thomas on their respective honours!

## Upcoming monthly Meeting Dates

All Coastal Area Association branches will soon be restarting monthly meetings after the usual summer recess. Membership renewals can be made at this time a well.

Here are the meeting dates, times and venues for the coming months (please check the website, [www.bcsra.com](http://www.bcsra.com), for the latest information):

### Vancouver Area (VASRA)

All meetings to be held in the **South Burnaby Metro Club Room** of the **Bonsor Community Center** in Burnaby. Start time is always 7:00 pm.  
 Monday August 27th,  
 Monday September 24,  
 Monday October 29,  
 Monday November 26

### Vancouver Island (VISRA) – South

All meetings to be held at the **Gordon Head Fieldhouse** on Tyndall Avenue. Start time is 7:30 pm:  
 Monday, September 17  
 Monday October 15  
 Monday, November 19  
 Monday December 17

### Fraser Valley (FVSRA)

On Monday, the FVSRA voted to try an experiment. The monthly meeting will change for October and November only to the first Wednesday (**October 1** and **November 7**). Both meetings will be held at the Langley Legion starting at 7:30 pm. Members are asked to check the website, [www.bcsra.com](http://www.bcsra.com) for the latest news on monthly meetings.

### IN MEMORIAM JOHN KEIZER



This past July the refereeing world lost a passionate colleague of the Beautiful Game. John Keizer, a Fraser Valley Area Life Member, passed away at the age of 92. John, a native of Holland and a passionate Ajax supporter, refereed mostly in youth soccer.

He was a fixture at past meetings and social outings of the Fraser Valley. His funeral was held Saturday, July 14 at the Fraser Heights Funeral Home in Surrey with members of the Referees Association in attendance.



# Know Your Fellow Member

Name: **Mark McNally-Dawes**

Residence: **Victoria BC**

# Years Refereeing: **10 yrs (I think)**

*What made you get started in refereeing?*

There was a shortage of referees and at the same time I was recovering from a soccer injury which stopped me playing for six months.

*What is your most memorable moment in refereeing so far?*

Every game is memorable. But being assigned to my first PDL match was awesome as well as officiating a Provincial masters men's final.

*What advice would you give to someone starting out in refereeing?*

Stick with your decision because at the end of the day it's so rewarding and, although you'll never make everyone happy, all the while it's great to hear those rare words "great game ref" from the losing team.

## Thanks for Thinking of us ... *not*

Anyone that watched the Vancouver Whitecaps vs Real Salt Lake game on Saturday, August 11th witnessed an usual sight- the teams marched out without being lead by the referees! How did this happen? In speaking to Canadian FIFA Referee **Paul Ward**, the operations crew forgot to tell the match officials when it was time to march onto the field.

The regular referee liaison was not there that day and a new person was taking care of them. The match officials were left to stand in the tunnel until the national anthems were finished playing. This meant the teams were left unsupervised from the time they gathered in the tunnel, prior to walking out, to the time they shook hands. Luckily, no pre-game incidents occurred.

### IN MEMORIAM

Former English FIFA and World Cup Referee **Jack Taylor** passed away. Mr. Taylor was the referee for the 1974 World Cup final. Former CSA Referees' Committee member **Joe Agnew** of Ontario passed away recently.

# Membership Renewal Time

A friendly reminder that it's time for all Coastal-based to renew their membership in the Referees Association. As agreed to by members, fees have been reduced/standardized to \$25 for Area Association members 16 years and up (Youth and Small-sided level referees can still join for \$10 each).

Also Direct members (i.e. those living outside the catchment region of the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Area and Vancouver Island Area Association branches) have also had their fees reduced/standardized to \$10 regardless of age.

A form was sent to all members to fill in if doing so via Canada Post or at monthly meetings of BCSRA Area Association branches. Members can also now join online via the BCSRA website, especially if they want to pay by credit card. The process requires 2 steps:

Fill in the online form (go to [www.bcsra.com](http://www.bcsra.com)) [www.bcsra.com](http://www.bcsra.com), click on "About Us" and choose "Membership" from the pull down menu).

If wanting pay by credit card, click on the "PayPal" button that appears once the screen refreshes after submitting the completed form.

You will be brought to the PayPal.com website which will allow you to enter information about your credit card. An email will be sent to you and the Association from PayPal indicating you have paid.

Please note: anyone wishing to pay by cheque, money order or cash can still fill in their particulars using the online form. However, there will be no PayPal prompt-you will have to remember to submit your fee otherwise your name will not be included on the list of paid members.

## 5-year-old Yukon girl struck and killed by tipped soccer net

*CBC News*

Watson Lake RCMP and the Yukon coroner's office are investigating after a five-year-old girl playing on a school field died after being struck by a tipped soccer net. A group of children were playing on the field Wednesday night when a soccer net tipped and struck the young girl. Yukon coroner **Kirsten Macdonald** said the girl's parents were nearby.

"There are preliminary reports indicating a soccer net tipped over striking a young child on the back of the head," she said. "I'm not sure how big or heavy these soccer nets are. My priority right now is the little one and their family."

The child was pronounced dead at Watson Lake Hospital around 8 p.m.

The girl's father is longtime resident **Paul Amann**. The family has requested that the child's name be withheld.

**Michele Royle** with the Yukon

Department of Education said Thursday it's removing all movable soccer nets from school grounds across the territory.

"Our hearts go out to the family and the community members who are touched by this tragedy," she said.

"The government of Yukon takes this very seriously and we're co-operating with all official investigations. In the meantime the Department of Education is also looking into this matter to see what actions we can take to contribute to the safety of people using soccer fields on school property," Royle said.



*Top and right:  
Referees at the Nations Cup*

# BC Summer Games – a new Era

*Ed note:* The soccer portion of the BC Summer Games was held at Surrey's Newton Athletic Park from July 20-22. Overseen by VISRA member **Bob Hope** with BC Soccer Referee Committee and BCSRA Past President **Pat Harkness** acting as the Head of Officials/Assessors, a squadron of young officials, mostly high-school aged, officiated in 8 team U-12 Small Sided game format. One of those officials, **Chantelle Schwartz** of Richmond, gives us her recollections from this year's event in a report, (her first ever of this kind) which she also made to **George Tweedlie**, Richmond Youth Head Ref and fellow BCSRA member .

## **Day One: Thursday- Opening Ceremonies**

After arriving at the accreditation center, after all my fellow officials had already been and gone, there was some confusion as to where I was actually supposed to go. I went to the school, our accommodation site, and fortunately ran into one of the other newly arrived officials. Rushing off to the welcoming banquet, I met up with a group of my fellow officials for the first time. To say it was a little uncomfortable would be an understatement in the extreme. We all quickly formed into groups of who was from the same general area. After dinner, we went to the opening ceremonies.

From there, we went to a brief meeting, where we met **Pat Harkness**, the man in charge for the weekend, **Bob Hope**, the man in charge of the soccer portion of the tournament, and **Shannon Smart**, one of our assessors. This was the first time we were truly together as a group. We were told how the games would be organized, what our schedules would be like and had all our questions answered. By that point it was getting late, so we headed back to the school for the night.

## **Day Two: Friday First day of Competitions**

It was an early start for half of us, as we headed to breakfast at the Cloverdale Arena, and then to Newton Athletic Park for 8am. The first kick off of the day was 9am. I was on the line for the first game of the day. From the moment we left the club house, we were all business. We were expected to conduct ourselves as professionals.

We walked onto the field half an hour before kick off, into the pouring rain. We stood together on the sideline, the girl who was the center referee in the middle, and the other AR on he left and right. We walked out onto the field in this formation, did the coin toss, checked the nets and waited for kick off. It was not a particularly exciting game and the greatest challenge was to stay focused. The game ended, and I had just 10 minutes to change and towel off, before heading back out

into the rain for my second game. Again I was on the line, and this game was much the same as the first. We ran back to the clubhouse eager to get out of the rain, and have lunch, before all too soon, we were headed back out into the rain.

My third game of the day was different from the other two. Again, I was on the line, but I was kept hopping. This game was more fierce than the other two, and the teams were much more competitive. The game ended a draw, and tired wet and hungry, we headed back to our accommodation site to change into fresh DRY clothes, and leave for dinner at Cloverdale Arena. After dinner, it was getting late, so we headed back to the school to wind down before bed.

## **Day Three: Saturday Second day of Competitions, Semifinals**

It was another early start, and again I was refereeing in the first game of the day. This day, however, was different. This was my first time in the middle for this tournament, and also my first time of ever working with assistant referees. But there was also an added element of pressure. I knew, we all did, that our performances in the middle would determine whether or not we would get a chance to referee in the middle again, and if so, whether or not it would be a semifinal, or one of the finals.

The game, fortunately, although competitive, was not a difficult one. We left the field confident in our performance, and retreated to the club house, to relax before lunch, and see whether or not we had been awarded one of the afternoon's semifinals. As it turns out, I had the game immediately after lunch, but I was on the line. As the rest of the day's schedule was read out, I knew I had not been assigned as a center for the semifinals. Slightly apprehensive, I walked onto the field for our game.

When we returned the schedules for the finals had been posted. I had been assigned the bronze medal game, as the center referee. At first I was thrilled, then the famil-

iar feeling of "what if I screw up?" took over. I was not allowed to dwell on it however, as plans were quickly made, and we split into different groups and headed for dinner. My group, decided to go to Boston Pizza to celebrate our last night together. After dinner, we went back to the school, hung out, and went to bed.

## **Day Four: Sunday The Finals**

This was the earliest start of them all. We arrived at Newton Athletic Park for 7:30am to get ready for our 8:30am Kick Off. It was cold out so early in the morning, but at least it was shaping up to be a nice day. Not wanting to be out in the cold earlier than we had to, I did the pre-game talk in the clubhouse. We got dressed and set up, and I tried not to look as I felt. I was nervous, extremely so, trying to remember if there was anything I had forgotten. As it was, I almost walked out of the clubhouse leaving the game balls behind. Well, we marched out onto the field in the brisk, business-like manner that we had become accustomed to. Pre-game checks and the coin toss went smoothly, and before I knew it, I had blown my whistle for the start of the game.

The game itself was a good one, both teams were evenly matched, and equally physical with one another. About halfway through the second half the orange zone 4 team broke out on a breakaway, It was saved by the goal keeper, but the ball rebounded back to the shooter, she passed the ball across the box, onto the feet of another oncoming orange striker who swiftly put the ball into the net. About to award the goal, I saw Stav's flag above her head: offside. I looked at her, she gave a small nod, and I knew she was sure. With the thought "Oh crap, we're going to get yelled at for this one" I raised my hand and blew my whistle for the offside. Keep in mind this whole thing happened in a matter of seconds, the crowd was still cheering and my whistle went unheard, except by the closest players.

*Cont'd on page 7*

# Editorial Goal-Line Technology

## Beware of the Black Swan

Until the late 1600's, it was presumed that all swans were white. Couldn't be any other colour they said. That is until after Dutch explorer **Willem de Vlamingh** discovered black swans in Western Australia in 1697.[5] Thus the term "black swan" came to describe when the unthinkable actually happens and disproves a commonly held belief. So what does this have to do goal line technology?

In the soccer world's rush to eliminate errors on whether the ball crossed the goal line or not (for a goal), by implementing a technological solution to fix it the powers that be have forgotten one thing- the system is still designed by humans. Humans, by definition, are imperfect.

And because they are imperfect, **Murphy's Law**, i.e. "What can go wrong will and at the worst possible time" will eventually come back to bite the very solution that everyone thinks will solve all the problems of the past.

As one who has dealt with design teams and the ramifications of electronic design for one's job/career, I can tell you the robustness of a design is only as good as how many scenarios a design team can think of.

And in coming up with these scenarios, tradeoffs will be made for sake of time, effort and money. Put another way, if dur-

ing the design a scenario is felt unlikely ever to occur, it will be dumped and the system will be released for production. The same goes the other way. Because no human can predict every scenario, there may be one that gets missed.

For example, of the two leading contenders, the "**Hawkeye**" system uses an optical method to determine whether the ball crossed the line or not. This has been effective recently at Wimbledon, both the tournament and the Olympic venue. However, in tennis, nobody is likely to be standing on the line as the ball travels over it. Would the system have still detected a goal from **John Terry's** clearance in the England-Ukraine match?

Such missed scenarios could have nothing to do with the game itself. The other leading contender is proposing to put magnets in the ball. Could the metallic casing of an overhanging camera trigger a "false positive" (or false negative)?

And what about metal jewelry? Ah, you say, players' jewelry is inspected prior to the match. True, but how many times have we checked players' equipment only to find a chain pop out from underneath a player's jersey after the game has started?

To be fair, FIFA has placed stringent design requirements for such a system to eliminate the room for error. However,

let's be honest. Who will accept that the solution which was implemented to eliminate the very problem it was meant to solve failed- i.e. it "made a mistake" and allowed or disallowed a goal?

It will happen. The only question is when and how much the poor match referee is going to have to shovel on FIFA's behalf when everyone goes bonkers at this "unthinkable" possibility.

*Yours Truly,*

*Elvio Chies, F&W Editor*

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### BC Summer Games

*Con'd from page 6*

The message caught on quickly however, and soon, there was a different noise issuing from the grandstand.

We sorted the players out, and eventually the noise went down. Play continued as it had, with an increased level of physical play, the likes of which I had never seen from U12 girls. Regulation time ended, with the score zero-zero. The rules state, that there was to be no overtime, but it would go straight to a shootout. My first thought, "*Oh my god what do I do?*".

It was the sight of the players heading for their benches that snapped me out of the ridiculous headspace I was in. I quickly sent **Holly**, my other assistant to herd the players to the center circle, and **Stav** to clear the spectators standing on the other side of the fence behind the goal, as well as to ask the team warming up behind the net to move, or wait for the end. Of what to do next, I was unsure, having never been the center referee for the tournament, I quickly jogged to consult with **Elvio (Chies)**, my assessor for the match, as to the correct proceedings, as I had only a vague idea of what came next, and I did not want to make any mistakes. We did the coin toss, and the shootout progressed without any problems. It was won by Thompson-Okanagan in extra shooters. After that, it was a matter of packing up, saying goodbyes, exchanging contact information, and heading home for a long shower, and sleep in my own bed.

Over those four days, we went from a bunch of small groups, with seemingly only one thing in common to a group of friends, a real team, a diverse group and as one of the boys said when asked what team we were, he replied, "We're not a team, we're a family".



# New Law Changes for 2012-13 Season

(From FIFA Circular 1302 on FIFA.com)

(Ed note: the following information will be made available at the annual refresher clinic. Members are reminded to obtain official instruction before implementing any Law changes)

At the 126th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) amendments to the Laws of the Game concerning Law were approved concerning several Laws including. **Law 3 - The Number of Players**; **Law 4 - The Players' Equipment**; and **Law 8 - The Start and Restart of Play**.

The biggest change deals with the scenario if a goal results directly from a dropped ball. As the new text says:

"If the ball enters the goal: if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the opponents' goal, a goal kick is awarded, if a dropped ball is kicked directly into the team's own goal, a corner kick is awarded to the opposing team."

The need for tape used by players on their socks to be the same colour as the socks themselves was added under Law 4. The circular indicated the reason for adding this text was the confusion it was causing assistant referees who used the colour socks "...to look at the sock to determine who last played the ball before it went out of play."

**Under Law 3**, additional text will be added concerning what the process the referee should follow in case a named substitute

starts the game instead of the intended player but the referee is not informed. Under such instances the substitute would still be allowed to play, there would be no disciplinary action, the number of substitution would not decrease but the referee would be required to mention this in any report. The reason given in the circular was "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."

Other changes included more clearly defining where advertising boards may be setup and a slight **re-wording of Law 12** concerning a disciplinary sanction on handball by changing the phrase "...deliberate and blatant..." to just "...deliberate" in to raise the importance that, according to the reason given in the circular, "It is more important to punish the consequence that the hand ball created rather than the fact that it was blatant."

Decisions regarding Goal Line Technology, the additional assistant referee and the hijab were deferred to a special meeting in July

(Ed note: see accompanying article in this issue).

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## IFAB makes three unanimous historic decisions

(FIFA.com) Thursday 5 July 2012

(Ed note: members are reminded to wait for official instruction before implementing any Law changes).

The International Football Association Board (IFAB) convened at the Home of FIFA in Zurich today, 5 July 2012, for a Special Meeting under the chairmanship of FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter.

The first item on the agenda was goal-line technology (GLT). Following the conclusion of a nine-month test process that began in August 2011, led by EMPA (Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology), the IFAB unanimously decided to approve in principle both companies that took part in Test Phase 2: GoalRef and Hawk-Eye. This approval is subject to a final installation test at each stadium before the systems can be used in "real" football matches, in accordance with the FIFA Quality Programme for GLT.

The IFAB was keen to stress that technology will only be utilised for the goal line and for no other areas of the game. Revisions to the wording of specific *Laws of the Game* will now consequently be made, relating to: **Law 1 (The Field of Play)**; **Law 2 (The Ball)**; **Law 5 (The Referee)**; and **Law 10 (The Method of Scoring)**.

The second decision of the IFAB concerned additional assistant referees (AAR) following a two-year experiment in the UEFA Champions League, Europa League and EURO 2012, as well as the AFC President's Cup and competitions in Brazil, France, Morocco and Qatar. Following a presentation by the AAR Experiment Coordinator, Donald McVicar, the IFAB again unanimously agreed that the use of two additional assistant referees be approved, acknowledging the support they can provide in officiating football matches. As a result of this decision, an amendment will be made to the Laws of the Game, with a separate section concerning additional assistant referees. It was also approved that communication equipment be permitted between match officials in the Laws of the Game.

The third main topic for discussion concerned **Law 4 - The Players' Equipment**, and specifically the "headscarf." The IFAB agreed to unani-

mously approve - temporarily during a trial period - the wearing of headscarves. The design, colour and material permitted will be defined and confirmed following the IFAB Annual Business Meeting in Glasgow in October. Currently there is no medical literature concerning injuries as a result of wearing a headscarf, and therefore the decision taken today will be reviewed at the IFAB Annual General Meeting in 2014.

In other matters, the IFAB confirmed that the Annual Business Meeting will further discuss the issue of "triple punishment," currently detailed in **Law 12 (Fouls and Misconduct; Sending-off Offences)**, and also agreed to discuss further how the IFAB can improve consultation with the game.

The decisions concerning the Laws of the Game taken today regarding GLT and AAR by the IFAB will come into effect immediately.

The 127th Annual General Meeting will take place in Edinburgh, Scotland on 1-2 March 2013.

More information on the GLT Quality Programme, including videos, Q&As and more information on the test manual and licensing procedure, can be found at: [www.FIFA.com/quality](http://www.FIFA.com/quality).



# Soccer goes digital with Intelligent Ball

By Douglas Perry, PRNewswire

Following controversy of a goal scored but not granted at the most recent European Championship between England and the Ukraine, FIFA has agreed to allow **Hawk Eye** and **GoalRef** technologies to help avoid future referee errors.

Hawk Eye is similar to the camera technology used in tennis and relies on up to six cameras that are monitoring the goal. In the event of a goal, all images are combined and analyzed to determine whether the soccer ball entirely crossed the goal line or not.

A more advanced technology is GoalRef, which combines a microchip embedded in a soccer ball as well as a magnetic field that is created above the goal line. The chip can send data wire-

lessly to a monitoring system or to a device worn by the referee and provide instant information of a scored goal.

The soccer ball with integrated chip for the GoalRef system has been developed by Danish firm Select and is called "**iBall**". Select said that it had a head start with the system since it has been "developing" the soccer ball for "more than 65 years."

"With a certain sense of pride, we can now say that Select has been behind the four most important steps in the development of the modern soccer ball," said Select CEO **Peter Knap**. "It began with the first laceless leather ball, then the first ball with 32 panels, then the first synthetic leather ball, and now the world's first

intelligent ball. At Select we have a deep insight into the very nature of the sport that enables us to create the best professional sporting equipment." The magnetic field component is provided by Fraunhofer IIS.

FIFA already said that both systems can be used in future soccer games, but there is no indication that any clubs globally would deploy the technology this year.

For example, major clubs playing in Germany's first division said that they may consider the technology for the 2013 season and argue that camera systems should also be used to avoid frequent referee errors affecting, for example, the offside rule.

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## Six-Second Goalkeeper Rule proves baffling to many

By JEFF Z. KLEIN, nytimes.com

(Ed note: this article is included only to give everyone insight as to what is being written in foreign media about the past Women's Olympic soccer semi-final. No disrespect to any official is intended and was only included on the basis that it appears to be as balanced an article that could be found).

The critical, controversial call that helped the United States women's soccer team score the tying goal in its overtime victory over Canada may not have been wrong, but that does not mean it was right, either.

Referee **Christiana Pedersen's** ruling that the Canadian goalkeeper had been wasting time, giving an indirect free kick to the Americans, was one that many veteran players and coaches say they have never seen, and many described it as baffling. Even soccer governing bodies advise using extreme caution when making such a call.

With Canada leading, 3-2, in the 78th minute Monday, Pedersen ruled that Canada's goalkeeper, **Erin McLeod**, held the ball for more than six seconds after making a save. The ensuing free kick led to a penalty kick in what turned out to be a 4-3 win for the Americans.

The rule in question falls under Law 12 of FIFA's *Laws of the Game*. FIFA's official interpretation of that law includes a notation that states "a goalkeeper is not permitted to keep control of the ball in his hands for more than six seconds."

But **U.S. Soccer**, the **English Football Association** and other governing bodies have emphasized to referees that the rule is discretionary, and is not meant to be

called except for egregious violations.

On the play, according to **The New York Times**, McLeod caught a corner kick, fell to the grass, got up after about four seconds, then punted the ball away 10 or 11 seconds later. Other accounts of the match had McLeod releasing the ball after about eight seconds.

Either way, Pedersen had already blown the whistle – too soon, according to some interpretations.

The six-second count is supposed to begin not from the moment the goalkeeper first gains possession of the ball, but after she gathers herself, gets up and begins to look for a teammate to play it to, as U.S. Soccer notes in its advice to referees:

"Infringement of the six-second rule is sometimes misinterpreted," the federation noted in its *Ask a Referee* online column. "The count starts when the goalkeeper is preparing to release the ball, not when he or she actually gains possession. Why? Because very often the goalkeeper has to disentangle him/herself from other players or move around fallen players, and it would be unfair to begin the count in such a case." But such minute distinctions are secondary to the overriding principle emphasized to referees: to not blow the whistle for offenses deemed trifling.

"Technically the goalkeeper must re-

lease the ball within six seconds of having established full control, which would not count rising from the ground or stopping their run (if they had to run) to gain the ball," U.S. Soccer noted.

"However, goalkeepers throughout the world routinely violate the six-second rule without punishment if the referee is convinced that the goalkeeper is making a best effort."

Moreover, U.S. Soccer advised referees in a 2010 memorandum, "Before penalizing a goalkeeper for violating this time limit, the referee should warn the goalkeeper about such actions and then should penalize the violation only if the goalkeeper continues to waste time or commits a comparable infringement again later in the match."

Was McLeod making a best effort? Pedersen has not said; requests from newspapers and television in her native Norway to interview her were turned down because she is prohibited by FIFA from speaking to reporters without the world body's permission.

Certainly McLeod did hold the ball for about 12 seconds after gaining possession on two separate occasions, in both the 58th minute and the 61st. But even in those cases, she appeared to be making

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## Six Second Rule

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a honest effort to find a player to whom she could send a pass.

Nevertheless, the Americans' Abby Wambach was in Pedersen's ear, doing what many players do when their team is losing: audibly counting down the seconds after the opposing goalkeeper gets hold of the ball to pressure the keeper to give up the ball, or the referee to make the six-second call.

"I wasn't yelling; I was just counting," Wambach said Tuesday in an interview with Yahoo Sports. "Probably did it five to seven times."

In the 78th minute, Wambach said, she did it again, and this time Pedersen bit.

"I got to 10 seconds right next to the referee, and at 10 seconds she blew the whistle," she said.

Referees usually give warnings before issuing cautions for time-wasting, but Pedersen seems not to have done so on the pivotal call.

McLeod said she was informally warned by an assistant referee at halftime.

"She said, 'Don't delay the play too much,' but it wasn't like a real warning," McLeod said. McLeod added that on the critical call, Pedersen told her that "I held the ball for 10 seconds - she obviously counted the time when I was on the ground."

The National Post of Canada asked McLeod whether she had indeed held the ball that long.

"Nowhere near," McLeod said. "I think the referee was very one-sided. I was stunned when it happened."

She added: "I have never known this to happen in a game before. It was an interesting decision. Referees never make this kind of decision."

Canada's coach, John Herdman, noted that it wasn't as if McLeod "purposely tried to slow the game down, where you see goalkeepers really cheating - she wasn't doing that." He said McLeod was simply waiting for her fullbacks to get into position for a short outlet.

One reason referees do not whistle the six-second rule is because the penalty is so harsh: an indirect free kick from the spot of the violation, inside the penalty area. Several hundred games can go by without an indirect free kick being awarded inside a penalty area.

Almost invariably, when goalkeepers are cautioned for time-wasting, it happens during a goal kick. That way, the referee can give a yellow card to the keeper, who then simply takes the goal kick, so that the match itself is not affected.

FIFA added the six-second rule to Law 12 in 1998, but it has always been seen as a guideline more than as a hard-and-fast regulation, and not to be invoked unless there is an egregious violation.

"If a goalkeeper takes six, seven or eight seconds when there is no evidence of deliberate time-wasting, why spoil the game when there is no need to?" as an Indiana soccer referees federation noted. "It's very much like the leeway given when a throw-in is taken. We would not expect every throw-in to be taken on the exact blade of grass."

A BBC article even suggested that the six-second rule be done away with entirely. "No referees adhere to it anyway," the former Hearts and Dundee United defender Allan Preston said. "We don't want a keeper standing with the ball for more than a minute, but it doesn't get used. Sometimes you see it getting used at the start of the season, but apart from that, you never see a ref pulling up a goalkeeper for holding on to the ball for longer than six seconds."

Pedersen's six-second call was not even the decision that most outraged Herdman, the Canada coach. Rather, it was the handball awarded on the subsequent indirect free kick, when Megan Rapinoe's hard, close-range shot struck two Canadians in the arms and hands.

Under the sport's rules, if a player has no time to move her hands out of the way, no handball foul is to be given.

"When a ball is struck at that pace ..." Herdman said after the match, and trailed off without completing the thought.

"We're deeply disappointed," he said.

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## Attention (Referee) Gamers – EA Sports scores a Yellow Card?

*Ed note:* Some members may be familiar with the "FIFA 11" video game made by Electronic Arts or EA Sports as it's more commonly known. The game is made at EA's Burnaby facility and is known for its incredible graphics.

However, with all this attention to detail according to **Chantelle Schwartz**, it seems EA Sports has forgotten one aspect- the referees! At the risk of putting her on the spot again, we present a critique of her views on the game.

I recently purchased a used copy of FIFA 11 by Electronic Arts. While the graphics were incredible, and details, down to the ripples of the players' shirts were perfect, there were a few errors in the game.

Despite EA spending large sums of money to have players come in to have their motions registered in the computer systems, it seems they overlooked the third team on the field. All of the officials make errors even a young referee such as myself has no problem spotting.

The first is that the Center Referee has no knowledge of the advantage signal. Even when the icon appears on the screen, the referee himself gives no indication of it. He also cannot distinguish between direct and indirect free kicks.

The other errors concern the Assistants. When flagging the ball out of play, or indicating a foul, the assistants are seen switching the flag between hands ABOVE their head.

The second mistake they make, is they never follow the ball to the goal line. As soon as the ball leaves the field of play, they stop where they are standing, and indicate goal or corner kick, sometimes 20 or 30 yards from the goal line. They also have no knowledge of the variations between the offside signals (near-side, far-side, middle) and instead use the "middle" signal for all calls.

Being a referee, I could not stand to see the "professionals" making such basic mistakes. I wrote a letter to an EA Senior Developer, and the man in charge of the

EA Sports department. I included pictures, short videos showing the errors, and photographs of the pages in the FIFA Law book showing the correct procedures. Less than a month later I received a package in the mail. It contained a brief letter, really more of a note, a brand new copy of FIFA 12, and a promise that these errors would be fixed in the soon to be released FIFA 13, and that they would send me a copy of the new game, when it came out.

I am eagerly awaiting the release of FIFA 13, and hope that from now on, all three teams on the field will be recognized.

(And the staff at the F&W also eagerly awaits Chantelle's review...)

**Answers to April Quiz  
1a, 2a, 3a, 4b, 5b, 6a, 17a, 8c**

*There was no winner to the  
June 2012 Quiz.*