

## **Western New York Referee Association**

State Referee Committee

### **Meeting Minutes**

Held at the Hampton Inn, Rochester, NY on May 7, 2000. Meeting was called to order at 1:00pm.

### **Roll Call**

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Reinhold M. Spath, SRA                       | (sra@wnyreferee.org)    |
| 2. William Fahey, SYRA                          | (syra@wnyreferee.org)   |
| 3. David Wolgast, SDI                           | (sdi@wnyreferee.org)    |
| 4. Art Jaspe, SDA                               | (sda@wnyreferee.org)    |
| 5. Curt Hamlin, SCA, Acting Recording Secretary | (sca@wnyreferee.org)    |
| 6. William Helwig, DRA (Buffalo)                | (billreferee@yahoo.com) |
| 7. Richard Reif (Rochester)                     |                         |
| 8. Joe Delity (Southern Tier)                   |                         |
| 9. Angelo Paparo, DRA (Syracuse)                | (juve736@aol.com)       |
| 10. Tony Buiniskis, President of NYSW           | (ajb4soccer@aol.com)    |

### **Not Represented**

1. Christopher Chilano, DRA (Batavia)
2. Gary Pawleshyn, DRA (Binghamton)
3. Daniel O'Herron, DRA (Elmira)
4. David Atwood, DRA (Ithaca)
5. Dave Herron, DRA (Twin Tier)
6. Arman Capan, Amateurs WNY

### **Miscellaneous**

A special thanks for Tony Buiniskis showing up even though he is still only at "65%" of his health after the surgery in January. It definitely shows the commitment the youth organization has made to the State Referee Committee.

### **Old Business**

1. Reinhold Spath handed out an update on the registration status. It shows that the number of referees for 2000 has definitely exceeded 1999. In 1999 there were a total of 1,276 referees. As of May 4 there are 1,437 referees, 21 instructors, 34 assessors and 69 assignors.
2. Spath announced what he felt was needed in the various districts for 2001. The break down of this is Batavia 1 or 2 instructors and 1 or 2 assignors, Binghamton 1 or 2 instructors and 2 to 3 assessors, Buffalo 1 or 2 instructors, Elmira 1 instructor 2 assessors and 2 assignors, Ithaca 1 instructor 2 assessors and 1 assignor, Rochester nothing, Syracuse 1 or 2 instructors 2 assessors and 2 assignors, Southern Tier 2 instructors 3 assessors and 2 assignors, and Twin Tier 1 instructor and 1 assessor.
3. Spath would like all districts to announce to their general body that the number one reason people did not receive their registration forms or packets is because they had a change of address. Mail from Chicago is sent 3<sup>rd</sup> class and will not be forwarded. It is the referee's responsibility, not the unit, SRA or anyone else, to notify Chicago. Just send the post card available at any post office to USSF Soccer House, Referee Dept, 1801-1811 S. Prairie Ave, Chicago, IL 60616.

4. Please announce in the various districts through out the coming months that the analysis of whether courses will be offered for 2001 for assessor, assignor and instructor will be made on August 1. That anyone interested needs to contact Art Jaspe about assessing, Curt Hamlin about assigning and David Wolgast about instructing. The information will be collected and if the numbers are there the courses will be done. As shown in item #2 of old business, each district has some need and desire for these courses.
5. Spath also announced that referees in the Batavia unit had put match experience for an unaffiliated league. All of this experience has been removed from the referees overall match experience. Again DRA's, please try to take care of this. It should not be up to the SRA to catch these mistakes. USSF referees may do unaffiliated games, they are just not to wear their badge and they must recognize that they are not covered by USSF insurance. These games do not count towards match experience.
6. William Fahey submitted his proposal for a Procedure for adopting "Policy and Procedures". It was reviewed by all present and with the modification of changing the 100% agreement by the executive board to 5 out of 7 and the addition of SRC to the list of people allowed to submit changes it was adopted.
7. Curt Hamlin reviewed the current status of the mass mailing update. At this point in time without having an actual product to take to someone to get quotes, this item will remain an open action item.
8. Hamlin reviewed the latest draft to the WNYRA Handbook. He had four concerns that were brought up by one district. Hamlin did not want this to be a specific handbook and wanted to keep it very generic so it could be applied across all nine districts. The following was discussed:
  - a) It was agreed that the section currently titled "Game Procedures" should be changed to "Game Procedure for Adult and Travel Games" and the section marked "The Youth Game" be changed to "The Recreational Level Game".
  - b) The district also wanted added that the substitution stipulation of being on the same side of the field be changed to subject to local league rules. It was agreed that this was not necessary, that the official reply by the handbook should stay in line with USSF guidelines.
  - c) The district wanted added to the post game responsibilities that the referee have the score verified by team representatives if needed. It was agreed that the referee report is the final say by a non-partisan party. Therefore that score is the score no matter if team representatives verify it or not. With this kept in mind it is not necessary to have the teams verify the score.
  - d) This district wanted to add the ability to card a coach if local league allows. David Wolgast said that he had already talked to that district and told them this was not proper. If the leagues want to keep track of discipline to coaches, then they should supply each coach a pass. If they are ejected from the game then that pass can be turned in with the game report. Any incidents with a team representative should be duly noted in the referee report. So the leagues should be able to track this problem without a card issuance. David Wolgast will write a letter to Ken Bliss, Neil Fisher and the district to make this an official announcement from the SRC.

Art Jaspe presented his ideas on changes to the assessment part of the handbook. After review, the form for request for upgrade was struck down. The steps of request were good and will be adopted. The letter that already exists in the handbook will be changed to be addressed to the SRA rather than

the SDA. Further discussion was made on how the executive board can stay in touch on how these upgrade requests are progressing. Hamlin and Wolgast stated that something could be developed on the web site that is secured to aid in doing this.

Hamlin brought up his concerns about the acceptance and desire of this handbook in the districts. In two months he had only heard back from two people out of the 20 that it was distributed to. Everyone present agreed that this is a good product and it needs to be distributed to all current referees and be standard to hand it out at all of the new referee clinics. This handbook once completed will also be placed on the web site so anyone can print it out.

9. Fahey handed out the current list of the Project 50 candidates. Again he emphasized that the name Project 50 is a name only, currently there are 60 referees on the list. This is a dynamic list and will be forever changing and he will keep everyone up to date at each meeting. Fahey does want each district to review the current list and make sure it is right. Rochester with over 450 referees should be able to find more than 11 possible candidates for this list. Please remember that these candidates should primarily be between the ages of 16 and 22, grade 7 and good potential grade 8s should be the target for this list even though new 6s are also good.
10. Art Jaspe handed out the DDA job description and announced the people he has selected for the job. These people are Joe Dunn of Syracuse, Richard Reif of Rochester, Tom Mingle of Buffalo (which will also handle Batavia and Southern Tier) and Warren Musselman for Twin Tier and Elmira. These people will be the contacts for any local assessments. Any upgrade and maintenance assessments still MUST go through Art Jaspe as the State Director of Assessment. This is already in place for 2000 and will be reviewed at the end of the season to see how well it worked out.
11. David Wolgast reviewed the ITIP course. He had polled all of the existing instructors and it was unanimous in wanting to use just a 4-day weekend for this course rather than stretching it across two weekends. He announced that the dates of August 10-13 will be used and he will get to work on lining up instructors, course material, etc. to pull this off by then. Fahey announced his major desire for this course to keep Project 50 going. It had been four years since an intermediate course had been offered and it is sorely needed by many referees to continue their training in becoming the best referees they could be.
12. Tony Buiniskis, while on the subject of training referees, asked about the mentoring process. Fahey explained that Buffalo has gone all out in selling the mentoring system and is really looking good for 2000. Rochester is another place where there have been set up some mentoring for 2000 and will look into expanding it for 2001. This will be reviewed and refined at the end of the 2000 season to see how to go about starting it up in the other districts. It was also agreed that the amateur division needed to get more involved with this. The youth have really supported this and think it is great, but he questioned what the amateurs have been doing.
13. Wolgast and Hamlin reviewed the internet presence of Western New York. It was announced that we do have a domain ([www.wnyreferee.org](http://www.wnyreferee.org)) and that it is up and running. It is currently being done by both Wolgast and Hamlin in harmony and seems to be working out quite well so far. Only one person showed a desire in possibly being a webmaster, but Wolgast and Hamlin thought they could do an equal job at this point. They both wished that more of the various districts would get involved. If any district wants anything posted, please notify one of them and they will get it up quickly. There are areas available for each district. Currently only Batavia and Rochester have taken advantage of this. If this is going to work, every district needs to get involved. This will remain an open agenda item and will be reviewed again.

14. Wolgast stated that he felt ill equipped to properly write a grant proposal for the instructional material and will be needing assistance. Richard Reif from Rochester stated that he has written many proposals and would be more than willing to help with this. Being an instructor himself he realizes the need for this equipment. Fahey has stated that he has already started the process of reviewing and finding a good projection system. Reif stated that he could help find good laptops to be used. The progress of this will be reviewed again at the next meeting.
15. Fahey presented a proposal for the Policies and Procedures in regard to the Diagonal System of Control is to be the only system used in Western New York. This is the only system that is recognized by USSF and must have the total support of WNYRA. The proposal was accepted and means effective immediately, referees and assignors who participate in the dual system are on their own with NO support from USSF or WNYRA if something should occur. Anyone engaging in this system and are reported to the SRC, will be subjected to rule 3042 of the USSF Official Administrative Rule Book, Penalties Section 3, as directed by the SRC executive committee.
16. Hamlin presented to the committee the current listing of all Policies and Procedures that have been adopted by the committee since December, 1999. This document will be constantly updated and will contain a cover page and index for finding items that it will contain. Tony Buiniskis recommended that the document be placed on the web page. This will happen in the not to distant future.

## **New Business**

1. Fahey handed out the listing of all of the ODP candidates. This is the list that will be submitted and there are some alternates already designated in case for some reason someone cannot go. We have the numbers necessary so no fines will be levied against us. All of the referee candidates are Project 50 people.
2. Fahey handed out the listing of all of the Regional candidates. This is not the same list and all referee representatives are Project 50 people. Alternates have already been contacted in case someone cannot go. We have the numbers necessary so no fines will be levied against us.
3. Fahey updated the committee with the status of the President's Cup. Everything seems to be set up. All of the referees have been assigned and will be notified first part of the week. All out of town guests are being directed to the Holiday Inn, Batavia, which is about a 35-40 minute trek to Brockport.
4. The Super League has two entries from NYW in the U-16 Boys bracket. They are the Jr. Rhinos from Rochester and the Buffalo Football Club from Buffalo. There will be 9 games, 5 in Buffalo and 4 in Rochester, which we will be supplying referees. It will be requested of the team of referees to complete the Federation Game Report as a preview of the paperwork they can expect for Professional Games. It was also agreed that a full assessment should be made on the refereeing team and the cost will be paid for by WNYRA and NYW. It was brought up to make a call to anyone who may want to volunteer to be a fourth official for these games.
5. Buiniskis brought up that a Regional Director's League would be starting soon. These teams will be selected not by who can pay the entrance fee, but their past performance in the Regionals.
6. Buiniskis announced that the new full time State Director of Coaching, Glen Buckley, wants to propose that a referee instructor come to their coaching clinics to talk about the Laws of the Game. He felt that it would be better coming from a referee instructor rather than from himself. Wolgast will contact Mr. Buckley and see what can be arranged.

7. Buiniskis stated that the youth board would be meeting around the third week in August. He would like to have all of the preliminary work out of the way for ironing out a contract for the President's and State Cup tournaments before then. Fahey stated that he would contact the youth organization to set up some meeting for that to happen.
8. Buiniskis stated that his organization writes some very sizeable checks to the WNYRA and he would like to see the financial statement. Fahey pointed out that the largest bulk of these payments are in relation to the two major youth tournaments and that his organization already receives a full accounting of where that money goes. Spath stated that he had just recently filed the taxes for WNYRA and that he would forward a copy to the youth organization.
9. It was brought up that polo shirts should be purchased for all of the ODP and Regional representatives from WNY. Fahey would like to purchase an Adidas shirt similar in style to the one currently being worn by the youth organization representatives. Buiniskis stated that Fahey should look locally for someone to deal with on the shirts. Get them and the youth organization has someone in Cornell who does the embroidery for them to put on the NYW logo. Buiniskis also thought it would be a good idea that all SRC active members should also have similar shirts when representing WNY in a youth capacity such as the President's and State Cup tournaments. Fahey will look into this and if he can find someone to deal with reasonably will get it in motion immediately.
10. Wolgast announced that the pro clinic went very well, was well attended, and the instructor did a fine job not going over the professional rules which the referees can read for themselves. Instead the instructor spent the time discussing what it means to be a professional referee and what is expected of them.
11. Angelo Paparo says that he has been contacted by an organization outside WNY to supply some referees to some of their tournaments. He stated that some of these tournaments are just 10 miles over the route 81 border of WNY. It was agreed that they are still in ENY jurisdiction and that it is fine that WNY supply referees, with the stipulation that these referees contact Spath for permission to travel outside their district.

## **Action Items**

1. Analysis of the need and desire for courses for instructors, assignors and assessors  
**(Wolgast, Hamlin, Jaspe)**
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. Review Project 50 candidates for additions and deletions  
**(ALL SRC members)**
5. Review how the DDA position worked out for the 2000 season  
**(Jaspe)**
6. Set up the ITIP course  
**(Wolgast)**
7. Fahey to talk to Arman Capan about amateur support of the mentoring program  
**(Fahey, Capan)**
8. Review mentoring program in Rochester and Buffalo for future expansion  
**(Fahey, Pasnak, Helwig)**
9. Develop a grant proposal for funding for instructional materials  
**(Wolgast, Reif)**

10. Review how the internet use is helping out WNY **(Hamlin, Wolgast)**
11. Send copy of the commitment to the Diagonal only system to all assignors **(Hamlin)**
12. Review the evolving Policies and Procedures document **(Hamlin)**
13. Review how the youth state, ODP and regional tournaments went **(Fahey, Jaspe)**
14. Assign assessors to all nine Super League games **(Jaspe)**
15. Assign referees to all Super League games **(Fahey, Pasnak, Helwig)**
16. Contact amateurs to fund fourth officials for all W-League games for training **(Fahey, Capan)**
17. Review the super league season **(Fahey, Jaspe)**
18. Work with the State Director of Coaching on course work for coaches **(Wolgast)**
19. Send financial report to the youth organization **(Spath)**
20. Review the President's and State Cup contract **(Fahey)**
21. Find a reasonable source for Adidas Polo shirts for representatives of WNY at youth events **(Fahey)**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:47pm. The next meeting will occur after the season winds down, probably some time late in August.