

Western NY Referees Association  
State Referee Committee  
UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION AFFILIATE  
**Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2017 – APPROVED January 14, 2018**  
Meeting held at the Radisson Inn, Brooks Avenue, Rochester NY.

State Referee Committee Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2017

Present:

Michael Tata, SRA  
William Campbell, SYRA  
William Pasnak, Interim SAC/Chairman  
Thomas Ross, SDI  
Steven Wu, Treasurer  
Robert Richmond, Batavia  
James Pitcher, Binghamton  
William Helwig, Buffalo  
Tom Barker, Elmira  
John Cook, Ithaca  
Lauren Dearman, Rochester  
William Phearsdorf, Southern Tier  
Angela Paparo, Syracuse

Absent:

Art Jaspe, SDA  
Chris Rollins, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 10:01 A.M. by Pasnak

- Minutes – motion by Helwig, second by Phearsdorf to approve minutes of 4/9/17 meeting. Motion carried.
- Treasurer's Report
  - Believes he has all material to close out books as of 8/31/17.
  - Final fiscal year report being prepared.
- SRA Report
  - Tentative plans to host a Regional Training Seminar (RTS) in Binghamton area on 3/25-26/18. Finalizing details with Binghamton University, and awaiting final confirmation from Region 1. Some funding provided by Region 1. Details to follow when finalized.
  - AGM will be held at Radisson Hotel in Henrietta on March 2-3, 2018. We won't be doing a Sunday session this year.
  - New York West asked if we could "assist" in distribution of risk management passes. They said that leagues collect all the passes and they are distributed to

coaches. That's not feasible, as we don't have mandatory meetings with all our members. Will continue discussions, but passes will continue to be mailed to individual referees now.

- New York West is exploring reciprocal agreements with nearby states so that out of state referees don't need a second risk management check.
  - Suggestion that we ask NY West to consider allowing risk management through Game Officials.
  - Districts were reminded that they need to send mentor documentation to SRA for reimbursement in accordance with policy.
  - Policies and procedures – Discussion of change in assessor fees to a flat rate rather than game fee. Discussion tabled until January meeting.
  - Emeritus Referees will no longer be eligible to work as referee on adult matches. Those who wish to work those matches will have to change to Grade 7. They can return to Emeritus when they retire from adult matches.
  - “Southern Tier” district designation is confusing, particularly for new officials, as much of New York is called the “Southern Tier.” Discussion of changing name was not popular with the district. Will be considering an administrative fix in Game Officials that may correct the problem.
- SDI Report
    - Only remaining fitness tests are in Buffalo and Syracuse. Referees should be reminded to get it done now, as there is no guarantee of any additional tests.
    - Districts were reminded that they can start submitting dates for recert clinics. Instructor recerts are already scheduled for October, so classes can be scheduled in November if desired. All referee recert clinic information must be submitted before November 1, 2017.
    - Districts were reminded of requirements for state funding of entry clinic costs, and encouraged to look at recruiting methods.
      - Suggestion from James Pitcher – contact running clubs in your area for interested prospects.
    - Most computers have updated virus protection. Contact Tom Ross if you have a computer that still needs to be updated.
    - Buffalo (Helwig) and Rochester (Tata) will be maintaining entry class materials for those districts to eliminate the need for constant shipping.
    - Discussion of preparing written material for referees. Campbell to explore preparing a “Laws of the Game” book for all referees. Also will be looking at a note-taking guide for entry classes.
    - Futsal – entry level course was held with 21 referees certified in Rochester. Instructors from Syracuse and Buffalo also attended, so if the program takes off we will be able to conduct entry classes without bringing in an out-of-state instructor. League is scheduled to begin in mid-October for younger age groups.
  - Rochester
    - Discussion of amount owed for Arbiter accounts. Treasurer will get with representatives of Rochester and Batavia to clarify.

- SYRA
  - USYSA is changing the format for regions. Not sure what affect this will have on future tournaments, leagues and events. Awaiting details on the changes.
  - Code of conduct for referees attending tournaments was reviewed and will follow the current Region 1 model that referees currently sign.
  - Young referees of the year have been selected, but have not been notified as of this writing.
    - 2017 Young Male Referee – Hunter Brzozowiec
    - 2017 Your Female Referee – Cassidy Hadcock
- SDA/Assessment (Submitted in writing to Chairman)
  - A total of 443 assessments were posted, including Pro, Amateur and Youth. Of those assessments, 176 were for maintenance and 55 were for upgrades. These numbers include both Referee and AR assessments.
  - Two Assessor recerts are planned, one in Buffalo and one in Rochester. They will be 4-6 hours in length. Further details TBA.
- SAC/Assignors
  - Familiarizing himself with current processes and personnel
  - Assignor recerts will be scheduled once he determines what kind of training is most productive.
  - Asked that any district or local unit having issues with assigning contact him directly.
- Batavia
  - Mentor information has been sent to Mr. Tata
- Binghamton
  - Questions on what is owed for Game Officials assigning. Will work out with SRA and Treasurer once all games are completed.
  - Discussion of the Game Officials system as an assigning system. Reported that there was a learning curve, as would be expected. Most of the problems that occurred involved learning to use the system. Will be in a better position to offer input next year, when more familiar with the program.
- Buffalo
  - Working to schedule 10 referee recert clinics.
  - Local board had requested that all assignors appear before them for a review of the season. That process did not occur. Mr. Pasnak asked that the local board contact him to share any concerns they have.
  - Buffalo revamped their mentor program this year, and had their largest influx of new referees ever. Strengths and weaknesses of the program are being reviewed to determine what should be done in the coming years.
- Elmira
  - Planning 3 recerts, and planning to do an entry class in conjunction with Ithaca district.
  - The “Hornell” recert continues to be an issue. Course generally has more officials from other districts than from Elmira. It was suggested that Elmira get together

with Batavia and/or Rochester to see if something can be scheduled in an area (Dansville or thereabouts) that will meet the needs of all the districts.

- Southern Tier
  - Working to schedule recert and entry clinics for 2018
- Syracuse
  - Scheduling recerts for Syracuse, including Watertown
  - Requested input on Game Officials assigning experiences, and received feedback from districts using the system. Will be continuing to consider it.
- Old Business
  - Mr. Tata said that future disciplinary matters will be handled by internally. If the resolution is not satisfactory to the referee, he/she can appeal to the league's process.
- New Business
  - Mr. Ross inquired as to the feasibility of scheduling joint training for instructors, assessors and assignors to discuss methods of improving all our procedures to work together. Suggestion was Sunday following the AGM. Consensus was that would not be a good time to do it, but it's something that may be further explored in the future.
- Future Meetings for Full SRC
  - Sunday, January 14, 2018
  - Sunday, April 15, 2018
  - Sunday, September 9, 2018
  - Location(s) TBA.

Motion to adjourn at 1:20 P.M. by Pitcher, second by Paparo. Motion carried.

**Recorded and Submitted By:**  
*Christopher Rollins*  
SDI, WNY Referees Association  
January 14, 2018

**SRC APPROVED**  
APPROVED, January 14, 2018

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