



Football offside rule changed

From *Bigpondnews.com* Sunday, March 03, 2013

Football's rule-makers on Saturday sought to clarify one of the game's most misinterpreted laws – offside – in a bid to reduce widespread uncertainty for referees, players and fans.

In a change to take effect from July 1, the **International Football Association Board** has cleared up when exactly attackers are influencing play.

The change states that an attacker should be considered offside when 'gaining an advantage by being in that position.' This will include receiving the ball from a rebound or deflection from the goal frame or a player in the defending team attempting a tackle, block or save.

(Ed note: the F&W has purposely left the upcoming change in the wording to Law 11 out so that all members may be properly instructed when the change is due to be enforced).

IFAB, which comprises four officials from FIFA and the four British football associations, also attempted to safeguard its future by opening up its decision-making process.

With the organisation of world football undergoing an overhaul under the wake of a series of corruption scandals, there were

calls for the British to cede their influence on IFAB, which has been meeting since 1886. But at the annual IFAB meeting in Edinburgh, FIFA President **Sepp Blatter** said 'this institution will go on.'

'I am sure it will not be a victim of the reform of FIFA,' Blatter added.

FIFA is looking to take greater control of IFAB by establishing a new unit to run the body while stressing that the 'composition will remain unchanged.'

IFAB has agreed, however, to consult more by establishing a technical panel featuring refereeing experts and a football panel containing around 20 former players and coaches as well as current coaches.

'The IFAB has agreed that greater levels of consultation are required to provide greater transparency and opportunities for other associations and stakeholders to contribute with ideas and initiatives to benefit the game.'

Scottish Football Association chief executive **Stewart Regan** said. 'This will need to be approved by FIFA Congress in May.'

(Ed note: see the article "IFAB agree to broaden consultation process")

IFAB meetings had previously been bit-

terly divided by the issue of goal-line technology, but the issue has been settled in the last year after FIFA President Sepp Blatter ended his opposition to high-tech aids being given to referees.

FIFA announced on Friday that a fourth system had been licensed. **GoalControl-4D**, which uses seven high-speed cameras aimed at each goalmouth, joins another camera-based system, **Hawk-Eye**, and two other projects – **GoalRef** and **Cairos** – which use magnetic field technology to judge if the ball crossed the line.

FIFA is yet to disclose the costs of the technology, but FIFA General Secretary **Jerome Valcke** said the cheapest costs around \$US 100,000 to install in a stadium and maintain.

Valcke was speaking after IFAB approved the use of the goal-line technology decision sent to referees' watches also being seen by television viewers and in stadiums on big screens.

IFAB also decided that competition organisers can allow the technology to be used in competitions, such as World Cup qualifiers, even if not all countries have systems in place.

FIFA appoints goal-line technology provider for Brazil 2013

(*FIFA.com*) Tuesday, 2 April 2013

The use of goal-line technology (GLT) at the FIFA Confederations Cup 2013 moved a step closer today, with FIFA confirming the appointment of **GoalControl GmbH** as the official GLT provider for the tournament.

The announcement follows a comprehensive tender process that began in February and involved bid presentations at the Home of FIFA in Zurich as well as site inspections in Brazil. As part of the tender, GoalControl GmbH is also set to be GLT provider for the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil(tm) provided that the performance of the system during this year's Festival of Champions meets all necessary FIFA requirements.

The Germany-based company, which uses 14 high-speed cameras around the pitch as part of its GoalControl-4D system, was selected ahead of the three other FIFA-licensed GLT providers who participated in the tender.



Cont'd on Page 2

14 cameras in each stadium are used to send the result to the referee

IFAB agree to broaden consultation process

(FIFA.com)

In relation to the Laws of the Game, IFAB approved a clarification of the wording of Law 11 (*Offside, Interpretation of the Laws of the Game*).

The IFAB agreed that the current wording is not precise enough, regarding “interfering with an opponent/gaining an advantage.” The new approved wording can be found in the agenda on FIFA.com (see link below).

Brief reports were also provided on Additional Assistant Referees, and the decision approved last year related to Law 4 (The Players' Equipment) with regards to the headscarf – to allow a trial, non-mandatory period – the IFAB reiterated that a final decision will be made at next year's Annual General Meeting.

Finally, a proposal to review **Law 8 (The Start and Restart of Play "Dropped Ball")** was postponed for further consultation, with a new proposal to be presented at the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

An agreement was also made to form a working group to review the full Laws of the Game to improve clarity where appropriate.

Amendments to the Laws of the Game taken today by the IFAB come into effect on 1 July 2013.

The 128th Annual General Meeting will take place in Zürich, Switzerland on 28 February – 2 March 2014.

The International Football Associa-

tion Board (IFAB) under the chairmanship of the Scottish FA President **Campbell Ogilvie**, convened for its Annual General Meeting (AGM) today (Saturday, March 2 2013) at the Balmoral Hotel in Edinburgh, Scotland. Today's meeting was the 127th AGM since the IFAB was formed in 1886.

Today's meeting also marked the centenary of FIFA's participation as a member of the IFAB.

Following the IFAB being asked to 'self-reform' as part of FIFA's governance reform proposals at the FIFA Congress 2011, a lengthy and detailed review has taken place, involving the four British Associations, and FIFA.

Whilst the IFAB composition will remain unchanged, it was agreed that greater levels of consultation with the game are required to inform and improve decision-making, and provide greater transparency. A presentation was made to the six Confederation general secretaries in Zürich on 26 February and this will be presented to the FIFA Congress 2013 in Mauritius on 30 -3 1 May.

To improve consultation, the IFAB agreed to the formation of two new advisory panels: a **Technical Panel – comprising Refereeing experts from across the globe** - and a **Football Panel, composed of approximately 20 former players and coaches, current coaches,**

FIFPro and Confederation technical directors.

To provide greater transparency, the proposals also include additional executive secretarial support, with a unit reporting to FIFA's Secretary General. This will include a distinct IFAB identity through an external web platform, detailing all minutes, timelines for decisions, progress on consultation or pilots, and the rationale for the rejection of any proposals.

The IFAB also received an update on the goal-line technology (GLT) project, since the historic decision to approve its introduction at the IFAB Special Meeting on 5 July 2012.

Today's meeting agreed that the decision whether to allow replays of goal-line incidents for broadcast purposes and/or on stadium giant-screens, is to be made independently by individual competition organisers.

Also on the subject of GLT, the IFAB agreed each competition organiser should have the autonomy to decide whether they wish to use GLT in individual matches, or all matches of a tournament.

Amongst the items for discussion was the usage of electronic performance monitoring systems. The Board agreed to form a consultation group, comprised of medics, coaches, former players and IFAB Technical Sub-Committee members to review this matter further.

Goal-line technology provider *Cont'd from Page 1*

While all four companies had previously met the stringent technical requirements of the FIFA Quality Programme, the final decision was based on criteria relating more specifically to the tournaments in Brazil, including the company's ability to adapt to local conditions and the compatibility of each GLT system in relation to FIFA match operations.

The respective bids were also judged on cost and project management factors such as staffing and time schedules for installation. Following a thorough analysis of the final proposals, FIFA appointed **GoalControl GmbH** as GLT provider on Tuesday, 2 April, and notified all participating companies of the decision.

The use of GoalControl-4D in Brazil is subject to a final installation test at each stadium where the system will be installed, which is a standard procedure as part of the official certification process defined in the GLT Testing Manual.

These tests will be conducted by an

independent test institute. Prior to the start of every match, the match officials will also carry out their own tests, in-line with the operational procedures first implemented at the FIFA Club World Cup 2012 in Japan. FIFA will now liaise with GoalControl GmbH to define the timeline for installation leading up to the FIFA Confederations Cup.

The tournament will mark the second time GLT has been used at a FIFA competition, after the successful implementation of the technology at last December's FIFA Club World Cup. This followed the historic decision by the International Football Association Board (IFAB) to approve the principle of using GLT during a special meeting on 5 July 2012.

A media event is scheduled to take place in Brazil prior to the event with a demonstration of the GoalControl-4D system. Further details will be communicated to journalists in due course.

DATE SET FOR VANCOUVER AREA REFEREES' PARTY

Members should be advised to keep the night of **Friday, November 29th** free as it will be the evening of the **Annual Vancouver Area Referees Party**. Anyone interested in soccer, especially soccer refereeing, and their family and friends is welcome.

The event will be held once again at the Operating Engineers Hall in Burnaby, just north of Burnaby City Hall. Vancouver Area branch President **Marc Bowley** is the main contact person this year and reports the first two tickets have already been sold ... to BCSRA Founding and Life Member **Werner Winsemann**.

2013 Provincial Executive Nominations Update

At this year's Annual General Meeting there will be a fourth position up for election. Along with the casting of ballots for **Vice-President**, Treasurer and **Director-without-Portfolio**, there will be an election for Secretary for the last year of a two year term. The reason? Current Secretary **Richard Brownie** has regretfully announced that he cannot fulfill the remaining year of the term due to work and other personal commitments.

Those interested in wanting run for a

position should contact **Elvio Chies** (Lvo@direct.ca) the Chair of this year's Nominating Committee. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 11th at the YWCA Hotel (Royal Bank Room), 733Beatty St. in Vancouver.

The site is accessible by Skytrain – about 1-1/2 blocks south of the Beatty St. entrance to the Stadium-Chinatown Station. Call to order is 10am and a light lunch will be served for all participants.

VISL Honours long-time Member

At its upcoming banquet on Friday, April 19th long-time member **Malcolm Legg** will be honoured with the Vancouver Island Soccer League (VISL) Referee Award. Malcolm, a resident of Salt Spring Island, has been involved in soccer for 46 years.

Congratulations to Malcolm on his just deserved honour!



Know Your Fellow Member

Name: **Phil Brown**
Residence: **Maple Ridge, BC**
Years Refereeing: **8 Years**

What made you become a referee?

Having played and coached at very high levels I wanted to seek a further challenge ... and I did.

What's your most memorable moment so far in refereeing?

Stepping on the field for every game I officiate.

What advice would you give to someone starting to referee?

Be positive in your attitude. After your game, analyse your performance and most important enjoy and have fun refereeing.

Remember this is the greatest game in the world.



Know Your Fellow Member

Name: **Evan Fryer**
Residence: **Victoria, BC**
Years Refereeing: **9 Years**

What made you become a referee?

Since I played soccer from a young age, I recall getting up early every weekend to watch the English Premier League on TV. I remember being fascinated by the referee on the field and the job that he had to do, so I began shifting my focus from watching the players, to watching the referee. I remember trying and guessing what the referee would call before he blew his whistle. I discovered that after awhile, I was starting to get the calls correct. I knew that as soon as I turned 12, I would sign-up for a referee course. When I refereed my first game, I knew that I loved to referee.

What's your most memorable moment so far in refereeing?

- Most memorable moment in refereeing so far was being selected to travel to the Dallas Cup twice (2011 & 2013)

What advice would you give to someone starting to referee?

To anyone starting to referee, my advice is to ask questions. Not being afraid to ask someone for help will be extremely beneficial in your refereeing career. You will always continue to learn as a referee, so help facilitate that growth by taking advantage of the referee community around you. Find a mentor or someone that you can confide in and oftentimes, this will help you persevere through tough games or situations. It is important to remember that we make mistakes so that we can learn from them.

Friendly Reminder from BC Soccer about Headscarves

(Ed note: to help spread the word, we have reprinted an email that was sent by BC Soccer on April 22, 2013 via the Ref Centre Website regarding headscarves. For further information, members are asked to download the PDF file listed at the bottom of the article).

On 11 September, 2012, the International Football Board (IFAB) "...agreed to unanimously approve – temporarily during a trial period - the wearing of headscarves." This ruling came into immediate effect.

The Canadian Soccer Association Board of Directors, at its meeting on 23 March 2013, confirmed that, in light of this IFAB decision, referees may, until further notice, extend this ruling to the wearing of turbans/patkas/keski.

The head covering must be safe and must not pose a danger to the wearer or other participants, as per **Law 4** of the **FIFA Laws of the Game**. All items of clothing or equipment are subject to the inspection of the match referee.

Please review the following information regarding headscarves & turbans www.bcsoccer.net/Portals/0/Member/file_downloads/Documents/Refereeing/Headscarves%20and%20Turbans.pdf

Ed Hipsey Award Youth Referee named

At the April meeting of VISRA (South) **Cam Olive** was announced as the recipient of the **Ed Hipsey Youth Referee Award** for the 2012-2013 season!

The award is bestowed annually to a young referee by the Vancouver Island Area executive in honour of VISRA and BCSRA Life Member Ed Hipsey
Congratulations Cam!

FLAG & WHISTLE is published 6 times a year by the BC Soccer Referees Association. The material presented is from contributors. The BCSRA assumes no responsibility for its content.

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Dallas Cup 2013 (as appeared on www.bcsoccer.net)

Four of BC Soccer's most talented match officials are this week taking part in the Dallas Cup, an annual youth soccer tournament featuring some of the top youth teams in the world.

Ivan (Nico) Jecanski, 19 (Surrey), **Natasha Smith**, 22 (Langley), **Evan Fryer** 20 (Victoria), and **Juan Marquez**, 31 (Vancouver), were selected by the BC Soccer Referees Committee on the basis that they have the potential to attain National Level status in the near future, and as such this project is helping to fine tune the skills of these elite individuals.

Clubs participating in this year's tournament include youth teams from English Premier League clubs Manchester United and Fulham, Fluminense FC, Brazil, Eintracht Frankfurt, Germany, Club America and Tigres, Mexico, Canada's own Toronto FC, and LA Galaxy.

"There's experience like this that you will never get anywhere else in the world, the Dallas cup is a place for referees to develop not only there on field play but also to gain a better knowledge on how to become a better referee and us it on the field," stated Ivan. "I am honored to be part of such a wonderful team and to be given the chance to come to a great tournament like the Dallas Cup is an experience I will never forget," he added.

It is one of the referee development objectives in BC Soccer's strategic plan to increase the number of higher classification, (Regional and Provincial) referees in BC and such activities help to facilitate and achieve these goals.

For Natasha this is her first experience of a high profile international tournament of this nature, and she said, "Dallas Cup has been an inspirational learning environment in which lessons on and off the field can be learnt for all young aspiring match officials." This year we were fortunate to be able to participate and interact with highly experienced FIFA and CONCACAF officials. I am greatly appreciative of the opportunity that BC Soccer is providing me as the learning experiences are invaluable," she added.

Previous officials that BC Soccer has taken to the Dallas Cup include National Level referee **Alain Ruch** and **Marco Arruda**, a National Assistant Referee who has progressed to being an Assistant in Major League Soccer.

"All four of these referees are excellent candidates to progress to higher classifications of refereeing and such an opportunity to further educate and test themselves at this tournament will provide them with some of the tools to do that," said **Jose**

Branco, BC Soccer Referee Co-ordinator. BC Soccer is also honoured that **John Nielson** (sic), BC Soccer and CSA referee committee member, will attend at the request of CONCACAF, to deliver Referee Assessor training for 12 FIFA Referees and 5 Assistant Referees at the event. There are also five other Canadian referees attending the tournament, demonstrating the talent of the match officials across the country and how this tourna-

ment is seen as such an ideal environment for them.

"The experience that these officials will have is one that will live with them forever," said **Rick Connors**, Chair BC Soccer Referees Committee. "BC Soccer is committed to developing its talented and young officials in high quality environments and these four individuals will be able to do that during this tournament," he added.

My 2013 Dallas Cup Experience

by *Evan Fryer (BCSRA-VISRA)*

When BC Soccer told me that I had the opportunity to travel to the Dallas Cup for a second time, I had no hesitation in accepting the proposal. Even though I would be missing over a week of classes, assignments, and tests in my courses at the University of Victoria, sometimes sacrifice has to be made to make room for experience ... and what an experience I had.

During my stay in Dallas, we were intensely immersed in the fabric of the soccer community. Not only were we representing BC Soccer, but we were also representing Canada at this International tournament. Referees from 31 different countries around the World gathered in Dallas for the tournament and we were given the opportunity to referee high-level youth soccer with these referees and be assessed by their mentors.

Although there was much diversity in culture at this tournament, the intriguingly unifiable quality that resonated with all was the language of refereeing. Even though I couldn't speak Spanish, Dutch, or Japanese that didn't mean that I wasn't able to communicate with the other referees. I discovered that communication begins with the body and the actions you make. For example, throughout the tournament, four out of the eight games I refereed had a team from Mexico in it.

This gave me the rare opportunity to practice a different style of game management – a style that didn't rely on words, but presence.

We also had the unique opportunity this time around, to train alongside FIFA referees who had been brought to the tournament representing CONCACAF. We learned fitness concepts, on the field concepts, and most importantly, off the field concepts. I learned on this trip that off-the-field performance, and how you carry yourself in front of others, is of the utmost importance. If you do not impress people

off-the-field of play and act in a professional and responsible manner, then it is very difficult to move up the ranks in refereeing. FIFA and CONCACAF instructors/assessors were in attendance at the tournament and were constantly providing direct feedback to our performance on the field. When we were not refereeing, we were able to sit and talk about the game with them; it was during these moments when I felt like I truly learned the most. Their professional insight was invaluable.

Although my first experience at the Dallas Cup two years previously was an eye-opening experience and helped concretize my foundation as a referee, I felt that this trip gave me insight into concepts that I had never even thought of and helped develop my game that much more. I came away from this tournament with a profound new outlook on positioning on the field, and what it takes to be in the right place. It hit home even more, that fitness is the key to positioning on the field. I heard the line, "fitness is your passport to success" many times throughout the tournament, advice that I will never forget. To compliment this advice, (BC Soccer Referee Development Coordinator) **Jose Branco** set us up to Polar Heart rate monitors to track our fitness results during our games. It was extremely beneficial to see tangible evidence of our fitness levels while we worked on the field.

Ultimately, my experience at the Dallas Cup was extremely successful. I came back to Canada immediately wanting to referee a game to try out "all my new skills." My two times at Dallas Cup have not only been educational, but inspirational providing insight to what refereeing at the top level in the World has in store. My experience has only substantiated my desire and dream of one day becoming a FIFA Referee.

Regina police seek soccer player after ref punched

CBC News Posted: Apr 11, 2013

Regina police are looking for a 26-year-old soccer player accused of punching a referee at an indoor game Wednesday night. Fans watching the game posted video of the scene, shortly after the incident, to YouTube:

(Ed note: anyone wishing to view the video should go to this link where the original article is posted: www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/story/2013/04/11/sk-soccer-ref-incident-1304.html.)

People at the match, between **Sudan** and **Poland**, said it was a player with the Sudan team who threw the punch. "Preliminary investigation indicates the victim had been struck in the jaw, causing him to fall, unconscious, to the ground," the Regina Police Service said in a press release.

Hussam Ibrahim, who's from Sudan and was watching the game, which Poland

won 4-1, said emotions were running high. "Things got out of hand, people started fouling and tackling each other," Ibrahim said. The referees handed out two red cards to each Sudan and Poland.

According to a statement from the WCP, there was a brief scuffle on the field when those red cards were issued and the situation flared up when another red card was issued a few minutes later.

"All hell broke loose, when the ref went to deliver a third red card," Ibrahim said. "I didn't see a punch, but he touched his [the ref's] face," Ibrahim added. "By no means am I justifying it, no touching should ever happen ... but from a fan's point of view, the ref overreacted."

The referee refused an ambulance but was advised to seek medical follow-up, police said. Police were on the scene and searched the locker room and other areas of the building, but couldn't find the sus-

pect. According to the WCP, after the incident between the player and the referee, the game was declared ended and everyone left the field. The organizers then called the police.

"The WCP Cup Organizing Committee takes the position that the striking by a player of an official is outside of the scope of the game and as such, the local authorities were contacted," the committee said in a news release. Police haven't released the suspect's name, but said it's believed he's from Alberta.

The incident has attracted attention on various social media platforms, including Facebook where a man posted a video to his account that provided a sense of the heated atmosphere of the soccer match.

The video shows another part of the game, not connected to the alleged punch, where players were involved in a scuffle on the field.



Tom Speaks – Incredulous!

After reading the article online about the referee in Regina being assaulted, I wanted to play editor for the sake of brevity

– but you really have to read the whole article to understand. I took the liberty of underlining key points that I want to emphasize (and adding editorial comments in italics).

I know all F&W readers can, well, read – but for me the underlining creates an exclamation point to indicate where my blood pressure spikes due to what my brain is interpreting. Also, as I read and re-read this piece, I kept thinking – if I underline it and I'm re-reading then I know I'm not going crazy and just imagining how incredulous this story really is.

(F&W Ed note: please read the accompanying article *Regina police seek soccer player after ref punched* in this issue to understand the incident described below)

Statement from World Class Players Cup organizers:

The WCP Cup Organizing Committee would like to comment on the circumstances of the game between Team Poland and Team Sudan which has been getting

some social media discussion as well as media attention.

During the middle of the second half there was a scuffle between the two teams that resulted from a hard tackle followed by an equally hard retaliation. Various players from both benches came together with a little pushing and shoving.

While there were individuals from both teams that were involved in the scuffle, there were also a significant number of players and coaches from both teams that kept cool heads and assisted in defusing the situation. As a result of the scuffle, the referee analyzed the situation and ejected four players – two from each team – from the game.

(e. – call me naïve but surely “a little pushing and shoving” from subs coming together from respective benches can't be considered a small event given there were 4 ejections as a result.)

The WCP Cup Organizing Committee would like to be clear that while a scuffle like this is not a typical occurrence and not what the WCP Cup multicultural sporting event likes to see, it was by no means an event that went beyond the normal scuffles that happen in all levels of competitive sporting events such as soccer, hockey, basketball, co-ed touch football, etc.. The referee dealt with the situation, applied the laws of the game and the game

resumed play.

The game resumed play and approximately 15 minutes later, an entirely separate incident occurred that was not associated with the previous scuffle.

Another hard tackle occurred by a Team Sudan player against a Team Poland player. As a result of the tackle, the referee gave the Team Sudan player a red card and ejected him from the game. As a result of the ejection, the Team Sudan player struck the referee.

(e. – Note: the Organizing Committee doesn't make any reference to what happened to the referee that they employed as the authority over the game as a result of being struck – i.e. he was knocked out)

At the time the referee was struck, there was only a short amount of time left in the game and as a result, a decision by the officiating crew was made to end the game. *(e. – OK folks, who's with me so far ... the ref is knocked unconscious – is he still part of the crew making this decision?)* Prior to this decision, the Team Sudan player left the field of play – which is required as a result of an ejection. *(e. – So glad they clarified that for us.)*

The WCP Cup Organizing Committee would like to be clear that the incident where the referee was struck was not associated with the previous team scuffle.

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Tom Speaks

Cont'd from Page 5

(e. – And this is relevant how?) When the game was ended, both teams very admirably separated themselves in order to make sure further incidents did not occur. (e. How proper of them. I dare say Jeeves, they should be nominated as a squad to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.) Both teams eventually made their way back to their respective dressing rooms without incident.

The fans and cultural communities for both Team Poland as well as Team Sudan, while stunned by the way the game ended, remained respectful and positive and stayed true to the WCP Cup vision that all cultural groups can come together in a respectful and peaceful way.

(e.–They're not the only ones feeling stunned. What kind of a scatterbrained statement is this last sentence? Ok, ok ... Nobel Peace Prize nominations for everyone!)

The WCP Cup Organizing Committee takes the position that the striking by a player of an official is outside of the scope of the game and as such, the local authorities were contacted by the WCP Cup Organizing Committee. (e– Please stop the madness, I can't take this any more. How much more blatantly can you say - "Hey ref! You're on your own in this one. It's simply out of our hands. "Outside the scope of the game... hmmm. What more can I say? That is singly the most preposterous statement contravening **Law 5.**)

The player who struck the referee had already left the Team Sudan dressing room prior to Team Sudan as a whole returning following the game being called and as such was not able to be interviewed by the local authorities upon their arrival. The WCP Cup Organizing Committee has cooperated with local authorities and will continue to cooperate in the future if so requested. (e.– How proper of them? Note no mention of their view of the act against the referee or more importantly some degree of concern for their 'employee's well being.')

The WCP Cup Organizing Committee would like to thank the various members of both Team Poland and Team Sudan who assisted in calming the situation down and making sure that further incidents did not result. The WCP Cup Discipline Committee will review the five ejections and will deal with those situations as is deemed appropriate. (e.– I don't need to repeat myself anywhere here do I? Anybody read anything about the referee? Is the blighter alright Jeeves? What?... yes, yes, I see, the ref was meant to be invisible was he old chap?... yes, yes.)

– end of statement by the WCP Cup OC

So ... as you can see I was a bit more than ticked when I read about our fallen comrade above. Then I went on to watch the YouTube piece. Along with that was the CBC article on the incident (**F&W Editor: please read the accompanying article "Regina police seek soccer player after ref punched earlier in this issue"**).

I'd like to refer to certain passages of that article: People at the match, between Sudan and Poland, said it was a player with the Sudan team who threw the punch.

"Preliminary investigation indicates the victim had been struck in the jaw, causing him to fall, unconscious, to the ground," the Regina Police Service said in a press release". Hussam Ibrahim, who's from Sudan and was watching the game, which Poland won 4-1, said emotions were running high. "Things got out of hand, people started fouling and tackling each other," Ibrahim said. (e.– Remember it was just a little, small, tiny, peaceful scuffling. Really!)

The referee handed out two red cards to Sudan and two red cards to Poland.

According to a statement from the WCP, there was a brief scuffle on the field when those red cards were issued and the situation flared up when another red card was issued a few minutes later.

(e.– See? Brief scuffling it was. Very brief, says so ... right there!)

"All hell broke loose," when the ref went to deliver a third red card, Ibrahim said. (e.– Hang on! "All hell broke loose" Huh? No, no, different match. Says so in the official statement above.)

"I didn't see a punch, but he touched his [the ref's] face," Ibrahim said. "By no means am I justifying it, no touching should ever happen ... but from a fan's point of view, the ref overreacted."

(e.– You know what the erratic underlining signifies as well as the stop start. My blood pressure reading followed by my heart skipping beats! Let me get this straight because I for one know that this

Sudanese chap is totally impartial. How do I know this? Well the WCP Cup OC officially stated above ... this is a culturally cooperative, peaceful love-in with doves flying above angels harping out peaceful melodies while all subs and players 'scuffle.' Well, it was something like that I know cause they're up for the Nobel dammit!"

Anyways, I digress. I want us to focus on this ref! He's overreacted, you see. Now the WCP Cup OC has had to write a statement, the cops are involved, a guy's had to run from the scene and all because this guy – the ref darn it – can't stand up for himself and avoid falling unconscious! I mean c'mon buddy, please for the good of the game and fair play and all - learn how to take a punch!)

The referee refused an ambulance but was advised to seek medical follow-up, police said. (e.– just a guess here ... was the advice given while he was unconscious and hence the refusal? I don't know colour me skeptical but I'm having a lot of trouble with the whole story so why would this make sense?)

According to the WCP, after the incident between the player and the referee, the game was declared ended and everyone left the field.

The organizers then called the police.

"The WCP Cup Organizing Committee takes the position that the striking by a player of an official is outside of the scope of the game and as such, the local authorities were contacted," the committee said in a news release. (e.– No I'm not about to let it go yet. The assault wasn't within the scope of the game, Elvis has already left the building and you called the cops for what? Oh, I see, you had donuts left over at the concession. Got it. Good plan.)

Police were on the scene and searched the locker room and other areas of the building, but couldn't find the suspect. (e.– You ask me – go ahead, ask me .. am I surprised by this?)

–end of supplementary piece–

Open Letter to WCB on Page 7



Banned for Life

Thursday, April 25, 2013

Indonesian football player **Pieter Rumaropen**, Nr 10, has been banned for life by he country's football authority after punching a referee in the face during a Super League game last weekend.

Dear WCP Cup Organizing Committee,

How can an organization whose vision is, as you state, "that all cultural groups can come together in a respectful and peaceful way" speak about the harm done to its employee, i.e. the referee, and the violence that occurred of its matches with such muted tones?

Let's first consider the referee, the man YOU ASSIGNED to ensure this vision of respect and peace was maintained. What did he get for his services? The Police said he was assaulted – knocked unconscious even! Was this a "peaceful way" for a player to handle a difference of opinion? What "peace" did he display?

Why aren't you objecting to this assault on the integrity of a man in the strongest possible terms? Who in their right mind would referee your games when you offer so little support other than to say that striking a referee is "outside the scope of the game"?

Your statement refers to a "scuffle" and "a hard tackle followed by an equally hard retaliation." Yet you say at the end of the match the teams "...remained respectful and positive and stayed true to the WCP Cup vision"? Where was this respectfulness evident earlier when the "little pushing and shoving" occurred? And how can this incident be considered "little"? There were four players sent off!

No matter what discipline you intend to mete out, one fears whatever deterrence you expect to instill will be lost on everyone because your statement, your first and only chance of making an impression, was so weak. It effectively condoned the actions of the players or downright dismissed the entire incident.

North American soccer referees are trying to form a union

By Buzz Carrick, buzz@3rddegree.net, March 21, 2013

A press release came across my desk this week that caught me off guard. Apparently there is a bit of labor strife in the soccer referee world at the professional level. Something I was not aware of, admittedly I am not a labor expert nor involved in high level referee issues.

MLS and USSF, along with other professional leagues in the US and Canada, use a company called the Professional Referee Organization (PRO) to crew their matches. Apparently not all referees are happy with the way that setup is working.

The **Professional Soccer Referees Association (PSRA)**, a "non-profit organization of members that seeks to represent and improve the working conditions for professional soccer referees working in the professional soccer leagues of the United States and Canada," has filed with the NLRB to become the union for referees. According to this press release from PSRA the NLRB says the referees will now vote in a secret to determine if the PSRA will be their union.

The **National Labor Relations Board ("NLRB")**, in a written decision, has

ordered a secret ballot election to determine whether The Professional Soccer Referees Association (PSRA) will become the certified bargaining representative of all full-time and regular part-time Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials working Major League Soccer games. Certification of the PSRA by the NLRB would require the current employer of the officials – the **Professional Referees Organization (PRO)** - to negotiate with the PSRA as a labor union under the National Labor Relations Act.

If the vote passes and the NLRB certifies PSRA as the union for the referees, then PRO, on behalf of MLS and the leagues it crews for, will have to negotiate with the PSRA.

According to PSRA, officials from the other major sports in the US are supporting them in their fight to unionize.

My gut reaction: The soccer officials having a union would be a good thing. Would there from time to time be a strike or lockout? Yes, sure. But there would also be someone to protect and guard the referees from the league, fans, players, and coaches.

If you want referees to call the rules as FIFA has made them, and I think we all do, certainly I do. Then you need to give referees enough rules, weight, power, and protection to do so without fear of being dropped, ousted, or black listed by the league or teams.

So referee union, a step in the right direction?

AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL

(Ed note: the F&W staff would like to thank Fraser Valley-based member **Phil Brown** for the link to this video about a very gentleman referee: www1.skysports.com/watch/video/8611254/never-too-old-to-referee

A reminder the F&W staff is always open to submissions.

Please send your ideas, links and articles to:
Editor Elvio Chies (Lvo@direct.ca).

FIFA shoots down Costa Rica's match protest on technicality, US win in SnowClasico stands

FIFA shoots down Costa Rica's match protest on technicality, US win in SnowClasico stands

(**Ed note:** The F&W would like to thank Vancouver Area-based member **Mynor Campos** for help on this submission)

FIFA has shot down **Costa Rica's** protest of last Friday's World Cup qualifying loss against the USA at snowy Dick's Sporting Goods Park. Just 24 hours after confirming receipt of the protest, world soccer's governing body issued its final ruling, striking Costa Rica's appeal to replay the match based on a technicality.

"FIFA has examined the content of the letter and, taking into consideration **article 14, paragraph 4** of the 2014 FIFA World Cup regulations, has confirmed that the conditions established in the regulations for an official protest have not been met by the Costa Rica FA," said a FIFA statement. "Therefore, the result of the match played on 22 March stands and is considered as valid."

Article 14, paragraph 4 of the regulations details the manner in which a national team can protest when the playing surface becomes unplayable after a match has already kicked off.



"If the pitch's playing surface becomes unplayable during a match, the captain of the protesting team shall immediately lodge a protest with the referee in the presence of the captain of the opposing team," according to the rulebook. "The protests shall be confirmed in writing to the FIFA general secretariat during the preliminary competition and during the final competition by the head of the team delegation no later than two hours after the match."

US national team captain **Clint Dempsey** on Monday made it clear that he was never part of a meeting with Costa Rican captain **Bryan Ruiz** or the match official about the playing surface.

"That didn't happen," Dempsey said at the USA's pregame press conference. "Just before the game, the only thing that was talked about was the flip of a coin and we won the toss and we chose to go first half against the wind."

Goal-line technology in MLS? League says maybe not 'til '15 FIFA may have officially confirmed the introduction of goal-line technology for the 2014 World Cup and 2013 Confederations Cup, but MLS fans will likely have to wait to see it stateside, potentially until 2015, according to MLS' head of competition.

"I view the news as a positive step forward for the sport," said **Nelson Rodriguez**, MLS EVP for competition, technical and game operations. "In general, the MLS Board of Governors believes that this introduction of technology is a positive for our league and for the sport in general."

Despite the willingness to bring the technology to MLS, there are plenty of hurdles that the league faces when it comes to implementing it: Rodriguez mentioned, for instance, that there are only two goal-line systems that have been formally approved to date by FIFA and only two service providers that have been licensed by FIFA. Those service providers, according to Rodriguez, have enough to do to keep up with current demand and FIFA doesn't have enough staffers to oversee installation and is currently required under guidelines.

Not to mention the time it would take to install the system

league wide – Rodriguez estimates it "could take a month or more" – or the testing period that would be needed before officially unveiling it in competitive league play.

"We remain very interested in the technology and in implementing it for Major League Soccer," Rodriguez said. "It's not possible for 2013 and generally we try to be six months out. If there's not enough systems ready to be installed and enough [FIFA] licensing agents to verify the installations are done to spec by the middle of 2013, then I'm not sure 2014 is possible either."

The league would also need to weigh the opportunity cost of investing in the goal-line technology. Are there enough instances of questionable goal-line incidents to warrant an investment that reportedly hovers anywhere between a quarter-million to \$400,000 per venue. Rodriguez says it shouldn't matter.

"If you only had one issue and it occurred in MLS Cup, that might be worth it in and of itself," Rodriguez said. "It can't be looked at the quantity of issues. But rather, is this investment in improving the game the best use of those resources at this time? I think that's a fair way to assess it."

Competition in the marketplace in the near future could help reduce those costs (FIFA said on Tuesday that two new German companies were entering the fray) and competition may also help create more efficient systems. Currently, the camera-based Hawk-Eye technology and the chip-in-ball magnetic set-up by GoalRef are the only FIFA-approved systems and were most recently employed in December's FIFA Club World Cup, although the game action never put them to the test.

The league says it will continue to maintain conversations with FIFA as well as evaluate the experience of other leagues - the EPL says it will be ready to introduce the technology ahead of its next season. But if you're wondering whether goal-line officials may perhaps serve as a helpful stopgap, don't expect that in MLS any time soon.

"We've unfortunately seen two instances in the last year where goal-line humans didn't get those calls correct," said Rodriguez, referencing a Europa League match and last week's UEFA Champions League match between Celtic and Juventus. "Just on goal-line decisions, it doesn't seem goal-line humans have performed better than goal-line technology."



The officiating crew of a recent university match between Trinity Western and Seattle Pacific. L-R: Team captain TWU; Thomas Davies, AR-2; Martin Reid, R; Stefan Tanaka-Freundt, AR-1; team captain SPU.