

# ***Western New York State Soccer Referees Association Meeting Minutes***

8 January 2023

## **I. Call to order**

SRA Tata called to order the regular meeting of the WNYSRA State Referee Committee at 10:01 EST on 8 January 2023 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 - Absent

Bill Bianchi, Rochester

Scott Theal, Binghamton

Julie Randall, Ithaca

Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier

Bill Helwig, Buffalo

Chad Sustello, Elmira

Syracuse – not represented

WNYSRA Representative - not represented

Alex Brame, NYSWYSA Representative

## **II. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Minutes from September 2022 (v102) previously distributed via Dropbox.com link –  
Tata requested amendment to Instructor recert statement. Draft Minutes amended as  
v101

Motion to accept: Phearsdorf

Second: Theal

Approved unanimously

### III. Treasurer's Report – Tata

*<Treasurer's report not delivered – unofficial discussion of ledger took place>*

- Ross – Status requested on Buffalo investigation
  - Any expenditures must be passed through Tata and Wu
  - No meetings scheduled for Buffalo group at this time

### IV. SRA Report (Tata)

- Pitcher has resigned as DRA from Binghamton. Scott Theal will assume DRA duties
- Recertification Needs:
  - **Assessor** – three recerts and a mentor class; additional mentor class Fall 2023
  - **Assignor** – suggest a Zoom session for simplicity
- Registration
  - Referee recertification last day is April 29
  - Non-referee recertification look to finish by end of February
  - Entry classes can go into May, if needed
  - Entry classes hosted by league or club can be held at anytime
- Law Firm
  - a. Finalization is pending
  - b. Waiting for NYSWYSA to get back on rate leverage
- Insurance - still looking into need for data breach liability coverage
- US Soccer AGM
  - March 14 – 16, 2023 in San Diego
  - Looking to attend as there are discussions on by-law changes impact SRC
  - WNYSA has tentatively asked that I go as their representative
- State Directors Meeting
  - Dates TBD; likely the weekend of March 25 in Chicago
  - All directors are welcome to attend

- SDA/SDI workshop is March 11 in Kansas City
- State Director of Assessment
  - Will remain vacant until we have clearer picture/understanding from national and WNYSA
  - SRA will continue to hold position
  - Steve Montanino will assist in some of the SDA duties
- Chairperson
  - Difficult position to cover as the role has little administrative duties and vote
  - If anyone knows of someone willing to be chair, let Michael know
- National is working on updating the job descriptions for SRC members, mainly directors.
  - Committee of several SRAs working on this task (heavy w/ Region 1)
  - WNY is represented on this committee
- Next SRC meeting
  - April – contingent on Directors' meeting
  - September 10
  - In-person
    - New day of the week (not Sundays)
    - Later on Sundays
- Future of Advanced Grassroots
  - Referee 90-minute match = Adv. Grassroots
    - Ross/Phearsdorf – Concerns about referee willingness to complete requirements
    - Would have to be phased in over several years
    - Sustello – need to appeal to referees' competitive nature
  - Name change?
    - Senior/Junior Grassroots
    - Referee Elite/ Grassroots
- **Note: Looking to have a sit down with Regional Referees (Buffalo and Rochester)**

## V. NYSWYSA (Brame)

- Will likely change registration software – should not impact referees
- Yates Report – abuse will become front and center – Referees must report all incidents to leagues/administration
- State Cup in Cortland 1<sup>st</sup> week in June, Regionals in Virginia last week in June/first week in July
- Registrations – back up to 25,000 players, recovering to pre-COVID numbers

- SafeSport – 18+ year old players will now be taking SafeSport training

## **VI. SYRA Report (Campbell)**

- Assigning system – Nothing to report – still evaluating multiple possible solutions.

## **VII. SDI Report (Ross)**

- Entry Level Referee courses
  - Make it as easy as possible to get through the door and become referees
  - Reduced in-person training to single day with field exercise – will start with 6 hours, 1-2 hours field session. We can reduce if we can cover the content in less time
  - Hope to continue district programs like Referee 101 (Rochester)
  - State encourages districts not to charge local dues to new referees. State maintenance fee is waived
  - Enrollments are down for entry classes
  - Recruiting -focus on high schools
    - Theal – HS Athletic directors may be willing to help as they understand correlation between youth referees and HS referees. Catch players who may not have the skill to compete at higher levels but want to continue to participate and contribute
    - Sustello – Use varsity soccer coaches – a number have reached out to him
    - Brame – Get feedback from those who go through the entry level process to determine what the effective recruiting methods are. Where are they learning about us?
- Team Official Behavior
  - We clearly define what offenses are automatic dismissals, and which can be cautioned or warned
  - Module in all recert sessions
  - If league does not require reporting, must contact assignor to report any team official/spectator misconduct

## **VIII. SDA Report (Tata)**

- GameOfficials assessment feature is gone
- Evaluations will move to OMS. Scoring will be different from GO form

## **IX. SCA Report (Haller)**

- Entry level assignor class is in works. May be Zoom or in person. Once set, it will be posted in OMS
- There will be an assignor recert on Zoom
- Abuse – Assignors need to use care in assigning new referees to have partners who have experience and can support them

## **X. Binghamton (Theal)**

- Transitioning from James Pitcher
- Entry course scheduled in Apalachin 3/18

## **XI. Buffalo (Helwig)**

- First advanced recert on 1/7
- Approximately 100 referees have completed registration except for recert. Most are experienced referees. Lagging on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> year registrations
- Entry level course registrations are slow with 3 courses scheduled thus far

## **XII. Elmira (Sustello)**

- 8-10 pending to take entry-level course
- One referee looking to upgrade – Tata advised to review the upgrade section on the website. The form may not work but we are trying to correct.

## **XIII. Ithaca (Randall)**

- Have begun recert sessions
- Entry class scheduled in February in Cortland
- Campbell – approximately 90-100 referees to recert for Bing/Ithaca/Elmira, 30 have completed online requirements

#### **XIV. Rochester (Bianchi)**

- Mike Smith is new Rochester board president
- 3 entry classes, Jan, Feb, and March
- New referees asking about help signing up for a class. Entire process is detailed in the “Become a Referee” section of website

#### **XV. Southern Tier (Phearsdorf)**

- Expect to have a location for entry class by tomorrow night
- Local leagues are inquiring about assignment hierarchy and why they are assigned behind other competitions – referred to state youth org for policy
- 2 BDSL (adult) teams in Southern Tier district – Issues with having enough referees to cover with current youth load

#### **XVI. Syracuse (Not represented)**

- No report

#### **XVII. Old Business**

- Theal – suggests looking into Horizon as an assigning solution. We are already evaluating. Campbell – We will also look at Zebra and assignr.com

#### **XVIII. New business**

- None

#### **XIX. Good of the Organization**

- Katy Nesbitt was RAR in men’s World Cup and has been appointed to Women’s World Cup 2023
- Thank you from Alex Brame and NYSWYSA for all of the efforts made by the referees

#### **XX. Meetings**

- April – Date TBA due to national meeting schedules

#### **XXI. Adjournment**

- Motion – Campbell

- Second - Phearsdorf

SRA Tata adjourned the meeting at 12:12 EST

Minutes approved by: Committee, 4/23/23