

## **DRC Bulletin 1-06**

### **National Programme Symposium**

Referee activities got off to an fine start in the new year with a one-day symposium for national programme participants on January 7. Invitees included instructors, assessors and referees who are currently active in the national programme as well as some future prospects. The purpose of this well attended event was to provide the national programme participants with an opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and provide both the OSA and the CSA with feedback and guidance in terms of their current issues, concerns and opportunities.

The agenda included group discussions on performance based programming, the role of the assessor, education and development and female referee development in Ontario.

### **District Referee Coordinator Workshop**

The Spring DRC workshop is being hosted by the Durham Region Soccer Association on Saturday, March 11. The agenda will include an introduction presentation of the E2E referee scheduling software by Tim Baigent. Details of other agenda items for the one-day event will be announced as soon as they are finalized.

### **Winter Education**

The winter education programme is now underway. Please submit the dates, times, location and the names of the instructors who will be conducting the two mandatory education sessions in your district well in advance. These events will be posted on the OSA web site.

### **Players Equipment**

As an outcome of the winter education sessions, the RDC is receiving feedback in advance of issuing a clarifying memorandum on players equipment. We would welcome your input up to the time of the DRC workshop.

This memorandum, which will be distributed to the wider soccer community, will be published in advance of the outdoor playing season.

### **Policy Review and Revision (repeated)**

After a lengthy process, the advisory group on policy review led by Gerry Foley, recently concluded a review and revision of referee development programme policy. In addition to updating policies to reflect current practices, this exercise also included the identification of areas where no policy currently existed. The resulting RFD, which has been submitted for approval by the Board of Directors at its February 18 meeting, can be viewed in the BOD database.

### **Fitness Standards for Female Referees (repeated)**

Included in the above-mentioned RFD is a proposal to create a separate fitness test for female referees. This will bring the OSA programme into line with current CSA policy which provides a nomination steam for high-performance female referees who wish to referee women's games in the national programme. In addition, in view of the OSA position on gender neutrality, the RDC will request that the CSA amend its own policy so that reverse discrimination can be avoided.

**RDC Meetings**

The RDC held its first meeting of the new year on January 6. The agenda was largely concentrated around operations planning and a review of the advisory group network. The next RDC meeting is slated for Friday, February 17.

Tom Doyle

Chair

Referee Development Committee