

Western New York Referee Association

State Referee Committee

United States Soccer Federation Affiliate

March 21, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Held at the Hampton Inn, Rochester, NY. Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM.

Roll Call:

1. Curt Hamlin, SRA (sra@wnyreferee.org)
2. William Fahey, SYRA, (syra@wnyreferee.org)
3. William Pasnak, SDI (sdi@wnyreferee.org)
4. Art Jaspe, SDA (sda@wnyreferee.org)
6. Dennis Rice, Recording Secretary (drice1@rochester.rr.com)
7. James Pitcher, DRA (Binghamton) (soccer-referee@juno.com)
8. William Helwig, DRA (Buffalo) (billreferee@yahoo.com)
9. William Campbell, DRA (Ithaca) (tripsdad@aol.com)
10. Richard Reif, DRA (Rochester) (rar0@netacc.net)
11. Joe Delity, DRA (Southern Tier) (jdelity@localnet.com)
12. Ronald Kuck, DRA (Syracuse) (rakuck@baldcom.net)
13. Alexander Badr, DRA (Elmira) (badram@stny.rr.com)
Represented by Tom Barker (TLBARK1078@aol.com)
14. James Gabor, Sr., Treasurer (wizjg@yahoo.com)

Not Present:

1. Dave Herron, DRA (Twin Tier) (dherron@campbellsavona.wnyric.org)
2. Tony Buiniskis, President of NYSW (ajb4soccer@aol.com)
3. Arman Capan, Adult Soccer Assoc. WNY
Represented by Al Caruso and Jerry Sullivan (arman@eznet.net)
4. Christopher Chilano, SCA, and DRA (Batavia) (cchilan1@rochester.rr.com)

Approval of last Minutes

Minutes of January 18, 2004 were approved.

Old Business

Reviewed and verified completion of action items from last meeting:

1. Registration & recertifications not yet complete
2. Financial info. Not all complete. 1099s done and taxes are in process.
3. New course info. Is going onto the website on an ongoing basis
4. Names for State cup candidates were not submitted to Bill Fahey. DRAs please notify Bill if there are no candidates from your District also.
5. One Rec. course completed for Binghamton/Ithaca area; one course scheduled for May 22 in Rochester area.
6. Guideline documents for training and assignments were sent out after comment period was over. Exceptions for grade qualification can be made for age and time, but not for number of games at specified level. Discussion followed.
7. Recertification clinic participation data is being sent forward to Bill Pasnak and then to Curt to include in registration process. It was mentioned that local college students can participate near their locale as well as locally residing students from other areas may participate in WNY for credit.

Reports of Officers

1. SRA - (Curt Hamlin)

- a. **Registration** – now at around 73%. National office is slow in final processing, so they show substantially lower numbers.
- b. **Risk Management** –
 - i. Results of completions vary by District. The color-coding on the spreadsheets should be noted by the assignors, and the guidelines for assignment to Youth Leagues must be adhered to. The Youth Organization does not want referees assigned who have not completed their Risk Management check.
 - ii. For purposes of Risk Management, current age at time of registration (18 vs. Below 18) is the determining factor for whether the Risk Management procedures are mandated. For those who turned 18 after registration, please advise Curt so that the appropriate notation (NA) can be placed on the assignor's spreadsheet.
 - iii. The process has been changed to allow an organization (e.g., WNYSRA) to withhold comment when a background check issue surfaces.
 - iv. The new modified form is to be used from this point forward. In the interim, either the new or the old forms are acceptable. The form will be on the website.
 - v. The DRAs should be aware that, if applicants are notified by Choice Point of a potential Risk Management issue, they should follow through with the paperwork requested so that further details can be verified and their application processed. This sometimes occurs when commonly found names and no other distinguishing details (like SS#) preclude the agency from verifying whether or not there is a legitimate issue relative to a particular applicant.
 - vi. Please keep in mind that the Risk Management administrative system is being improved and is not perfected yet.
 - vii. Action: the DRAs are to use and forward the Assignor spreadsheets to their respective District Assignors so that the guidelines can be enacted.
- c. The SRA and the SYRA went to the Youth Conference in Boston, where the Risk Management and other aspects were discussed.
- d. The SRA and the SYRA also attended the SRA/SYRA workshop in Colorado. This was a “working” session in which the National Referee program was being re-written and groups of State Administrators provided input and proposals on many aspects of the program. Copies of preliminary results will be sent out to the SDI, SDA and SCA soon.
- e. **On Line Registration** – At the State Administrator conference, information was shared regarding on line registration technologies. Florida had the best example of the three who had a system. Ten other states have already bought into the idea of using the Florida system for their own use. The current proposal is to purchase from the Florida organization their software and a dedicated server for \$750 plus a 75 cent per transaction charge for each registration the first year and 25 cents thereafter. Other organizations have found this to be much more efficient, with around 15% or less of total registrations having to be handled through paper applications. They typically charge a \$5 administrative registration fee to their membership to pay for the new system.
 - i. Recommendation was made and passed that Curt pursue further details for on line registration purchase and to report back to the SRC. A second motion to implement the \$5 administrative fee related to the on line registration was tabled.
- f. There will be a hearing on April 3 with the Adult Association pursuant to USSF policy 530-10 that is related to complaints received against two individuals and the Rochester unit's process in handling the complaints.
- g. State Assessor issue from last year is closed. Outcome is probationary assessor status for that individual for one year with constant monitoring and oversight by the SDA.
- h. RDYSL (Rochester Youth League) has enacted a policy of large sanctions and fines for multiple ejections. There could be potentially an issue of referees asked to ‘bend the rules’ because of the threat of severe sanctions for cards. The RDYSL will have a representative present an overview of the new sanctions at a Rochester District Referee Meeting. The State Referee Committee urges that

referees should be advised to call the game without regard to this new information and not get caught up in being asked to overlook offenses during play because of severe potential sanctions to players.

2. SYRA - (Bill Fahey)

- a. **Referee Identification and Development:** - There continues to be an ongoing need to identify a pool of candidates for development and positioning toward higher level games. In the past this effort was referred to as Project 50, Project 20, and other names. Bill F. recommends that we start with 70 or 80 candidates from WNY in order to be successful. Bill passed out a proposal that describes an annual cycle for this program. All SRC members please comment on the proposal before the June 20 meeting.

Western New York Referee Identification and Development Program (proposed)			
February	March	April	May
1. Assignors / Assessors / DRAs / Referee mentors and State Referees identify potential young candidates and submit names to SYRA 2. Start to identify the male and female young referee of the year			Identified young referee candidates invited to preliminary State Cup play-downs
June	July	August	September
Selected young referees are invited to State Cup Finals.	Further selected young referees are invited to Regionals.	1. Young Referee Training Camp (TBD) 2. Identify male & female Youth Referees of the year	
October	November	December	January
	Youth Referees are invited to the AGM of the New York State West Youth Soccer Ass'n.	Begin new cycle	

- b. **Recreational Youth Referee Program:** - Please advise Bill F. if you need materials to conduct upcoming classes. It takes a few weeks to get the materials from National.
- c. **Behavior and Dress Code Guidelines** - Bill F. handed out guidelines for Regional and out-of State tournaments. Please review before next meeting.
- d. Bill F. will notify Arman Capan (Rochester Adult League) to allow for State Cup Referee coverage on June 5&6
- e. Bill Helwig and Bill Fahey took an action to verify that a player from the Delaware Soccer Club is not registered to play this year due to an assault related suspension last season.
- f. **State Cup play downs** – Bill F. will copy in Art on proposed play down assignments so that assessors can be made available to look at candidates and potentials.

3. SDA - (Art Jaspe)

- a. A copy of a new process for assigning Assessors was handed out. The responsibility to obtain his/her assessment lies with the individual referee, and the referee should be proactive early in the season.
- b. Curt and Art will collaborate to place an Assessment Assignments page on the website.

- c. Art will verify the status of what is the most recent assessment form to be used.
4. **SDI - (Bill Pasnak)** – The Pro Clinic will be May 1 and 2. The May 1 session will be at Roberts Wesleyan College (all day session by invitation). The day 2 sessions will be at the Hampton Inn and include a clinic for Assessors and Instructors State level and above. SRC members are also invited. Please advise Bill P. if you wish to attend this event.
5. **SCA - (Chris Chilano)** – No report
6. **Finance Director - (Jim Gabor)** - no report for this meeting

New Business

1. SRA – The “independent contractor” issue resurfaced around turn back and reassignment fees. There are instances of fines and fees assessed for turn backs due to being assigned to a higher level game, as defined in the Referee Administrative Handbook. In addition, because Referees are considered independent contractors, there should be a period of acceptance for assignments in which the Referee can choose to accept or not to accept the assignments. National advises that these policies and procedures should be consistent for every District within a given SRC’s area.
2. SRA – Action: The SCA will draft a policy to include a) game priority reassignments, b) Personal exemptions (i.e., work or family), c) Acceptance period for assignments, and d) Fees and fines. This is to be completed, reviewed, and enacted for this season. Motion made and passed.
3. SRA – Absolutely no dual (2-man) system of control is permitted. Diagonal system is the only recognized and accepted system of control. Assignments must reflect this.
4. SRA – Only full length USSF affiliated “outdoor type” (no boards) are acceptable for registration purposes.
5. SRA – States that have a large proportion of recreational programs have typically enacted a minimum age for Grade 8 badge – usually 14 or 15. We would like to encourage younger referees to get a Grade 9 badge first and then upgrade if the interest holds. The SRC recommends a policy that age 14 should be attained by May 1 of the current year to get a Grade 8 badge. Motion made and passed.
6. SYRA – Must have names for State Cup candidates by April 1.
7. SYRA – Sep. 1 to Jun. 30 are the open registration dates. After June 30, the registration should be moved forward to apply to the next year. Although there can possibly be room for extraordinary exceptions, this is the policy.
8. SYRA – Reiterated that fitness requirements for doing pro games includes at least 3000 meters in the 12 minute run, despite the 2700 meters listed in the manual. They are mandating that the pro referees can keep up with the current level of play.
9. SYRA – There is a new program available called “Becoming a Referee”. The materials emphasize offside and conflict management.
10. SYRA – Bill states that he will keep a log of all assault incidents and reports.
11. Bill Helwig (Buffalo)- Got clarification that April 1 is the deadline to apply for upgrade
12. Bill Helwig (Buffalo) - There was a question from a young referee receiving e-mail why “Mr. Curt Hamlin SRA” has a name like that.
13. Bill Helwig (Buffalo) - The assignors provided good recommendations for young referee of the year nomination. Suggest the other Districts consider this avenue also.
14. Bill Helwig (Buffalo) - Clarification asked for “U-19 non-local competitive leagues or higher” means with respect to upgrade requirements. Generally, this would be Premiere League or higher, although some local U-19 can be considered.
15. SDA – Request to change “level of competence” verbiage to “level of assignment” in the recertification and upgrade guidelines. It was agreed to do so. Note also that many States at the SRA/SYRA clinic acknowledged our guidelines as a ‘best in class’ model.

16. Jim Pitcher (Binghamton) – DRAs are encouraged to share information on Referees attending college in other Districts' areas. (e.g., Amanda Ross)
17. Jim Pitcher (Binghamton) – Not many U-19 games available in Binghamton area, so Jim has arranged for some tournaments to have full length matches at that level for Grade 7 upgrade and retention.
18. Jim Pitcher (Binghamton) – Binghamton District Referee Unit is co-hosting a tournament to fund the mentor program. (Batavia is doing likewise)
19. SRA (for the Treasurer) – We will hold a District Treasurer Workshop so that we can generate consistent financial reports in WNY. There is also a standard chart of accounts to use. Each District Treasurer should contact Curt Hamlin so that arrangements can be made. DRAs will communicate this request.

Good of the Organization

1. No new items

Meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Next meetings will be Jun 20, and Sep 12 from 10AM until 2PM at the Hampton Inn, Rochester (Greece), NY.

Action Items:

1. DRAs are to use and forward the Assignor spreadsheets to their respective District Assignors so that the guidelines can be enacted.
2. SRA pursue further details for on line registration purchase and to report back to the SRC.
3. All SRC members please comment on the Referee Identification and Development proposal before the June 20 meeting.
4. Bill F. will copy in Art on proposed play down assignments so that assessors can be made available to look at candidates and potentials
5. Curt and Art will collaborate to place an Assessment Assignments page on the website.
6. Art will verify the status of what is the most recent assessment form to be used.
7. The SCA will draft a policy to include a) game priority reassignments, b) Personal exemptions (i.e., work or family), c) Acceptance period for assignments, and d) Fees and fines. This is to be completed, reviewed, and enacted for this season.
8. DRAs to notify their District Treasurers that they should contact Curt Hamlin so that a Treasurer Workshop can be set up.