



Western New York Referee Association State Referee Committee United States Soccer Federation Affiliate

Meeting Minutes

Held at the Hampton Inn, Rochester, NY on January 14, 2001. Meeting was called to order at 1:00pm.

Roll Call

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| 1. | Reinhold M. Spath, SRA, acting SDI | (sra@wnyreferee.org) |
| 2. | William Fahey, SYRA, Chairperson | (syra@wnyreferee.org) |
| 3. | Art Jaspe, SDA | (sda@wnyreferee.org) |
| 4. | Curt Hamlin, SCA, Recording Secretary | (sca@wnyreferee.org) |
| 5. | Tony Buiniskis, President of NYSW | (ajb4soccer@aol.com) |
| 6. | Christopher Chilano, DRA (Batavia) | (cchilan1@rochester.rr.com) |
| 7. | William Helwig, DRA (Buffalo) | (billreferee@yahoo.com) |
| 8. | Alexander Badr, DRA (Elmira) | (badram@stny.rr.com) |
| | Robert Stevens | (rstevens@epix.net) |
| | Gene Holleran | (eph1@cornell.edu) |
| 9. | David Atwood, DRA (Ithaca) | (dmawhf@clarityconnect.com) |
| 10. | Richard Reif (Rochester) | (rar0@eznet.net) |
| 11. | Joe Delity, Acting DRA (Southern Tier) | |
| 12. | Ron Kuck (Syracuse) | |

Not Represented

1. Arman Capan, Amateurs WNY
2. Gary Pawleshyn, DRA (Binghamton)
3. Dave Herron, DRA (Twin Tier)

Miscellaneous

Welcome to all for the second meeting in the 2000-1 season. We are very pleased that so many people could show up for this meeting. Agendas for the state meeting are always set by the Action Items that appear at the end of the previous meetings minutes.

Old Business

1. Review of courses that are in the making for entry-level assignor, instructor and assessor. It was stated that there would be no entry-level course for instructors prior to the season. There may be one at the end of 2001 season depending on how many requests the SDI receives. At this time Reinhold Spath, as acting SDI, has 6 names of people interested.

There will be at least one assignor course offered before the 2001 season. Buffalo alone is looking into having enough for a course. There are other districts in need of assignors but so far only Rochester has supplied other names. Request all districts to contact Curt Hamlin, SCA, with anyone interested in the assignor's course.

There are not enough people interested in being assessors at this time for a course prior to the season.

Request all districts to contact Art Jaspe, SDA, with anyone interested in the assessor's course.

2. William Fahey read excerpts from the letter he received from the amateurs in response to the letter sent from the SRC. The points of importance were:
 - a) Request funding for a fourth official at W-League games. The response was that the W-League was not under the jurisdiction of the Amateur division and therefore they would not be able to fund it.
 - b) Funding for a mentoring system. The response was that they just don't have the numbers that the youth have and therefore cannot find the funds to help develop the referees.
 - c) Funding for the cost of the State Referee Committee doing business. They stated that these funds should come from our constituents and not from them.

It was pointed out by William Fahey that the support that is given by the Amateur organization towards their own tournaments is not good. Referees sent to the Amateur Cup and Senior Select tournaments are not reimbursed for their mileage or fees.

William Fahey has the backing of the SRC to sit down with Arman Capan, and possibly Reinhold Spath, and go over this letter point for point to see if some of this can change.

3. Curt Hamlin announced that of the 1,500 handbooks that were ordered 1,432 have been distributed. The initial reaction that some of the districts brought back to the SRC over these books were very positive. People have been hearing about the state committee, etc. Well now they have received something from the state committee as well.
4. William Fahey stated his disappointment in the support by the various districts about Project 50. Buffalo and Batavia were the only two districts to get back to him with their Project 50 list. It was reviewed again that these should be young referees that show a lot of potential and want to become better referees. These individuals will be the principals used in State Cup and President's Cup. They will be exclusively used for the ODP, Regionals and Super-Y league assignments. All districts are asked to get their list back to Fahey in advance of the next meeting.
5. Art Jaspe deferred his input into the effectiveness of the DDA position and the possibility of changing the requirements for Grade 7 to include annual/semi-annual assessments. He will be attending a conference in Colorado in a few weeks where these very topics will be discussed. He will have more information to share at the next meeting.

He did discuss briefly the use of Associate Assessors. Associate Assessors must complete 25 developmental assessments before they can become assessors. Art would like to contact some tournaments and make them aware that these Associate Assessors have this need and request their support. The Associate Assessors could do these tournaments either free or for a very small token to accomplish this. William Fahey pointed out that all of the major tournaments in Rochester have set aside funds for this purpose already. Art stated that this was good, but needs to be done on a Western New York wide basis.

6. ITIP course for instructors is all set to go. It will be held March 8-11 for 32 hours. A projector will be ordered by Richard Reif and paid for by Reinhold Spath for this course and all future courses. February 15th is the deadline for any instructor wishing to take the ITIP course. Both modules, A and B, are being offered.

7. The mentoring system has been put on hold. The last AGM meeting where the budget was approved cut the mentoring system for 2001. Tony Buiniskis did not say that this closes the door on the mentoring system and that the possibility of it being approved again in the future is still there. It was just a matter that they needed to balance their bottom line and this is one program that was cut. William Helwig from Buffalo was disappointed in this, but announced that he is working on ways to fund this program through his local leagues.
8. Richard Reif and David Wolgast were not able to submit the grant proposal to the US Soccer Foundation by the deadline. Richard Reif has all of the material; he is more than willing to help write this proposal. He will be requiring information from various people to complete it. He hopes to be able to submit a proposal by the end of 2001.
9. Curt Hamlin reviewed the use of the Internet site. Since May 2000 when the site was officially opened, there were 7,986 visits by 1,678 different people. Pointing out the fact that there are only approximately 1,500 referees in Western New York, it is obvious that other people are viewing the site. This has been a good central resource for many items, but he reminded everyone that it is still in its infancy and there is more to come. It was approved that another \$99 would be spent for the web hosting for 2001. The name WNYReferee.org is owned by the committee until March 2002.
10. The youth organization has courses for their coaches. Part of these courses is a mini-review of the laws of the game. It was agreed that a certified instructor should teach this part of the course. The SDI will contact Glen Buckley, Director of Coaching at NYSW, about the schedule to see what could be worked out.
11. Curt Hamlin contacted a few places to look into the possibility of doing an annual mass mailing from the state committee to all referees. In this mailing would include the upcoming dates of interest including the state tournaments. All of this is possible with what we already have and would require little work on our part, but it does come at a price. Tony Buiniskis brought up the possibility of including referees in the mailing for the NYSW paper. This would be much cheaper and we could have a referee corner in the paper. This will be reviewed as a possibility.
12. William Fahey presented a proposed handout for all project 50 candidates and any referees that the DRA's see as being useful to use for the state tournaments. This announces the various tournaments and requests them to return a portion to Fahey by a specified date. A response will be sent to the referee stating which tournaments they have been selected to work so they can arrange their schedules. This was the one part of the formula that was missing in 2000. Some minor corrections were given to Fahey; he will make those corrections and get a finalized copy out to the DRA's.
13. Curt Hamlin contacted USSF about whether referees were covered by insurance at indoor facilities. Their response was that referees are covered by insurance whenever the laws of the outdoor game are followed. In brief, if the ball can be played against a wall and it remains in play this is deemed indoor soccer and will not be covered. When a game is not covered by USSF, referees are not to wear their USSF badge and are not covered by insurance.

Tony Buiniskis stated that NYSW does recognize the indoor game. Teams must pay an extra \$20 per season for the additional insurance. William Fahey stated that it is very hard to collect this \$20 from teams. Tony stated that he would supply Fahey with the documentation to back it up. Either the team pays the \$20 or they will not be covered if something happens.

14. William Fahey handed out a draft proposal to be added to the Policy and Procedures of the state committee. The draft states that it is expected that each district be represented at all state committee meetings. Any district that misses three meetings will be a candidate to be combined into an already existing district. All members have been asked to review this item and get back to William Fahey or Curt Hamlin prior to the next meeting with any changes they wish to make.

Alexander Badr asked if it had ever been considered to hold the meetings in some place other than Rochester. William Fahey informed him that this was discussed earlier and because of the weather, Rochester was picked on for its centrality to most districts. NYSW has offered the office in Corning as a possible meeting location.

15. William Fahey handed out a proposal to impose term limits on all the positions of the executive committee. Some discussion was made as whether this was needed or not. What was agreed that something need to be stated for succession for each position, a stated time frame should exist as a transition from the existing officer and the newly appointed officer and that sharing of knowledge is a good idea.

The question was asked as to how DRA's were appointed. It was agreed that they are appointed by the SRA with the recommendation of the district that they represent.

16. William Fahey announced that no "Youth Referee of the Year" was announced for 2000. Fahey is working on creating a form to be distributed to all of the districts to insure that this does not happen again. It was agreed that with 1,500 referees, there must be someone that stands out among the youth that needs to be recognized.

New Business

1. Curt Hamlin announced that the web site is to be Western New York's communication to all members. This is to include information from all districts. This is to include, but not be limited to, clinics, announcements, etc.
2. Reinhold Spath stated that the following deadlines must exist for registrations for 2001. April 28 will be the last date that registrations will be accepted for existing referees. May 10 will be the deadline for the any new registrations. April 7 will be the last day that registration for assignors will be accepted. April 28 will be the last date that assessors can be registered.
3. Reinhold Spath stated that there was a lot of confusion with whom to make the checks for registration out to. He informed the committee that the bank is starting to complain. The correct format should be simply to make checks payable to WNYRA and nothing else.
4. Reinhold Spath handed out the new criteria to be used for fitness tests. The test no longer contains the maneuverability component and all speed tests are reduced to 50 meters. In replacement of the maneuverability component, USSF has added the 200-meter dash that everyone must be able to do, regardless of age and grade, in 40 seconds.
5. Reinhold Spath handed out status of registrations of referees, assessors, instructors and assignors. He also handed out a listing of all the district officers.

6. As was announced earlier, David Wolgast is no longer our SDI. In that announcement it was requested that all districts submit anyone they think would be good for the position. Only one name had been submitted, William Pasnak of Rochester. He wrote a letter of acceptance, and stated that if he were accepted as SDI, he would step down as President of the Rochester unit so he could devote the time necessary for the position. The floor was opened up for any other nominations. Hearing none it was closed by Richard Reif and seconded by Alexander Badr. A unanimous vote was taken and William Pasnak will be the new SDI starting May 1. In the interim, Reinhold Spath will do the duties and bring Pasnak up to speed.

Reinhold Spath stated that the State course was being offered in Baltimore in March. William Pasnak will attend this course with Richard Reif as his backup. With the completion of the ITIP and this state course it will give Western New York three state instructors for any courses we may require.

7. Art Jaspe brought up the problem of getting three men at Upstate Premier League games. NYSW is trying to create this pyramid level of games. This pyramid being the Super Y League, Director's League (which contains finalist at Regionals or recommendation of a particular youth district), Upstate Premier League, Travel Leagues and finally House Leagues.
8. Joe Delity announced that he is having problems getting referees to show up to meetings. Curt Hamlin asked if there was any meeting requirement in their district. This is what they are lacking. Their district needs to come up with some general rules that all referees will be expected to meet. With these general rules, the consequences of not meeting these requirements must also be stated.

William Fahey stated that Reinhold Spath and him have discussed this at length. They will be getting back to Joe Delity sometime soon.

9. Tony Buiniskis announced that starting in 2002 there would not be two competitive tournaments on any given weekend within a district. This was supposed to happen in 2001, but some miscommunication occurred and at least one weekend is in conflict, this being the Fairport/Greece Cobras tournaments. This should help out a lot where tournaments are having problems getting the referees they require to have a good tournament.
10. Tony Buiniskis announced that the Rochester district would be possibly seeing a significant increase in soccer fields. Currently there is a discussion of a 24-field complex in Black Creek Park being fronted by Monroe County. A 10-15 field complex is being discussed in the Greece area. A national Training facility is being considered off of the thruway in the 390 area. The Junior Rhino club is looking into acquiring some land from Kodak to build a complex.
11. It was announced at the last AGM meeting that Risk Management be looked at. A simple statement was presented and asked to be reviewed and sent in. It was discussed that this simple statement may already be accomplished by our signing the registration papers. On the registration form there is a statement: "Have you ever been convicted of a felony, including a crime of violence, any crime against an individual, or fraud?" If this suffices then referees would not be required to do anything. William Fahey will be looking into this further with Gary Acker at NYSW.

Action Items

1. Review of entry level assignor, instructor and assessor courses **(Hamlin, SDI, Jaspe)**
2. Review status of commitment from the amateurs to the SRC **(Fahey, Capan)**

3. Review and compile project 50 list for 2001 **(All)**
4. Report on the effectiveness and future of the DDA position **(Jaspe)**
5. Review the ITIP course held in March **(SDI)**
6. Status of grant proposal for instructional materials to be completed by Dec. 1 **(SDI, Reif)**
7. Ongoing review of the internet site and its use by all districts **(Hamlin)**
8. Work with the Youth State Director of Coaching on course work for coaches **(SDI)**
9. Proposal to change requirements for Grade 7 to include annual assessment **(Jaspe)**
10. Review the communication between referees and state tournament assignments **(Fahey)**
11. Send documentation covering the \$20/team for indoor registration **(Buiniskis)**
12. Write proposal for budget of intermediate referee course **(SDI)**
13. Review proposed policy of how to deal with districts consistently not represented at SRC meetings **(Fahey)**
14. Review proposed policy to include definite term for renewal of the SDA, SDI and SCA positions **(Fahey)**
15. Review the communication of districts to SRC of candidates for both male and female "Youth Referee of the Year" **(Fahey)**
16. Welcome new SDI to his position and get a status of the transition **(Pasnak)**
17. Review the problems of getting three referees to the Upstate Premier League Games **(Fahey)**
18. Review possible solutions for getting referees to attend needed meetings in the Southern Tier **(Fahey, Spath)**
19. Review status of field development in the Rochester area **(Buiniskis)**
20. Review requirements being requested referees for "Risk Management" **(Fahey)**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm. The next meeting is tentatively set for April 22, 2001.