



CORNER KICKS

UNITED...WE CAN DEVELOP THE FUTURE OF THE GAME

MANITOBA SOCCER ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to the Manitoba Soccer Association quarterly newsletter Spring Edition. The MSA will include news on players, coaches, referees, special events and feature stories. We hope you find this newsletter informative and enjoy reading it. If you have any suggestions or comments please email the office at mbsoccer@manitobasoccer.ca with subject: corner kicks.

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Canadian Soccer League granted Membership (canadasoccer.com)

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The Canadian Soccer Association announced today that the Canadian Soccer League has been granted full membership. Applying the provisos of the Canadian Soccer Association's revised Professional Soccer Standards that were recently ratified by the Association's Executive Committee, the Canadian Soccer League has been provided with the conditions of membership and a set of transitional benchmarks.

"We are pleased to welcome the Canadian Soccer League as a member of the Canadian Soccer Association," said Canadian Soccer Association President Dr. Dominic Maestracci. "We look forward to a long and rewarding relationship as the professional game develops in Canada."

At its 2009 Annual General Meeting, the Association granted conditional membership to the Canadian Soccer League on the stipulation that the league met the approval of criteria set by the Association's Professional and Technical Committees. Having been reviewed against the Professional Soccer Standards, the conditional membership awarded has now been activated. The Association's Professional Soccer Committee and staff will work with the Canadian Soccer League to monitor the transition in 2010 and ensure that compliance of the benchmarks established by the Board are achieved.

"The Canadian Soccer League is proud to play in an integral part in the development of soccer and its athletes in Canada," said Canadian Soccer League President Domenic Di Gironimo. "We will continue our commitment to build relationships and partnerships across the nation; we will continue to be sport leaders in the communities in which our teams play."

"This is an exciting step for the Canadian Soccer League to be granted full membership in Canada," said Canadian Soccer Association General Secretary Peter Montopoli. "As the Canadian Soccer League continues to grow, it will help expand the popularity and development of our sport in Canada."

Last season, the Canadian Soccer League featured 10 teams in two divisions.



REMINDERS

- April 2, 2010
- Good Friday
- April 4, 2010
- Easter
- Easter 5, 2010
- Easter Monday
- April 6 -25, 2010
- 15th Annual Mini World Cup 2010
- April 6, 2010
- RTC
- April 8, 2010
- RTC



Player Development

Protective Headgear for Soccer Players: An Overview (thesportjournal.org)

Protective headgear has been worn by thousands of American soccer players in youth leagues, high schools, colleges, and even professional leagues. While some current studies indicate that concussions occur among soccer players at a rate similar to that among football players, other studies contradict such results and the issue remains disputed. Moreover, studies disagree on whether heading the ball can cause concussions or long-term brain impairment. This article examines the causes and occurrence of head injuries in soccer and the possible role of protective headgear in preventing those injuries.

Since the International Federation of Association Football, or FIFA, soccer's Zurich-based world governing body, began to allow the practice, thousands of American soccer players have worn protective headgear in youth league play, high school and college competition, and professional play. Such headgear gained international visibility during the 2003 Women's World Cup and the 2004 Athens Olympics (Longman, 2004). In the United States itself, the United States Soccer Federation, National Collegiate Athletic Association, and National Federation of State High School Associations all now permit the use of protective headgear in soccer (Delaney 2008). But these developments did not occur without controversy.

The U.S. Soccer Federation, which permits protective headgear but does not endorse it, fears that wide use of the gear would undermine the assertion that soccer is a safe alternative to football. When soccer officials voice doubts like this, similarities to the failed arguments once made against bicycle helmets, automobile seat belts, and even soccer shin guards may give them a familiar sound (Longman, 2004). According to Jeff Skeen, founder of one soccer headgear company, "Soccer officials are trying to thwart the evolution of headgear in soccer because they think it will scare soccer moms away from the sign-up table. And they also think headgear use could be viewed as an admission that heading the ball itself is dangerous," Skeen added.

Anson Dorrance, who has coached the women's team at the University of North Carolina to 19 national championships, has noted that compulsory use of shin guards did not change the nature of soccer, as many feared it would. It is Dorrance's prediction that headgear will not change soccer's nature either. Steve Ryan, commissioner of the Major Indoor Soccer League (which has approved the use of headgear), agreed. "I remember when baseball players didn't wear batting helmets," he said. "You see some resistance in soccer, which is natural. But I expect, over time, you will see (protective headgear use) broadly accepted.

Adding to the controversy is the fact that some headgear manufacturers pay professional players the equivalent of \$50 - \$100 per game to endorse their products and furthermore have paid some state soccer associations \$4,000 - \$10,000 for endorsements. This arrangement makes company claims of injury reduction suspect, according to the U.S. Soccer Federation. But several independent studies have shown that head injuries, particularly concussions, have become a significant issue in soccer. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that doctors treat more than 200,000 children annually for soccer-related injuries including concussions. A recent independent study by Scott Delaney of Canada's McGill University, published in the *Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine*, found that the rate of head injuries among soccer players was similar to the rate among football players.



Player Development

Canada announces international friendly match against Argentina (canadasoccer.com)

Canada's men's national team has announced that it will face Argentina in an international friendly match this 24 May at Estadio Monumental in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The match will be played as part of the bicentury anniversary of the Revolucion de Mayo, the early 19th century "May Revolution" that helped form Argentina into an independent nation. The 24 May match will be the first-ever meeting between the two men's national teams.

"This is a landmark match for Canadian soccer," said national coach Stephen Hart. "To be invited to play for Argentina in Argentina is a player's dream. They are simply one of the best teams in world football."

Argentina is two-time world champion, having won the FIFA World Cup at Argentina 1978 and Mexico 1986. It also finished runner up at Uruguay 1930 and Italy 1990. It has consistently ranked amongst the world's top nations, most recently ranking first in the June 2008 FIFA/Coca-Cola World Ranking.

Argentina has also won one FIFA Confederations Cup, two Men's Olympic Football Tournaments, and 14 Copa Americas. It has also won six FIFA U-20 World Cups including Canada 2007. While the 24 May 2010 match will be the first meeting between the two full national teams, Canada and Argentina's men's U-20 teams have recently met twice in Toronto on 11 May 2007 for the official opening of BMO Field and then again one year later on 11 May.

The Canada-Argentina match will be an excellent test for national coach Hart and his crew. It will also be a test for Argentina who is currently preparing for the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa. This will be Canada's second match against a top-10 men's nation in the last three years, following the 31 May 2008 match against Brazil in Seattle, WA.

Canada recently opened its 2010 season with an international friendly match against Jamaica on 31 January. Additional fixtures for the 2010 season will be announced in due time, including a pair of home international friendly matches that will be played on the FIFA International Calendar this fall. The 24 May match against Argentina will be one of the highlights of the 2010 season.

Canada is currently working towards the 2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil. Those preparations will include international friendly matches, the 2011 and 2013 CONCACAF Gold Cups, and the next FIFA World Cup Qualifiers that are expected to begin in 2012, the same year that the Canadian Soccer Association celebrates its own 100th anniversary.



Coach Development

The Dysfunctional Team (www.sirc.ca)

In studying teamwork, Carl Larson and Frank LaFasto have developed the following idea regarding teams. “A team has two or more people, it has a specific performance objective, a recognizable goal to be attained and coordination of activity among the members of the team is required for the attainment of the team goal or objective.”

What similarities do you see with these definitions and your team? Many coaches can examine the idea of shared history as they work with players for several consecutive years. This shared history can expose the coach and players to the highs and lows of athletic competition. In this process the individual differences of the coaches and each of the players interact and change over time.

Emotional bonding occurs between coaches and players and among all personnel involved in a specific sport. This is most obvious in team sports. This bonding develops as the coach and team go through pre-season preparation and continues throughout the season. Again, the highs and the lows of a season will influence how a team sticks together and how the bonding is affected.

The need for bonding on a team, as in a family, is important. Likewise, having goals that are clear and specific also can help the individual in his or her development as a person and as a team member. Without the merging of emotional bonds and realistic goals, the development of a sense of teamwork will be impossible.

At times, however, things that can have very negative effects on the coaches and their players begin to impact on a team. Counselors might view families as dysfunctional, while coaches describe their teams as having slumps and not playing to their potential because of a lack of desire or motivation. A team might actually exhibit some of the same signs of dysfunctional families.

Dysfunctional families are viewed as systems that perpetuate chaos and uncertainty among their members. People in these situations often are ill at ease, without a sense of calm necessary for developing as fully functioning individuals. They learn inappropriate ways of coping and resort to behavior patterns that are unauthentic and highly manipulative. Rather than saying what is on their minds, they interact with others in a controlling way and get their needs met through dishonesty. In meeting their needs by controlling others, they believe that they have the upper hand in the situation.

When families are not working well together, one often finds a breakdown in communication. Rather than sending clear, specific and concrete messages, a person will speak abstractly, make assumptions and overgeneralize. On a team, this may be seen when players are told that they are not playing well as opposed to being told specifically how a particular technique must be executed and having it demonstrated so that players can learn the correct movement needed to eliminate their errors.



Referee Development

How to Understand Soccer Referee Signals (wikihow)

You're glued to the game, and your psychological well-being hinges on your favorite team scoring the winning goal. It's then that you realize that the fate of the game rests in the referee's hands-literally! Since the referee is a critical part of a game of soccer, responsible for keeping order and enforcing the rules, it's crucial for the true soccer fan to be able to decipher what he's seen and what he wants. Here's a crash course on "Refereese".

Listen for the whistle. A referee who blows his whistle has seen something, most often a foul, which requires him to immediately terminate play and deal with the situation. The whistle tone will often indicate the nature of the foul. A short, quick whistle indicates a lesser foul only punished by a free kick and longer, harder blasts indicate serious foul punishable by cards or penalty kicks.

Watch for the advantage. A referee who, without blowing his whistle, points both arms out, has seen a foul but has decided to play advantage. In advantage, the referee delays the call because he believes that the fouled team still has the advantage in the situation. Typically the referee will give around 3 seconds to determine who comes out on top. If, at the end of 3 seconds, an advantage was gained by the fouled team, such as possession being kept or a goal being scored, the foul will be ignored by the referee. If the foul warranted a card, however, he will show the card at the next stoppage in play.

Watch for direct free kicks. To signal a direct free kick, or DFK, a referee will blow his whistle and point with a raised arm in the direction of the goal that the team who has been awarded the free kick is attacking. A DFK is awarded when one of the players commits one of the ten penal fouls against an opponent. A goal may be scored from a DFK.

Watch for indirect free kicks. If after signaling for a free kick the referee keeps his hand above his head then he is signaling for an indirect free kick, or IFK. An IFK is awarded for any foul not falling under the category of penal foul, or a foul which is not committed against opponents. A goal may not be scored from an IFK until the ball has been touched by another player. When signaling for an IFK, the referee will keep his hand up until after the ball has been kicked and touched by another player.

Watch for the penalty kick. A referee who points directly to the penalty spot, or the spot two-thirds of the way between the penalty area line and goal line is indicating that a player has committed a DFK offense within his own penalty area and a penalty kick has been issued.

Watch for the yellow card. A referee who shows a player a yellow card is indicating that the player has committed one of the seven cautionable offenses. A player who is issued a yellow card is noted by the referee, and if a second yellow card is issued, the player is sent off.

Watch for the red card. A referee who shows a player the red card is indicating that the player has committed a serious offense, one of the seven "deadly sins" send-off offenses, and must leave the vicinity of the field of play immediately (in professional matches, this most often means he heads to the change room).

Watch for other signals. A referee who points at the goal with his arm pointed straight, parallel to the ground, is signaling for a goal kick. A referee who points at the corner flag with his arm pointed upward is signaling for a corner kick.

Watch for goal signals. A referee who points at the center circle with his arm pointed straight, parallel to the ground (blowing the whistle is optional) is signaling a goal.



Photo Memory Page



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