

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

10 September 2023

**I. Call to order**

SRA Tata called to order the regular meeting of the WNYSRA State Referee Committee at 18:01 EDT on 10 September 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

VACANT, SYRA

Ken Haller, SAC

Dave Wolgast, Secretary

Steve Wu, Treasurer

Rochester, not represented

Scott Theal, Binghamton

Julie Randall, Ithaca

Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier

Bill Helwig, Buffalo

Chad Sustello, Elmira

Jason Byrnes, Syracuse

WNYSRA Representative - not represented

Alex Brame & Hugh Goodridge, NYSWYSA Representatives

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

Minutes from April 2023 (v102) previously distributed via Dropbox.com link –

Motion to accept: Randall

Second: Byrnes

Approved unanimously

### III. Treasurer's Report – Wu

*<See attached treasurer's report>*

- Motion: Sustello
- Second: Byrnes
- Approved Unanimously

### IV. SRA Report (Tata)

- Donations to SRC
  - 22 people made donations in memory of Bill Campbell
  - Received \$1,385 for the Jonathan Solow scholarship
- Referee Registration
  - Last day 4/27/24
  - Entry Class hosted by league or club can be run anytime
  - About 1,000 people registered in 2023
    - 80 more than 2022
    - 130 more than 2021
- OSI Distribution of starter kits and badges for entry classes
  - We will continue to distribute whistles and pocket guides
- Regional Referee requirements
  - Two referee evaluations: One adult and one U19+
  - Specifically called out by US Soccer (January 2023)
- Adult Matches: Referee
  - Waived assessment requirement in 2023 (advanced)
  - Several complaints of carefree refereeing
  - Do we need to make changes or continue with the same requirements?
    - Byrnes – Is this responsibility shared with assignors?
    - Ross – We either need to have a standard or not...cannot keep making exceptions as was done in 2023
    - Will we have enough coaches/mentors to cover evaluations in 2024? – Mentor training offered in Spring 2024
    - Tata will speak with WNYSA and go with their decision whether fitness testing and evaluation is necessary

- Websites and such
  - Need to migrate to our own hosting solution. Email aliases are a concern
  - Document Repository: Dropbox
  - If DRAs are using subsites (district.wnyreferee.org), please let Tata know so we can ensure they get migrated to new host
- USASA Soccer AGM
  - September 2023 in Bonita Springs, FL
  - Looking to attend as there are discussions on by-law changes impact SRC
- US Soccer AGM
  - Dallas, TX, mid-February 2024
  - Contingent on USASA findings
- New Instructor Laptops?
  - Not likely a need at this time
- Other SRC positions
  - SDA – will begin looking to fill this position June/July
  - Chair – will begin to fill this position after SYRA and SDA
  - SDI is up for renewal

#### **V. SYRA Report (Tata)**

- Officially Posted open position
  - Two Applicants
  - Waiting for NYSWYSA to provide any additional attention/needs to the job
  - Plan is to fill spot by October 1
- State Cup 2024
  - State Cup – New format for 2024, heavier on Playdowns
- Regionals – 8 Referees, 2 mentors
  - 1 Selected for nationals, Kirstin Hirschberger
- William Campbell Youth Referee of the Year (male and female)
  - Application deadline 9/1/23
  - Winner determined by September 15, 2023
  - Received 8 responses from 44 invitations
  - 5 males, 2 females, 1 decline
- Julie Randall and Tata will be on committee

#### **VI. NYSWYSA (Brame)**

- Will send more information about new State Cup 2024 format, only semifinals and finals at Cortland

- Funding now available for recruiting from colleges/universities
- New US Soccer recommendations on ball size/pressure

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

- Mentor Training (Spring 2024)
  - Online component with videos (waived for current instructors/assessors)
  - 3 Hour virtual meeting
  - In-person show proficiency in leading video analysis and field sessions
  - Must complete evaluations/feedback under supervision
  - We were not able to get enough participation for session 2023 State Cup
- Entry Level Referee Training
  - Velcro circles and badges – Distributed by OSI
  - Futsal course
  - Uniform Option – 10-piece starter kit for \$53 with yellow jersey, upgraded flags, second jersey is green and can be added on for \$16.50
  - 4.5-hour online training on Learning Center is required going forward (referee licenses will not be approved by US Soccer without course completion)
  - Safety Trainings – Healthy Playing Environments/SafeSport
  - Register for 6-hour in-person sessions
  - Helwig – Facility requirements for in-person?
    - Optimal – classroom-like location for video review, space appropriate for field exercises (half-field if possible) for entire duration – School cafeteria may work
    - Sustello – has had success with church spaces for small donations
    - Theal – Some school ADs have been interested in offering space for referee training
- Recertification

- Online
  - Can be done between opening of registration (early November) and April 27, 2024
- In-Person
  - Adult Referees & Emeritus Referees
  - Districts will schedule as many sessions as are needed, ~35 referees per session maximum
  - No makeup sessions

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

- Formal posting for SDA will be made after SYRA position is filled
- Need for new Mentors/Coaches
  - Plan mentor course spring 2024
  - Coaches course potentially being offered through Region 1 TBD
- Changes to Assessment Program
  - Officially now known as evaluations
  - US Soccer has made it clear that recertifying Regional Referees must be evaluated on two referee matches
    - One Adult, one U19+
    - Regional Referees have been informed of the need to increase assessment fee collected at registration from \$90 to \$160
  - Regional Referee candidates must still be evaluated as referee on two matches and assistant referee on one. Fee is \$180
  - Slight increase in assessment fee to cover mileage reimbursement to referee coach
  - Advanced Referee evaluation requirements remain unchanged
    - One U17+ referee evaluation

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

- Recertification will be held for assignors this year via Zoom, 2-3 sessions, no more than 20 assignors per session
  - Points of emphasis – who is eligible to do adult games; assigning with referee development mindset; Risk Management requirements
- 44 assignors
- Ross – Assigning by email/first come-first served does not work well – too much occurring in Rochester district; Also need to get up-and-coming referees promoted/prioritized over emeritus/end-of-career referees
- New Assigning Platform
  - Tata – GameOfficials should be around for a while, but we have no guarantees. Support is poor. We are evaluating platforms (assignr.com (integrates with OMS), arbitersports.com, GotSport (potential discount via NYSWYSA). Demosphere will not be considered)

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

- Question on how to adopt no-show policy
  - Via board policy or via assignor

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

- New board – work in progress

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

- Elmira board requested merging with Binghamton – Tata will take offline

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

- No report

#### **XIV. Rochester**

- No report

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

- Fewer than 50 referees

**XVI. Syracuse (Jason Byrnes)**

- Need more referees because of league scheduling (Haller – May be Ithaca referees willing/available)

**XVII. Old Business**

- None

**XVIII. New business**

- Possibility to set up event with Katy Nesbitt for referee development (possibly also Tori Penso) – Rochester and/or Buffalo – Target young referees (especially women), possibly media presence and leagues
  - Goodridge – Could potentially use AGM in November

**XIX. Good of the Organization**

- None

**XX. Meetings**

**XXI. SRC Meetings**

- Next Meeting: Jan 14, 2024

**XXII. Adjournment**

- Motion – Wolgast
- Second - Phearsdorf

SRA Tata adjourned the meeting at 20:23 EDT

Minutes approved by: SRC 1/14/2024