

Western New York Referee Association State Referee Committee United States Soccer Federation Affiliate

May 22, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Held at the Hampton Inn, Rochester, NY. Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM.

Roll Call:

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| 1. Curt Hamlin, SRA | (sra@wnyreferee.org) |
| 2. William Fahey, SYRA | (syra@wnyreferee.org) |
| 3. Jim Gabor, Sr., Treasurer, Buffalo | (treasurer@wnyreferee.org) |
| 4. Christopher Chilano, DRA (Batavia) | (batavia@wnyreferee.org) |
| 5. James Pitcher, DRA (Binghamton) | (binghamton@wnyreferee.org) |
| 6. William Campbell, DRA (Ithaca) | (ithaca@wnyreferee.org) |
| 7. Paul Lysiak, DRA (Rochester) | (rochester@wnyreferee.org) |
| 8. Joe Delity, DRA (Southern Tier) | (southerntier@wnyreferee.org) |
| 9. Ronald Kuck, DRA (Syracuse) | (syracuse@wnyreferee.org) |
| 10. Greg Wheeler, DRA (Twin Tiers) | (twintier@wnyreferee.org) |
| 11. Tom Barker (acting DRA, Elmira) | (TLBARK1078@verizon.net) |

Not Present:

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|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Art Jaspe, SDA | (sda@wnyreferee.org) |
| 2. William Pasnak, SDI | (sdi@wnyreferee.org) |
| 3. William Helwig, DRA (Buffalo) | (buffalo@wnyreferee.org) |
| 4. Jerry Sullivan, WNYSA representative | (ejsreft@hotmail.com) |
| 5. Sandy Ostebo, President of NYSWYSA | (president@nyswysa.org) |

Roll Call Notes:

1. Tom Barker will continue as acting DRA for Elmira in Alex Badr's absence.
2. Art Jaspe, SDA and William Pasnak, SDI were both at the USSF SDI/SDA workshop in Lake Placid.

Approval of last Minutes

Minutes of March 6, 2005 were approved with modifications noted for wnyreferee.com rather than wnyra.com.

Reports of Officers

1. SRA - (Curt Hamlin)

- a. Registrations to date are down 10% from last year. Even though this is not where we wish to be, it is about half of what the national trend is.
- b. The recreational referee numbers are telling us that the clubs are interested in getting their referees properly trained initially, but either the referee is bridging to a grade 8 or the referee is not coming back for further training/registration.
- c. Curt announced that people need to start manipulating data in order to find the target referees to get out and find the up-and-coming. Curt supplied a list to Bill F. of referees between 18 and 26 and, whom have registered for three years or more.
- d. Leagues such as the RDYSL, which boast 500+ teams, are constantly growing in the youth arena but the referees are just keeping the status quo. Better identification and working with the youth referees will ultimately pay off.

2. SYRA - (Bill Fahey)

a. Bill F. reported on the status of referees selected for the state cup, ODP and Regional tournaments. It was pointed out that the vast majority (all but about 5) of the referees at the state cup were young referees. The few others were selected as a mentoring position to help identify strengths and weaknesses.

b. Bill F. pointed out that since we have such a limited season that other alternatives need to be explored to help the referees move along. Curt agreed that he will work with the national office for possible ways of doing this.

3. SDA - (Art Jaspe) – No report

4. SDI - (Bill Pasnak) –

a. First ITIP course in WNY in quite some time. Attendance was less than desired but still we had seven local instructors go through the course successfully. Curt pointed out the expense of this course, but the necessity of it to further the instructional staff within WNY. Better planning with estimates of costs are needed in the future for ventures of this kind.

b. The Regional/Professional Clinic was held on April 30 at Roberts Wesleyan College. Paul Tamberino and Alfred Klenaitis were the instructors. The clinic was well attended with a large out of state representation. Some comments by the instructors were to try to tie this in with a Rhinos game as in years past and that they noticed the average age of the referees seems to be going up rather than down.

5. SCA - (Curt Hamlin/Bill Fahey acting) –No Report.

6. Treasurer - (Jim Gabor)

a. Reports have started to flow to the treasurer from the districts except for Rochester. Paul Lysiak will contact the treasurer of Rochester to find out what is going on and report back to Curt and Jim.

b. For the success of the association, budgeting is definitely required. We have been providing a lot of services and they are taking their toll on the balance. Even though these services are a great benefit to the community we have to be careful not to take on too much too fast.

Old Business

Reviewed and verified completion of **action items** from March meeting:

Old Items:

1. All DRAs and Board Members must sign on and start using the Florida software system at wnyreferee.com – This is an ongoing item to utilize this site for the maximum benefit of the association.

2. DRAs are asked to forward to Curt information on those who have obtained or are currently obtaining risk management as coaches – This is an ongoing item which is working. Since we started doing this we have removed four individuals. This means that we may have protected at least four youth through this program.

3. Advise Bill Pasnak of local coaches meetings and get for him an invitation to speak (30-45 min). – This is ongoing but people do seem to be taking advantage of this. Bill F. will be going to Syracuse for this purpose on Monday.

4. Art to write proposed guidelines for acceptable level of play with respect to “Division 2” and higher and a proposal for D&G assessments for Grade 7 Referees – Art was not here to discuss or present on this issue.

5. Anyone wishing to nominate candidates for SYRA please contact Curt by May 1 – There was a lot of discussion about the two candidates. Curt pointed out that it is an appointment not by us, but by the youth state association. Curt listened to the comments and will take them into consideration when making his recommendation to NYSWYSA.

6. Anyone wishing to nominate candidates for Recording Secretary please contact Curt by May 1 – There was only one candidate whose name was submitted. People reviewed her letter and decided that she is qualified. The committee recommended to Curt to accept Katie Dziedzic as the secretary to the committee.

New Business

1. Bill F. presented a letter from Pat Tata. Pat was requesting a refund of his registration fee OR postpone the implementation of Risk Management for non-referees until 2006. He claimed that notice was not given in advance to the registration period. There was discussion by all that notice should have been received by the DRA whom was present and was also on the Rochester board with Pat. The minutes from the June, 2004 meeting were posted on the site after the September committee meeting. A motion was made to turn down the request and it was unanimously accepted by all present.

2. A referee had told the assessor that he had fewer than 6 adult games and therefore would not need an assessment, but did supply the 4 matches that he had. The assessor had learned that he had more than 6 and was concerned. This was given to Paul Lysiak to deal with since it was a referee from Rochester.
3. Curt brought up the fact that he was aware of at least one district that was charging a late fee for registrations received after December 31. They were using this as an incentive to get the registration done early. With the mess which was created by the National Office this year with the registration forms, this was shown not to work out. Not sure if it was the late fee not being an incentive or the form mess which contributed to this. The general feeling of the committee was that the district was allowed to do this, but should use care in their application of the policy to not discourage people. Bill F. brought up the fact that many of the late registrations came from young people not knowing by December what they were going to do the next summer.
4. Binghamton is hoping to start recertifying before the end of August. There are three reasons for this early start 1) Tournament in PA is going to use 2005 new laws at the end of August, 2) Get the college kids before they go back and 3) get it out of the way before people get into the HS/College way of things. The SDI is to supply an outline prior to this period of what should be covered for 2006 recert. clinics.
5. Reminder to all DRA's, let the instructors know that they are doing nobody a favor by not being upfront with the referee. If they do not re-qualify due to written or fitness test, tell them and give them an opportunity to retest. National will not accept registrations with proper recertification not matching the grade of the referee.
6. Curt reminded people that about a year and a half ago the committee had considered putting into place a \$5 fee. It was tabled for later conversation and was not ever acted upon. With the announcement of Jim Gabor's status of accounts and the toll that the increased services are causing it is now a good idea to revisit this. There was a lot of discussion about the services, etc. Jim G. made a motion that a \$5 "processing fee" be put into place for the 2006 registration for all non-recreational grade referees. The motion was seconded by Joe D, vote was taken and it was passed.

Good of the Organization

1. Bill F. reported that he has met with representatives of Upstate New York Premier Soccer League and NYSWSYA have been meeting over concerns that the UNYPSL has become too large to manage as a separate entity. These conversations will continue to occur at this time and Bill F. will be kept involved.
2. Paul L. announced that the relationship between himself and the unit appears to be improving. He was recently added to their executive board as a non-voting member.
3. Jim P. was wondering if house league games counted towards becoming/maintaining a grade 7. This would tie in with the tournament concept going into becoming/maintaining the grade. Curt stated that this will be discussed with the National Office during his talking to them about the tournaments.
4. Curt said that he will try to come up with a process which can be used to aid in the registration process. There were numerous problems noted by Curt and the National Office. Curt will try to get something to the districts in advance of the mid- to late-August timeframe which Binghamton is working in.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 PM.

Minutes as recorded by Curt Hamlin, acting secretary of the committee.

Next meeting will be September 18 from 10AM until 2PM at the Hampton Inn, Rochester (Greece), NY. At this meeting the dates for the upcoming year will be set.

Action Items:

1. All DRAs and Board Members must sign on and start using the Florida software system at wnyreferee.com.
2. DRAs are asked to forward to Curt information on those who have obtained or are currently obtaining risk management as coaches.
3. Art to write proposed guidelines for acceptable level of play with respect to "Division 2" and higher and a proposal for D&G assessments for Grade 7 Referees.
4. Curt to write recommendations to NYSWYSA for SYRA.

5. DRAs are directed to use the data made available to identify young up-and-coming referees. Once identified then they are directed to try to work with these individuals. People also need to identify alternative people which can be invited to Pro Clinic in 2006.
6. Bill C. and Curt to work on advertisements to be used for 2006 season.
7. Bill F. to write letter to Pat Tata about conclusions drawn by the committee.
8. Paul L. to investigate the misinformation from the referee to the assessor.
9. All districts must continue to send treasurer reports. Paul L is to find out what is going on with Rochester treasurer in this regard.
10. Bill P. to create outline for 2006 recertification clinics.
11. Curt to write up a procedure which can be followed for 2006 registrations.
12. Curt is to contact National Office about games which can be used for grade 7 upgrade/recertification.
13. Bill F. continue to monitor situation between UNYPSL and NYSWYSA.