



# CDSRA Newsletter

May 2008 - <http://www.cdsra.com>

If you have anything that you would like to see in the CDSRA newsletter, please email me at [smartshannon87@hotmail.com](mailto:smartshannon87@hotmail.com).

Thank you!

## In this issue...

1. Introduction  
2008 Executive Committee
2. Supporting Referees
3. Ask the Ref

The month of May has been an interesting month for referees in Calgary with the weather not only being rainy, but snowy, windy, sunny and hot – just to name a few characteristics of the weather. It truly has been a “wait ten minutes” for weather changes in Calgary and a fair share of games have been cancelled in response to that!

This month at the A.R.T. meeting, FIFA referee, Darci Kruse, presented to the class about “handball”. We discussed the consistency of calls and what defines a handball. Does the hand play the ball or does the ball play the hand? Where is the arm in regards to the ball? Which direction is the arm moving in – towards the ball or away? Is the player **deliberately** playing the ball? We also discussed the difference between “intent” and “deliberate”.

At this month’s executive meeting, Cam Blair informed the executive that he will be stepping down from his role as Elected Director. Thanks goes out to Cam for all his hard work while on the Executive Committee. Of course, you’ll still see him on the fields of Calgary as well as in National matches as a National Assistant Referee.

The CDSRA Library Program was also formally passed as a program of the CDSRA. Josh Smith is the “librarian” and there are multitudes of books that you can loan for a month to read. See the April 2008 Newsletter for more information on the CDSRA Library Program. Donations will be graciously accepted to allow for the purchase of more books.

**Remember** to book the third Tuesday of each month for the A.R.T. classes. This includes June 17<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be no A.R.T. class in August.

Also! The last fitness test runs **Sunday June 1<sup>st</sup>** at the Foothills Track (next to McMahon Stadium) running from 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM.

## 2008 Executive Committee

President: Layne Greenway

Past-President: Steve Papp

Vice President: Terry Day

Secretary: Kim Skow

Treasurer: Dereck Illingworth

Elected Director: Josh Smith

Appointed Directors: Charles vanderwindt, Shannon Smart

as

For contact information for the members of the executive committee, please visit our website at: <http://www.cdsra.com> under ‘About the Association’ and ‘Executives & Directors’

## **Supporting our Youth as REFEREES!!!!**

By Doug Huber

One night in the bar I was having a conversation with some other refs regarding the attrition rate of our Youth Referees. We all know it's too high, and we all wanted to point fingers at local associations, CSF, ASA, etc. wondering why they haven't done more than just talk about it. Attempts made by sending letters out to parents, coaches, clubs etc. sounds great on paper, but in reality too many Youth Refs still quit after one season, if not sooner.

Then a couple of us that live in neighboring communities thought rather than tackling all of Calgary, let's see what we can do in our corner of the City. We approached South West United Soccer Club to see if they would be interested in a 'Mentor Program' for Youth Refs. Their Ref Coordinator, Maureen Shoults, was quick to jump at the opportunity and relayed our offer to some of the new Youth Refs. The response from the Youth Refs AND their Parents was great!!!

Maureen has done a great job coordinating/scheduling to make this program work. In the games I've attended I've explained to the Ref that I'm not here to assess their skill level. I'm here to give them a comfort level that they are not alone and give them an opportunity to ask me questions before, at the half way mark, and at the end of the game. I can also get an idea of the stress level and how they are handling it.

Of course we won't know the results of this experiment until next fall, or even 2009 outdoor season. But what I've seen so far is that there is a lot of talent in our Youth Referees, and I'm hoping the work we've done with South West United will spread to other clubs. Maureen commented that since the two of us approached her with this idea, three more Refs have joined the program.

---

## **CMSA's Attention to Refs in 2008**

By Shannon Smart

As many CDSRA members know, this summer I am working with Calgary Minor Soccer Association as a referee mentor. You probably receive countless e-mails from me through Referee Manager looking for officials for President's Cup (thanks to all that did games!), rescheduled games (that get re-scheduled due to rain) and other various subjects. I am communicating with the different clubs through the city, as well as their referee coordinators, to find out what mentorship programs they currently have in place and listen to their issues among other things. On evenings, I go to U-10 and U-12 games across the city and meet the new referees – many which just received their badge a little over a month ago. While I'm not there to assess and tell them what is right and what's wrong, I do offer suggestions, provide support and camaraderie, as well as make sure those CMSA teams are following the rules! While I am slowly defining my role as a referee mentor, I hope that this is just one small step towards CMSA embracing the need for referee mentorship, education and development. I'd like the referee retention rate to improve from the current 20%!


This year CMSA also introduced the Referee Liaison/Field Marshal program for the U-10 through U-16 Competitive Divisions. Each team is required to select one parent to ultimately act as a liaison to the referee for that team. Their role is to assist in keeping their parents under control and by doing so, allow for the referee to do just that – ref. More information can be found on the CMSA website (<http://www.calgaryminorsoccer.com>) under "Documents".

CMSA is also in the works of having a weekend seminar for referees this July. This would include a day specific for the youth referees in Calgary on the Saturday, and an open day on the Sunday for all soccer officials. More details to come as they are finalized.

If you are interested in assisting a Club with mentoring, as Doug Huber and Maria Marshall do for SWU, please contact me at [referees@calgaryminorsoccer.com](mailto:referees@calgaryminorsoccer.com) and I can provide you with Referee Coordinator contact information.

## *Ask the Referee...*

*I refed my first CUSA game the other day and right from the start there was the use of the "F" word on the field e.g. Pass THE F????ING Ball. This wasn't directed at anyone but was loud enough to bother me. I let the player know that I didn't want to hear that sort of language and shouted that this applies to both teams. After a couple more warnings, and advising the teams that we had female and children spectators present, things settled down. My question is should I have cautioned the first player straight away. I didn't do this as I wondered that I may be giving out cautions throughout the game. Can you advise on the best way to handle this kind of language and how do the players react to either way? Obviously if all referees handled this the same way then players would get a consistent message.*

**Response:** Law 12 states "...uses offensive or insulting or abusive language and/or gestures". It does not say it has to be directed at anyone. Also every League has noted that inappropriate language is not acceptable not only because of the spectators that may be present, but a number of fields are located in residential neighborhoods. Remember that this is NOT a cautionable offence, it is a SENDING OFF offence under Law 12. But that is the 'letter of the law', whereas the practical 'man management' method you chose to handle this I suspect was the correct method. The RDC (Referee Development Committee) has published a guideline to assist Refs in dealing with this subject:  **Dealing with Offensive, Insulting, or Insulting and/or Abusive Language.**

*When doing a double header by ones-self there is only 15 minutes between games. I find it virtually impossible to complete the paper work from the previous game and collect cards from both teams for the next game and start on time. What do you suggest and how do other refs handle this. Have CUSA considered having two 40 minutes halves for games with one official*

**Response:** Quite often it is only 10 mins between games (i.e. game will start at 6:30PM, two 45min halves plus 5 min half time take you to 8:05, next game starts at 8:15PM). The way most Refs I have worked with 'handle this' is, but not limited to: to do some of the paperwork during the half time break (i.e. print and/or sign your name etc.); have the paperwork organized so that it can be easily filled out, torn apart, and combined with the player cards; File the paperwork from the first game and collect the paperwork for the next game; if the teams are tardy in getting you the paperwork, announce that your watch will start on time, but the kickoff won't happen until the cards and paperwork are handed in properly (i.e. you'd be surprised how fast they can get organized when threatened shorter playing time). Both exercises should take 5 min or less. The other option is to advise both teams that the half will be shortened. Later in the season, the teams will recognize the task you have and will do what they can to make your job easier. Those that don't, you can note it on the game sheet. If the league sees this as a habit, they will deal with the team. All you need to do is follow the instructions from the league.

*U14 Tier II assistant referees: what calls do the refs want parent volunteer linespeople to make? i.e. ball out of play, throw-in offence, offside. Re: offside - do you want the linesman to signal an offside position, regardless of whether or not there is a penalty?*

**Response:** There is no clear cut answer for this one. The Ref assigned to the game must assess the skill level/knowledge of the both club linesman and decide what role they they will play. It would be nice if the club linesman processed the skill levels required to signal Offsides, Fouls, etc. (ie. the club linesman is a Qualified Ref or has taken/passed the Linesman's Course). But often that is not the case. However the Ref should discuss expectations with both club linesman before the game starts and be in good eye contact so that the three can work as a team. That instruction could be '...do your best to signal when the ball is out of touch and give me a direction' to '...help me with Offsides, Fouls, etc.'. Regardless of their skill level/knowledge of the game, a linesman can not: award a 'penalty shot'; issue a card; or just stop play for a foul. Only the Ref can do that. The Ref may ask for the Linesman's viewpoint/opinion, but it is the Ref's decision to make.

**Have a question for 'Ask the Ref'? Please visit the CDSRA website: <http://www.cdsra.com>**