



CanSoRef

**CanSoRef is the official Newsletter of the Ontario Soccer Referees' Association.
March / April 2009**

From The President

March 29, 2009

To All OSRA Members:

Over the past two weeks, a number of interesting things have happened with the waiver.

Unfortunately, the OSA continues to refuse to discuss the matter or to make changes. That is most unfortunate. In its communications with the OSA, the OSRA has been approaching the matter in a spirit of co-operation and consultation.

Clarification has been provided by the OSA by way of a posting on the OSA website where it may be viewed by all. This document attempts to clarify issues with the waiver but fails to do so satisfactorily.

Andrew Backer sent a letter to all International, National, Provincial and Regional referees to explain the OSA's process and rationale. He said that he was doing this to assist in clarifying any misconceptions or concerns regarding the waiver. Evidently, District referees are not considered by Mr. Backer to be worth the effort of such a communication because it was not sent to them. He also evidently did not think it worthwhile to copy the OSRA, despite the fact that the OSRA is an associate member of the OSA and despite the fact that his clarifications are an attempt to address matters that the OSRA has raised concerning the waiver.

We wrote to Guy Bradbury, the Chief Executive Officer of the OSA. He did not respond, failing even to acknowledge receipt of our communication on this issue.

We communicated with John Knox, the President of the OSA. After speaking with Mr. Bradbury and Mr. Backer, Mr. Knox said that he was not able to intervene in the operational aspects of the OSA. Unfortunately, Mr. Knox's response appears to mean that the OSA Executive Committee does not see any problem with the fact that the operational side of the OSA is actively refusing to engage in dialogue with a key stakeholder group, one which is also an Associate Member of the OSA.

Joe Licandro, President of the Canadian Soccer Referees' Association, was requested to write to Joe Guest, Director of Refereeing of the Canadian Soccer Association, and did so. We await Mr. Guest's response. In particular in his letter Mr. Licandro pointed out that the requirement of the OSA for the waiver means that within Canada referees will be treated differently, with only Ontario referees being required to provide a waiver.

The deadline for registering for 2009 without penalty has been extended to May 1st. However the 2008 registration period has not been extended. This means that all current referee registrations will expire on April 1st. In order to comply with the OSA rules about refereeing, a referee will need to register before doing any games in April.

The points above are provided for your information and to offer some background and context as you decide what to do with regard to the waiver. A separate communication outlining the choices that are open to you is being sent to all Branch Presidents and Secretaries for distribution to members.

Yours in soccer,

Original signed by

David Cope
President

OSRA Primer Seminar for Referees Seeking Upgrading.

This seminar is now full.

Dates set for 2009 2nd and 3rd Council Meetings and AGM

Our 2nd Council Meeting for 2009 will be held on Sunday April 26.

Our 3rd Council Meeting for 2009 will be held on Sunday October 4.

Both meetings will be held at the Armenian Youth Centre commencing at 10.00am.
The Armenian Youth Centre is located at 401 and Victoria Park at:

50 Hallcrown Place
North York, ON M2J 1P7
(416) 499-4781
[Get directions](#)

The 2009 AGM, which is our 50th AGM, will be held on Sunday November 15 at a venue to be determined.

2009 Referees' Soccer Tournament

The Scarborough Branch of the OSRA will be hosting the Annual Referees Soccer Tournament on April 19th at the Scarborough Indoor Arena, 45 Fairfax Crescent, Scarborough, M1L 1Z6

A minimum of 8 teams are required to make this tournament a success. As stated at Council, we need a minimum of eight teams to participate, teams confirmed so far are:

Hamilton one team (Paid)
Scarborough two teams (Paid)
York Region
North York
Brampton
Toronto
Mississauga

We have eight teams already signed up, but can still accommodate teams from other Branches who may like to participate (more teams helps us to control costs more effectively). We are running out of time, any other Branch who would like to have more than one team would be welcome

The format would be the same as in previous years

This year a Trophy will be presented to the winner

The entrance fee is \$250.00 payable to the OSRA Scarborough Branch

Two Divisions, minimum of 4 teams per division, each team is guaranteed a minimum of 3 games

First game starts at 9.00 AM

Lunch (Pizza) will be provided from 12 to 1 PM

Closing Date is March 31st 2009

Please contact Leslie Wong @ 416-282-4272 email lwongn623@rogers.com

The Robbie and Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation need your help!

The Ontario Soccer Referees' Association is major sponsor of The Robbie International Soccer Tournament. The SSRA is also the oldest sponsor of the Robbie. The SSRA has been associated with the Robbie since its inception about 43 years ago. The dedication and support of SSRA referees in Ontario is unquestionable, without their support the Robbie would not be as successful as it today. The Robbie is 100 % volunteer run and it supports a worthwhile Canadian Charity. The Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (C F)

This year the Robbie will be held on July 4th 5th and 6th across Scarborough and neighboring districts. Once again The Robbie and C F are asking for your support to this worthwhile Canadian Charity. No refereeing help is too small, you can ref as an individual or you can bring a team of 3. Contact Leslie Wong @ 416-282-4272 or email lwongn623@rogers.com

English FA “Respect” campaign

Respect is The FA’s programme to address unacceptable behaviour in football – on and off the pitch.

On average, 7,000 referees quit football (in England) every year because of the abuse they receive from players and from the sidelines. Lots of children also pack it in because of the attitude and actions of over-enthusiastic and pushy parents.

In response, The FA’s Respect programme provides a series of tools for leagues, clubs, coaches, Referees, players and parents from grassroots to elite football to ensure a safe, positive environment in which to enjoy the game.

These tools include agreed codes of conduct, in-service training for Referees, Respect club packs, spectator sideline barriers funded by the Football Foundation and ensuring captains work with referees to manage player behaviour.

The FA has also launched a free online Respect Parent Guide to highlight examples of poor behaviour and, more importantly, how it can be improved. To see the Guide for Parents and carers click here.

Actor Ray Winstone has now pledged his support to the Respect Parent Guide by taking part in a new FA film. [Watch it here.](#)

To find out more about Respect, use the links below.

- [Respect sanctions - guidance for 2008-09](#)
- [Get Respect pitchside barriers](#)
- [If you run an adult or youth league, you can sign up to Respect here](#)

Both virals from the English FA’s “Respect” initiative can be viewed here <http://www.thefa.com/TheFA/Respect/>

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 me 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 colors) \$30.00
- T Shirt \$13.00
- Uniform Badge \$5.00
- Referee Cap \$13.00 (New Stock just arrived)
- Toque \$6.00
- Tie \$20.00
- Uniform Badge \$5.00 (10 or more – special price \$3.00 each)
- 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.

Around The Branches

Brampton

Our meeting on March 2 was again well attended, with over 60 referees enjoying Hassane Rifai's excellent presentation on "Advantage".

The March 16 meeting was designated for our Awards night. Prior to the Awards presentation, Kathy Knafelc from ROPSSAA gave us our annual low-down on the School Soccer programme that will start up in a few weeks. Charlie Theuma will continue to assign these games as he has done for many years.

Rich Carman then ran the rest of the evening via a powerpoint show. First up was a video clip which is currently doing the rounds on email; the scenario is a "flip" throw, if you haven't seen it yet, view it here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1icBeD6ZuVM>.

Next was a humorous referee sketch from British TV by comedian Omid Djalili, which can be viewed here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnUmNEBJJE>.

After the usual round of thanks to all those that make the Branch tick, recognition to all those who were promoted, and some dubious humorous awards, the main event of the evening was the Awards for Young Referee and Referee of the Year.



We also reminded our members that we are the Current Champions of the OSRA Annual Referees Soccer Tournament which is hosted by OSRA Scarborough.

Apologies are due to Carlo Di Domizio as we did not mention his sterling effort of bicycling across Canada to raise funds for the Sears National Kids Cancer Ride, raising over \$6,500 in the process.

This year we had an unprecedented four names put forward for the Young Referee of the Year Award, all with good merit.

As we like to encourage our young referees as much as possible, we decided to recognize all of them, so congratulations to Lawrence Addo, Jannesa Matis, Heston Abdilla and Dale Hoyano on being our Young Referees of the Year.

Rich Carman (left) presents Dale Hoyano with his Young Referee of the Year award.





Neil Westwater (*pictured above, right, with our President, Rich Carman*) was the unanimous choice for our Referee of the Year. Neil was a player of some repute, and has successfully made the transition to Referee over the past couple of years, successfully gaining his C2 (Regional) upgrade at the end of 2008.

Our remaining meetings for this year are as follows:

30 March 2009 *Matt Arduini – Assistant Referees*

13 April 2009 *John Oliva – Standardization of Mechanics*

27 April 2009 *Justin Tasev – Careless and Reckless Challenges*

11 May 2009 – *2009 Outdoor Season Kick Off Meeting*

2 November 2009 – *AGM*

All meetings are held at the Bramalea Glasgow Rangers Supporters Club, 185 Advance Boulevard, Brampton L6T 4H9.

Mississauga

The Mississauga Branch of the OSRA would like to thank all it's members family and friends for participating in the Feb 13, 09 Valentines Dance.

The event was spectacular. There where 230 guest present and everyone had an outstanding time. Some of the highlights included a silent auction as well as a raffle. The gifts where items such as LCD 22 inch TV, a beautiful diamond ring, and an overnight stay at luxury Hotel in downtown Toronto.



The executive would like to thank all the generous donations by our members sponsor.

The event was so successful that we have already booked our 2010 dance for Feb 12.

So everyone mark your Calendars!!! All branches are welcome.





Peterborough



Stanley George Samuel Marris: (P.Eng., 10 years service with the Nuclear Department at GE, 7 years with Saint John Shipbuilding NB, retired from Quality Assurance with KPMG, Former President of the Peterborough and District Soccer Association, served on various United Church Committees in Ontario and New Brunswick.)

Peacefully at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre on Saturday, February 28, 2009 in his 77th year.

We will remember Stan's exuberance for life, his rich devotion to his family and the Marris genealogy, and his passion for the game of soccer. Stan is a 2009 Inductee into the Peterborough Sports Hall of Fame "Builder's Category".

As a member and Officer of the Boys' Brigade church organization, he personified their mission: "the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, and the promotion of habits of Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness".

A celebration of Stan's life was held at GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH, 534 George Street North, on Thursday, March 5th at 11 a.m. Inurnment in England to be held at a later date.

Hamilton

Hamilton Branch member Paul Catarino was named Referee of the Year for 2008 by the Hamilton and District Soccer Association.

In 2008 Paul's status as an official was upgraded from C2 to C1, now District to Provincial.

Paul being named Referee of the Year for 2008 was acknowledged at the Hamilton and District Soccer Association AGM. Romolo Furi, who is our Branch Treasurer (Acting) and who also is the Vice-President of the Hamilton and District Soccer Association, also presented the Referee of the Year trophy to Paul at our Branch meeting that was held on January 20, 2009 so that Paul's award could be acknowledged by our Branch members collectively. This is the second time that this award has been presented to Paul.

Romolo Furi presenting the Referee of the Year trophy to Paul Catarino at our Branch meeting. Romolo is on the left and Paul is on the right.



Scarborough



The Ontario Soccer Community mourns a dear friend today, as Joe Kneschewitsch passed away peacefully at home yesterday after a lengthy battle with cancer.

A loving father of two, son John and daughter Lori, and dear husband to his beloved wife Mary. Joe was involved in the soccer community for more than three decades. Beginning with Coaching in 1976, Joe was instrumental in the development of the Scarborough Indoor Soccer League and in securing the facility that is home to the League and the Scarborough Soccer Association -- The Scarborough Soccer Centre.

Joe was a volunteer and organizer for the Ontario Cup and Nationals, a coach and committee member of the club Cederbrae, now known as the Scarborough Blizzard Soccer Club, and a referee with the Scarborough Soccer Referees' Association.

Joe K. and his wife Mary are among the longest standing volunteers for the Robbie International Soccer Tournament. Joe was truly dedicated to raising money for the Robbie Charity, the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. He'd take on any task and complete it with utmost accuracy. In recent years, he was a staple at the Robbie Headquarters, alongside Mary and at the Robbie Finals, ensuring all things went smoothly and were done to perfection. Joe was kind hearted, extremely hard working and a truly dedicated man. He will be forever missed by his friends in the Soccer community.

We would like to publish your Branch Report, or any article, you may consider sharing (including photographs) in future issues of CanSoRef.

Please send to us here. Copy deadline for May 2009 issue is April 15, 2009.