

Western New York State Soccer Referees Association Meeting Minutes

03 April 2022

I. Call to order

SRA Tata called to order the regular meeting of the WNYSRA State Referee Committee at 10:01 EDT on 03 April 2022 as an online conference.

Roll call

Secretary Wolgast conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

VACANT, Chair

Michael Tata, SRA

Tom Ross, SDI

VACANT, SDA

Bill Campbell, SYRA

Ken Haller, SAC

Dave Wolgast, Secretary

Steve Wu, Treasurer

Bill Bianchi, Rochester

James Pitcher, Binghamton

Julie Randall, Ithaca

Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier

Steve Wu (for Bill Helwig), Buffalo

Elmira – Not Represented

Jason Byrnes, Syracuse

WNYSRA Representative - not represented

Alex Brame, NYSWYSA Representative

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from January 2022 (v101) previously distributed via Dropbox.com link –
Campbell requested amendment to get Young Referee nominations by May 1. Draft
Minutes amended as v102

Motion to accept: Ross

Second: Campbell

Approved unanimously

III. Treasurer's Report – Wu

<See Treasurer's report, separately filed>

Motion to accept: Campbell

Second: Bianchi

Approved unanimously

IV. SRA Report (Tata)

- Referee Registration Status
 - Better for 2022, but not nearly to previous levels. 200 pending to process from final recertification sessions
 - Many referees have not attended a recert – We are investigating holding an additional session for an additional \$35 fee. This fee will rise by \$10 for every year – Possibly an in-person advanced recert in the location where the most referees will be served. DRAs please determine numbers for each district
 - Last day for registration is April 30, 2022
 - Risk Management – starting to see delays due to large numbers of clubs being processed. Referees should strive to take care of this earlier in the year
 - Additional Entry Level courses are still possible, even after 30 April, based on requests from districts and instructor availability
 - Instructor, Assessor registration complete
- Policies and Procedures Finalization (see attached P&P document)

- Adds Game Reports Enforcement and wording changes around assessments/evaluations
- Motion to accept: Campbell
- Second: Phearsdorf
- Vote: Approved Unanimously

V. NYSWYSA (Brame)

- Grant received to do referee recruitment at WNY Colleges and Universities
 - Tata – Target those who have been cut from varsity teams
 - Randall – Target those who play club/recreational/intramurals
- Abuse must be stringently reported – NYSWYSA get reports every week from teams of referee abuse but no accompanying referee reports – want to deal with this.
- Request that if we still have interested parties, that we continue to hold entry level classes
 - Info from Tom Ross: We recruit large numbers of young referees who tend not to have time and referee very few games
 - 50% or fewer return for second year
- Any ideas for recruiting older referees will be considered for potential grant requests to US Youth Soccer and US Soccer.
 - Ross – Advertising during National Team matches
 - Byrnes – Recruit at State Cup
- Alex would like to attend regularly as NYSWYSA Designee

VI. SYRA Report (Campbell)

- State Cup – New contract favorable to referees
 - June 3, 4, 5
 - To nominate referees, contact Campbell by 18 April

- Young Referee of the Year invites sent before June 1 in order to have all paperwork complete before students prepare for college – will send out email request to districts
- Regional Invites: Nominees reviewed by Campbell and Tata
- State Cup playdowns have gone to self-scheduling – those games will outrank others on priority list

VII. SDI Report (Ross)

- Recert clinics/training -- We need to know from districts who still desires to attend a recert clinic so we can schedule any additional late recert sessions
- Fall entry level classes are possible, but will use previous year's materials and referees will need refresher (attend recert) on new year's changes
- Mentor classes will be needed (2023 will be final year for Instructor/assessor registrations). Would be best to structure around tournaments. Requirements:
 - Classroom
 - Video Review
 - Field Exercise
- We will not run referee coach training because of likely low demand and high cost
- Potential shift to Learning Center because OMS is not meeting our needs
 - Drawback: National background check is required, which is additional expense, and NYSW does not accept. – Brame – National does not include 7-year county check – Will verify whether that has changed
 - Pro: Will consolidate registration to a single web portal

VIII. SDA Report (Tata)

- No Report

IX. SCA Report (Haller)

- Has disabled registered assignors from GameOfficials who are not currently assigning affiliated leagues or tournaments Tata suggests that registrations are

denied for any assignor who does not have a current relationship with an affiliated competition

- Byrnes – Syracuse needs the unaffiliated rec games as a “training ground” because there are not enough affiliated matches

X. Binghamton (Pitcher)

- Not collecting local dues
- More games than referees

XI. Buffalo (Wu)

- 237 referees returning

XII. Elmira (not present)

- No report

XIII. Ithaca (Randall)

- No Report
- Not currently collecting local dues

XIV. Rochester (Bianchi)

- Working on getting referee rankings to Campbell
- Will send a message to non-returning referees
- Local Dues are being collected
- One more entry class next week

XV. Southern Tier (Phearsdorf)

- Had in-person clinic yesterday with 15 new referees
- Issues with getting enough referees to cover games in Bradford PA with officials who have the proper PA-West Risk Management credentials. PA-West referees do not want to do these games because they are too far away
- Will collect local dues – currently determining amount

XVI. Syracuse (Byrnes)

- Games underway
- Needs local meeting to align referees on procedures, uniform, etc...
- Wu question about Syracuse scholarship fund – has not had movement since 2018

XVII. Old Business

- Tata -- Fewer than 50 whistles left. Get badges distributed and let Tata know if you need additional Velcro

XVIII. New business

- None

XIX. Good of the Organization

- None

XX. Meetings

- Trying to find in-person location for September meeting (11 September 2022)

XXI. Adjournment

- Motion – Phearsdorf
- Second - Tata

SRA Tata adjourned the meeting at 12:31 EDT

Minutes approved by: <Name>