

Western New York Referee Association

State Referee Committee

Meeting Minutes

Held at the Hampton Inn, Rochester, NY on March 5, 2000. Meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Roll Call

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|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Reinhold M. Spath, SRA | (rms1@eznet.net) |
| 2. William Fahey, SYRA | (wdf28@aol.com) |
| 3. David Wolgast, SDI | (dwolgas1@rochester.rr.com) |
| 4. Art Jaspe, SDA also representing Buffalo | (ajaspe@aol.com) |
| 5. Curt Hamlin, SCA, Acting Recording Secretary | (curt_Hamlin@msn.com) |
| 6. Christopher Chilano, DRA (Batavia) | (cmcsoc@iinc.com) |
| 7. Robert Johnson (Elmira) | |
| 8. David Atwood, DRA (Ithaca) | (dmawhf@clarityconnect.com) |
| 9. William Pasnak (Rochester) | (pazref@aol.com) |
| 10. Angelo Paparo, DRA (Syracuse) | (juve736@aol.com) |

Not Represented

1. Gary Pawleshyn, DRA (Binghamton)
2. William Phearsdorf, DRA (Southern Tier)
3. Dave Herron, DRA (Twin Tier)
4. Tony Buiniskis, President of NYSW
5. Arman Capon, Amateurs WNY

Miscellaneous

A big thank you to all areas that could be represented. The main objective of this meeting is information sharing and coordination of the various areas that this committee serves.

Old Business

1. Reinhold Spath and William Fahey introduced Curt Hamlin as the new State Coordinator of Assignors.
2. Reinhold handed out an update on the registration status. It shows that the number of registrants for 2000 will exceed 1999. In 1999 there were a total of 1,276 officials. To date in 2000 there are 1,015. There are several courses to go so that number will be higher. There are also registered 20 instructors, 35 assessors and 68 assignors.
3. Along with the discussion of the registration status it was brought up how to handle officials which request a leave of absence. It was acknowledged that an official may take a one-year leave of absence with no penalty; the only requirement is that they pay the local dues in order to stay in touch with their board. A leave of absence of up to two years can be given, but the official upon returning must take the full written test. A leave of absence of more than two years would require the official to take part in the second half of an entry-level training course and take the full written test. The official would also drop one full grade, but may be reinstated to his/her old grade after 6 months.

4. There are currently 68 assignors registered after David Wolgast put on a successful course. No other course is planned at this time, but names should be submitted to Curt Hamlin, SCA and when at least 10 people are known to be interested, then another course could be offered.
5. A Policies and Procedures manual has been started for the State Referee Committee. Currently there is only one entry in this manual on "Supplying Officials to State Sponsored Tournaments", but this will be an ever-evolving entity. This Policy and Procedures manual is intended to ensure that all districts are handling situations the same across the board. It was discussed to formulate a formal guideline on how to adopt various Policy and Procedures. William Fahey will look into coming up with such a guideline.
6. At the last State Referee Committee meeting there was discussion of getting out a mass mailing to all officials. It was brought up that the NYSW office offered to aid in such a mailing. Curt Hamlin contacted Dan Watson of NYSW and found that indeed such a mailing could occur, but when the discussion turned to the volume of the mailing, they were forced to turn us down. NYSW is not setup to be able to handle such a volume of 1,300 pieces and would have to farm it out. Curt Hamlin will further research how we can get out a mass mailing.
7. A draft copy of the WNYRA Referee Handbook was handed out to all that were present. William Fahey and Curt Hamlin request that everyone look over this draft copy. Get all suggestions, amendments, and deletions to one of them so that another draft can be reviewed at the next meeting. This handbook is to be eventually copied and supplied to every official. It is intended as a primary resource for the every day life of an official. It covers what is necessary for an upgrade, game guideline, out of state travel, conduct, assault on an official, etc.
8. William Fahey gave an update on Project 50. It was stated that 51 mailings have gone out to various officials already. A copy was also sent to every DRA and President in every area. There were several areas that did not submit any names. These people are given a very short time span to get this list into William Fahey if they want the letter to come from the State Referee Committee. Otherwise, it will be up to each area to distribute the mailing themselves. William Fahey also stated that Project 50 is only a name. He does not care if there are 100 officials, he only asks that each DRA consider the following guidelines:
 - i. the official needs to be young
 - ii. the official must show the potential of being something other than just a good local official
 - iii. the official has to be willing to represent us in the various state and national tournaments.
 It is hoped that Project 50 will become something special that people will inspire to belong to. They have to be willing to put a little more into being an official than the average person.
9. Art Jaspe reviewed district Director of Assessments idea. He supplied the national guidelines for this position and it was discussed as to how it fits into WNY. The intent of the position is for the districts to be able to handle potential Project 50 candidates and coordinate assessors to go to local tournaments. It is not intended to deal with upgrade or state grade maintenance assessments.

USISL	(3 officials)	
D3		
Premier/1rst Division	(64 officials)	8 National/State Assessors
State Maintenance		
Upgrade to grade 6	(11 officials)	

Upgrade to 7		
Local Tournaments		27 Assessors/Associate Assessors
Standard Assessments (Developmental)		

It was agreed that everything above the line should be coordinated by only Art Jaspe, SDA. It was agreed that everything below the line should be coordinated by the DDA's who report to Art Jaspe, SDA.

Art Jaspe is to write a complete job description and try to come up with recommendations of who he would like to see filling these posts. At this time it was agreed that only 4, DDA's are necessary for the areas of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Binghamton.

10. David Wolgast discussed the plans for the ITIP course, which was originally planned for February and March. He explained that this course is 32 hours long and is usually run over the course of two weekends. William Fahey offered the suggestion that people may be happier doing a clinic in one weekend running Thursday to Sunday rather than trying to give up two weekends. It was also suggested that the clinic take place in November. This is after the majority of the outdoor seasons are done so people are available.

The ITIP (Instructional Theory put Into Practice) course is used for Associate Instructors, either provisional or full, to become Referee Instructors. Many of our instructors are listed as grade 7 or 8 instructors even though this course was never taken. It does not excuse them from the necessity of this program, which David talked very highly of.

William Fahey was interested in the course because that would mean more of our instructors would be qualified to teach the intermediate courses. The ability to teach these intermediate courses is becoming more and more important for the unit. These would become mandatory clinics for the Project 50 candidates.

David Wolgast said that he would get a mailing out quickly to all of the registered instructors to get their input as to when would be best to hold the ITIP course.

11. William Fahey handed out a copy of a proposal to change the title from ASRA to DRA for all districts. This would put us in line with the national camps and better states what the role of the DRA is. All at the meeting accepted this. The title will take place on April 1, 2000 and will be added to the Policy and Procedures.
12. Angelo Paparo brought up the problem of young referees leaving. William Fahey stated that he had polled referees leaving the Rochester unit. The reason for them leaving in order are 1) the parents, 2) coaches and 3) lack of games. The best aggressive way of dealing with this problem is the "Mom and Pop" courses that were outlined at the December meeting. These courses are to be used to educate those parents so that they will not be quite so abusive to the officials. This hopefully will lessen that role in the loss of young referees.

New Business

1. William Fahey handed out a sheet offering a WNY standard for handling the emeritus status official. Current guidelines in WNY are that once an official becomes emeritus he automatically drops to U-19 with some amateur lines. The suggestion is to change this guideline and bring it in line with the national expectations. It is merely stated that when an official goes emeritus that he is retiring from that level of game, but retains his grade. However, if the official chooses, the official may work any game below the level they were working. In other words, if the official can pass the state refresher test, physical fitness test, and has an annual assessment, then there is no reason why this official cannot do Amateur 2nd division games. At a minimum though, if the official chooses to continue to officiate, even at the youth

level, that official needs to take the entry-level refresher test. This is to be sure that the official is keeping up with the law changes. This will be added to the Policy and Procedures.

2. David Wolgast would like to see a growing presence of WNYRA on the World Wide Web (internet). He has been tinkering with a web site for some time but is finding it a challenge to keep it up currently. David proposed that we find a volunteer Webmaster amongst our ranks, register a domain name and find a permanent home for the site. Everyone agreed of the importance of this. David is to draw up a job description and distribute it to all of the DRA's as quickly as possible. The current address of the web site is: <http://home.rochester.rr.com/referee/WNYRA.htm>
3. David Wolgast requested expenditure for him to mass-produce his instructional materials onto CD-Rom for all instructors. In doing so it brings up the importance of purchasing a minimum of three laptop computers and projectors. This is not a minor purchase and would have to be looked at seriously. This is the way that all national instructors have gone and more and more of the instructional materials are coming out in multimedia formats. David is going to look into getting support from NYSW and WNYRA. It was also suggested that he look into a grant from the U.S. Soccer Foundation. William Fahey stated that he could help David get CD-R disks with jewel cases at a discount from Kodak. This will help by at least getting the course work out to the instructors.
4. Art Jaspe stated that Jerry Sullivan (Buffalo) would like WNYRA to grant them some money to pay for assessments at local tournaments. William Fahey brought up the fact that most tournaments in the Rochester area have that built into their budget. Buffalo should look into their contracts to see if that can be worked out. This is indeed an important tool and needs to be used, but the tournament hosting should pay developmental assessments done at tournaments.
5. Art Jaspe also wanted to reaffirm that the dual system of control was never to be used in an USSF match. The only alternatives are diagonal system of control by three officials, one official/assistant referee/club linesman or one official and two club linesmen. This needs to be sent to all including State Referee Committee, District Referee Administrators, Assignors and district President's. William Fahey said that he would also present this to the State Youth Committee. Everyone should be thinking of what kind of consequence for this violation should be. There are three different people to be considered for this violation: 1) the referee who does it because only two officials show up to the game and they do not want to run it with a club linesman, 2) the assignor who purposefully assigns two referees to the game and 3) the club which requests that only two referees be assigned to cut costs. Any suggestions should be given to William Fahey prior to the next meeting.
6. Angelo Paparo discussed what to do to deal with commissioners who ok multiple tournaments for the same weekend. He just does not have the officials to go around to do this and cannot cover the tournaments appropriately. He was most concerned with the fines to be handed out if they did not send the correct number of qualified officials to the state sponsored tournaments. It was pointed out that the state sponsored tournaments take precedence over any local tournaments. It was also suggested that Angelo open a dialog with the commissioners and point out his problem. Without this open dialog there is not much that can be done.
7. Reinhold Spath brought to the attention of the committee that Islam Sallaj would like to be reinstated as a Rhinos official. He was originally dropped from this list because of:
 - methods of assigning games
 - language and attitude on field
 - physical conditioning

He has agreed to take the physical fitness exam again and just the fact that he opened this dialog with Reinhold was a major step forward. It was agreed that if Islam can correct his physical conditioning that he should be reinstated. Assessments would also be used to ensure that the other problems are

improving. William Fahey offered the suggestion that Art Jaspe or someone else in Buffalo, take Islam out for a cup of coffee. Just some off the record, one on one contact, could go a long way in bringing this very promising young official around.

8. Reinhold would also like to remind all DRA's that High School and College experience is not to be included on the registration form. These do not meet the requirements of USSF.
9. It was agreed that the next State Referee Committee meeting be held on May 7 at the same place.

Action Items

1. Formulate procedure to adopting Policy and Procedures **(Fahey)**
2. Ways to get out a mass mailing to all officials **(Hamlin)**
3. Read the draft WNYRA Referee Handbook. Get all suggestions, amendments and deletions to William Fahey or Curt Hamlin **(ALL SRC members)**
4. Additional Project 50 candidates for mailing. **(ALL SRC members)**
5. Complete job description for DDA and possible names to fill the posts **(Jaspe)**
6. Check with all instructors and set up the ITIP course **(Wolgast)**
7. Complete job description for Webmaster, research World Wide Web site, research Domain name for the internet **(Wolgast)**
8. Develop a grant proposal for funding for instructional materials **(Wolgast)**
9. Reaffirm diagonal system of control to all involved **(Fahey, Hamlin)**

The next SRC meeting will be held on May 7 at the Hampton Inn, Rochester. Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 and a quick executive meeting took place.