

WHAT DOES COVS MEAN?

COVS stands for Central Organisation of Football Referees. Netherlands is divided in six districts – 70 referee groups (COVS groups) are member. The COVS was founded on May 29, 1932 with registry place The Hague, although the initiatives for forming an association were developed in Friesland. In the North the referees realised that a strong national organisation and regional representation could bring the referees more profit. Individual arbiters believe in a strong organisation that will look after their interests. Thanks to the national organisation the position of the referees has strengthened, especially within the KNVB.

The COVS is thus “of age”, but has always adjusted itself during the course of the football history. As well as the content concerns as the structure. This process is a perpetual process.

In the course of this very same history a lot of renowned arbiters have given colour to the organisation, while the backbone of the organisation are the numerous referees who function anonymous each weekend. That could not be without belief and trust in a healthy interest group. This development is stated in the policy plan and the report “The Watchdog” (De Waakhond) to prove that the COVS is alert, fitting in these times, seventy five years after foundation.

The organisation degree of the COVS is high, but it can be better. Recruitment and preservation are hot items in the policy plan. The coming years a lot of energy will be spent in implementing the Masterplan Arbitrage and promoting fair play.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE COVS

The General Assembly is the highest organ of the COVS. Here the decisions are taken that determine the policy. The executive board (VCN) consists of nine members. Beside the chairman, secretary and treasurer, are six board members, one from each district. During her meetings the VCN uses one fixed person to take minutes. The COVS knows six permanent committees, of which one (treasury committee) is fictitiously present, as long as an accountant checks the financial administration. The other five in random order are:

- **the Appeals committee**, that decides in the highest authority in cases that have been dedicated to her by the statute, the regulations and through VCN and/or the General Assembly.
- **the Editing committee** is responsible for the official publication of the organisation, the trade journal “De Scheidsrechter” (*“The Referee”*).
- **the National committee Soccer rules games (LCS)** is responsible for all national and regional soccer rules games and also takes care of relevant information in the trade journal “De Scheidsrechter” (*“The Referee”*).
- **the Disciplinary committee**, together with the appeals committee, is responsible for the disciplinary judgment within the COVS.
- **the National information committee** is responsible for the automation and implementation of the membership administration, as well as initiating and keeping up to date the website of the COVS.

Districts

The COVS is divided in six districts : North, East, West 1, West 2, South 1 and South 2. Each district has a presiding committee that looks after the interests of the member associations in their district, supervises the implementation the decisions made by the executive committee (VCN) and General Assembly and is the link (communication) between referee clubs and the executive board COVS Netherlands (VCN). Beside all this they maintain the contacts with the various national committees as well as with officials and committees of the KNVB. Every district has its own Annual General District Assembly (JADV).

MULTI-PURPOSE HOBBY

Being a referee is a fantastic, multi-purpose hobby with numerous aspects. Leadership, making soccer games possible and leading these in a good, sporty way, an example for and being with the players (fair play), building up a good physical condition and keeping up to date with the soccer rules, development of communicative skills and insight into human behaviour, daring to take decisions, being a worthy representative (official) of the KNVB and the COVS, all these things are ingredients for self-development.

Each week thousands of referees experience the pleasure of their sport. They look like individuals, but the referee is a team player, who knows he is supported by the COVS.

This pamphlet propagates this.

THE COVS OFFERS THIS

Interests care

Nationally, the COVS Netherlands is a full partner of the KNVB. As well as on national level regarding referee affairs, as on district level in the work committees referee affairs (WCS) the COVS is represented. This is regulated in the work-agreement, signed by the executive board COVS Netherlands and the executive board Amateur football of the KNVB. Apart of all this, this the chairman of the VCN participates in the sounding committee : Molestation policy of the KNVB. Also there is, depending on the subject, participation in different temporary committees or study groups.

Contacts

The COVS maintains contacts with the other interests organisations in the football sport to be able to develop together within and with the KNVB policy. For that purpose the four interests organisations, BZV, COVS, LBA and VVON signed an Intention agreement on December 2, 2000 in Huizen. Also there are on a regular basis meetings with other organisations (sport-domes) and/or ministries, that can be of interest for the COVS. Ministry of VWS.

COVS arrangement

The COVS offers its members a COVS arrangement : the executive board has signed sponsor contracts that offer advantages to COVS members when purchasing sports clothing and other necessary accessories and articles.

Legal assistance

The COVS has its own legal advisor, who, after receiving green light from the executive board, provides advice and gives assistance to individual COVS members and/or COVS groups in various affairs amongst others : molestation affairs.

Fair Play project

The COVS has developed together with experts the Fair-Play Project "The referee as Teamplayer" by means of giving a contribution to a "clean" soccer game.

AND YET THERE IS MORE

Championships

Annually the COVS organises, nationally and in the districts, field- and indoor football championships in order to strengthen the sports-loving and friendship bond.

Soccer Rule competitions

Annually there are, as well as nationally as in the districts, soccer rule competitions organised for COVS-teams (referee clubs) and the young soccer players from soccer clubs.

Training

Most referee clubs organise weekly fitness training under professional guidance. During clubs evening program time is spent frequently in explanation of rules, next to recreational evenings and speaking engagements by professional soccer referees.

Information

Bi-monthly the trade journal "De Scheidsrechter" appears, the official publication of the COVS, with information of the VCN (executive board COVS Netherlands), trade selected articles and information about the COVS arrangement. A number of referee clubs publish their own club magazine and info bulletins for their members and are in addition to "De Scheidsrechter". The website of the COVS can also be visited. **See www.covs.nl.**

THE COVS HAS THESE PLANS

COVS culture (1)

The COVS wants to develop within its own organisation a culture that will bring others together. "Strong together" is the device. Experiencing the hobby together, improving the quality and the quantity of the referees together and developing a good mutual communication. The COVS has a long state of service (set up in 1932) and can consequently rely on a sturdy foundation, with respect for the effort of the many volunteers throughout the years.

COVS culture (2)

The COVS wants to create together with the KNVB and other sport organisations a sport-loving climate that leads to a recognised position of the referee. Attractive preconditions, realistic reimbursement of expenses and a positive attitude of the KNVB are part of this.

Constructional thinking is a device for the COVS. Also in that way the referee is a team player. He (or she) must feel good and experience that his (or her) position is recognised and valued. The referee is after all an official and thus a representative of the KNVB.

YOU ALSO WANT TO BECOME A TEAM PLAYER?

"I find it valuable that referees call on each other, exchange experience, help each other and learn from each other. I don't find my hobby as individualistic as seen by many. That is why I train by my referee association and visit the association evenings".

According to a referee that is member of the COVS

In order for you to become a team player, you have to be a member of the COVS. the executive secretary will happily provide the necessary information. You can reach him:

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email: secretaris@covs.nl

Website: www.covs.nl.