

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

June 20, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Held at the Hampton Inn, Rochester, NY. Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM.

Roll Call:

1. Curt Hamlin, SRA (sra@wnyreferee.org)
2. William Fahey, SYRA, (syra@wnyreferee.org)
3. Dennis Rice, Recording Secretary (drice1@rochester.rr.com)
4. James Pitcher, DRA (Binghamton) (soccer-referee@juno.com)
5. William Helwig, DRA (Buffalo) (billreferee@yahoo.com)
6. Jennifer Jones, Assoc. DRA (Buffalo) (jjx2soccer@hotmail.com)
7. William Campbell, DRA (Ithaca) (tripsdad@aol.com)
8. Richard Reif, DRA (Rochester) (rar0@netacc.net)
9. Joe Delity, DRA (Southern Tier) (jdelity@localnet.com)
10. Ronald Kuck, DRA (Syracuse) (rakuck@baldcom.net)
11. Alexander Badr, DRA (Elmira) (badram@stny.rr.com)
Represented by Tom Barker (TLBARK1078@aol.com)
12. James Gabor, Sr., Treasurer (wizjg@yahoo.com)
13. Arman Capan, Adult Soccer Assoc. WNY (arman@eznet.net)
Represented by Jerry Sullivan (ejsreft@hotmail.com)

Not Present:

1. Dave Herron, DRA (Twin Tier) (dherron@campbellsavona.wnyric.org)
2. William Pasnak, SDI (sdi@wnyreferee.org)
3. Christopher Chilano, SCA, and DRA (Batavia) (cchilan1@rochester.rr.com)
4. Art Jaspe, SDA (sda@wnyreferee.org)
5. Tony Buiniskis, President of NYSW (ajb4soccer@aol.com)

Approval of last Minutes

Minutes of March 21, 2004 were approved.

Reports of Officers

1. SRA - (Curt Hamlin)

- a. **Registration** – Still behind in registrations from last year and still receiving forms. Because we are counting Grade 9 in the overall count, it looks larger than it is for Grade 8 and above. We have fewer net Grade 8 and above officials than last year, and lots of new Grade 8 officials.
- b. **Risk Management** –
 - More than 700 risk management passes were processed, with only one application still outstanding
 - There is an issue in accepting photocopied forms. Must submit original.
 - The State Risk Management Director has resigned, and was replaced by Operations Manager Dan Watson.
- c. There is need to account for badges more strictly than before.
- d. Registration forms cannot be in pencil.
- e. Fitness tests must be within six months of registration. Keep this in mind with late registrations that the August fitness tests may not be valid.

2. SYRA - (Bill Fahey)

- a. **ODP and Regional Tournament:** - Thanks for the help received during these tournaments. Waiting to see results from the ODP assessments. NY West referees were assigned initially below the level of assignments they should have received due to a computer glitch. Overall, this glitch resulted in communication issues. Jim Gabor will provide details to Bill Fahey so that we can clear up any remaining issues and avoid this problem in the future.
- b. **State Cup Tournament:** - The State Cup Tournament report is not complete yet. Bill already has the list of candidates for next year's tournament. Overall, this was a difficult year for incidents involving coaches. There was a referee assault and a referee verbal abuse incident. Bill F. has asked the State Director of Coaching to review policies regarding coach actions when there are injured players.
- c. **Headgear:** It is now permitted to wear approved protective headgear. A sample brochure was passed around for review.

3. SDA - (Art Jaspe)

- a. Attended a workshop in Colorado with the SDI

4. SDI - (Bill Pasnak) –

- a. Attended a workshop in Colorado with the SDA
- b. No registration materials yet, but do have refresher tests. Please have instructors take the test first before distributing the tests through instructors.

5. SCA - (Chris Chilano) – No report

6. Finance Director - (Jim Gabor)

- a. Balance is now around \$24K. Coins and patches were a large expense and we still have a fairly large inventory.
- b. Handed out and discussed “Universal Chart of Accounts for all Accounting Within Western New York State Referee Association, Inc.” – should be the basic template for Districts in order to standardize.

Old Business

Reviewed and verified completion of action items from last meeting:

1. There are still some issues with respect to **assignor compliance to standards**. The SRA will address through the assignor registration process if necessary. Youth games **will not count** if there is no risk management process completed for individuals, and assignors may not be permitted to re-register if there are serious unresolved compliance issues.
2. USSF National is not ready to process **on line registration**. In WNY, we have a website up and running with 90% of the data in place at <http://www.wnyreferee.com/> - note that this is **.com** and not the **.org** URL. On this site, assessments can be requested, assigned, and feedback posted. This can be used for upgrade requirements verification and other purposes. There was discussion to add \$5 annual fee for postage and costs, which have been increasing over the past year. We would like to use online registration to offset these cost increases, but cannot yet. Motion was tabled until the Sep 12 meeting.
3. Comments were received on the Referee Identification and Development proposal. Action complete.
4. Action complete for assessors to be made aware of State Cup play-down assignments.
5. Assessment schedule and assignment was completed by the link and form on the www.wnyreferee.org website.
6. Use old D&G assessment forms until gone; then the new ones.
7. WNYSRC Assignment Procedures document was distributed and discussed. Still needs modifications for the State Cup. Please send comments and recommended changes to Chris, Bill F., and Curt. We will move to adopt this policy at the Sep 12 meeting.
8. Financial oversight is now needed to support the corporation. The Districts' financial transactions are now subsidiary to the State Corporation.
 - Proposed chart of accounts should be followed to the extent possible in the Districts.
 - Each DRA must ensure that the local Treasurer can keep records per the standards. The treasurer does not have to be a member of the unit.

- Jim Gabor will send out the chart of accounts with a brief explanation and a template if needed. Please advise Jim Gabor if other accounts are needed.
- All DRAs must have their name on the District bank account(s), as they are responsible to the Corporation. Districts can use the WNYSRA's tax-exempt number, and the SRC recommends that the policy of having two signatures required be adopted for the Districts.
- Also recommended is that the DRAs have their own address on the bank account so that they can review checks before forwarding on to the Treasurer.
- **All the above conditions must be in place before the Sep 12 meeting.**

New Business

1. **Dispute resolution between members of the Rochester District Board:**

- Per the WNYSRA by-laws, direct council from the USSF, and advice from the WNYSRA's legal representative, the USSF recognizes the WNYSRA as its sole agent to represent the USSF. The WNYSRA, in turn, recognizes the District Referee Administrators (DRAs) as sole representatives of the WNYSRA and responsible to the WNYSRA and the USSF for their respective Districts. The Districts, in turn, may have any organizational structure that the DRA and its membership deems necessary to accomplish its objectives and meet requirements of the WNYSRA. District board members, therefore are not under the direct purview of the WNYSRA under normal circumstances. It is therefore necessary that, before any matters of dispute or local discipline are brought before the WNYSRA board, the District Referee Administrator resolves these matters or exhausts all avenues of potential resolution at the local level first.
 - In the matter brought before the WNYSRA, the parties and the DRA agreed to attempt resolution first before submitting to the higher level. This was accomplished in a separate area with the stipulation that, if the matter continues to be of concern, the DRA shall return to the WNYSRA to continue the process at a later time.
2. SRA – Proposal made for a statewide recertification clinic. Benefits include networking and central location. Action: SDI to develop a complete program.
 3. SRA – For assignors found to be assigning non-qualified people, their registration will not be renewed
 4. SRA – Risk Management was proposed to extend to other referee-related positions such as assignors, assessors, and instructors because, in these roles, there would be potential for abuse of a position of authority. This should not be a large impact, as most of these positions are also referees subject to risk management clearance. **The motion to include all referee-related positions in the risk management checks was made and passed unanimously.** All registrations will be now covered by the requirement to pass the risk management check.
 5. SRA – There is a new national league that is part of the Women's Professional League. The service agreement with this new league was extended to include assessors for the games.
 6. SRA – American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) is coming into western New York. AYSO is a volunteer-based organization that has affiliation with USSF and uses its own referees who work on a volunteer basis (no pay). There is a cross-certification process that requires the SRA to sign. See Curt if interested. AYSO games do not count toward USSF registration. Our board, however, will honor any AYSO-imposed discipline or sanctions.
 7. SRA – U.S Club Soccer is another organization that is USSF affiliated, but not affiliated with NY State West. Many Youth Premiere teams belong to this organization. USSF referees may service these games. Any issues or assault incidents default to NYSW Youth.
 8. SRA – To clarify travel policy, all referees who are registered in the WNY Districts can officiate games anywhere in WNY. There have been discussions about Rochester and Buffalo referees crossing over into each other's districts and questions from assignors and Districts. As a policy, the WNYSRA encourages those who want to travel between Districts to further their career. DRAs please be aware of this and communicate to your respective Districts.
 9. SRA – Reviewed policy for lapse of registration. This reference can be found on the USSF website (Sep 13 memo)
 10. SYRA – Assault and abuse incidents are being processed from the State Cup. The procedure is covered

in recertification clinics and will continue to be emphasized.

11. SYRA – Buffalo recertification clinics will be in August and September. Bill Pasnak and Bill Fahey will update the materials.
12. Adult League Representative – The Adult Leagues request that the WNYSRA investigate the possibility to have a clinic designed specifically for referees who officiate adult games.

Good of the Organization

- No new items

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Next meetings will be Sep 12 from 10AM until 2PM at the Hampton Inn, Rochester (Greece), NY.

Action Items:

1. Jim Gabor and Bill Fahey will determine how to avoid the ODP assignment level problems encountered this year.
2. All members please review the WNYSRC Assignment Procedures document and send comments/recommended changes to Bill Fahey, Curt Hamlin, and Chris Chilano before the Sep 12 meeting.
3. DRAs shall ensure that their local Treasurer will keep financial records per the new standard chart of accounts, and shall ensure that their name is on the District bank account(s).
4. Bill Pasnak will develop a program for the proposed statewide recertification clinic.
5. Bill Pasnak and Bill Fahey will update materials for the Buffalo District recertification clinics.
6. Investigate the possibility to have a clinic designed specifically for referees who officiate adult games (SDI lead with SRA follow-up)