

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

September 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes

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

Roll Call:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 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 |
| 6. James Pitcher; DRA Binghamton | Binghamton@wnyreferee.org |
| 7. Bill Helwig, Buffalo | buffalo@wnyreferee.org |
| 8. Tom Ross, SDI | sdi@wnyreferee.org |
| 9. Bill Bianchi, Rochester | Rochester@wnyreferee.org |
| 10. Steve Wu, Treasurer | Treasurer@wnyreferee.org |
| 11. John Cook, Ithaca | Ithaca@wnyreferee.org |
| 12. Eric Bryant, Batavia | Batavia@wnyreferee.org |
| 13. Tom Barker, Elmira | Elmira@wnyreferee.org |
| 14. Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier | Southerntier@wnyreferee.org |
| 15. Angela Paparo, Syracuse | Syracuse@wnyreferee.org |
| 16. Vicki Martuscello | Secretary@wnyreferee.org |

Not Present

Dave Baxter & Tom Barker

Meeting minutes were reviewed from the April SRC meeting.

There was a motion to accept the minutes by Bill Campbell, seconded by Bill Phearsdorf. All in favor none opposed; the minutes are approved. The next executive meeting is December 6th. The next full SRA meeting is January 10, 2016.

New Business, SRA report and topics:

Michael Tata; SRA

- Dave Baxter is resigning his position as Chairperson
- Policies and Procedure changes were discussed:
 - Page 2 Section 2 – Emeritus status for WNYSRA – second bullet is significant change – emeritus referee wishing to officiate youth games must meet the grade 7 requirements minus the fitness and assessment component
 - Page 4 Section 8 – clarifying what the grade 7 requirement is – they must pass the fitness test in renewal and upgrade
 - Page 6 – Section 14 – clarify referees working out of his or her home district – there is a \$5.00 processing arbiter fee
- Unregistered and unaffiliated referees should not be able to use our Arbiter

- Motion to accept the changes to the Policies and Procedures with the addition of the non-affiliated matches not being permitted to use our arbiter group – Motion by Tom Ross – Seconded by Angela Paparo – all in favor – unanimous approved.
- Lauren Dearman has been working to contact hotels throughout the state for the (AGM) annual general meeting for the entire membership. February 19-20-21 at the Rochester Riverside hotel. Guest speakers will come in, breakout sessions for training for referees; meals will be provided for the membership.
 - Projecting 100-150 people to attend
 - Plan is to use Arbiter to send out invitations to the entire membership
 - We would like to do it every year - to retain the right speakers we have to have it before the first weekend in March
 - There will be a token fee asked (\$10)
 - Meals will be provided, room (discounted cost) and transportation costs are not covered
 - Friday social gathering
 - Saturday morning breakfast, breakout sessions, awards luncheon, additional breakout sessions, dinner and guest speaker (or panel)
 - Sunday breakfast, additional breakout sessions, wrap up at noon
 - Potentially the March SRC meeting can occur during that time
- Motion by Tom Ross to proceed forward with the AGM at the Rochester Riverside hotel—seconded by Bill Campbell; all in favor, none opposed; motion carried.
- Michael secured surplus funds from and deposited in the bank in July – this was unclaimed funds from US Soccer from 2000-2008 – registration money we never got back from US Soccer.
- Last year we bought a table at the CURE Childhood table’s lunch – Tom Ross motion to purchase at least one table at this year’s event, seconded by James Pitcher (\$450 per table); all are welcome to attend; Date is October 11th at the Rochester Riverside Convention center from 10 – 2 pm; brunch is prepared by chefs in the area; if want to attend email Michael; all approved, none opposed; unanimous motion carried.
- We have state funds available for an approved mentor program
 - Michael is using some RDYSL games for the mentoring program
 - If you need state funds for this program, bring what you need to this meeting
- All Arbiter district bills have been sent out = the districts below have paid:
 - Southern Tier
 - Rochester
 - Buffalo
 - Batavia
 - Binghamton
 - Ithaca
 - Syracuse (Steve Wu to check)
- Registrations:
 - We will use Arbiter again as it is too late to change for 2016
 - We will have to make a decision in March if we will use Arbiter in 2017 as it is cumbersome to get reports
 - Arbiter is costly for a system which is very confusing and has many issues
 - Arbiter appears to be more focused on NCAA and meeting their needs
 - At the March director’s meeting – Michael received 40 Emeritus badges
 - There is no state input on who will be a national candidate – the referees cannot declare any more.

- Expect our state referee numbers to dwindle
- John Kramer and Bill Campbell have retained their positions in the new year
- Art, Michael, the DRA's and Tom Ross's positions are up at the end of the year

Bill Campbell; SYRA

- All DRA –see Bill after the meeting – he has all books and badges for recertification in his car
- Rich Wagner has resigned as NYW president
- Region 1 is still a mess- Bill going to meeting in Pittsburgh in October
 - They are running a small regional league but have not released full schedule – and with missing information
- Young referee of the year – selection was simple – out of 16 invitations to apply – he received 3 – Alexander Moses out of Binghamton and Amy Shmoys out of Ithaca. They will receive award at the AGM.
- Regional's and state cup – will be adding to that academy those who are comfortable doing U15-16 matches locally
- Will not be sending anyone to ODP camp
- State Cup
 - One State Cup meeting – the next one is late Nov or mid December
 - The lacrosse championships are taking place the same weekend so we will have an issue with field availability
 - Region 1 and Region 3 are the only regions that have a floating game schedule
 - Advanced technology for detection of thunder storms – the complaint was that we didn't clear the field until the field had a lightning strike within a 10 mile radius of the field.
 - The system set up gets a direct live feed from the national weather service of where any strikes hit the ground – this goes to a paid operator at SUNY Cortland. Once you have the very first lightning strike hits the ground it creates a footprint of strikes which shows the electrical center of the storm. The call to stop games is not in his authority to do so – it is the State Cup chair's call. The evacuation is called if a strike is within 10 miles which is enough time to clear the entire area.
 - There are a couple things we need to work on but we need to make certain we have people with cars to get referees out of the fields which are in the most danger
 - We need to explain this situation and evacuation plan better to the referees and assessors
 - Bill to clarify the evacuation procedure; we need to make sure the assessors do not sit in the press box at Cortland stadium
- Had a good year with people advancing within Regional's
 - A number of referees advanced
- Executive members – if you have a report you need to file must be with Bill by November 1st

John Kramer; SAC

- Has Velcro! DRA's – you will get Velcro per last year's registration- please do not pre-affix the Velcro to the badges!
- Will give whistles to Bill Campbell who will manage them accordingly
- If you deleted games and wanted them back you had to notify Arbiter with a charge associated – there is now a permanent archive area - but you cannot use the same game numbers. There

will be an option if you mass delete games to archive or don't archive. If you do not archive you can use the same game numbers. You can save the games for their experience, past history etc.

- There are many secondary issues associated with archived games
- Hope to have these issues resolved for the 2016 season
- Ranking of officials
 - According to US Soccer grade 8 can do any youth game through U19 but they are ranked according to their ability
 - Will be asking for a list of those referees from each district who are eligible to do adult leagues
- Assignor fee registration – currently \$10 – there is some talk about making a change to this fee as other states are charging very high fees.
 - There are no plans to hold an assignor course. We have enough in our areas.
 - As an assignor you are not limited to assigning in your own district as long as you're registered within the state

Tom Ross; SDI

- The academy is going to be a more comprehensive process starting with the upcoming year
 - Each director will be coordinating and participating to submit names
 - Michael will be handling getting mentors for the group
 - Academy tournament is in July – Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday
 - We are looking for high grade 8, grade 7 participants
 - Will look for DRA's to help
- Recertifications – only 2 levels – Grade 8 and advanced
 - Will not know how much information is needed until Arbiter is set – November 1st
 - People must go to a grade appropriate clinic
 - The level of instruction of Grade 7 & 6 recertification is difficult
- Arbiter – we are not going to assign instructor, assessors or assigner through Arbiter
- Fitness test changes – while we didn't agree with the changes the fitness test changes will be in place
 - We are encouraged to purchase our own timing gates – we must use the timing gates to certify the state referees
 - We borrowed the timing gates this year (which were broken) – we used a stop watch in Rochester as the timing gate did not function
- Notice about registration has been posted in Arbiter (no change in fees right now)
- To be Emeritus they have to meet grade 7 standards

Art Jaspe; SDA

- Will be sending out to the DRA's an announcement and invitation for an entry level assessor course in January or February for Grade 7 & above for their participation; essay (why they want to be assessors and what they can contribute to the program). Will be notifying DRA's for a recommendation.
 - A state instructor can run this course.
 - Will use Buffalo to host the course
 - Not sure how long the course is (2 days or 1 ½ days)
- It's been pursued around the region that the way the pro assignments and assessments are going has been modified. He cannot assign an assessor unless the referee requests an assessment

- We have a list of 24 names on the pro list
- For the local (MPSL, USL) if there is no assessor assigned to these games that we will assign our local assessors to assess our own referees – to help them at the pro level and their advancement
- Would like to assist monetarily these referees at the pro levels for their assessments and budget for this

Steve Wu – Treasurer

- Treasurer report – we changed our fiscal year from 9/1 to 8/31 so we are in synch with how we actually do our business – our season starts April to July we have a better understanding of how we’re doing at the end of the year
- Steve is in process of closing the books
- Steve has SRC financials – needs Rochester, Syracuse and Buffalo by September 15th.
- If any of the districts have a request for funding, please submit to Steve by March

District reports:

Syracuse

- Has all Recertifications scheduled
- Has entry course scheduled
- Ran a fitness test
- Board meeting October 13th to finalize all dates; looking for an alternate location as school closing has hurt in the past

Buffalo

- Buffalo has completed a state fitness test – this year we have 7 people show up to take the state exam (1 from Rochester) – will have 7-8 state referees in Buffalo

Rochester

- Disclosure statements are due annually – look again in January (note: if not complete we can seize the account as this is a NY State legal requirement)
- Will be in contact with Bill Helwig as he has questions and concerns as to how to use Arbiter with additional slots

Southern Tier

- Is looking for 2 entry courses this year
- With all the changes, the Southern Tier is moving forward this year

Ithaca

- Has completed their fitness test
- Is in process of scheduling recertification clinics

Binghamton

- Fitness test was completed in August
- Recertification dates are set
- Conflict of interest statements were handed in today
- Instructor’s course – October if there is enough people – he has one person who is interested
- Requires Arbiter assistance on assigning

Elmira

- Not present

Batavia

- Fitness test occurred in August
- Courses are set up through GCC

Next meetings:

Executive meetings: December 6, 2015

Full SRC Meetings: January 10, 2016

New Business:

- No new business

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Bill Campbell, motion was seconded by Tom Ross; all in favor, none opposed, motion carried and the meeting concluded at 1:36 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to accept the September 13, 2015 meeting minutes by Tom Ross, seconded by Bill Campbell. All in favor, none opposed; the minutes are approved.

Recorded and Submitted By:

Christopher Rollins

Secretary, WNY Referee Association

January 11, 2016