

Western New York State Soccer Referees Association Meeting Minutes

28 March 2021

I. Call to order

Chairperson Serrano called to order the regular meeting of the WNYSRA at 10:01 EDT on 28 March 2021 as an online conference.

Roll call

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

Stephanie Serrano, Chair

Michael Tata, SRA

Tom Ross, SDI

Art Jaspe, SDA

Jim Pashalidis, SDA Appointee

Bill Campbell, SYRA

Bill Pasnak, SAC

Dave Wolgast, Secretary

Steve Wu, Treasurer

Bill Bianchi, Rochester

James Pitcher, Binghamton

Julie Randall, Ithaca

Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier

Bill Helwig, Buffalo

Danielle Murray, Elmira

Jason Byrnes, Syracuse

Amateur Representative not represented

Youth Representative not represented

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from January 2021 previously distributed via Dropbox.com link

Motion to accept: Campbell

Second: Ross

Approved unanimously

III. Treasurer's Report – Wu

<See Treasurer's report, separately filed>

Motion to accept: Campbell

Second: Pasnak

Approved unanimously

IV. SRA Report (Tata)

- 2021 WNYSRA registration at historic lows (most states are running approx. - 40% of 2019 levels). We have approximately 700 referees registered.
- 2 Entry Courses planned (virtual). Will schedule more if they fill easily
- Final Re-cert March 31.
- SafeSport and Introduction to Safe and Healthy Playing Environments:
 - 17 years-old should complete SafeSport training if they will turn 18 prior to or during the season. Referee license will automatically be suspended 10 days following 18th birthday if not complete. We are checking roster and notifying affected referees
 - Referees must be aware that SafeSport certification lasts for one year from the date training was completed. Referees must ensure that SafeSport is active during any period where they will be refereeing
 - If referees accidentally create duplicate accounts in Learning Center, we are not able to merge with the original accounts. Merge can only be done by US Soccer national referee office, and will lead to delays. Duplicate accounts created with different names cannot be merged, so referees in this situation will be required to retake the two courses under the original linked account in order for the information to transfer to OMS and NYSWYSA

- US Soccer has offered that we are able to waive fitness tests for 2021. We will evaluate whether to do that, but we anticipate requiring fitness testing for appropriate levels
- Upgrade clinic expected in November
- Last day of registration will be 8 May 2021
- Bill Pasnak will be retiring as SAC, but will be coordinating upgrade clinic in November
- Jim Pashalidis will be transitioning in to SDA position due to Art Jaspe's retirement. He has been asked to take lead in 2021 with Art in consulting/advisory role.
- Chad Sustello (Elmira) has resigned from SRC effective immediately. Danielle Murray (president of Elmira referee unit) will act as DRA on an interim basis
- In-person gatherings: Governor has allowed indoor gatherings of 100 persons or fewer with social distancing guidelines in place. Districts may resume in-person meetings if they are able to find venues to do so
- Regional Appointments: Lee Suckle is Regional Administrator for USYS East Region (formerly Region 1). Greg Watson (adult administrator) passed away recently, and has yet to be replaced.

V. SYRA Report (Campbell)

- Risk Management: Referees who show that they are not cleared for Risk Management but believe they have completed the process can be cleared in the following ways:
 - Send Campbell a photo of RM pass clearly showing all info
 - Provide email showing CLEARED
- State Cup
 - Playdowns May 1-2, 8-9, 15-16 weekends (assignments by district sub-assignors)
 - Semis/Finals May 22-23 in Rochester (assignments by Campbell)
 - Assignments will be made through GameOfficials – Local assignors need to make sure they are set up as assignors in GO

- Due to budget shortfalls, there will be no assessors funded by NYSWYSA. For the same reason, SRC is unable to fund assessors for the 2021 tournament
- NYSW Champions Conference
 - Same level as Thruway
 - Plan to start after 24 April
- Regional Appointments: Mr. Suckle has conveyed dates. We will only be able to fill on a voluntary basis

VI. SDI Report (Ross)

- Recert clinics (Zoom) – Final Recert on 31 March. 16 registered, so still capacity for additional referees
- Entry Classes – 2 classes scheduled. 4 registered in the first, 4 in the second. Want at least 10, max 20. April 10 and April 17 are entry course dates
- Dues sessions (OMS) have been set up for Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse and Binghamton. Any other districts who wish to collect dues via OMS should contact Ross
- Assignor/Assessor registration courses have not yet been closed
- Future for entry level: Trying to condense online Laws training to 4 hours. Districts would hold in-person classroom/field (emphasis on field) sessions. Seeking feedback from districts
- Future for recert training: Considering making all basic recerts virtual. Advanced would still be in-person

VII. SDA Report (Jaspe/Pashalidis)

- 30 assessors for 2021. 2 National Coaches, 5 Regional Assessors/coaches

VIII. SCA Report (Pasnak)

- No update

IX. Binghamton

- No update

X. Buffalo

- Games have started
- Setting up schedule for badge pickups around WNY
- BDSL is almost back to previous team registration levels. Looking to have them play on some additional nights

XI. Elmira

- Are attempting to add referees as game numbers exceed number of registered referees

XII. Ithaca

- Contacted those referees who did not re-register. Did not get any additional registrations from that effort

XIII. Rochester

- Many Rec Leagues may be cancelled. RDYSL and RDSL plan to go ahead with full schedules
- Requesting self-addressed stamped envelope for badges to be sent
- Working on contracts with leagues. Some new assignors appointed
- (Tata, Wu) – Local Dues payments will be disbursed from State account to local accounts on monthly basis. If funds are needed prior to deposit, make request to Wu

XIV. Southern Tier

- Travel leagues still uncertain
- Will lose a long-time referee because we cannot get him registered due to lack of internet access and inability to reach him.

XV. Syracuse

- Increased games, decreased referees with many games in June

XVI. Old Business

- None

XVII. New business

- We are not sending new Velcro patches to existing referees. They will be provided to new referees
- Will be doing OSI order in the next couple days with 20% discount. Send Tata email if you want anything added
- SRC will put together guidelines for updated SafeSport requirements and distribute via Directors for referees, assessors, instructors, mentors, etc...

XVIII. Good of the Organization

- Katy Nesbitt is first woman to act as on-field official in a CONCACAF men's 2022 World Cup qualifier – Canada v Bermuda on 25 March 2021

XIX. Meetings

- September TBA

XX. Adjournment

- Motion – Pasnak
- Second - Campbell

Chairperson Serrano adjourned the meeting at 12:29 EDT

Minutes approved by: SRC 9/12/2021