



Scottish FA host 127th IFAB AGM

(from www.scottishfa.co.uk)

The 127th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board (IFAB) will take place on Saturday 2 March under the chairmanship of The Scottish FA in Edinburgh.

Amongst the items on the agenda, the IFAB will discuss a clarification to the interpretation of (**Law 11 - Offside**), following proposals developed by FIFA's Refereeing department and the IFAB technical sub-committee. The technical sub-committee is comprised of the respective Heads of Refereeing and/or technical experts of FIFA and the four British Associations.

Other topics for discussion include the usage of electronic performance monitoring systems; the Dropped Ball (**Law 8 - Start and Restart of Play**) following a submission by the Danish FA; as well as an update report on Goal-Line Technology following the implementation of two systems at the FIFA Club World Cup in Japan in December 2012.



IFAB discussion takes place

The IFAB will also discuss its future consultation and decision-making processes, as well as its future structure.

The self-reform of the International Football Association Board was a proposal that stemmed from FIFA's agree-

ment to major reforms of its governance which were presented to the FIFA Executive Committee at the end of March 2012, and subsequently presented at the FIFA Congress in Budapest last May.

Controversial triple sanction left off IFAB agenda

Xredit: Reuters/Michael Buholzer, (Reuters)

The controversial "triple punishment," where a player gives away a penalty, is sent off and automatically suspended, has been left off the agenda for the next meeting of soccer's rule-making body.

The International [football.uk.reuters.com/](http://www.football.uk.reuters.com/) "Full coverage of Football" **Football Association Board (IFAB)** will, however, discuss proposed changes to the drop-ball and offside rules which soccer's governing body FIFA hopes will make referee's decisions more clear-cut and less open to interpretation.

IFAB will also review the additional linesmen who have been used by European soccer's governing body UEFA but

shunned by FIFA, when it meets in Edinburgh on March 2.

Champions League, Europa League and European championship matches feature extra linesmen behind the goals to help the referee spot infringements and determine whether the ball has crossed the line.

The so-called triple punishment is invoked when a defender or goalkeeper denies an opponent a clear-scoring opportunity in the penalty area.

In addition to conceding a penalty, he is automatically sent off and misses at least the next game.

Critics complain that such decisions can

end matches as a contest or completely change the course and that a penalty would suffice in cases where the foul is not violent.

Criticism turns to outright indignity when the decision which leads to the threefold sanction is shown to be wrong. A FIFA working group led by former <http://uk.reuters.com/places/germany/> -- "Full coverage of Germany"

Germany captain and coach **Franz Beckenbauer** suggested replacing the red with a yellow card except in the case of dangerous tackles.

The proposal was studied by IFAB a year ago and they said it would be

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IFAB discussion takes place

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Fifa tests goalline technology systems

by SAPA , January 30 2013 at 04:07pm

Berlin – Football's governing body FIFA has had two different systems tested at a Germany stadium as they look to introduce goal line technology into top-flight football. Both 'Goal-Ref', a system which can verify whether a goal has been scored by using a chip in the ball, and 'Hawk-Eye', the camera system already used in tennis, were tested at the Düsseldorf Arena on Tuesday, January 28.

A number of factors were included to create realistic factors which could affect the system, with testers using smoke machines and strobe lighting to replicate different weather conditions.

"The goal-line technology will be tested for performance and reliability. There will be static and dynamic tests to simulate day and night situations," said FIFA in a statement. A decision on which system will be used is expected to be made at the International Football Association Board's (IFAB) next meeting in Edinburgh from March 1-3.

Goal-line technology was already in use at December's Club World Cup in Tokyo and is expected to be used at both the 2013 Confederations Cup and the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. The new technology could be used in the Bundesliga as early as the start of the 2013/14 season in August.



The system, which uses a microchip implanted in a ball and low magnetic waves around the goal, will detect if the ball has crossed the line and send an immediate message to the wrist watch worn by the referee.

Triple sanction – cont'd from page 1

reviewed further. It has, been left off the agenda for the March meeting.

DORTMUND CASE

One of the most recent controversies was in the Bundesliga match between Borussia Dortmund and VfL Wolfsburg in December.

Dortmund's Marcel Schmelzer was judged to have handled the ball to stop a goal-bound shot but replays showed that the ball hit his knee.

A penalty was awarded, Schmelzer sent off and Wolfsburg, losing 1-0 and completely outplayed, hit back to win 3-2. Referee Wolfgang Stark later apologised and Schmelzer's suspension was annulled.

On the offside rule, FIFA has proposed that the wording be changed to make it clear that a player is considered to be interfering with play if he challenges an opponent for the ball.

FIFA also wants to change the rule to make it clear that a player in an offside position is considered to be gaining an advantage if the ball comes to him following a deliberate save by the opposing

goalkeeper, but not from an opponent "who deliberately plays the ball."

"The current wording creates many discussions as it gives too much room for interpretation and is not precise enough," said FIFA.

"The new text is more in line with actual game situations and will eliminate the confusion regarding what is meant by rebound, deflection and when the ball has been deliberately saved."

On drop balls, FIFA has proposed keeping the rule the same but inserting the words "not touched by another player" to clarify the meaning of the term "direct".

Under the rules, a goal kick is awarded if the ball is kicked directly into an opponents' goal from a drop ball and a corner given if the ball is kicked directly into the player's own goal without being touched by another player.

"The proposed new text will clarify the interpretation of the word "direct" in the context of any player playing the ball more than once and thereafter scoring a goal without the ball being played by any other player," said FIFA.

(Reporting by Brian Homewood; Editing by Clare Fallon)

VASRA elects a new Executive

At the Annual General Meeting of the (VASRA) Vancouver-Area branch on Monday, January 28, members affiliated with the branch elected a new executive for the 2013 calendar year. The new executive is as follows:

President: Marc Bowley

(elected by acclamation for a 2 year term)

1st Vice-President: Art Duran

2nd Vice-President: Antonio Hurtado-Coll

(elected by acclamation for a 2 year term)

Secretary: Iain Andrews

(elected by acclamation for a 2 year term)

Treasurer: Ron Schaeffer

Director: Jose Fraguas

A remaining Director position remained unfilled as of the end of the meeting. Per the By-Laws of the Vancouver Area branch, the executive has the right to appoint a replacement.

Congratulations to the new executive!

RA MEMBERSHIP HELPS YOU WITH ASSESSMENTS

Members should be aware that being a member of the RA has advantages in obtaining assessments. For example, VISRA has a cost share with the Vancouver Island Soccer League whereby the association will pay for a certain percentage of an assessment. Also, at its Annual General Meeting on January 28, the membership of the VASRA agreed to pay for a members' assessment on certain conditions: if they have not had an assessment in 2 calendar years or for the first assessment after successfully completing the Regional or Provincial clinic. Although the logistics have not been setup yet there is a cap in place to ensure enough funds are available to cover all assessments.

"The Commander" Passes

Founding and Life Member **John Morris** passed away in early January after a prolonged battle from a cancerous tumour in his stomach that occurred in the previous year. John is survived by his wife Pat and several children.

John, a former National referee and former official in the old North American Soccer League, helped found the British Columbia Soccer Referees Association in 1969.

Referred to as "The Commander" because of his tenacious style, he served as President of the association and was elected as a Life Member in 1989.

John's last request was that he be buried in his native Wales. The family indicated a memorial service would be held in Vancouver after their return. At the time of this writing no date for the service was yet announced.

Peter T. Johnson

19. 01. 1935 – 22. 02. 2013

It is with regret that we are informed by our colleagues in the Ontario Soccer Referees Association (OSRA) that former Canadian FIFA Referee, OSRA Past President and Life Member passed away. He was 78.

Peter began his refereeing career in England in 1952 where he was fortunate to officiate in the Football League until his arrival in Canada in 1969. Two years later he was elected President of the Ontario Soccer Referees' Association. Peter became a FIFA referee in 1974 and was a linesman along with BCSRA Founding & Life Member Werner Winsemann on the 1976 Olympics Gold Medal match. He refereed the first leg of the 1979 National Conference Final (League semi-final) between the Cosmos and Vancouver Whitecaps.

Later on, the Canadian Soccer Association presented Peter with its International Achievement Award.

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BCSRA AGM Set For Saturday, May 11, 2013

The Annual General Meeting of your association will be held on Saturday, May 11th. In keeping with members feedback, the meeting is being held on the same day as a Whitecaps home game. This year the day coincides with a match against the LA Galaxy.

Tentatively, the Royal Bank Room at the YWCA, 733 Beatty Street in Vancouver, has been booked to host the event which will include a light lunch for all those attending. The venue has been chosen because of its close proximity to BC Place.

POSITIONS UP FOR GRABS ON PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

The following positions will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting of the association: **Vice-President, Treasurer, and Director-without-Portfolio.**

Each position is for a two year term. A Nominating Committee headed by **Immediate Past President Elvio Chies** has been struck to oversee this year's deliberations.

Anyone wishing to run for a position or inquire more about each position should contact Elvio at **604-266-0741** or via email: **Lvo@direct.ca**.

Canada's 2013 FIFA Officials announced

Congratulations to our fellow colleagues from across the country who were appointed to the FIFA List:

Referees: Gantar David , Petrescu Silviu , Ward Paul
ARs: Belleau Daniel, Briere Philippe, Clark Darren

Women Referees

Chenard Carol Anne, Dickson Sheena , Pye Michelle
ARs: Charbonneau Marie Josee, Morisset Suzanne

GROUP TICKETS FOR WHITECAPS MATCH

Why not mix business and pleasure?

A fair question and one that you can help answer for yourself. In keeping with the tradition over the last two years, the association is organizing a special group purchase of tickets for the Whitecaps-LA Galaxy game.

This is being made available to those attending the Annual General Meeting on May 11th.

Specific details are not available at time of printing except to say that members attending the AGM can purchase a ticket for themselves and family/friends. Tickets are made available on a first come, first serve basis and will be limited, initially, to a group of

twenty tickets. Those living outside the mainland will be given priority because of the distance they need to travel.

Should there be enough time to purchase extra tickets, due to the nature of the Whitecaps' opponent (LA Galaxy are one of the bigger draws), they will be done on an as needed/as available basis.

Those wishing to reserve their tickets should make their wishes known immediately by contacting either either one of these: **Treasurer Robin Woods** mail to: **rlwoods@telus.net** and/or **Immediate Past President Elvio Chies** **Lvo@direct.ca**).

Provincial Futsal Championship





Hey Ref, Handball !!!

By Ed Rae, SDI – www.massref.net/instruction/handball.pdf

When a young man came up to him in Zurich, and said, “May I kiss the hand that wrote Ulysses?” **James Joyce** replied, somewhat like King Lear, “No, it did a lot of other things too.” – *Oxford Book of Literary Anecdotes*.

On any given bright May morning. On a clear, crisp October afternoon. On gorgeous game days, otherwise pleasant grandparents in lawn chairs, yell: ‘Hey Ref, handball!’ Are hands doing a lot of things at 10-year-old games, that they should not be doing?

Ah, but it is not just blue – gray haired, youth game spectators. It is not just those, who did not grow up with the game. It is not just the unschooled, shouting handball! Who then? It is seemingly knowledgeable college mentors; experienced high school staffs; players of all skill stripes; premier paid, advanced license, pedigreed coaches too. Why all the indignant vocal vibrations?

Let’s fumble in the football archaeological digs, for the forbears of this hand thing. We can examine a London, England meeting of 1863. The seismic, redoubt of the rugby rift. An English school schism sent Association Football one way, Rugby Union another. ‘No player shall carry the ball, nor pass it to another ... no player shall take the ball from the ground with hands, while it is in play...’

Hence the first **Laws of the Game** changed the shape of the rugby ball. Ruggers handle the elliptical ball. Footballers handle the soccer, spherical ball – not !

Evolving over time, the sporting minds of 1891 codified the illegality, in detail: “... if any player shalldeliberately handle the ball ... Handling is intentionally playing the ball with hands or arm.” (A History of the Laws of Association Football, by **Sir Stan Stanley Rous** and **Donald Ford**, FIFA, Zurich Switzerland, 1974)

Appearing pretty clear? Yet, go to any game. Any field. Any day. Any level. Listen to chattering; to clattering; to angry, tattered tongues: “Handball! Why isn’t the ref calling it?”

We have an epidemic of invincible ignorance. Everywhere. So it seems. The legendary street smarts, of **Josh Billings** chide: “It is better to know nothin,’ than to

know what ain’t so.”

Intimidated, inexperienced referees often blow cold whistles, on innocent players.

This contradicts the referees’ chart of the FIFA International Board: “...not unless the hand or arm strikes or propels the ball, it is not a foul: far too often a player is penalized when the ball touches the arm or hand through no individual action...” (1976)

Usually High School Federation and NCAA college rules follow this international lead. The spirit of the laws is universal. World Cup famed referee, Jack Taylor, lends a practical viewpoint: “It is sometimes difficult to decide if a player has handled intentionally or just been struck by the ball ... you can give the benefit of the doubt, where players are not so highly trained or so swift to react.”

“The act is not criminal unless the intent is criminal.”- Ancient legal maxim The British Football Association booklet (1986), **Know the Game**, states: “It may be impossible for a player to avoid ‘handling’ the ball, having no time to withdraw a hand or arm, before the ball strikes ... even though ... may thus gain advantage, because the ball is directed along a different path; if it was unintentional, the referee should not penalize it.”

The NCAA rule; “Unintentional handling (the ball touches the hand or arms) shall not be penalized, even though the player or that player’s team gains an advantage by such unintentional handling.”

Why then, all the hoots and howls? Hippocrates advises, “Life is short, the art long. Timing is exact, experience through judgment difficult.”

Often partisan fans, influence-bent coaches, biased players – all- get paid in their own coin: fateful free kicks, painful penalty kicks, against their side. Enjoyable play, in the soi-disant ‘handball’ din, dims.

This bogus call, like the grim reaper, cuts down all sides, all players. Flow stutters. Game spirit stifled. Injustice. Ignorance prevails.

How to judge?

- *Did the ball hit the hand? No whistle*
- *Was it an instinctive, reflexive reaction?*

No call.

- *Protecting vital body parts? No call.*
- *Was it just an aimless, bouncing ball? Nothing then.*
- *Accident? No call.*
- *No fault? No call.*
- *Not on purpose? No call.*
- *Did hand hit ball? Rare. But it might happen. If, in the opinion of the referee, it was deliberate, then, and only then make the call.*

Many officials routinely make faux calls. Inadvertent balls striking hands. In the middle of the field. The same referees then later become shy. Never a sorry whistle inside the 44x18 (39.32x16 m).

Or worse, misguided somehow, they let all other accidental incidents go, then trumpet ugly-a penalty kick out of the clear, inconsistent blue.

“An error cannot be believed sincerely enough, to make it the truth.” – **Robert Ingersol**

Just because it looks bad; simply because it appears advantageous; only because people yell – does not make anything illegal. Not at all.

With experience, there is hope officials will summon courage enough to evaluate, not the result of the act, but whether or not it was deliberate.

Then maybe we will hear, “Hey Ref, good no-call”!

A player’s nose gets broken ... by a referee

It all happened January 26 during an exhibition match between the 2. Bundesliga rivals 1860 München and VfR Aalen.

It is not very often that a referee’s decision can cause so much pain ... real physical pain.

When referee **Robert Hartmann** blew the whistle for a stoppage in the game, he stretched out his arms backwards, not realizing the München midfielder Daniel Bierofka was standing right behind him. Well, the ref hit Bierofka square in the face causing a broken nose.

The match ended 3:0 for München.

The role of assistant referees is to assist, not insist

By Dick Sawdon-Smith – www.getreading.co.uk/reporter/Dick%20Sawdon-Smith



The Ref's Column

The last thing I want readers to think is that this column is leading a one-man anti-Ferguson campaign. It's just that Sir Alex's latest verbal behaviour needs some clarification.

The fact that Manchester United didn't beat Tottenham two Sundays ago, he claimed was all down to the assistant referee, referring to an incident when **Wayne Rooney** went down in the penalty area.

'Why he never gave a penalty, I don't know,' he is reported to have said.

His other comments about never getting anything from that 'side of the pitch' and remembering that the same assistant 'didn't give us anything against Chelsea three years ago. 'I leave to the FA to consider whether his allegations of bias is questioning the assistant referee's integrity.

The question his comments raised with me is what do footballers, supporters and officials think an assistant referee's powers and responsibilities are, when it comes to fouls?

As ever of course, it's worth reminding ourselves what the laws of the game actually say and then looking at how it works in practice. *Law six* gives assistant referees seven duties, as they are called. One of

these says: 'the assistant referee should indicate when offences have been committed, whenever the assistant referee has a better view than the referee.'

The first thing that is apparent from that is that the assistant referee doesn't make any decisions; he only gives indications to the referee. We often hear people complain that the referee overrules or goes against the assistant's decision, but the truth is that it is the referee who makes the decisions, not his assistants.

The other point that I feel is worth making is that these seven duties of an assistant referee are subject to the decision of the referee. So for instance, in local football where the assistant referees are appointed by the teams and of course are members of each club, the referee will almost certainly choose not ask them to indicate for any fouls.

Even at more senior football, some referees might seek to limit their assistants' activities in this respect.

Years ago many referees would say things like 'leave the box to me' and you always do what the referee wants. Today, most referees when they have neutral assistants will be happy to receive indications of offences from them, if they have a better view. However, a referee will often request 'give me first bite.'

What he means is, that he expects his

assistants to wait a few seconds before raising the flag, and at the same time look towards him. Firstly, to check whether he has seen the incident but is playing advantage. A flag in those situations will only serve to distract players. Secondly, to check his position. The referee may be further away but has a better angle.

If we take the Tottenham game as an example, the assistant would have had a quick look at where the referee was when the incident occurred.

Premier League referees tend to run a narrow diagonal these days and the referee that day was close behind the players, although it happened wide in the penalty area towards the assistant referee. It was a difficult decision to make as Rooney actually kicked the opponent's leg, which caused him to fall over.

What's more, the actual clash of legs was on the 'blind' side of the assistant and so the referee had a better view. No referee would welcome a flag in those circumstances.

What we all want and what the guidance in the laws of the game tries to achieve is co-operation between the three officials so that the decisions will be the best they can be.

No matter how good, however, there will always be some old moaner who will complain.

Youth soccer coach booted for speaking Spanish to players

Cooper City league says it has no such rule

Sunsentinel.com December 20, 2012 By Aurelio Moreno, Staff writer

A volunteer soccer coach for a city-sponsored youth league was ejected from a game after two referees ordered him to stop giving instructions in Spanish to several Hispanic players during a match.

Officials for the Optimist Club, which oversees the league, confirmed this week that the incident occurred, but called it a misunderstanding.

They added that the club has no rule banning players or coaches from speaking a foreign language during games, and is investigating the incident.

But ejected coach **Ruben Albarracin** said he was sanctioned for talking in Spanish to his players about tactics, as he usually does.

"I had never felt discriminated before," said Albarracin, the coach of Dallas FC, whose 12 players range from 14 to 18, and are mostly immigrants or the children of immigrants from Latin America, where

soccer is a national sport.

Albarracin's assistant coach Carlos Perez said, "We were told there was a new rule that we could not speak Spanish. We told the referees that we wanted to see that rule in writing and that's when things got ugly." Perez witnessed the incident but, unlike Albarracin, was not sanctioned.

The Sun Sentinel was unable to contact the referees.

Optimist Club board member **Geri Kelly** said, "During a meeting, we asked coaches to be careful and, for the benefit of the majority, speak in a language that everyone understands. We have no rule [against speaking Spanish]. How could this be a rule?"

"This is a youth recreational program, with players of different races and nationalities, and we want all the players to enjoy the benefit of the instructions offered by their coaches," she added. "We want

everybody to understand."

The Dec. 8 incident occurred during the first half of a match between **Dallas FC** and the **San Jose Earthquakes**, youth teams modeled after two Major League Soccer clubs, and that play at the Cooper City Sports Complex. Albarracin and Perez said that when they refused to stop addressing their players in Spanish, referee **Justin Arner Rose** and another unidentified referee stopped the game and ejected the head coach from the field.

Both coaches identified the Cooper City league chief arbitrator **Peggy Arner Rose**, who is the referee's mother, as the person who has told referees to enforce the no-Spanish rule. She declined to comment.

Jorge Pujol, whose son Alex plays for Dallas FC, said he doesn't understand why coaches or players would be discouraged from speaking their native language during a game. *ont'd page 8*

Real Madrid beats Manchester United: Red Card was justifiable

By Andy Konty (Featured Columnist) on <http://bleacherreport.com/real-madrid>

Real Madrid beat Manchester United in their Round of 16 round match, knocking out the Premier League runaways with a 2-1 win at Old Trafford. The Red Devils were ahead 1-0, 2-1 on aggregate with a road-goal in their pocket, when Turkish referee **Cuneyt Cakir** sent off ManU's **Nani** just before the hour mark.

The transgression immediately conjured up memories of the 2010 World Cup Final when Dutch destroyer **Nigel de Jong** raised his boot to a similar level and planted it firmly in the chest of **Xabi Alonso**. Sure, Nani's tackle was not identical to de Jong's. For one thing, de Jong ran straight into Alonso while Nani made contact from the side as Real Madrid defender **Álvaro Arbeloa** came from Nani's blind side.

But there is no need to compare the severity of these two offenses because both of them fall under the same rule, **Law XII – Fouls and Misconduct**: A player who intentionally commits any of the following offenses: (a) *kicks or attempts to kick an opponent*; (c) *jumps at an opponent*; (d) *charges an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner*;

A player shall be sent off the field of play and shown the red card, if, in the opinion of the referee, he: **is guilty of violent conduct; is guilty of serious foul play**

Obviously this language leaves a lot of room for interpretation. When is a jump "violent or dangerous"? When does the infringement rise to the level of "violent conduct" or "serious foul play"? And that's the point.

These are judgment calls and in our human reality this means that people may not agree on the proffered judgment. That doesn't make the judgment any less valid, the **Laws of the Game** specifically require a judgment by the referee.

Sometimes others will agree with the judgment, sometimes they will not. Most people thought de Jong's karate kick was a clear red card offense, while Nani's offense looked tame by comparison.

Maybe both referees were wrong in their judgment. Maybe.

Forget the maybes. In both cases, the offending player violated the **Laws of the Game** and raised the possibility that the referee would judge the offense to be "violent" or "serious" and thus

were deserving of a player disqualification.

In the 2010 World Cup, the referee elected not to make a decision that would impact the game in the first half. In the Champions League game at Old Trafford, the official followed UEFA guidance and bravely made a decision that would impact the game. Like I tell my players, don't put yourself in a position where the referee must make a call. As soon as you do that, anything can happen...and usually does.

Red Devil alumnus **Roy Keane** apparently agrees with me: "Any time I got sent off in my career, I always thought, 'Did I give the referee a chance to send me off?'"

If the answer is yes, then it is out of your hands. Everyone is upset about it and United are slightly unlucky to go out, but it's dangerous play. Whether he meant it or not is irrelevant. It was dangerous play, red card."

"Whether the referee was brave or not, it was the right decision. Let's not forget that Nani is quick to go down, he is not always the bravest boy."



Referee Dirk Lange and players at the recent Provincial Futsal Championships seem to look for help from above.

The Laws of Football

At one point during a football (soccer) match in America, the coach said to one of his young players, "Do you understand what co-operation is? What a team is?"

The little boy nodded in the affirmative. "Do you understand, that what matters is how we play together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes.

"So," the coach continued, "when offside is given, or a foul is not seen, you don't argue or swear or attack the referee. Do you understand all that?" Again the little boy nodded.

"Good," said the coach, "now go over there and explain it to your parents."

Youth Soccer coach booted

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"Soccer is an international game. I don't understand how a coach can be prohibited from speaking in Spanish to a player," Pujol said. "It's not right."

Albarracin and Perez said referees have also tried to discourage players from speaking among themselves in Spanish.

Optimist Club leaders say this isn't true; they say they have told coaches to be careful after an incident last year when a coach, speaking in Hebrew, told some of his players to break the legs of a rival team during a game.

"A parent who understood what was said complained and we expelled that coach from our league," said **Pablo Lopez**, coordinator of the Optimist Club boys soccer program. "That's why we've asked our coaches to be careful."

Albarracin said he is careful to speak in Spanish individually to his players who also speak the language. He added that in the heat of a game, it's natural slip into Spanish.

Sports experts contacted by the Sun Sentinel say that coaches should try to speak in a language that everyone understands when addressing players or during a game.

"But I don't see a problem speaking in another language to an individual player whose first language isn't English.

In that case the team should provide a translator," said **William Ricard**, a Cuban-American youth baseball coach from Pembroke. "Especially in a place as diverse as South Florida."