

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

September 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at the Holiday Inn, Rochester NY. Meeting called to order at 10:00 am

Roll Call:

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|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Michael 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. John Kramer, SAC | sac@wnyreferee.org |
| | jreftk@aol.com |
| 6. James Pitcher; DRA Binghamton | Binghamton@wnyreferee.org |
| 7. Bill Helwig, DRA Buffalo | buffalo@wnyreferee.org |
| 8. Jerry Sullivan, WNYSR Rep | ejsreft@hotmail.com |
| 9. Tom Ross, SDI | sdi@wnyreferee.org |
| 10. Bill Bianchi, Rochester | Rochester@wnyreferee.org |
| 11. Steve Wu, Treasurer | Treasurer@wnyreferee.org |
| 12. John Cook, Ithaca | Ithaca@wnyreferee.org |
| 13. Batavia, TBD | Batavia@wnyreferee.org |
| 14. Tom Barker, Elmira | Elmira@wnyreferee.org |
| 15. Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier | Southerntier@wnyreferee.org |
| | phearsdorfb@yahoo.com |
| 16. Angela Paparo, DRA Syracuse | Syracuse@wnyreferee.org |
| | apaparo@twcny.rr.com |

Not Present

Jerry Sullivan, Batavia representative, Tom Barker

Meeting minutes were reviewed from SRC meeting.

There was a motion to accept the minutes by Tom Ross, Seconded by Angela Paparo. Minutes are approved.

New Business, SRA report and topics:

Michael Tata

- Policies and Procedures version 3 sent out based on feedback from the group. Recommended changes are highlighted in yellow;
 - Page 3 assessment fee –Change is additional paragraph for payment to assessor – documentation has now caught up to practice.
 - Section 8 - Annual re-annual requirements – upgrade to grade 5 change – referee must have held the grade of 06 for 1 year and send a letter to the SRA indicating the desire to be a national referee.
 - Section 11 – A referee may not seek a waiver for a second consecutive year relating to medical leave.
 - Section 14 – conflict of interest – paragraph 1 clarification changes
 - #5 disclosure statement – NY state law – this is now an annual requirement which requires a signature stating any conflict of interest to the secretary (Vicki

Martuscello) of the club. We will keep this updated on a calendar year. Submit this by January 1, 2015. If anyone is responsible for a bank account they MUST have a conflict of interest form completed. All districts have a bank account so all of their board of directors must submit a conflict of interest letter. This must be a single letter for EACH board member.

- If the conflict of interest policy has been violated, it will be collected by the chair (Dave Baxter).
- Michael Tata motion to approve the policies and procedures, Seconded by Bill Campbell – all in favor, none opposed - motion has passed.
- Buffalo – Mark Deinhart - President – Laurie Ruffino - Treasurer
- Syracuse – Dan Roark - acting President Ted Roverso- Treasurer
- Rochester – Mike Smith -President Lauren Diernam- Treasurer
- Binghamton – Jeff Horowitz -President– Ken Winterstein- Treasurer
- Ithaca, - Keith Eggleston - President – Chris Scalza- Treasurer
- Batavia – Unknown President – Further discussion needed TBD
- Elmira – Barry Winters - President– Chris Kamas- Treasurer
- Southern Tier – Dan Foy - President - Mark Jackson- Treasurer
- Batavia district is not present – Chris Chilano will not be returning – new administration will be appointed; acceptance of their recommendation has not yet been approved. We have issues to the treasury and their account which needs to be corrected.
 - There is a problem with the Batavia district as a whole
- Last year numbers:
 - Registrations down 8 referees (in order of largest to smallest districts)
 - Rochester up 59
 - Buffalo down 130
 - Syracuse up 2
 - Southern Tier up 64
 - Ithaca up 20
 - Batavia down 4
 - Binghamton down 14
 - Elmira down 5
- 2015 AGM – Holiday Inn Electronics Parkway or Candlewood Suites on Candlewood north –
 - Candlewood might be too small to accommodate
 - Angela to resend this information to Michael
 - First weekend in March is where we have targeted
 - We must have a coordinator for this event to ensure that it is properly managed – Michael wants a ‘host district’ to manage this event.
 - Topics of discussion to directly impact referees
 - Wants to make this an event therefore March 2015 may not be able to pull off; perhaps move to 2016? A comment is to use a college/Graduate school student to perhaps for a fee and credit plan our AGM. The directors will discuss and bring back to the December meeting. If anyone has a contact, please let Dave Baxter or Vicki Martuscello know to put in the minutes.
 - Being a non-profit we must have and declare an AGM – this will occur in January – all membership is open and invited to attend our January meeting.

Bill Campbell; SYRA

- Books for the year are in his car – every district please stop and pick up your box
 - USSF books, black badges grades 8 & 7
 - District count done by grades 7 & 8 you have registered plus a few – might not have enough to recertify everyone
 - Once recertification is complete, please mail back to Bill
 - Count does not include state referees or higher, they will get a full book
 - Will ensure that the books show up at the state clinics
 - Grade 9 – recertify them but Bill does not have any badges yet (effects 4 districts)
- Regional's this year – President Cup – Jeff Cook went to nationals, ODP – 1 person invited to finals. Nick Woto was invited to nationals for Presidents cup but could not attend
- Young referee of the year winners– Michael Guzzetta – Rochester & Mackenzie App – Syracuse.
- Will be changes coming with the Regional; some upheaval at the youth level

John Kramer; SAC

- Has been approached for an assignor clinic but it will not happen as we have sufficient numbers
- Concerns this year about how the grade 8 referees are being ranked; seems to be some confusion within the districts. It has to be done within the district and unit.
 - A grade 8 can referee an amateur match if they're a grade 7 candidate.
- Concern that he could not see assignments for tournaments has been resolved. Has found a few irregularities.
- Most House leagues are cooperating and following procedures although there are some leagues still using the 2 referee system.
- Payment of assignors appears to be working better.
- Will be setting up recertification clinics and emphasize who they are assigning. There is an assignor test which John has given to some who did not attend the clinic. There is an assignor course in clinic.
- Is emphasizing not to provide lists to leagues.
- Are we getting Velcro and whistles this year? Yes. Whistles increase the shipping and handling of books and whistles by a minimum of \$8.

Tom Ross; SDI

- New fitness testing has been completed in Buffalo and Rochester and very few people had issues passing the test. Many thought it was a much better test than the old one as it is more relevant.
- Syracuse has not completed a fitness test yet.
- Grade 7, if a district does not have a state referee and just wants to have a test for the grade 7, they can perform the optional test (does not have to set up the whole interval test)
- For those who do have state referees, he strongly recommends setting up the entire national test.
- Arbiter status – there has been changes in written testing – can now limit access to specific groups (with prior set up completed by Tom); he is making a different test for Emeritus testing (25 questions from each grade 7 & 8 test). Testing should be less confusing as they won't have to pick out the right test.
- Does not have the ability to limit their access to registration yet though. He will attempt to bold and capitalize the testing portion to help referees register for the correct test.

- The new state test is completely different and much of the material people do not know – yet – he will be telling state referees that all information on the test will be covered at the recert clinic.
- There is now a grade 7 instructor test – new material for some – it has been sent out for prior viewing. Test has been sent to the instructors as well.
- For recertification, testing is training. The goal is to know the material.
- Upgrade testing is testing – one change to get a passing score – it is a test done at home with resources. Second chance - Must wait a minimum of 21 days to retake the test.
- Testing process should be cleaner, tests may be more difficult.
- Upcoming clinics – entry level clinics and recert clinics – instructions passed out to DRA's for process changes.
- Recertification clinics – districts are responsible to schedule these and pay for the facility that they are using. The instructor will not be collecting dues.
- This is the first year we are required for EVERYONE to attend a clinic. Clinics must be grade level appropriate for their areas.
- If you need help finding instructors, please contact Tom Ross. If he does not hear from you he will assume that you have 2 instructors for each recert clinic.
- State courses must be taught by state instructors.
- Note that no entry level clinic can have more than 40 students; best case scenario is 25 students or less. Anything over 40 will have to be approved by Tom Ross. The best class size is 12-15, if you have less than 12, please let Tom know.
- The course, fee, registration fee and state maintenance fee will be collected through Arbiter in advance. Districts are responsible for collection of local dues and facility fees.
- Ithaca, Binghamton and Elmira will share a grade 7 clinic.
- A set fee for instructors for entry classes per day has been set versus the previous fee schedule based on number of students.
- Set up items include internet passwords, screens for projection, proper writing surfaces for the students, etc.
- There are 2 written tests for entry levels – districts are responsible for providing these. Tom is considering an online test.
- Upgrade clinics are being scheduled for the 3rd Saturday in March grade 7. State referee upgrade test will be on the 3rd Saturday in March on the odd years. 2015 will have both tests; the goal is to have them in the same place.

Art Jaspe; SDA

- Chicago dilemma has caused some delay issues with our assessor course.
- Assessments done this year – assessors have become more familiar with the process and there have been minimal problems with the assessment, posting or payment. Appears we have steadily moved forward in this process.
- There has been minimal difficulty with referees finding assessors.
- Assessor format, primary and secondary, appears to be working. Continue to maintain this system and will have an assessor clinic in early 2015. If they do not attend, the assessor will not be certified.
- Art handed out instructions to referees for the 2015 season handout which details information and reminders to the referee concerning the contract that they have with the assessors.
 - It explains the process of assessment and the steps to take if something happens. Understand that if the assessor is assessing the center referee and the assistant referee

is deemed unacceptable, even though the AR has not requested or paid for this assessment, the AR must handle their unacceptable performance in this instance.

- This letter also details payment expectations and time frame requirements. Noted is that if the referee does not pay the assessor, their registration will be blocked for the coming year until payment has been completed.
- Payment of the assessor is covered in our new Policy and Procedure document
- This will be posted on the website on the entry page – this is a memo to our referees
- Tom to highlight during training

Steve Wu – Treasurer

- Fiscal year ended June 30th
 - SRA total income \$129,444
 - Expenses \$79,865 (not all bills paid yet \$30K registration)
 - Approximately \$10,000 left over
 - Budget based on 2,000 registrations (referees, assignors, and instructors), \$120K revenue and \$129K expenses.
 - 2015 budget:
 - Training \$43K; Tom Ross’s training and academy training (Cobra tournament)
 - Veterans Cup – 3 referees and 1 assessor not to exceed \$500 per person to reimburse travel (paid up front with submission of their travel cost)
 - National referee camp is in Phoenix supplement to take fitness test (we have the potential for 9 to travel). Reimburse up to \$500 per person travel expense.
 - Budget was reviewed by the budget committee; consisting of Steve, Tom Ross, Ted (Syracuse), and Lori (Buffalo). If anyone else is interested, please contact Steve.
- Steve will be forwarding a copy of the end budget to the secretary
- Director’s travel for various workshops within the state has been granted – total travel \$7,000 (includes DRA’s to meeting travel as they leave their district)
- Increase of assessment to \$4,250 for youth level
- \$6,000 will be spent on new equipment – 3 projectors and computers
- Tom Ross – please revise your refund sheet –need to include address on the form! It is cheaper to route a check versus crediting the credit card.
- Rochester unit didn’t pay for the use of Arbiter for the year –Steve will discuss with the new treasurer.
- Motion by Tom Ross to approve the 2015 budget - seconded by Bill Campbell –All in favor – none opposed - motion approved.
- DRA – will contact the Treasurers – we have changed our fiscal year to September 1st. This means we’ll have had another year end.
- Batavia accounts – have had Chris Chilano removed from the bank accounts. There was a check from the Livonia soccer club of \$1,050 to the Batavia account. Even after reconciliation this check has not been recovered. This check was cashed; Michael was not given the endorser. The fear is that there are 2 accounts. We will seize this account. Need resolution from this board to seize this account.

“Be it resolved that the board of directors for the Western NY Referees Association is authorizing the removal of signature of Jay Okoniewski from the 5-Star bank account number 7900102000. The board of directors also grants the authority to Steve Wu and

Michael Tata to close the 5-Star Bank account number 7900102000 and transfer any remaining funds to the parent account or for the account to remain open.

If the decision is for the account to remain open, be it resolved that on the above date the board of directors for the Western NY state Referees Association has granted the authority of adding the signatories of Steve Wu and Michael Tata to the 5-Star bank account number 7900102000.

The removal of signatories or the adding of signatories shall go into effect as of the date of this letter (9/7/14) but no later than October 31, 2014.”

Motion to accept this resolution from Bill Campbell, seconded by Angela Paparo- all in favor, none opposed - motion has passed. Michael Tata and Steve Wu will take ownership of this account.

District reports:

Syracuse

- Has invited Watertown to join ranks with Syracuse. Has loaded everyone in the Syracuse Arbiter group.
- Would like to use a local assignor – need to work with John K. Needs some information as to referee ranking from the previous assignor if possible. Last year’s assignment records are on Arbiter, Angela to print them out as a start.
- Dan Roark is staying on as acting President; wants changes to occur to stay on. Meeting scheduled the first week of November to discuss.
- Secretary of Syracuse has asked to find out if there is an arbiter account to allow him to send group emails – they need to be made an administrator with a \$35 fee. Make them a sub-assignor so that they can send emails.
- Dates and locations for the Syracuse clinics are complete – will send them to Tom Ross this week – still needs to discuss with Watertown.
- Syracuse is historically short of assessors – there are 2 people interested.

Buffalo

- Upload issue – hold up is at US Soccer.
- If we get registration in timely, can we use risk management with Arbiter – we won’t have this in place for the 2015 season as we need to work with Arbiter and US Soccer to get this in place.
- May want a custom field placed in to link the risk management with registration. More discussion required with Tom and Michael.
- Question to DRA’s– can you email the game fees for youth travel (not rec leagues) and whether it’s a 3-man or 1-man system. Also – how do you handle your turn backs?
Billreferee@yahoo.com or Buffalo@wnyreferee.org
- This past year he has 38 state referees; 5 in upgrade process, 7 state referees going to Emeritus – 3 quitting and 1 moved from the area. Half completed the process, half did not. This is done to circumvent the process from USSF. Question is as a state referee who goes to Emeritus, what grade levels can they work if they qualify as a grade 7 – what are the requirements – lower adult is the practice. In National, the grade 7 is an adult badge. Our practice in NY is lower adult. If there are not enough qualified officials, we cannot cover the games requested. Ranking is State, grade 7, Emeritus.

Rochester

- Arbitrator fee is \$4 per referee, \$35 per assignor.
- Will get number to Lauren to cut Steve a check for the fee required.

Southern Tier – Not represented

Ithaca

- No report

Binghamton

- Hope to have more referees!
- Changed one clinic from 8 to 7

Elmira – Not represented

Batavia – Not represented

Next meetings:

12/7/14 – Executive

New Business:

- For the record - - - Art received a score of 95% on his test!

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Art Jaspe, motion was seconded by Angela Paparo; all in favor, none opposed, motion carried and meeting concluded at 2:03 pm.