

# ***Western New York State Soccer Referees Association Meeting Minutes***

12 September 2021

## **I. Call to order**

Chairperson Serrano called to order the regular meeting of the WNYSRA at 10:00 EDT on 12 September 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

Jim Pashalidis, SDA

Bill Campbell, SYRA

Ken Haller, SAC

Dave Wolgast, Secretary

Steve Wu, Treasurer

Bill Bianchi, Rochester

James Pitcher, Binghamton

Julie Randall, Ithaca

Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier

Bill Helwig, Buffalo

Blair Sibley, Elmira

Syracuse not represented (written report received)

WNYSRA Representative - not represented

NYSWYSA Representative - not represented

Guest: Richard Eddy, US Soccer Director of Referee Development

Guest: Art Jaspe, outgoing SDA

## **II. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Minutes from March 2021 previously distributed via Dropbox.com link

Motion to accept: Campbell

Second: Tata

Approved unanimously

## **III. Guest Speaker – Mr. Richard Eddy**

- Regional Instructor and Assessor licenses will be retired in 2024
- Referee Coach license courses will be available soon
- National Official application deadline was Friday. Names will be announced November 1.
- Trying to host in-person national camp
- Registration (nationally) for 2021 is up about 10,000 from 2020– for the future, State Associations need to do more to support referee programs and bolster numbers [Not solely SRC responsibility]. Increased registrations in Washington and Florida
- Assignor licensing (Question from Tata): Looking to tier assignor registrations and fees based on level and number of games. Also adding tournament rider

## **IV. Treasurer's Report – Wu**

*<See Treasurer's report, separately filed>*

Motion to accept: Pitcher

Second: Bianchi

Approved unanimously

## **V. SRA Report (Tata)**

- Referee Registration Status
  - Referee Registered 860
  - Historical lows:
    - 28% loss from 2020

- 49% loss from 2019
  - Revenue lost around \$25,000
  - National average over the recent 3-years is 50%
  - Plan in reaching out to non-returning referees (two years back)
- US Youth Soccer Study on non-Returning Referees (2018)
  - 17% cite referee abuse/assault
  - cost of assessments
  - difficulty of upgrading
  - being assessed/getting the requirements in
- State run mentor program
  - Joint effort (SDI, SDA, and SAC) with SRA overseeing program
  - Allocating approximately \$8,000 for this SRC program
  - Appoint a state appointed mentor under the “supervision” of the SDA
  - All three directors play a key role
    - SDI – given data to focus on training materials
    - SDA – securing mentors
      - feeder for training new assessors
      - provide training for mentors with cooperation from SDI
    - SAC – secure assignor cooperation
    - SAM – manage the program
- Recertification for 2022
  - Assignors need to recert effective 2022
    - Grassroots Referee
    - Specific Assignor Recert
  - Assessor Recertification / Instructor Recertification

- Increase State Management Fee of \$5 for 2022 or conditionally for 2023? (Approved by SRC Executive Council to be introduced to Full SRC)
- Last Day for all recertification classes = April 30, 2022
- Fitness and Assessment requirements are enforced
- International Referees – must apply for background check with national office (plus other requirements); cost is \$150
- Officers and Appointments
  - New: SAC is Ken Haller (Ithaca)
  - Returning: SYRA is Bill Campbell
  - Previously announced: SDA is Jim Pashalidis
  - Finance Committee?
  - Blair Sibley has assumed the role effective May 1, 2021, as Elmira DRA
  - Regional Appointments
    - Lee Suckle (ENY), East Region Youth Administrator
    - George Vergara (VA), Adult Administrator
- Risk Management
  - Reminder: Required for non-referee badges
  - Looking at OMS
    - Conditional to registration
    - There are no non-referees without having RM
    - There are several referees without
      - Choose to not apply
      - Failed check
      - Do not apply because of confusion
- Future SRC Meetings

- Sunday mornings? Different time?
- Location?

## **VI. SYRA Report (Campbell)**

- Young Referee of the Year
  - Miriam Tardy, Rochester
  - Nicholas Bricker, Binghamton

## **VII. SDI Report (Ross)**

- Recert clinics/training
  - Basic clinic: 100% virtual (Will begin in January)
    - Require video from participants
    - Scheduled based on district needs
  - Advanced clinic: in-person if possible (Will be 1 or 2 in December)
    - Regional Referees
    - Advanced Grassroots
    - Emeritus
    - Optional for Grassroots
- Entry Classes (Start after Jan 1)
  - 4 hour virtual session – show how to do Learning Center, Safesport, Intro to Safe and Healthy Playing Environments
  - Virtual Session – Preparing for a game
  - In-person/field session if possible (districts responsible for coordinating)
    - 1<sup>st</sup> 1-2 hours – Classroom training on more difficult laws (5, 6, 11, 12)
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> 4-5 hours – District options (Referee 101, AR training, small-sided)

- Registration – trying to get OMS to have links to other registration tasks (Safesport, etc...)

#### **VIII. SDA Report (Jaspe/Pashalidis)**

- Awaiting one assessment report to close out 2021 assessments
- Will provide full program update in January

#### **IX. SCA Report (Haller)**

- Will be sending a message to DRAs for list of current assignors by district with competition(s)
- Reviewing Assigning Policy document for revisions in January 2022

#### **X. Binghamton**

- Issue with referees taking non-affiliated college club games over USSF travel and rec games

#### **XI. Buffalo**

- Due to referee numbers, some younger age groups were covered by only one referee. Otherwise, games were covered (youth, state youth, adult)
- Scheduling an additional PFT for Advanced Grassroots at end of October, date TBA

#### **XII. Elmira**

- No Report

#### **XIII. Ithaca**

- Fall League is in progress

#### **XIV. Rochester**

- New policy for youth assigning, and assignors have not yet been paid by clubs/leagues. Working with unit and leagues to remedy.

#### **XV. Southern Tier**

- Only ~30 referees and were unable to cover all with 3 officials with additional of Champions league to the area. Assignment priority list caused referees to get pulled from local games

## **XVI. Syracuse**

- Report submitted in writing:
  - Referee numbers and availability are diminishing and will continue to decline. The reasons are lack of games, tournaments, and local league play. Private local leagues and newly formed Champions league are the leading factors. With big club SDA playing outside the area, it eliminates teams coming here to play. Private local leagues where teams don't need passes, official rosters, or have to find field space is why these have taken off. Our referee season is from April through June at this point. COVID essentially eliminating local meetings, referees are out of touch and lose interest. I wish I had better news to report. I also hope the other smaller area aren't experiencing the same. The current path we are on will put us at a need of maybe 30 USSF referees in Syracuse. The question is, how do we turn this around? In my opinion, the current requirements of being a sanctioned NY West league/ tournament is hurting us here in this area. We are basically recruiting and training referees at our cost for them to do all these non-sanctioned games the other 9 months of the year. The local clubs that join leagues outside the area do not help any of us either.

## **XVII. Old Business**

- None

## **XVIII. New business**

- Wu – DRAs please forward contact info for unit presidents and treasurers to Wu
- Wu – Need replacement for Syracuse-based member of Finance Committee
- State Maintenance Fee will remain at \$10
- Ross – Motion to create Director of Recruitment – withdrawn
- Campbell – Motion to increase State Maintenance Fee by 5\$ to \$15 for 2022 registration for each badge
  - Second: Randall
  - Yea: Ross, Campbell, Helwig, Phearsdorf, Haller, Randall, Bianchi, Wu
  - No: Tata, Pashalidis

- Abstain: Pitcher
  - Motion Carries 8-2
- Ross – Establish Director of Recruitment/Recruiting Committee (3 or more)
  - Tata – Marketing, Recruiting background
  - Tabled – Tata will gather info from other states
- Expand Social Media presence

#### **XIX. Good of the Organization**

- None

#### **XX. Meetings**

- January 9, 2022

#### **XXI. Adjournment**

- Motion – Tata
- Second - Campbell

Chairperson Serrano adjourned the meeting at 13:30 EDT

Minutes approved by: SRC 1/9/22