

Western New York State Soccer Referees Association Meeting Minutes

09 January 2022

I. Call to order

SRA Tata called to order the regular meeting of the WNYSRA State Referee Committee at 10:01 EST on 09 January 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, Binghamton

Julie Randall, Ithaca – not present (medical)

Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier

Bill Helwig, Buffalo

Blair Sibley, Elmira

Jason Byrnes, Syracuse

WNYSRA Representative - not represented

NYSWYSA Representative - not represented

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from September 2021 previously distributed via Dropbox.com link

Motion to accept: Campbell

Second: Helwig

Approved unanimously

III. Treasurer's Report – Wu

<See Treasurer's report, separately filed>

Motion to accept: Campbell

Second: Helwig

Approved unanimously

- 990 has been filed. Michael needs to sign eFile authorization
- 1099s will be issued in January
- Finance Committee is Wu, Ross, and Cathy Jaspe. DRAs may identify interested parties in their districts

IV. SRA Report (Tata)

- Referee Registration Status
 - Entry Courses started – Filling quickly. 3 Courses currently, 4th will likely be added
 - Recerts happening as expected, still questions by those not reading/following instructions
 - State Mentor Program – Will bring a proposal to April meeting
 - Last day for registration is April 30, 2022
 - New Referee courses can happen later if necessary at request of clubs/leagues. Clubs/leagues will be required to provide venue and dates, WNYSRA will provide instructors
 - Need to order Velcro, and order uniforms for Young Referee of the Year from Official Sports International
 - Badges come from Campbell

- SRC Meetings for 2022
 - Venues are difficult to find
 - Campbell recommends staying virtual through 2022 based on budget & venue availability

V. SYRA Report (Campbell)

- State Cup – Currently unable to discuss referee contract because match structure is not set. Meetings upcoming to attempt resolution
- Needs Young Referee of the Year nominees by May 1 in order to have all paperwork complete before students prepare for college – will send out email request to districts

VI. SDI Report (Ross)

- Recert clinics/training
 - Shared list of Basic/Advanced recert dates – January dates are almost full. Many openings in February & March. Want to have recert classes done by end of March
 - Jason Byrnes question about referee who attended basic recert and wishes to attend an advanced recert. Tom Ross says he can attend providing all COVID protocols and health regs are observed
- Entry Classes
 - 3 entry classes have filled/nearly filled. Looking to add a 4th.
 - Will add paid Zoom account if needed – currently, WNYSRA only owns 1 paid account
 - Attendees are heavily from 716 area code (Helwig: Many from Amherst Soccer Club)
 - 4th Clinic will likely be scheduled 12 February

VII. SDA Report (Tata)

- Assessor recert has gone out
- Wu will assign assessors for Buffalo and Southern Tier districts

- Tata will assign assessors for Rochester District
- Campbell will assign assessors for all others

VIII. SCA Report (Haller)

- Continues to work on Assigning Policies & Procedures document. Hope to use for upcoming registration of assignors

IX. Binghamton

- Sending out messages to encourage referee registration.

X. Buffalo

- 27 Referees signed up for new referee virtual sessions. 17 have contacted about in-person sessions. Advertised using poster with QR code in schools/colleges/indoor facilities and asked leagues to distribute
- Hopeful that Buffalo will not lose large numbers of recerts
- Question on SafeSport – Still issues with SafeSport refreshers – about 50% of referees have had issues renewing SafeSport – US Soccer needs to fix integration with SafeSport in order for tie-in to Learning Center to operate properly
 - Ross – If referee gets “something went wrong” message, send email to referee@ussoccer.com. Advise for referees to keep trying regularly

XI. Elmira

- No report

XII. Ithaca

- No Report

XIII. Rochester

- Looking for venues for recerts & in-person entry level classes

XIV. Southern Tier

- Issues with assigning Champions League games as priority over local games – this is state requirement.

- Tata/Wu clarified that while SRC pays for GameOfficials subscription, any other assigning platform may be used, but fees are the responsibility of the district

XV. Syracuse

- Local league may not have enough support for 2022. Clubs do not feel there is enough competitive soccer in Syracuse
- Adult league has shown lack of interest to be affiliated

XVI. Old Business

- None

XVII. New business

- None

XVIII. Good of the Organization

- Ross – Clinics have limits due to room sizes, so people need to register early to guarantee space for in-person clinics
- Bianchi – Can a referee take SafeSport prior to turning 18 if they will turn 18 during the season? Ross – Yes, they should because otherwise their license will be suspended on their 18th birthday

XIX. Meetings

- April 3, 2022
- September 11, 2022

XX. Adjournment

- Motion – Campbell
- Second - Tata

SRA Tata adjourned the meeting at 11:48 EST

Minutes approved by: <Name>