

## VANCOUVER ISLAND SOCCER REFEREES' ASSOCIATION

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### Regular Meeting Minutes

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

**October 20, 2008**

**Members: 19**

**Apologies: 8**

**Guests: 9**

<b>Education</b> Dan Greco	VISL, LIWSA, LISA, VISRA LOU on Abusive Language, Dissent, and Serious Foul Play attached
<b>Introduction of Guests</b>	Vince Greco, VISL; Ian Atkinson, 4 Gordon Head youth referees
<b>Minutes</b>	Reviewed and accepted. Moved, Michael McNally-Dawes; seconded, Cam Neish
<b>Correspondence</b> Rick Firestone	Nil
<b>Registrar</b> Rick Firestone	New members in attendance: Evan Fryer, John Kilbank, Chris Rook We have tried a couple of things in an attempt to find out why fewer referees are RA members. We have sent an email to referees who have recently been members of VISRA who have let their membership lapse to ask if they would let us know why they have left the RA. We are also to send an email to the senior leagues to ask if they would agree to have the senior scheduler send an email to all the referees that he schedules to make them aware of VISRA and our development programs including education and mentorship and to 'encourage' all referees to attend VISRA meetings for development and to consider becoming members.
<b>Treasurer</b> Sergiu Surdu	Regrets - Budget has been drafted, requires approval
<b>Ways and Means</b> Ryan Perkins	Toques, shirts, and badges are available.
<b>Mentorship</b> Tony Troughton	Nil
<b>Assessments</b> Alex Milne	Nil
<b>Library</b> Boris Glazar	Nil
<b>BCSRA</b> Larry Cade	BCSRA Fall Council is to be held at Richmond High School, Saturday November 22nd BCSRA fall report - <a href="#">click here</a> .
<b>CSRA</b> Tony Troughton	Nil
<b>VISL</b> Sergiu Surdu	Vince Greco, VISL Discipline Chair and LISA Discipline member made a presentation to the meeting. His comments are attached. From Robert Hope: Youth does not have ID cards, Women have not got ID cards ready yet.  Again Vince underscored the requirement for complete and detailed game and discipline reports to support the discipline process.  A discussion followed on the possibility of producing a Referee Decision Report Template to include such things as: the time of match; the location on the field; who did what (to whom); how did it happen. Examples would be useful.
<b>LIWSA</b> Casey Tepper	Nil
<b>LISA</b> Tiberio de Frias	Nil
<b>BCSA Referee</b> Tiberio de Frias	Nil

<b>Old Business</b>	Nil
<b>New Business</b>	<p><u>Provincial College Championships</u> The Provincial College Championships will be held in Nanaimo this coming week-end. Tiberio de Frias will be attending as National Assessor.</p> <p><u>Lower Island Soccer and VISRA Mentorship</u> Moved by Tony Troughton, seconded by Christian Hauer that VISRA approach Lower Island Soccer Association to join the VISRA mentorship program and that members and that VISRA members may be mentored at Metro games. Carried.</p>
<b>Adjournment</b>	Moved by Michael McNally-Dawes; seconded by Christian Hauer.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 20:45 pm

**Next Meeting: 7:15 pm, Monday, November 17th 2008,  
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.