

Western NY Referee Association
State Referee Committee
UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION AFFILIATE

September 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at the Hampton Inn, Rochester NY. Meeting called to order at 10 am

Roll Call:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Michael Pat Tata; SRA | sra@wnyreferee.org |
| 2. Dave Baxter, Chairperson | chair@wnyreferee.org |
| 3. William Campbell, SYRA | syra@wnyreferee.org |
| 4. Art Jaspe, SDA | sda@wnyreferee.org |
| 5. Joe Delity; DRA; Southern Tier | jdility@wzrd.com |
| 6. John Kramer, SAC | sac@wnyreferee.org |
| 7. James Pitcher; DRA Binghamton | Binghamton@wnyreferee.org |
| 8. Bill Helwig, DRA Buffalo | buffalo@wnyreferee.org |
| 9. Jerry Sullivan, WNYSR Rep | eisreft@hotmail.com |
| 10. Tom Ross, SDI | sdi@wnyreferee.org |
| 11. Ron Kuck, DRA Syracuse | Syracuse@wnyreferee.org |
| 12. Bill Bianchi – Rochester | Rochester@wnyreferee.org |
| 13. Steve Wu – Treasurer | Treasurer@wnyreferee.org |
| 14. Vicki Martuscello –Secretary | secretary@wnyreferee.org |
| 15. John Cook; Ithaca | Ithaca@wnyreferee.org |
| 16. Chris Chilano; Batavia | Batavia@wnyreferee.org |
| 17. Tom Barker; Elmira | Elmira@wnyreferee.org |
| 18. Jeff Cook | FFjcook@hotmail.com |
| 19. Mike Schneider | southerntier@wnyreferee.org |

Not Present

- Bill Campbell
- Ron Kuck
- Jerry Sullivan
- John Kramer
- John Cook
- Chris Chilano
- Tom Barker

Meeting minutes read from May 1, 2011. Motion to accept minutes from Tom Ross, seconded from Joe D and approved. Meeting minutes read from January 9, 2011, motion to accept from Art Jaspe, seconded by Bill Bianchi, all approved.

New Business, SRA report and topics:

Mike Tata

- US Soccer will not be sending post cards as they have, they will be sending email as per registration email this year
- Registration deadline – every year it will be the last Saturday in April – registered on line, taken recertification and fitness test by the last Saturday in April – no exceptions

- Meeting dates – Full SRC meetings – January 18, April 29, September 9, 2012
- Meeting dates for executive meetings – December 4, 2011, March 18, August 12, December 2 2012
 - Please make sure you send district representation if you cannot make a meeting
- SRA workshop coming up in Tampa – Columbus day weekend – Mike will be attending
- Approved last month funding for mentor program from state level, we are looking at referees we feel can be state referees down the line which have shown potential. Local units please focus on grades 8 & 9 to prepare for grade 7s – then focus on grades 7's to determine how to get those persons to the state level. This will help with referee of the year nominations.
 - There are no age limits or parameters
- Completed our budget last month – our accounts are in order – we are allocating monies in other areas
- Priority of game assignments – we have added 7 more to this within WNY – will send out list again to John – to assist in assigning process and add structure to ensure no penalty to referee on turn backs:
 - Thruway league
 - Adult matches premier
 - Lower divisions Adult matches
 - Youth divisions – U17 and up
 - Youth divisions U17 and lower
 - Non-competitive matches
 - Modified games with time restrictions
- John Kramer has this list and will be sending information. Protocol needs to be set for referee (and assignor giving new game) to ensure that they complete whatever communication loop necessary to notify different assignor that they are turning a game back for a priority game to both new and old assignors
- Priority of game assignments to help develop referees
- Still looking for one more person to serve on grievance committee. Please get any names asap.

Bill Campbell (via Mike Tata):

- Referee of the year – has some names and contacted those districts as essay portion is missing. 1 each from Buffalo, 1 male candidate from Ithaca submitted. District administrators need to submit in a timely manner.
- Books, badges for re-certifications will go out within a month, in plenty of time for recerts. Please be patient!
- Will be working on mass communication through email is being worked on – Arbiter has limitations

Tom Ross

- 60 referees attended the Q&A session with the FIFA referees
 - Was very pleased with the outcome, game and session which had to be cut off after an hour
 - Discussion went well and we hope to follow up on this
- SRC purchased beeper flags that we have left for them at the stadium (\$500 expense)
- Our goal is to let US soccer know that WNY is serious and get recognition
- Recertification topics – was not overwhelmed with responses about what you need
 - If you have issues in your district and areas to be covered which needs additional training for your referees, please let Tom know. The following items have been submitted:

- Offside situation – active involvement
 - Injuries and returning to field
 - Arbiter – how to block things other than dates (ex distance)
 - Dealing with problem coaches (picked up from Buffalo banquet)
 - Social networking issues
- This year’s test will have quite a few new questions
- RDYSL league concerns about referees – he has asked him to send data so that he can work on these issues during classes
- Online registration –still working and is testing game officials process of testing and registration on line. Serious consideration in doing a pilot test in Southern Tier, Twin Tiers (and potentially one more area) as they are small along with logistic and geographic issues. Wants to try something in this upcoming season to determine what to fix for the following season.
 - Tom and Dave have test accounts and they are doing testing – robust and complete system. Reoccurring cost is \$1 per person per year. Biggest cost is credit card fee.
- Fitness testing – national fitness test is different from normal tests as they have interval testing.
 - Purpose is to better mirror what is actually done in a soccer game
 - People are getting hurt by our testing of sprints
 - Tom will try new fitness testing process in Western NY making our test more applicable to our level. Making it achievable without hurting themselves but also ensures fitness in our referees. Will need to train to ensure that they pass.
 - Interval training recommendation passed out for all to see
 - Wants a reasonable fitness testing standard but does not want referees getting hurt in testing
 - Will see how it goes with the new testing, not mandatory, and will make changes if required
 - Saturday Irondequoit high school 8:30 am in 2 weeks from today- September 25th– testing scheduled.
 - Tom will take any high school fitness test administered in August so that the referee does not have to take a second test

Art Jaspe; SDA

- Wrapped up assessment program – may have a few stragglers but will be complete with upgrade/downgrades
- Have had a few incidents of referees who did not get assessed
- Will send out to committee the numbers and finalize at next meeting the assessment numbers by district
- In case of questions regarding assessments with regard to registration, have individuals refereed to Art with any questions regarding assessments

Steve Wu – treasurer:

- Great job Buffalo with your treasurers, all reports are in and on time!
- Need to work with Rochester and Southern Tier to reconcile bank accounts
- Need to work with Batavia – appears to need additional assistance
- Yearend report has been submitted to Ian Redpath – goal is to file return on time with no extension!
- DRA – please ensure that instructors – expenses must be forwarded to Tom Ross – if Tom has not signed off, Steve will not pay
- Assessments – please make sure Art Jaspe gets it for approval first

- All other expenses – please make sure Mike Tata approves first

District reports:

Syracuse –

Buffalo –

- Brief email poll of their referees to see interest coming back next year – response was mostly positive – anticipating that they will keep most of their referees.
- Has already had interest in the new reffing courses
- Anticipating record numbers again – 664 referees last year

Rochester-

- 733 referees
- Needs to work out issues with cross over assignments with Batavia district – quite a few Batavia officials want either Rochester only or dual assignments
- Arbiter issue with state committee funding – need to merge it into one large group
 - Travel and adult leagues in one account and house leagues in another account
 - Have house assignors into using the recreational account
- All arbiter accounts need to be renewed by the end of January
- Inquiries on new entry level classes, recertification classes coming up.
 - Start after Thanksgiving
- Local group trying to set up single location to do recertification and meetings – geographic issues – will get information out as soon as readily available

Southern Tier-

- Joe will be resigning after this month – Mike Schneider will take over – will still be involved and would like to keep the communication to assist Mike
- Many thanks and appreciation to the years that Joe has worked with us
- 91 referees

Ithaca –

- No update
- 128 referees

Binghamton-

- Has issue with referee who was taken off the field – non sanctioned game
- 107 referees

Twin Tiers-

Elmira

Batavia:

New Business:

- Issue that has come up in Buffalo – when a red card is issued the red card has turned into one person who is making decisions on recommendations of discipline for players and coaches. Lately this person's recommendation appears to be bias and a conflict of interest. The recommendation for punishment appears to be more than what is procedure. This person appears to have more influence in this discipline as he is a referee. His role is an active referee. The league is paying this person to give their recommendation. Question – is this a conflict of interest? – Answer – since the league hired this individual it is their responsibility to review the decisions made and make the determination if the recommendations are appropriate.
- Assessors email – assessors@wnyreferee.org is the address

Next meeting: Executive meeting Sunday, December 4, 2011 @ 10am
Full SRC meeting Sunday, January 8, 2012 @ 10 am

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Tom Ross, motion was seconded by Bill Helwig ; Meeting concluded at 12:10 pm

Upcoming meeting dates:

Executive Meetings

December 4, 2011

March 18, 2012

August 12, 2012

December 2, 2012

Full SRC Meeting dates:

January 8, 2012

April 29, 2012

September 9, 2012