

Western NY Referee Association
State Referee Committee
UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION AFFILIATE
Meeting Minutes – JANUARY 10, 2016 - DRAFT

Meeting held at the Brooks Avenue Holiday Inn, Rochester NY. Meeting called to order at 10:15 am

Roll Call:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Michael Tata; SRA | sra@wnyreferee.org |
| 2. Bill Pasnak, 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. Chris Rollins, Secretary WNY | Secretary@wnyreferee.org |

Not Present

All in Attendance

Old Business:

WNY Secretary (Chris Rollins) reviewed WNY SRC September 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes.

There was a motion to accept the minutes by Tom Ross, seconded by Bill Campbell. All in favor none opposed; the minutes are approved. The next executive meetings are scheduled for August 16, 2016 and December 4, 2016. Full meetings are scheduled for April 10, 2016 and September 11, 2016.

New Business, SRA report and topics:

Michael Tata; SRA

- Michael distributed SRC Directory to meeting attendees, revisions made as necessary.
- The AGM is scheduled for 2/19-2/21 to be held at the Rochester Radisson Hotel, 120 East Main St., Rochester, NY.
- Speakers for the AGM are not yet confirmed but will likely include a former MLS-AR, former MLS Referee, Fitness/Nutrition Coach and others.
- Information regarding billing and hotel reimbursement TBD. SRA will advise committee when complete.
- Bill Campbell and John Kramer are working on selecting attendee premiums to brand the event.

- A tentative agenda for the AGM will be distributed by the end of January and updated as break-out sessions and guest speakers are confirmed.

2016 Registration Update

- SRA unable to upload the report – must be done by Arbiter. Another example how Arbiter is very difficult to use and does not meet our needs.
- US Soccer charges for each registration upload.
- 2015 New Members did not contain USSF ID#, Grade, Gender – SRA had to manually input info.
- USSF is no longer downloading district information to SRC, Bill Campbell is working to correct.
- Technical issues continue for SRC as well as for Users (Referees)
- It is anticipated WNY will not use Arbiter for 2017 Registration. Game Officials is the likely systems as they have an improved interface with USSF.
- Assignors should also strongly consider an alternative to Arbiter for 2017. Michael and John Kramer are in preliminary discussions with Game Officials for assigning. Districts do have the option for assigning only.
- In addition to the improved USSF interface, Game Officials is significantly cheaper.
- SRA does not have any State Emeritus badges in inventory.
- Risk Management – Referees must be at least 12 years of age to apply

Arbiter Charges

- The full Arbiter invoice for WNY is \$16,000.00. The referee/user profiles are as follows:
 - Binghamton - 85 Referees, 1 Assignor
 - Buffalo – 700 Referees, 15 Assignors
 - Elmira – 65 Referees, 3 Assignors
 - Rochester – 750 Referees, TBD Assignors
 - Syracuse – TBD Referees, 4 Assignors
 - Ithaca – 100 Referees, 1 Assignor
 - SRC – 55 Referees
 - Southern Tier – 100 Referees, 2 Assignors
 - Super Group – TBD
- If a district needs additional slots please contact Michael Tata, SRA.
- DRA's please provide district meeting dates to SRA for possible attendance

Bill Campbell; SYRA

Noteworthy Referee Appointments:

Jeff Cook – National Championship
 Nick Wodo – National ODP
 J.J. Belinski – President's Cup

- Dates to submit referee candidates for 2016 events are as follows:
 - Regionals – March 1st
 - State Cup – April 1st
 - Academy – April 1st
 - President's Cup - ?

Region 1

- Some remaining issues with game schedules
- John Kramer will provide Bill with the list of assignors for local tournaments. Bill will post to the WNY website

Thruway League

- New contract secured for a 5 year term. Details will be distributed to assignors

John Kramer; SAC

- Assignor 2016 recertification clinics have been completed
- No additional NEW assignor clinics are scheduled at this time. If a district is in need of an assignor please contact John Kramer for coverage. Possible assignor clinic in 2017
- List of Assignors to be distributed to all DRA's the week of 1/11/2016

Tom Ross; SDI

- Please encourage all referees in your respective units to attend the AGM in February
- Grade 7 Upgrade Clinic – to be held in Rochester in March. Date and location to be provided by Tom Ross. This clinic WILL NOT be accepted as a recertification clinic
- DRA's please emphasize to referees that they should only register for the grade you are currently. Prior to sending any issues to SDI please research and try to solve the problem with the referee
- Grade 9 referees upgrading to Grade 8 – referee must pay an additional \$15.00 to the SRA, they also must take Day #2 of the Entry Level Course and take the online test (and pass).
- Entry Level Class registration and attendance is experiencing low turnout. Please get the word out and promote
- AGM – Again please encourage attendance. Our goal is 150 attendees. Going to be a great program
- Academy at Cobra's Tournament will be held again this year

Art Jaspe; SDA

- There will be an Entry Level Assessor Class on 1/30/2016-1/31/2016. Location Sahlen's Sports Park. 25 attendees registered at this time. Candidates must be Grade 7 or above along with other criteria to be evaluated

Steve Wu – Treasurer

- Treasurer report given to the SRC and comply with SRC requirements through 12/31/2015. As a reminder 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
- Rochester, Buffalo and Syracuse financials reviewed
- 1099's will be generated for reimbursements over \$600.00 to SRC members
- Steve is in the process of reviewing proposals for a new auditing firm for 2016
- A number of duplicate 1099's were issued for 2013 – Steve has documentation for members to submit to the IRS to correct the error
- Steve is willing to assist, train and/or mentor districts if they need help with financial record keeping
- Any funding requests must be submitted to the Treasurer for committee review

District reports:

Syracuse

- Conducted the first entry level course on 1/9/2016 and 1/10/2016. Attendance was full.
- Watertown area entry level class to be held in March

- 1st recertification class encountered low attendance – 28 attendees
- League compliance in the district is an issue – DRA is working to improve and will progress next meeting

Buffalo

- Bill Helwig suggested caution regarding a switch from Arbiter to Game Officials
- Buffalo will try to assist the Batavia unit with coverage this season
- Bill is working to increase the number of entry level classes in the district and is working with various clubs to recruit new referee candidates
- Current registration is slow and it is likely that Buffalo will see a reduction in the number of referees in all grades

Rochester

- Bill Bianchi expressed concern regarding the potential switch from Arbiter to Game Officials
- Bill will also work with the new DRA (Eric) in Batavia
- RDSL (Adult League) is working on an assignor for the 2016 season
- Low attendance in entry level course registration
- Significant loss in the number of Grade 6 referees

Southern Tier

- January entry level classes were canceled due to low registration
- Two additional classes are scheduled at St Bonaventure and Fredonia in April
- DRA would like to have a Grade 7 upgrade clinic held. SDI will consider if the numbers support a clinic in that area
- Is looking for 2 entry courses this year
- With all the changes, the Southern Tier is moving forward this year

Ithaca

- No issues to report

Binghamton

- No issues to report

Elmira

- No issues to report
- Comment – Twin Tiers – looking to better organize the membership. SRC may consider re-authorizing district if someone is willing to take charge of the unit

Batavia

- No issues to report

Next meetings:

Executive meetings: August 16, 2016

Full SRC Meetings: April 10, 2016

Note: Possible meeting at AGM in February

New Business:

- No new business

Motions:

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 1:20 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

TBD

Recorded and Submitted By:

Christopher Rollins
Secretary, WNY Referee Association
January 11, 2016

APPROVED
April 10, 2016
10:15 AM

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BOARD APPROVED April 10, 2016