



## **BAHAMAS HAVE NO NEED TO BEAT FIFA RAP**

The FIFA MA (Member Association) course is a part of The FIFA RAP (Referee Assistance Programme) which has as one of its mandates, The recruitment, training, and retention of soccer referees around the world. As you are aware the Bahamas Football Association is one of over 200 member associations around the world that also benefits from this specialised referee training conducted by trained FIFA and FUTURO III Referee Instructors. This course is held annually in each of FIFA's member associations, and will be conducted in our association between October 14-18, 2011.

A fitness test will also be held. This fitness test is conducted to ensure that local referees meet the National fitness standards, and FIFA international match officials meet the International fitness standards. Wilson Da Costa (newly nominated FIFA Referee), Mr. Jeremy Holland (newly nominated FIFA Assistant Referee), and current FIFA Assistant Referee Sean Thompson-Palmer make up the team who will represent the Bahamas and the Bahamas Football Association at the international level as FIFA match officials.

The BFA Referees Department also recognises BFA Vice President and Chairman of the Referees Committee, Mr. Stanley Darville who has been appointed to the CONCACAF (Confederation of North, Central America and the Caribbean Football Federation) Elite Panel of Referee Assessors, and was recently appointed to the CONCACAF Gold Cup where he was selected as the Referee Assessor for the final match between Mexico vs. USA. Mr Darville continues to receive numerous appointments to CONCACAF Champions League matches and FIFA World Cup qualifiers for the 2014 finals to be held in Brazil. This success we are pleased to announce speaks to the commitment demonstrated by him to referee development both locally and on the international scene.

The department is also pleased to recognise the contribution made by Mrs. Dianne Ferriera-James a FIFA women's referee from Guyana and a former Women's World Cup Referee, who has been refereeing in our local leagues for the past two years.

The development of football to include refereeing continues to be a priority of our association president Mr. Anton Sealey, whose moral and professional example continues to set the example both locally and internationally as he works to increase the participation and the development of the beautiful game in our country.

As requested, a schedule of events for the course will be provided to you when available. I trust the information given will assist you in your quest to highlight the work done and being done as it relates to refereeing in our association and country.

