



CanSoRef

**CanSoRef is the official Newsletter of the Ontario Soccer Referees' Association.
October 2008**

From The President

Notes on the Third Council Meeting, October 5, 2008 Although the meeting was not well attended in terms of numbers of members present, we did have a quorum and were able to make some business decisions.

First and foremost, Council approved a revised fee structure for 2009. Changes were needed to reflect the new referee classification programme from the Canadian Soccer Association that is being introduced in Ontario next spring. It was decided to take this opportunity to streamline the provincial fee structure. We will now have just one fee regardless of level for all referees. The only difference will be with respect to age. Most referees will pay \$35 as the provincial fee, plus their branch fee. The exception is for those who have not turned 21 before the start of the calendar year 2009; they will pay \$10 as the provincial fee plus their branch fee. There will no longer be a reduced fee for first-time members. Nor will there be a provincial associate membership. Branches will still have an associate membership category.

A report was tabled which shows the financial position of the CSRA. This was in response to a request for more information about what that organization does with its finances, a large portion of which comes from the OSRA. The information provided appeared to address the concerns that had been raised at the last AGM and at previous Council meetings this year.

There was considerable discussion about how the OSRA communicates with Branches and how Can-So-Ref is distributed. It seems that in some cases, the magazine is not being forwarded by Branch secretaries to the members. Suggestions were made to change the process, but in the end it was left that the existing system is the most effective, provided that all secretaries ensure that issues are forwarded to members in a timely manner. Keeping a database of email addresses at the provincial level would be a major task that the organization is not equipped to handle at this time.

A suggestion was made that the spring Council meeting be eliminated, since it is not well attended and conflicts with the start of the outdoor season. However, it was felt that next year, at least, it would be good to continue with that meeting since it will give a chance to discuss any issues that might arise as a result of the introduction of the new CSA referee classification system.

The idea of holding a special meeting of Branch presidents was put forward as a way of dealing with challenges that the organization is facing. While this can be an effective way of tackling issues, there would need to be a very clear idea of the purpose and expected outcome of such a meeting. At this stage, the need is not clear enough to make a presidents' meeting worthwhile.

Brampton offered to host the indoor tournament next spring, the first time that there has been so much advance notice. It was decided that the other branches would be notified of this offer and given time to decide if anyone else would like to host the tournament.

Finally, Council decided that the AGM on November 16th should be held at the same venue as the last few years, if the hotel had room to take us. It does, so I look forward to welcoming you all to the Quality Hotel Parkway Convention Centre in St Catharines.

David Cope, *President*

2008 AGM

The 49th Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 16, at the

**QUALITY HOTEL
Parkway Convention Centre
327 Ontario Street.
St. Catharines, Ontario
L2R 5L3**

As always we have a full business agenda to discuss, elections to vote on (Vice President, Treasurer, Director), and a guest speaker. A three course lunch will be provided free of charge to all members who have paid their 2009 membership fee, and there will be the usual array of door prizes and a raffle.

At the time of writing, we are hoping that our Guest Speaker will be Andrew Backer, who is head of the OSA Referee Programme, to tell us and to expand upon the changes to the referee structure that will be introduced next year.

2008 Branch AGM's

Please send details of your Branch AGM to us at osrabrampton@rogers.com in order that we can arrange, where possible, for a member of the Provincial Executive to attend.

Brant County Thursday October 30, 2008 at 7.30pm at Brantford Police Station, Brantford

Brampton Monday November 3, 2008 at 7.00pm at the Glasgow Rangers Supporters Club, 185 Advance Boulevard, Brampton

Halton Thursday November 6, 2008 at 6.00pm at The Deerfield Golf Club, 2363 North Service Road, Oakville

Hamilton Monday November 24, 2008 at 7.30pm at the Hamilton Spectator Building Auditorium, Hamilton

London Thursday October 23, 2008 at 7.30pm at Accuride Canada, 1 Firestone Blvd., London

Mississauga Thursday 23 October, 2008 at 7.00pm at The Hershey Sportszone, Mississauga

Niagara Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 10.00am, Location TBA

North York Saturday October 4 at 7.00pm at the Herb Carnegie Arena, 580 Finch West, Toronto

Peterborough November 22, 2008 at 10.00am at the Carousel Restaurant and Tavern, 116 Lansdowne St E, Peterborough

York Region Sunday November 30, 2008 at 7.00pm at Elgin Barrow Hockey Arena, Richmond Hill

OSRA Merchandise

Hello all my friends. Again at this time I would like to welcome all of you to beautiful Niagara for our provincial OSRA annual general meeting, AGM, which will be held on November 16th 2008. As usual we plan on a lot of fun and good food. It is a chance to see many good friends and share good times and bad times you experienced through the summer season. Also we will again have surprise door prizes and great sales on OSRA equipment.

So plan on attending and you will not be disappointed.

At this time I would like to express my thanks to the OSRA executive for their support and mostly to you as members for your support over this past year and many other previous years. You have been a great support to myself and the OSRA. As you know my position is up for election this year and I am prepared to stand again. So I will say that if I am elected I would be very happy to serve for another term and if I am not elected I would like to wish my successor all the best and I hope he survives for 20 years as I have.

I wish all of you who are planning to attend the AGM a safe trip to St. Catharines and wish all of you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year filled with good health.

Mike Cvetanovich
Director of Equipment

Equipment Prices

- Rain Jacket \$60.00
- Golf Shirt (assorted colours) \$30.00
- T Shirt \$13.00
- Uniform Badge \$5.00
- Referee Cap \$13.00
- Toque \$6.00
- Tie \$20.00
- Uniform Badge \$5.00
- Dress Badge \$20.00
- Pin \$4.00
- Flip Coin \$3.00
- Clipboard \$5.00
- Whistle (Fox 40) \$5.00

Please support the OSRA by purchasing OSRA merchandise.

See Mike Cvetanovich at our Display Table at the AGM or contact him directly at mikecvetanovic@hotmail.com.

2008 OSA Youth Referee Symposium

November 8th, 2008, 10am-4pm

Reproduced from the OSA Website

The OSA will be hosting 2 Youth Referee Symposiums in Ontario in conjunction with the 2008 Play Soccer Conference. Both symposiums will run on November 8th, 2008, one located in Toronto (Humber College, North Campus), and the other being hosted in Ottawa.

The 2008 OSA Youth Referee Symposium has been designed with topics specifically aimed at youth referees. Topics that have been recognized as areas that cause difficulty for young referees, and may cause them to stop refereeing altogether. The symposium will build upon what is instructed in the current youth education program in Ontario, though focusing less on technical aspects of refereeing. Rather, the focus will be on those aspects of refereeing that directly affect youth referees. The topics offered at the 2008 OSA Youth Referee Symposium include:

- "Making the Tough Call" - looking at some of the tougher Laws, and those that give young referees the most difficulty.
- "The Art of Being an AR" - the intricacies of being an AR, and what separates great ARs from the rest. "Managing Conflict" - how to best deal with unruly players, coaches, and spectators.
- "Unique Aspects of Female Refereeing" - examining issues in refereeing that are unique to females.
- "Game preparation" - how to physically and mentally prepare for a big game.

At the Toronto Symposium, Denise Robinson, recently retired FIFA assistant referee, has been confirmed as the keynote speaker. We are currently awaiting confirmation from the keynote speaker in Ottawa. As well as the keynote speakers, many other current and former National and FIFA referees are scheduled to instruct, so there will certainly be a wealth of refereeing knowledge and experience on hand. Participants will also have an opportunity to ask questions of our experts in a formal Q&A session at the conclusion of the symposium.

The OSA would like to acknowledge Active 2010 for making the 2008 OSA Youth Referee Symposium possible. Referees interested in participating are encouraged to complete the Referee Symposium Registration Form at the bottom of the page, and mail it into the OSA office. Participants must be between the ages of 13-18, and the cost of the symposium is \$20 per referee, which includes attendance at 3 education sessions (2 listed above and 1 group session) throughout the day, a Q&A session with the panel of experts, the keynote speech, as well as lunch and entry into a draw to win a number of different door prizes. The deadline to register is Friday, October 24th, 2008.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Carr with Referee Development at gcarr@soccer.on.ca.

NEW REFEREE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (Effective January 1, 2009) and other changes to the Referee Development Program

Reproduced from the OSA Website

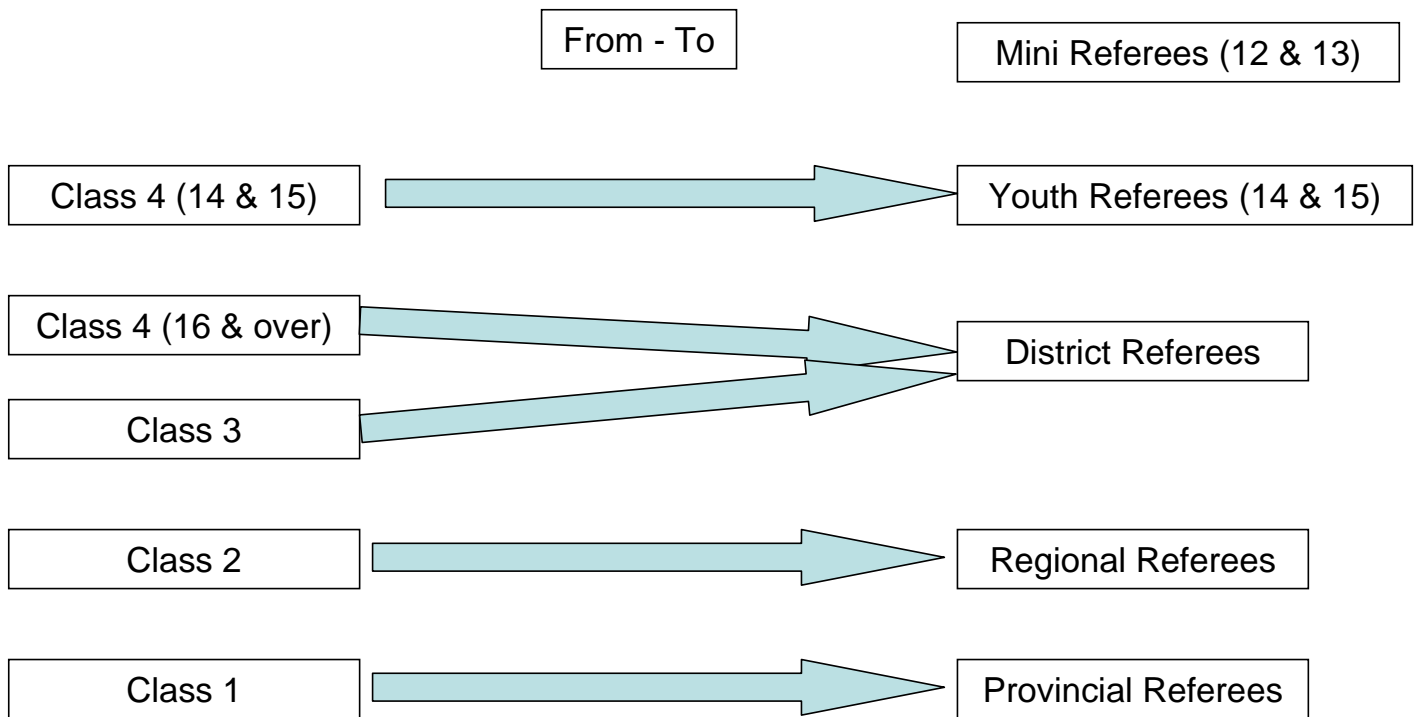
The Canadian Soccer Association under their new regulations and control of Match Officials have created a new Classification system for referees in Canada. As of January 1st 2009 all Ontario referees will be effected by this new classification system and will be graded accordingly.

The chart attached outlines in graphic format how each referee will be effected.

Transition of Classification System

Old Classification System

New Classification System



Clubs will host Mini and Entry Level courses & OSA will host Regional & Provincial upgrading courses

Updates on OSA policies regarding referee appointments effected based on this new classification system will be launched when completed over the next couple of months.

TIME FRAME & WHAT TO EXPECT

Upon review of each referee's current classification, which will be done in November/December, a letter will be sent to each referee registered in January 2009 outlining their old classification (under the old system), their new classification (under the new system) as well as details on how to register as a referee in 2009.

OTHER CHANGES

Other changes that will be coming based on the new regulations include;

- Changes to the Entry Level Course (old C4 course)
- Introduction of a new Mini Soccer Referee Course
- Uniform and badges changes

Again all this information will be forth coming in the coming weeks as will be made available just as soon as it is confirmed and completed.

If there are any questions regarding these changes please do not hesitate to contact the Referee Development department at the OSA, however keep in mind there will be further updates in the coming weeks that will assist in understanding the effects of these changes.

Around The Branches

Brampton

Education classes will resume in January 2009 and will run bi-weekly until May 2009. If you have any thoughts on topics you would like to see covered please let us know.

Members are reminded that our AGM is being held on Monday November 3, 2008 at the Glasgow Rangers Supporters Club, 185 Advance Boulevard, Brampton.

Mississauga

These pictures were taken at the Mississauga 2008 AGM by Rich Carman



The Mississauga Executive 2008



North York

These are pictures were taken at the North York 2008 AGM by Dave Cope.



The youth referee of the year award went to Connor Dunn, seen here being congratulated by Vince Bonazza, President

Scarborough

WALK of FAME

The late John Wimbs and The Robbie International Soccer Tournament will be given a STAR on The WALK in the Scarborough Town Centre on October 23rd 2008 .

Since its formation in 1967, The Robbie International Soccer Tournament has raised over one million dollars for Cystic Fibrosis research and Muscular Dystrophy and has grown from eight teams to 220 teams in 2008.

Referees, from Ontario Soccer Referees Association, have played a very big part in this accomplishment. OSRA referees are the oldest and largest sponsor of the Robbie and are very proud to be a part of this accomplishment.

Archie McPherson

Archie had always has the potential to aspire into the upper level of refereeing, he was torn between Coaching and Refereeing.

In 2007 Archie devoted his efforts primarily to refereeing. He successfully achieved the level one status, excelling in the written examination, then surpassed the requirements at the fitness test and the on field assessments.



Picture of referees that participated in U18 National Club Championships

2008 soccer season was very rewarding for Archie, as you can see from the following game appointments in senior leagues:

Canadian Soccer League (formally C P S L)

Ontario Cup Finals

U18 Club National Championships

Congratulations Archie! it has been a long time coming.

Refereeing – How Hard?

Reproduced with thanks from ESPN Soccernet page
<http://soccernet.espn.go.com/columns/story?id=577462&root=euro2008&cc=5901>
Submitted by Rohit Pal, OSRA Brampton

By [Dave Roberts](#)
September 30, 2008

Becoming a referee is not the hard part, what IS difficult is being one. At youth level, officials get abused by parents angered at the referee's decision that has just ruined little Johnny's chance of becoming the next David Beckham. At the professional level the man in black is scrutinized to the nth degree by the 24 different cameras inside the stadium. Any major faux pas is then ridiculed globally.

My sympathy is currently with a big pal of mine, Nigel 'Banno' Bannister, the man who raised his flag at Vicarage Road in the English Championship for the Reading 'Phantom Goal'. As he looked along the goal-line, perspective failed him and he saw the ball cross the line between the posts. Unfortunately for 'Banno' the ball was wide.

The sad part of all of this is one of the most likeable referees in the game today is close to being destroyed. "The most bizarre goal ever" was the opening line from ITV's Clive Tyldesley report. "Like a UFO landing in front of you" was another line. TV programmes re-played the incident around the world, *YouTube* was log jammed before the video of the incident was pulled for copyright reasons.



Watford players debate the 'ghost goal' with the officials at Vicarage Road.

Picture by GettyImages

There can be no bigger critic of Nigel than Nigel himself. I'm sure he'll have shed tears in the aftermath as he dwelled on that one moment in time rather than looking at how well he has done over his refereeing career which will shortly end; age limit reached, not demotion.

What about the offside calls he made in high pressure games at Old Trafford, Anfield, Emirates, etc, which needed four different camera angles to prove he was right? I can say with firsthand experience, he is the consummate professional; he puts his refereeing ahead of everything.

I remember being his assistant at Gateshead in the UniBond league well over 10 years ago. He won the bet between the two of us as to who could sing a line from Boyzone's 'Love Me For a Reason' to the other first, during the game that is. It was rather amusing four minutes into the match to hear the young ball boy behind me ask "Hey liner. Is the referee singing to you?"

Fortunately non-league humour has come to the fore again. Banno's next game after Watford was an FA Cup qualifier at Whitby Town. At 0-0, opponents Blyth Spartans pushed forward on the attack, the move ended as the ball ran a couple of yards wide of the goal for a goal kick. The Blyth fans burst into celebration as one as though they had just scored a goal and proceeded to chant 1-0, 1-0, 1-0. I'm told Nigel's face was a picture. It is these very moments which reward you for all the 'baggage' that comes with carrying the whistle.

Baggage? Ask Graham Poll, ridiculed for his 'three card trick' at the 2006 World Cup. His crime, writing a number three in the wrong column in his notebook which allowed him to show Josep Simunic three yellow cards before a red one. 'Polley' was never the same again.

Then there was Swedish ref Anders Frisk, left with blood streaming down his face after being hit by a cigarette lighter thrown at him by Roma fans as he walked off the pitch at the Stadio Olimpico in 2004-05. This was swiftly followed just months later by death threats after sending off Chelsea striker Didier Drogba in the same Champions League tournament. Frisk immediately retired.

To the present day, the referee at Vicarage Road, Stuart Attwell, has had to 'dig in' as media camped outside his family home. It got so bad his parents had to plead to be left in peace. As Attwell was wearing his tin hat, Premier League whistler Rob Stlyes has had to pull on the flack jacket after he got it wrong over Cristiano Ronaldo's fall in the Bolton Wanderers penalty area - where have we heard that one before.

Bolton boss Gary Megson came out and said that he'd not welcome an apology from Styles and there were even calls for the 44-year-old to be permanently demoted from England's top flight list of officials. All very petty stuff. I ask you, how many keepers are strung up by managers after letting a ball slip through their hands?

Was defender Gary Pallister hung drawn and quartered after a nightmare Manchester United debut in his team's 2-0 defeat at home to Norwich? What about strikers who fire wide in front of open goals, do they get hung out to dry? Are any of these asked not to even try to apologise - ABSOLUTELY NOT! Like an English village High Street, these acid tinged comments only come one way.



Jloyd Samuel of Bolton Wanderers brings down Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo

Picture by GettyImages

Human beings make mistakes, period. While refs have a pulse mistakes will happen, sorry it is a fact of life. Plus, as long as managers continue to wrap their precious little superstars in cotton wool and look the other way when the penalty kick winning 'Greg Louganis' is pulled off to perfection, the ref's job will continue to get harder.

Not only does the man in the middle have to carry out the objective task of foul detection, he now has to enter the subjective world of what a player is attempting. The frightening part about all of this is we all have been there, referees I mean. If all officials spoke honestly I am certain there would not be one who has not thought the 'corner was a goal', or something similar. I am guilty as charged, I've had an eagle eyed assistant pull me out of the deep stuff by alerting me to 'have done a Polley' (same player two yellows without the red). The lucky thing for most is that, like me, we got away with it.

Pressure, insults, threats, abuse, theatrics and petulance - it is all part of the modern day job, a job which for 90 minutes places you in the loneliest place on earth.

• Dave Roberts is an Anchor on ESPN SoccerNet Press Pass, Sportscenter and SoccerNet Sportscenter. He is also an international referee.

We would like to publish your Branch Report, or any article, you may consider sharing (including photographs) in future issues of Censored. Please send to us [here](#). Copy deadline for June 2008 issue is June 15, 2008.
