



# CanSoRef

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

## **3rd Council Meeting 2008**

The Third Council Meeting for 2008 is set for Sunday, October 5, at the Armenian Youth Centre, starting at approximately 10.00am. All members of the OSRA are encouraged to attend and participate in the meeting. The meeting Agenda will be distributed by email by our Secretary to Branch Secretaries prior to the meeting.

The Armenian Youth Centre is conveniently located just north of the 401 at Victoria Park.

**Directions:** From the 401, go North on Victoria Park to the first light, and turn left onto Consumers Road. Take the first left (Hallcrown Place) to the end. In front of you is the 401, to your left is The Radisson Hotel and to the right is the Armenian Youth Centre. There is ample free parking at the facility. venue to be determined.

## **2008 AGM**

The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 16, venue to be determined at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting.

## **From Our President**

OSRA Members,

The approaching end of the outdoor season means that it is time for the third Council meeting of the year. Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> is the date, at the Armenian Cultural Centre in Toronto, near Victoria Park and the 401. We will start at the usual time of 10:00.

It is important to have good representation, as we have a number of decisions to make and there are always interesting issues that arise.

One is the membership fee for next year; this year we need to take into consideration the new referee classification structure that will come into effect as the OSA becomes the last provincial body to adopt the new CSA directives. To reflect the new environment, your Executive will table a proposal to change and simplify the membership-fee structure. The suggestion is to have only two payment levels: one would be \$35 for all referees 21 years and older regardless of classification; the other would be \$10 for all referees who are under 21 as of January 1<sup>st</sup>. There would no longer be a separate level for first-year members. This should generate some discussion – Council can approve the proposal as tabled or make modifications. In any case, the result will be a decision on the fees for next year, so make sure your representative knows how you feel, if you cannot come to express your views yourself.

In response to requests from the membership, the CSRA financial situation will be explained. Figures for the last 5 years will be tabled, and there will be an opportunity to discuss any issues that the numbers might raise.

We also have to confirm the location of the AGM as well as discuss whether it is now time to look at reducing expenses by moving away from the tradition of providing a full lunch at no charge to all who

attend. Since this is a significant change, we need to have good representation in order to make a decision that reflects the wishes of the membership.

Once again I will make the point that a vibrant OSRA depends on the members being involved. Council meetings are an important part of how the organization works. You need to make your views known, either in person or at least by letting a representative of your branch know how you feel.

I look forward to seeing many of you on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

David Cope  
President

### **2008 Branch AGM's**

Please send details of your Branch AGM to our Secretary Paula Francisci in order that we can arrange, where possible, for a member of the Provincial Executive to attend. We will also list your AGM in CanSoRef and on the OSRA website.

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

**London:** Thursday October 23, 2008 at 7.30pm. Location to be determined.

**York Region:** Thursday October 23, 2008 at Elgin Barrow Hockey Arena, Richmond Hill at 7.00pm.

### **Mike Winstanley**

Our favourite Everton fan MikWin was recently hospitalized by a ruptured appendix. He is now convalescing at home, and we send Mike our best wishes for a speedy recovery and hope to see him back in action real soon.

### **2008 OSA Youth Referee Symposium November 8th, 2008, 10am-4pm**

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](mailto:gcarr@soccer.on.ca).

### Hassane Goes Back To Morocco

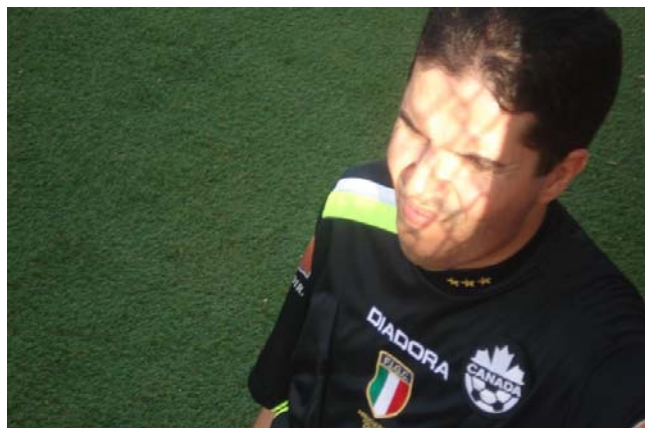
It was a good surprise again to be invited to the second national tournament of the Moroccan forum of Koora Magribia that took place in the city of Berkan (800 km east of Casablanca).

In addition to the Moroccan referees, 4 referees from outside Morocco were invited (3 from Italy and my self from Canada). I received permission from the CSA to officiate internationally and I also received permission to wear the new 2009 Canadian badge.

All referees received a warm welcome upon arriving to city of Berkan, after passing the fitness test (in 38 degrees C), I selected to be with the Italian crew during the tournament.



*My first game was to referee in the preliminary round,*



*my second was 4th official in the preliminary round,*



*my third game was to referee in the semi finals between the city of Casablanca and the city of Fes,*



*my fourth game was 4th official in the final.*



*This is picture of me receiving a memento of the occasion following the semi final game.*

Again the players professionalism was a big help to me in controlling both games.

I'll be glad to share my experience during the branches winter education with the members.

Thanks,

Hassane Rifai

## Education

### **OSRA College of Instructors.**

#### Rationale

Currently, after passing the OSA's Instructors retraining program, instructors are left to their own devices for providing lesson's and lectures following guidelines laid down by the governing body. Instructors produce their own visual aids and program notes, or in most cases, copy or "borrow" other instructors productions, no checks are made by the OSA on what is being produced, or lectured on, other than seeing the resulting tests from clinics and assessments from games. There is no overall supervision of the Instructors abilities, lectures or production.

The whole idea of the "College" is to bring together as many instructors as possible into a "team" format, so that all resources may be shared and improved upon. The "College" would hold a regular annual meeting to decide the programs and lectures for an upcoming education season, and from time to time hold technical meetings to assist all instructors with updated information.

While some instructors are able to tackle what is called "abstract subjects" others have both the technical ability and basic knowledge of the Laws to assist with beginners and upgrading clinics. Both must be channeled into a resource team for the total benefit of the game (i.e. refereeing).

The College will act as:

- Instructors resource centre
- Base for technical assistance
- Advice and information
- Enhance ideas and promotions
- Improve performances and technical abilities
- Enhancement of instructors teaching and lecture methods

The College will also have a resource library for use by its members:

- Library of Powerpoint lectures.
- Video library
- List of still photos and "lecture papers"
- FIFA, CSA, OSA memos and information papers.

This will be an ongoing project under the direction of the Education Committee of the OSRA.

Peter T. Johnson,  
Chairman,  
Monday, September 08, 2008

**Article by Lisa Arrowsmith,  
THE CANADIAN PRESS  
Sun Aug 31**

EDMONTON - Soccer referee Richard Carman thought he was handing out a sound piece of advice when he recently told a father it "wasn't a smart move" to encourage his son to retaliate against aggressive players by kicking them back even harder.

What happened after the game last Wednesday in Mississauga, Ont. - a game involving kids under 15 - is all too familiar for many referees.

Carman said the angry father started shouting at him and pursued him into the parking lot as Carman walked to his car.

"My personal opinion is parents like that are living their dreams through their kids," said Carman, who is vice-president of the 1,000-member Ontario Soccer Referees' Association.

While he notes that most soccer players are pretty well behaved, he acknowledges that those big dreams seem to be making both parents and players more aggressive.

He's been assaulted four or five times during his career - incidents that garnered one or two-year suspensions for the players involved.

While Canadians are familiar with stories about rink rage on the part of some hockey parents, soccer organizations say they too are having to get creative in clamping down on irate parents and players.

Jean Gandubert, chief executive of Ontario's 10,000-member Oakville Soccer Club - one of the largest clubs in the country - has seen a change in the atmosphere at games in recent years.

His organization used to see mainly teenagers and adult male players involved in confrontations with officials, but now they're seeing more incidents involving girls and children as young as nine.

"It's an issue that touches not only soccer, but pretty much all sports. It's a reflection of where society stands and what it tolerates," Gandubert said in a recent interview.

His experience isn't unique as soccer organizations across the country are all grappling with how to put a lid on on-field assaults, bad language and aggressive parents.

Figures from Sport Canada show that more children are now playing soccer than ice hockey.

More than 31 per cent of households with children are involved in soccer, while 23 per cent have kids that play hockey, followed by 18 per cent who play baseball and just less than 15 per cent who play volleyball.

In 2005, the Canadian Soccer Association estimated there were more than 841,000 registered players in Canada - nearly two-per-cent higher than in 2004.

The municipality of Oakville, Ont., recently implemented regulations to crack down on abusive behaviour at its recreation and cultural venues to make them safer.

The new rules allow the Oakville Soccer Club to ban repeat offenders from any municipal facility, a measure Gandubert said they have implemented with at least two parents.

A third parent is currently "on probation," he said.

"It could be abusive language or gestures towards the referees, towards other coaches or other parents," Gandubert said.

Some clubs in the United States have resorted to banning all parents from games, but he said they haven't had to go that far.

Instead, the Oakville club has what it calls "shush" week - a whole week where parents and even coaches have to keep their mouths completely zipped at games.

"We have to remind the parents that the game is there for the kids, they're entitled to make mistakes and so is the referee. That's part of the game, part of the learning process," Gandubert said.

Some recent incidents at fields in western Canada have shone a harsh light on the problem.

The Manitoba Soccer Association is investigating allegations of a near-brawl during a recent provincial championship when a player from a losing team tried to walk off with one of the winning trophies.

Last year, a student and a teacher-coach were both handed five-year suspensions after a 19-year-old referee received a slight concussion in an alleged attack during a boys varsity playoff game in Winnipeg.

In Edmonton, assault-related charges have been laid against five teens after a man watching his son's June 5 game was allegedly attacked by players from the opposing team.

Rocky Moudgill, the executive director of the Manitoba Youth Soccer Association, said his group has designated so-called referee liaisons - parents wearing armbands who take notes on bad behaviour by players or supporters.

The information they gather can then be used to lay the groundwork for disciplinary action.

The association can also impose a bond of about \$200 for a first offence involving bad behaviour among spectators, Moudgill said. But it's a measure that's only been used between 10 and 15 times in the last seven or eight years.

If a team keeps the lid on its rowdy spectators for a year, the association won't cash the bond - and in fact has never cashed one because of repeated offences.

But in June, a group of 17 and 18-year-old boys saw their team disbanded after officials saw them throwing punches at members of the opposing team during two separate games.

"It is a passionate game. Nobody's trying to take the passion out of it," Moudgill said.

"But our intention is to make sure it's a positive experience for everybody and that goes down to every participant, every referee, every coach and every parent or spectator that attends one of these matches."

Hector Vergara, executive director of the Manitoba Soccer Association said he doesn't think the sport is becoming more violent.

"What's happening now is that soccer is getting more attention in this country and our profile has increased throughout the country in every province, and as such, the media is more aware of what we're doing," he said.

Bruce Henderson, a director with the Ontario Soccer Association, said players can receive a minimum two-year suspension if they push or threaten a referee.

Punching, kicking or spitting on a game official can garner a five-year suspension.

"In 1990, we had about 200 cases. That's about the time they brought these mandatory minimums in and there's been a big decline," he said.

The number of violent assaults has dropped to about five per year and between 30 and 50 cases where referees are shoved or threatened, Henderson said.

The referees' association in Ontario has also taken to hitting teams in the pocket book if players or supporters assault officials.

Referees can refuse to officiate at games involving specific teams unless those teams hire paid security officers to keep order.

The organization said the measure has been a particularly effective way to get teams and leagues to take responsibility for bad behaviour.

## **Around The Branches**

### **Brampton**

Members are reminded that our next Meeting is our AGM on Monday, November 3rd, 2008, to be held at the Glasgow Rangers Supporters Club, 185 Advance Boulevard, Brampton starting at 7.00pm.

Education classes will resume in January 2009 and will run bi-weekly until May 2009.

### **Scarborough**

The Ontario/Quebec Cup

This cup brings together the Ontario and Quebec Provincial League champions in the u14, u15, u16, u18 & senior divisions. This year the OSA is hosting the male tournament, with the female tournament being played in Quebec. This tournament is being played at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga and is a two day event. The games are being played on Saturday October 11 & Sunday October 12th.

Ramie Arbaji from the Scarborough Branch is among many other referees selected by OSA to officiate in this tournament. Congratulations Ramee!!

Ramee was also appointed by OSA to referee the Ontario Cup Under 21 finals in August this year

Nominated National Referee

Congratulations to Milorad "Mickey" Donev who was nominated by OSA for Nominated National Referee status this year

Mickey is also invited to officiate in the U18 National Championship which will be held in Vaughan this year (October 8<sup>h</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>)

Mickey was also appointed by OSA to officiate the Ontario Cup men's final on 14<sup>th</sup> September this year

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***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.***

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