

Western New York State Soccer Referees Association Meeting Minutes

23 April 2023

I. Call to order

SRA Tata called to order the regular meeting of the WNYSRA State Referee Committee at 10:01 EDT on 23 April 2023 as an online conference.

Roll call

Secretary Wolgast conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

VACANT, Chair

Michael Tata, SRA

Tom Ross, SDI

VACANT, SDA

VACANT, SYRA

Ken Haller, SAC, Absent

Dave Wolgast, Secretary

Steve Wu, Treasurer

Mike Smith (for Bill Bianchi), Rochester

Binghamton – not represented

Julie Randall, Ithaca

Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier *

Bill Helwig, Buffalo

Chad Sustello, Elmira

Jason Byrnes, Syracuse

WNYSRA Representative - not represented

Alex Brame, NYSWYSA Representative

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from January 2023 (v101) previously distributed via Dropbox.com link –

Motion to accept: Randall

Second: Ross

Approved unanimously

III. Treasurer's Report – Wu

<See attached treasurer's report>

- We need to have movement on Syracuse checking account – Wu will contact Syracuse Treasurer
- Need to rebuild reserves – at about 50% of pre-Covid19 levels
- Motion to Accept: Smith
 - Second: Byrnes
 - Approved Unanimously

IV. SRA Report (Tata)

- Campbell's assigning duties
 - Haller is managing Champions' Conference
 - Tata is managing State Cup
- SYRA Position
 - Begin filling the process in June/July
 - Soccer resume to SRA
 - NYSWYSA will have sole authority to appoint; SRA/SRC advice
- Other SRC positions
 - SDA – will begin looking to fill this position June/July
 - Chair – will begin to fill this position after SYRA and SDA
 - SDI is up for renewal
- Registration
 - Referee recertification last day is April 29
 - Non-referee recertification look to finish by end of February
 - About 1,000 people registered as referees for 2023 (peak of 1800)
 - 80 more than 2022
 - 130 more than 2021
 - Entry classes hosted by league or club can be held at anytime
- Law Firm
 - a. Finalization is pending
 - b. Submitted letter of agreement and have not heard back
- Insurance - still looking into need for data breach liability coverage

- Mentor Program
 - Focus on 19-20 age range for retention
 - Do not forget about younger referees
- USASA Soccer AGM
 - September 2023 in Bonita Springs, FL
 - Tata looking to attend as there are discussions on by-law changes impact SRC
- State Directors Meeting
 - Held in Chicago last week
 - Tom Ross attended – See additional report

V. SYRA Report (Tata)

- Opportunity to share stories about Bill Campbell
 - Michael Tata
 - Chad Sustello
 - Tom Ross
 - Alex Brame (Katy Nesbitt)
- State Cup & Regionals Dates
 - State Cup – June 2-4 Cortland, NY
 - Regionals – June 22-29 Leesburg, VA
- State Cup and Regionals Referee Selection
 - Need everyone's help getting referees
 - Looking for any referee with >3 years experience
- Youth Referee of the Year (male and female)
 - Please submit names of any referee who is < 19 years old by August 1, 2023
 - Need committee to review applicants
 - SRA will chair the committee for 2023 selections

VI. NYSWYSA (Brame)

- Curt Regruit has retired as President. Hugh Goodridge appointed as President to complete term which expires at next AGM (November)
- Registrations will move to GotSport from Demosphere starting in July

VII. SDI Report (Ross)

- Recert/Entry Level Referee Training
 - Done with classes unless we get a request from a club/league

- Registration went relatively well, with only about 10% of referees having issues
- Mentor Training at State Cup Final 4 June 2-4. Looking for new mentors from southern districts. Alex Brame will organize a room for Video Review session
 - Friday night classroom session
 - Saturday/Sunday – Field sessions and evaluation

VIII. Directors Meeting – Ross attended

- Kelly Murphy handles operations, Rick Eddy handles referee issues
- Sessions on Retention/Recruiting
- Legal/Safety Issues
 - Changes to SafeSport/Safety protocols – New dashboard for safety items
 - Trying to cut refresher training to 30 minutes
 - 3 Tiers of Safety certification
 - Tier 1: SafeSport Introduction to Safety
 - Tier 2: Tier 1 + additional modules
 - Tier 3: Tier 1&2 + background check
 - Each organization will determine which tier they require referees to have
 - Gets around limitation of Learning Center and potentially eliminates need for OMS
 - Learning Center would require new candidates to complete Entry Level modules (4.5 hours)
- Referee office looking to become more responsive by dividing US into 4 regions and having periodic meetings with SRAs
- Changes to structure of SRC are unlikely
- SRC-led initiative to fund referee-related projects – grant proposals can be made. We will look into this program

IX. SDA Report (Tata)

- No Report

X. SCA Report (Haller)

- No Report

XI. Binghamton

- No report

XII. Buffalo (Helwig)

- Board terms had expired. New board elected (facilitated by Tata)
- UPSL – Regional Adult league – Rollins appoints officials – Several teams in Buffalo
- Need to check RM status of referees marked ‘Disabled’ in GameOfficials

XIII. Elmira (Sustello)

- 8-10 pending to take entry-level course
- One referee looking to upgrade – Tata advised to review the upgrade section on the website. The form may not work but we are trying to correct.

XIV. Ithaca (Randall)

- New board in Ithaca
- Not enough referees to cover Broome County matches. Only 7 qualified to referee U19 matches

XV. Rochester (Smith)

- Referee 101: today and April 30th – Mentors will be at all first games
- Need clarification on access to websites

XVI. Southern Tier

- No report

XVII. Syracuse (Jason Byrnes)

- Meeting May 2 to reestablish a board. Referee numbers are still down, but largest issue is young referees completing RM

XVIII. Old Business

- None

XIX. New business

- Websites and such – There is a contact who has the passwords

- Document Repository
- DocuWare
- Dropbox
- elDoc
- Egnyte
- MS SharePoint
- Email boxes of great concern
- Lost all sub-sites (e.g. statecup.wnyreferee.org, [district].wnyreferee.org) – There is a person with the passwords – we are working to restore access
- Discussion about using Dropbox.com as a doc-sharing solution

XX. Good of the Organization

- Would like to issue special coin as a memorial to Bill Campbell for State Cup, and black armband

XXI. Meetings

- Next SRC meeting
 - September
 - In-person?
 - New day of the week (not Sundays)
 - Later on Sundays
 - Retain same structure?

XXII. Adjournment

- Motion – Ross
- Second - Wu

SRA Tata adjourned the meeting at 12:19 EDT

Minutes approved by: **SRC 9/10/2023**