

VANCOUVER ISLAND SOCCER REFEREES' ASSOCIATION

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Regular Meeting Minutes

Gordon Head Soccer Association Fieldhouse, Victoria, B.C.

November 17, 2008

Members: 21

Apologies: 4

Guests: 7

Education	
Introduction of Guests	Elvios Chies, BCSRA; Ian Atkinson, 4 Gordon Head youth referees Elvio advised that he had brought the BCSRA Membership gifts for all - CSRA toque.
Minutes	Reviewed and accepted. Moved, Michael McNally-Dawes; seconded, Boris Greco
Correspondence Rick Firestone	Nil
Registrar Rick Firestone	Nothing new to report.
Treasurer Sergiu Surdu	Mark McNally-Dawes presented the budget prepared by Sergui Surdu. Adoption moved by Mark McNally-Dawes, seconded by Bill O'Brien. "Travel to Spring Council" was amended to read "Travel to Fall Council". Carried
Ways and Means Ryan Perkins	Toques, shirts, and badges are available.
Mentorship Tony Troughton	Nil
Assessments Alex Milne	Gus Uriegas suggested that assessments are not getting done
Library Boris Glazar	Nil
BCSRA Larry Cade	Larry Cade introduced BCSRA President Elvio Chies who addressed the meeting: "Membership cards will be in the mail - although they may be delayed. CSRA AGM to be held February 21 st in Calgary. Michelle Pye will be the feature speaker with details of her recent experiences at the Women's U17 World Cup in New Zealand where she officiated a number of matches including England / Brazil and the semi-final. Fall Council is to be held this coming Saturday in Richmond. There will be a brain-storming session on membership. We need to reach out to referees who are not members. A <u>web forum</u> is being started and moderators are still being recruited. Elvio gave VISRA a copy of the video presentation from the last CSRA AGM featuring Carol-Anne Chenard and Darci Kruse, Canadian FIFA referees.
CSRA Tony Troughton	The CSRA is moving toward permitting City Referee Associations to have membership status in addition to the provinces.
VISL Dan Greco	It has been a month since the dissemination of the Letter of Understanding. Vince Greco reports that the VISL is really happy with progress on the field. Gus Uriegas reported that he thought that players are attempting to curb language; Christian Hauer that respect for referees has improved, that players are walking away rather than complaining. Dan said that referees have been issuing yellow cards for swearing (foul language). He wanted to make it clear that this is not correct that a red card is <u>required</u> for swearing. The only option for the referee is to talk to the player to warn them - once. There were reports that referee abuse is actually escalating at the Youth level - in inter-club games - not Metro.
LIWSA	Nil
LISA Tiberio de Frias	Nil

BCSA Referee Tiberio de Frias	Nil
Old Business	<u>Education - Game and Discipline Reports</u> At least ensure that the time of the match, players name & number, the location on the field, and the state of the game are to be recorded in addition to the details of the offence. For Red cards provide as much detail as possible, it helps the Discipline Committee to do their job properly.
New Business	<u>Christmas Pot Luck</u> The December meeting to be held December 15 th will include the traditional Christmas Pot Luck. Christian reminded everyone to bring Pot Luck items to the next meeting. <u>VISRA Christmas Dinner</u> An email will be sent to determine interest in a sit-down Christmas dinner. <u>Herb Harzan</u> Terry Russell reported chatting Herb Harzan at Beckwith recently. Herb said Hi to all.
50 / 50 // Raffle	VISRA Shirt -
Adjournment	Moved by Christian Hauer; seconded by Larry Cade.

Meeting Adjourned: 20:49 pm

**Next Meeting: 7:15 pm, Monday, December 15th 2008,
Traditional Christmas Pot Luck
Gordon Head Fieldhouse, Tyndall Park**

Respectfully Submitted,
Rick Firestone

Letter of Understanding between the VISL, LISA, LIWSA and VISRA

Re: Abusive Language, Dissent and Serious Foul Play

The VISL, LISA, LIWSA and the Vancouver Island Soccer Referee Association (VISRA) have targeted a few issues that all organizations would like to see improved for the betterment of the leagues. They are:

1. Offensive, Insulting or Abusive language and/or gestures
2. Persistent dissent shown towards the referee
3. Serious foul play

It has come to the league's attention, on a number of occasions, that foul language has become an issue, namely in public parks. There have been numerous complaints from people living near these parks, fans and players alike that the swearing is offensive. All parties involved would like to see an improvement in this regard.

The Laws of the Game are clear. It is a RED card for Offensive, Insulting or Abusive language and/or gestures. Law 5 states clearly "the referee enforces the Laws of the Game", and the basic premise is that if the foul language is PUBLIC or PERSONAL or PROVOCATIVE, you run the serious risk of a dismissal.

VISRA has shown concern over the amount of abuse and dissent referees have been exposed to, especially YOUTH referees. The number one reason former referees cite for quitting is ABUSE. If we want to attract and retain referees it is paramount that we all respect the referees' decisions, whatever the call. We ask all players and coaches to be familiar with the BCSA Referee Abuse Policy (see attached) and ask all participants to adhere to what is mandated by BCSA.

As a reminder, the Laws of the Game require a YELLOW card for dissent.

VISRA would like to acknowledge that the safety of players is of paramount concern and is taken very seriously. VISRA will continue to take an active role in the education of its members on what constitutes Serious Foul Play (which is a RED card) and the serious endangerment of the safety of an opponent.

VISRA would like to acknowledge that the biggest complaint is the lack of consistency of its member referees. VISRA would like to inform all participants that it does not mandate how referees should officiate but rather provides a forum of education and mentorship. However, VISRA will commit itself to continue to help educate its members and encourage its referees to officiate at their highest potential.

Furthermore, a feedback report will be implemented between the VISL, LISA and LIWSA and VISRA to monitor the progress of this initiative.

Presentation by Vince Greco, VISL Discipline Chair and LISA Discipline Member

Vince outlined his background as a former professional baseball umpire to assure the RA membership that he understands refereeing. He sees that part of his job is to have the back of referees and to support them. At the same time, Vince will be the first to let referees know if there is a problem with what they do.

Discipline

Discipline reports must be submitted within 48 hours of the game. Monday is preferred as it is the day that discipline is posted. Vince has had to give some warnings this year. There will be no more warnings. If reports are not submitted in time referee fees will be docked.

More Than One Team from the Same Team in the Same Division

This year there are some cases where there is more than one team from the same club in the same division. To differentiate between them it is important that the full team name must be included in both game and discipline reports. e.g. Gordon Head Blue / Gordon Head Gold

Also there are three Div 5s A, B, and C. It is necessary to report whether it is Div 5 A, Div 5 B, or Div 5 C. Ryan Perkins will update the Online Report system to reflect this.

Reports

It is important that exact quotes, in detail, are provided in discipline reports (red card) for abuse. The same applies to reports of Serious Foul Play (tackles). Don't just report a "nasty tackle", state whether the tackle was from behind, the studs were up etc, etc or if it was Violent Conduct if it was something such as a Head Butt (suspension = 10 games). Again for language - provide a full quote. Most discipline does not require a hearing but serious offences will only be dealt with in a hearing. This is why it is necessary to provide complete reports.

ID Cards

No ID Card - no play. Photo-copied version of the ID Card may be used once and must be reported in the game report.