

Western New York State Soccer Referees Association Meeting Minutes

11 September 2022

I. Call to order

SRA Tata called to order the regular meeting of the WNYSRA State Referee Committee at 10:01 EDT on 11 September 2022 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

Bill Campbell, SYRA

Ken Haller, SAC

Dave Wolgast, Secretary

Steve Wu, Treasurer

Bill Bianchi, Rochester

James Pitcher, Scott Theal, Binghamton

Julie Randall, Ithaca

Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier

Bill Helwig, Buffalo

Chad Sustello, Elmira

Syracuse – not represented

WNYSRA Representative - not represented

Alex Brame, NYSWYSA Representative

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from April 2022 (v100) previously distributed via Dropbox.com link – Tata requested amendment to Instructor recert statement. Draft Minutes amended as v101

Motion to accept: Campbell

Second: Ross

Approved unanimously

III. Treasurer's Report – Wu

<See Treasurer's report, separately filed>

- Ross questioned whether there was appropriate authorization for expenditures, as Wu indicated there has not been a meeting of the Buffalo board since 2019. Further investigation was requested.
 - Buffalo \$3,000 expenditure for referee gifts
 - Tournament Food
 - Venmo dues transactions

Motion to accept: Campbell

Second: Ross

Approved unanimously

IV. SRA Report (Tata)

- Recertification Needs:
 - Referee – no surprise here
 - Assessor – asked Steve Montanino to work on a recertification course similar to the Mentor course
 - Instructor – Tom will be putting something together
 - Assignor – suggest a Zoom session for simplicity
- Law Firm
 - We are heavy in the era of litigation, and we need to be prepared
 - Need counsel on tax law and employment law

- NYSWYSA uses Gross Shuman firm (Buffalo, NY)
- Civil and criminal attorneys; no tax counsel
- \$360/hour; maybe less depending on service requested
- Insurance
 - New general liability certificate sent to DRAs and directors
 - May need to consider data breach liability coverage
 - OMS
 - US Soccer and LC
 - Game Officials
 - Spreadsheets
- Registration Status
 - 2022 finished with 912 referee registrations compared to 2021 with 869
 - Syracuse and Ithaca saw fewer in 2022 than 2021
 - Rochester has the most registered
 - SMF to remain at \$15
 - If numbers increase to 1,200+ we should be able to roll back to \$10
 - The \$15 would have been required this season, but we were able to operate relatively
- Coordinator of Referee Development (CRD)
 - Steve Montanino to hold this position
 - Responsible for implementing a statewide mentor program
- State Director of Assessment
 - Will remain vacant until we have clearer picture/understanding from national
 - SRA will continue to hold position
 - Steve Montanino will assist in some of the SDA duties

- Chairperson
 - Difficult position to cover as the role has little administrative duties and vote
 - If anyone knows of someone willing to be chair, let Michael know
- Elmira DRA
 - Blair Sibley will not be returning for a new term
 - Chad Sustello has agreed to reclaim the DRA position now that the reason of his resignation have been remedied.
- We have a referee who has been sanctioned by the Center for SafeSport from a USASA sanctioned event. It has been a year since the incident occurred. We do not have any additional details. Sanction comes directly from SafeSport

V. NYSWYSA (Brame)

- Up to 48,000 players at end of 2022 season (-4k from pre-Covid)
- US Club, Girls Academy, MLS Next, DPL, etc... Many new organizations which we will be serving
- Will be starting to reach out to Colleges and Universities (20-30 schools) about recruiting referees in next few weeks. 1-2hr presentation at each school, esp club, intramural players

VI. SYRA Report (Campbell)

- State Cup – Went relatively well, but ended up short 4 referees. Good feedback
- Young Referee of the Year – Sent 70-80 invites, got 3 male applicants and no female applicants. Re-checking for female applicants
- Assigning system – experimenting with Stack Officials, not going well. Will be meeting with Sales/Engineering next week to update on issues/needed enhancements – We are requesting that Stack Sports not sunset GameOfficials in March 2023

VII. SDI Report (Ross)

- Recert clinics/training
 - With Entry Class changes, basic re-cert will shift to be more basic

- All Regional, Adv Grassroots, Emeritus referees must complete advanced recert. Recommend that Grassroots with more than a few years experience also complete advanced recert
- Any district wishing to hold advanced recert clinics needs to give number of clinics needed to Ross in next week
- Entry Level Referee courses
 - Sooner we get courses scheduled, the sooner we can start recruiting
 - Need facility that allows both classroom and “field” instruction
 - Clubs can request/host sessions – they are responsible to provide suitable location and coordinate communications to their learners
- Referee Mentor
 - 2022 class limited to instructor-assessors
 - Going forward, first priority goes to those who are instructors or assessors
- Instructors
 - Considering keeping local instructors (not USSF registered) with registration fees 100% to state
- Registration
 - Will be set up in near future
 - Inclined to require valid SafeSport prior to allowing registration (configured in OMS)
- Hair adornments will be covered in re-certs based on HS changes and 2022 complaint

VIII. SDA Report (Tata)

- Only 1 referee did not get the required recert assessment (will be issued waiver)
- We are short assessors
- GameOfficials was broken making it difficult to get feedback to referees
- Assessors also delayed completing assessments in a timely manner

IX. SCA Report (Haller)

- Assignor Guidance document is in process and will add legal review
- DRAs should expect email in next week requesting status of assigning needs to determine whether Assignor course is necessary

X. Binghamton (Pitcher)

- All games covered in spring season with 1 or more referees (not always full crews)
- Seeking location for Entry Level classes

XI. Buffalo (Helwig)

- Would like to increase number of advanced recerts

XII. Elmira (Sustello)

- Recruiting questions: If referee candidates are too young, how should we handle? Must be 13 years of age to register by Jan 1 of reg year. We would rather avoid steering people to non-affiliated groups to get these kids started

XIII. Ithaca (Campbell)

- Trying to cover all games with about 10 active referees (or 35 total)
- Spring, everything covered with at least 1 referee. May not be able to cover all fall games

XIV. Rochester (Bianchi)

- Nothing new from board – Board currently has no president

XV. Southern Tier (Phearsdorf)

- Covering 3 leagues with 45 referees makes things tight. Leagues use both GO and Arbiter which has been difficult for referees

XVI. Syracuse (Not represented)

- No report

XVII. Old Business

- None

XVIII. New business

- None

XIX. Good of the Organization

- None

XX. Meetings

- January 8, 2023 – seeking in-person location

XXI. Adjournment

- Motion – Campbell
- Second - Ross

SRA Tata adjourned the meeting at 12:01 EDT

Minutes approved by: SRC 1/8.23