

Western New York Referee Association

State Referee Committee

Meeting Minutes

Held at the Hampton Inn, Rochester, NY on September 17, 2000. Meeting was called to order at 1:07pm.

Roll Call

1. Reinhold M. Spath, SRA (sra@wnyreferee.org)
2. William Fahey, SYRA, Chairperson (syra@wnyreferee.org)
3. David Wolgast, SDI (sdi@wnyreferee.org)
4. Art Jaspe, SDA (sda@wnyreferee.org)
5. Curt Hamlin, SCA, Recording Secretary (sca@wnyreferee.org)
6. Arman Capan, Amateurs WNY (arman@eznet.net)
Louis Boyen (Amateurs)
7. Wally Wiegert, (Binghamton)
8. William Helwig, DRA (Buffalo) (billreferee@yahoo.com)
9. Angelo Paparo, DRA (Syracuse) (juve736@aol.com)
Ron Cook (Syracuse)

Not Represented

1. Tony Buiniskis, President of NYSW
2. Christopher Chilano, DRA (Batavia) - excused
3. Daniel O'Herron, DRA (Elmira)
4. David Atwood, DRA (Ithaca)
5. William Pasnak, DRA (Rochester)
6. William Phearsdorf, DRA (Southern Tier)
7. Dave Herron, DRA (Twin Tier)

Miscellaneous

A special thanks to all that could make the first State Referee Committee for the 2000-1 season. The executive committee recognizes the commitment that it takes for volunteers to come together for the better of the soccer community in Western New York. The executive committee in the near future will be deciding what to do about districts which have not been represented at all in the past year.

Old Business

1. Analysis of the need and desire for courses for instructors, assignors and assessors. It was asked that all DRAs have announced in their districts that entry level courses would be planned for Winter/Spring of 2001.
 - a) Instructors as reported by David Wolgast - The ITIP course did not take place in August as planned. Due to funding with NYSW, the course will be rescheduled before the end of the year. He also reports that because of the need for an entry level course, one will be planned in late winter 2001.
 - b) Assignors as reported by Curt Hamlin - To date only Rochester and Buffalo have submitted some names for these courses. He will continue to accept names and as long as we can get the numbers, a course will be set up and announcement will be made.
 - c) Assessors as reported by Art Jaspe - There is a big need for assessors in the Southern Tier/Binghamton area. This is a geographic need, not necessarily a numbers need, so as long as

Binghamton can supply 6 and sponsor the course, a minimum of only 10 will be needed to hold it.

2. William Fahey read the letter that he wrote on 7/16 to the amateurs requesting support for the mentor system, paying for the fourth official at W-League matches, and for financial support for the State Referee Committee. In the letter he explained that there is currently a mentoring system at the youth level which is flourishing. A fourth official for the W-League games would only cost \$20 per game and gains that needed experience for the Rhinos and other professional games. Funding for the SRC was at the most basic level, to pay for the facilities, mailings, etc. in the amount estimated at \$1,200 per year.

Arman Capan explained that even though he understands and agrees with everything which was said in the letter, that the SRC had to understand that financially the amateur's are not as financially stable as the youth. Comparing numbers of some 50,000 players locally for the youth and only 2,500 players for the amateurs nationally. The numbers are just not there, and the fundamental difference that mom and dad will do whatever is necessary to have their son/daughter playing, the amateurs do not get that support.

Having said that, Arman stated that the amateurs are having a meeting next week. He will be presenting the letter to the board and that a response will be made to William Fahey by the second week in October.

3. Louis Boyen, also a representative from the amateurs, explained that the RAYSL and MCGSL have been disbanded. They have joined forces to create a new league called Rochester District Youth Soccer League. Also a conversation came up about the Assistant Referee Grade. Even though it is not accepted yet, there is to be more conversation in getting it accepted between USSF and the amateurs in the near future. David Wolgast and Arman Capan will keep the board apprised of the situation.
4. Art Jaspe addressed Arman Capan about getting the three referee system to be used more in the amateurs (and also youth). Art explained that the three referee system was used almost exclusively in the Syracuse, Binghamton and Buffalo areas. The largest and most active area of Rochester only uses the three man system for premier and first division of the amateurs and only for the youth premier leagues for the youth. Bill Fahey explained that this has been brought up every year at the amateur meetings and even though everyone agrees that it sounds like a great idea. They have not seen the viability of it yet. Conversation between the amateurs, youth and the Rochester area will continue.
5. Arman Capan asked Wally Wiegert if the impasse between the amateur recreation league and the referee unit had been resolved yet. He understood that there was no service for the 2000 season for that league. Wally said that many conversations had taken place and that it was slowly getting resolved. Arman asked that Binghamton get in touch with him to see if he can help in any way in getting this all resolved soon.
6. Curt Hamlin went out to bid to 16 different printers and had quotes from 6 to present to the board with several others pending. They varied in cost from \$0.93 to \$1.27 per book, with the average being in the neighborhood of \$1.10. It was agreed that each district would pay \$1.00 per book. If they charged their members for it or not was up to them. To keep the cost down it was also agreed that the cover will be kept at black/white, no need for color. Curt Hamlin was given the go ahead to get these books ordered and to be the liaison with the districts. As he collects the money he will turn it over to Reinhold who will be funding the initial cost.

7. William Fahey handed out to each district the current list of Project 50. Once again he went over that the hope for this project was that this would be the feeder system to the State Youth Cup, SuperY League, Regionals, ODP and for AR and fourth officials at the Professional level. He is asking that every DRA review the list and submit a new list to be used for next year. Two individuals (Alexander Eisen (Buffalo) and Margaret Reif (Rochester)) are not to be included at this time because they still owe fines for the 2000 season. The deadline for this new list is December, 2000.

At this point the calendar of 2001 looks like it will be 6/1 for the State Cup in Binghamton, 6/30 for the Region I Snickers Tournament in Buffalo and 8/4 for the President's Cup in Brockport.

8. Art Jaspe will be giving a complete report to the SRC at the next meeting on the DDA position and how it has worked out for 2000.
9. David Wolgast explained that the ITIP course did not take place as planned in August. He is hoping that the funding for the course is extended to the end of the year. He will be lining up, very soon, a location, instructor and dates for this course. The target time frame for the course would be mid-November. He has 21 instructors which are depending on him to pull this course off.
10. The mentoring system has been very successful again this year. Buffalo has already submitted their bill and Bill Fahey would like to receive the Rochester bill within the week. William Helwig explained that they had 265 mentored games which included 48 different mentors and 101 new referees. Typically these games were at the U10 level and they utilized the three man system. William Helwig will report back to the board an analysis of how many of these new referees re-register for the 2001 season as compared to the non-mentored and/or previous years. This will be vital information to see how effective this has been. Angelo Paparo said that Ron Grasso from Syracuse will be contacting Rochester and Buffalo during the off season to get information to try to get it started up in Syracuse.
11. David Wolgast has learned that the grant proposal for funding instructional materials is due by December 1, 2000 to U.S. Soccer Foundation in order to be considered. He has all of the paper work in order to submit this and needs now to meet with people to write it up.
12. Curt Hamlin stated that the first year of the internet was a complete success. A lot of out of state referees have checked us out prior to coming here and have remarked on how great it was. They asked many questions in order to take the idea back for their own local board. It was reported that even though it was a success, that it could be better. More feedback needs to be given from the districts in order to make this work.
13. Curt Hamlin reported that a letter was sent to all assignors explaining the position of the State Referee Committee in the use of ONLY the Diagonal system.
14. Curt Hamlin showed everyone that the Policies and Procedures document is evolving. It now has a cover page and a table of contents. Updates to this document will be made available as they occur and it will be posted on the web site soon.
15. William Fahey and Art Jaspe reviewed the youth state, ODP and regional tournaments. Katie Dziejczak from Buffalo was noticed by the Regional I director and was invited inter-Regional competition. Art Jaspe reported that the AR clinic which was held was subsequently noticed on the field as people tried to implement some new techniques. It was agreed that an intermediate AR clinic is really what is necessary at this level of play. The assessors generally were very pleased with what they saw out on the field. There was still some room for improvement, but it was very successful.

16. Art Jaspe reported that assessors were assigned to all nine Super League games. It appears that one game was rescheduled and some scrambling had to be made at the last minute, but all games were covered.
17. William Fahey announced that with some very big help from William Helwig, the referees pulled off a very big success in assignments to the Super League games. There will be some additional games next year as they add another age bracket (U-14). It was also noted that Toronto dropped out this year which caused some problems with the scheduling.
18. David Wolgast reported that the Youth State Director of Coaching had requested a 90 minute review be done at a clinic by a referee. David will meet with the Director of Coaching within the next couple of weeks. Together they will try to figure out exactly what is necessary and who would be best to fill the need. An instructor will be used and the format will most likely be a brief review of the Laws of the Game with a question/answer period.
19. Reinhold Spath reported that the end of the year financial books were complete and have been sent off to the youth and amateur organizations.
20. William Fahey handed out the proposed contract for the 2001 through 2003 State and President's Cup Tournaments. The contract is basically the same as previous years with the exception of:
 - a) built in an increase in the number of assessors
 - b) U10 was added to the game fees just in case it is decided to bring back that age bracket
 - c) Game fees remain the same for 2001, but increase some in 2002.
 - d) Referees will be reimbursed 23 cents a mile up from 22 cents.
 - e) A stand by allowance for either referee or assignor was added. The stand by will be reimbursed \$8.00 per time slot that they are not assigned a game.
 - f) Payment process was changed so that the assignor will be paid directly from WNYRA and NYSWYSA will make payments for the assessments and individual referees.The new contract was accepted by the State Referee Committee as proposed by Angelo Paparo and seconded by Wally Wiegert.
21. William Fahey presented to everyone the Adidas Polo shirts to all SRC members. These shirts should be worn whenever an SRC member is representing this organization at a youth event.

New Business

1. Reinhold Spath handed out packets to all DRA's. This packet included a letter to the DRA's for the registration process to be used for 2001, a review of the need for assignors, assessors and instructors, and a list of all currently registered assignors, assessors and instructors. Reinhold also announced that the fee increase for registrations was postponed until 2002 and that all of the registration forms are in the mail from Chicago.
2. Reinhold Spath has received requests from Steven Randall and Islam Sallaj for upgrade to National Candidate. After close review, it was agreed that Steven Randall had met all of the criteria and will have the blessing of the SRC to continue his quest. It was also agreed that Islam Sallaj, who was attempted to be fast tracked, did not qualify. Islam lacked the number of games and had one bad assessment within the past 12 months. It was agreed, that in order for a referee to be take part in the fast track process they need to have a clean slate. Reinhold will notify both referees as to the decision of the SRC. William Fahey mentioned that there are at least two other people which needed to be watched closely, but were moving out of their current districts. These two people are Chris Szulwach who will probably be going to Syracuse and Scott Kachmarik will probably be going to the Baltimore area.

3. Art Jaspe proposed the idea of starting the annual assessment process for grade 7 referees. Newer assessors could be used for the experience and it would help out the referees. Many grade 7 referees are scrutinized to get the grade and then are never seen again. They do not move up to state grade referee status, so need no further evaluation. The proposal would be for the referee to pay half the game fee for the highest level game they are assigned. William Fahey told Art Jaspe to write up his proposal and to present it to the SRC at the next meeting for its possible inclusion to the Policy and Procedures.
4. Art Jaspe would also like added to his budget, money to purchase the actual triplicate form of Development and Guidance. These purchased forms would be used at all of the state run tournaments so immediate feedback could be given the referee.
5. The continued conversation of mass mailing was brought up again. Possible inclusion of this mass mailing would be the announcement of the state run tournaments. There was a concern that this information was not being supplied to all referees and to only those who may be at one local meeting or another. Question was raised as to the obligation of the SRC to disseminate some of this information directly. Curt Hamlin will look into possible costs and routes which could be used for this. William Fahey will take into consideration the announcement of the major tournaments and whatever other information may be necessary to require a mass mailing.
6. It was agreed that William Fahey will send a letter of commitment to confirm the candidates. Also he will try to come up with a system to confirm their obligations when they have been selected to work any particular state run tournament. This will be done in advance of actual assignments, so the referee knows what is going on and can block out those dates from their normal schedule.
7. William Helwig asked if someone could find out definitively whether a facility which uses slightly modified outdoor rules, but played indoors under a roof (not with dasher boards) is still covered under their USSF insurance. These games are played with affiliated teams, use registered assignors, etc. William Fahey and Curt Hamlin will attempt to get an answer.
8. David Wolgast is looking into offering the intermediate referee course yet again this year. In 1999, 50 referees were in Buffalo and in 2000, 35 referees were represented in Binghamton. He is looking into offering it in Syracuse or Rochester. He was told that he had until December 1 to apply for the funds for this project.
9. William Fahey is looking for candidates for the "Youth Referee of the Year" both male and female by Nov. 3rd. Candidates should come with a write up as to why their selection:
 Name, Age, Level, School, School Activities, Selection Criteria, Special Events, Other
 Please take the time to fill in the details, and if selected, the candidate will be invited to the awards dinner November 18th in Rochester.

Action Items

1. Set up entry level assignor, instructor and assessor courses **(Wolgast, Hamlin, Jaspe)**
2. Commitment from the amateurs to the SRC **(Fahey, Capan)**
3. Use of the Assistant Referee Grade in WNY **(Wolgast, Capan)**
4. Print and distribute the WNYRA Handbook **(Hamlin)**

5. Review and compile project 50 list for 2001 **(All)**
6. Report on the effectiveness and future of the DDA position **(Jaspe)**
7. Setup and hold the ITIP course by end of 2000 **(Wolgast)**
8. Review the mentoring system effectiveness on registration **(Helwig, Pasnak)**
9. Grant proposal for instructional materials to be completed by Dec. 1 **(Wolgast, Reif)**
10. Ongoing review of the internet site and its use by all districts **(Hamlin)**
11. Work with the Youth State Director of Coaching on course work for coaches **(Wolgast)**
12. Proposal to change requirements for Grade 7 to include annual assessment **(Jaspe)**
13. Mass mailing possibilities and what could be included if possible **(Hamlin, Fahey)**
14. Ways to communicate tournament assignments more effectively **(Fahey)**
15. Get answer from USSF for outdoor games being played indoors **(Hamlin, Fahey)**
16. Write proposal for budget of intermediate referee course **(Wolgast)**
17. Set policy of how to deal with districts consistently not represented at SRC meetings **(Fahey)**
18. Set policy to include definite term for renewal of the SDA, SDI and SCA positions **(Fahey)**
19. Candidates for both male and female "Youth Referee of the Year" by November 3 **(All, Fahey)**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:02pm. The next meeting is tentatively set for January 14, 2001.