

Whitby Iroquois Soccer Club

2009 AGM

Report of Club Head Referee

Over the past year the Club has once again provided opportunities through Referee Clinics for those members who wish to participate in the Referee Program. During the 2009 Indoor Season the Club used the services of 46 referees.

Our 2009 outdoor program saw 41 individuals take part in the OSA Entry Level Referee Clinic, 71 in the OSA Mini Referee Clinic and 107 returning referees. From that body of 219 game officials, we were able to adequately supply qualified referees for all games. It is very reassuring to see so many referees return for another season. It means we must be doing something right.

Referees were assessed on a regular basis throughout the season and feedback given to them. The main complaint, as usual, is the calling of the offside. I have emphasized to the referees the need to wait and see if the player becomes involved in action play. For the most part the referees have carried out these instructions. Unfortunately the players, spectators and especially the coaches do not understand this concept of the offside law. Once again, I offer my services to all club coaches who wish to receive training in the Laws of the Game over the winter.

Do referees make mistakes, of course they do. This is part of the game and always will be. There must be an arbitrator and it is the referee. The phrase that best describes it is "if in the opinion of the referee". That opinion and the opinion of those watching the game will be different especially when the call is against their team.

This fall I attended a FIFA Futuro course in Edmonton where the world governing body came up with new methods of teaching all aspects of the Offside law. This was done through powerpoint and videos. I will be introducing this to all our referees before the start of the 2010 outdoor season

The Canadian Soccer Association has mandated a change to the age a young person can become a registered referee. The Ontario Soccer Association and, of course, WISC must follow the CSA, and as a result, a candidate for the referee clinics must be 14 years of age as of the 1st April, 2009.

I appreciate having the support of the Board in giving these young referees an opportunity to experience officiating for the first time and, where appropriate, for them to pursue further training and development.

I would like to thank Vince Hathaway for his effort in handling successfully the appointment of referees to all our recreational games. Also, it has been a privilege to work with our high level technical staff and I look forward to working together towards some of the exciting projects proposed for 2010 with our new technical staff.

Should anyone wish to become a referee, clinics will be scheduled for spring 2010. Watch the website for further details: www.whitbysoccer.com.

Gord Arrowsmith
Club Head Referee