

Western NY Referee Association
State Referee Committee
UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION AFFILIATE

January 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at the Hampton Inn, Rochester NY. Meeting called to order at 10:04am

Roll Call:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Michael Pat Tata; SRA | sra@wnyreferee.org |
| 2. Dave Baxter, Chairperson | chair@wnyreferee.org |
| 3. William Campbell, SYRA | syra@wnyreferee.org |
| 4. Art Jaspe, SDA | sda@wnyreferee.org |
| 5. John Kramer, SAC | sac@wnyreferee.org |
| 6. James Pitcher; DRA Binghamton | Binghamton@wnyreferee.org |
| 7. Bill Helwig, DRA Buffalo | buffalo@wnyreferee.org |
| 8. Tom Ross, SDI | sdi@wnyreferee.org |
| 9. Bill Bianchi – Rochester | Rochester@wnyreferee.org |
| 10. Steve Wu – Treasurer | Treasurer@wnyreferee.org |
| 11. John Cook; Ithaca | Ithaca@wnyreferee.org |
| 12. Chris Chilano; Batavia | Batavia@wnyreferee.org |
| 13. Tom Barker; Elmira | Elmira@wnyreferee.org |
| 14. Bill Phearsdorf; Southern Tier | Southerntier@wnyreferee.org |
| 15. Angela Paparo; DRA Syracuse | syracuse@wnyreferee.org |

Not Present

Tom Ross
Chris Chilano
Jerry Sullivan

Meeting minutes were reviewed from September 9, 2012 SRC meeting.

There was a motion to accept the minutes with proposed changes by Bill Campbell seconded by Bill Helwig. Minutes are approved. Minutes will be re-emailed out and sent to Bill for update on the website.

New Business, SRA report and topics:

Michael Tata

- October 2012 attended USASA workshop in Chicago
 - New training for adult level soccer training only – for those who are going to ref adult only – this will not affect us (grade 7 upgrade training)
- LAC (Jackie) assignment of development academy games (Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo) including WNY Flash and Rochester Rhinos. Trying to get things corrected, to ensure that those referees who should get the games assigned are assigned. Sent email to Herb Silva, overseer, to see if things change.
- Meeting dates have been published and they are at the end of these meeting minutes
- Game officials
 - DRA – As you are closing out the clinics, watch for duplication of badges – I will send out all state badges

- Other components to re-cert on state badge so they cannot be sent out earlier
 - Pending – 3 Syracuse, 2 Elmira
 - Still looking at Game Officials for assigning
 - Charge for assigning per game is on a discounting scale – Has this information – please send to Bill Helwig. Arbitrator - \$11,000, through Game officials (assigning, registration and assessment) is \$3,000. Need to check to see if it has risk management in as well. Still has a few questions that are not being answered, but we need to look at this as it is a potential savings of \$8,000.
 - Game officials is still looking at an email option, still has problems with PayPal option (only through RefPal), numerous things - Buffalo board does not wish to go with Game officials.
 - \$99.00 one time set up fee
 - \$10.00 per month
 - \$.50 per game for the first thousand and then down \$.10 exponentially, Based on 8000 games is \$2500. Lowest price is \$.13 per game.
 - We have no control or record if anyone has paid registration by credit card until Game Officials has submit their report unless you look up each person individually.
 - If we seriously look at Game officials we will set up a separate committee
- By-laws – sent out notice of changes last night
- Federal laws are coming through which will need some statements (conflict of interest statement) – working with Ian to include this and other required items
 - **Please** - everyone review, make comments and notes and bring this information to the April meeting so that we can review and approve at that time. The goal is April 14th we will meet and approve the by-laws. March 3rd is our executive meeting where we will take all of the changes and complete the last draft. Need to approve them based on our current by-laws (full SRC).
 - Trying to get the By-laws in line with what we do – today we are in violation in WNY referee association
 - DRA section – as a DRA you are an extension of this committee and trying to get the wording into more as to what is practiced –as sending in names. Asking districts – who would you like to work with – sending in names – this committee however may have another name as to who also may be a representative.
 - Duties of the SRA – article 8 – as a non-profit we need to state who is in charge and have chief financial officer and a secretary.
 - I took what we had, what nationals had and Ian and Mike are now on version 8 of this revision. There will be a version 9 (conflict of interest note to add) as we are non-profit organization. No minimum, so we have to issue a 1099 for each outlay of money which will come from the state treasurer.
 - Looking at having an AGM (Annual general meeting) and bring training into this – all at no cost to the members. Talking to Tom about it as an instructional academy.
- Passed out flyer that Indiana gives out to new referees – look at it
- Need to order coins!

Bill Campbell

- Nothing back from the state for Risk Management
- Has completed one spreadsheet currently

- Reminders!
 - No longer doing state badges
 - Until we actually have games starting will have spreadsheets monthly
 - Will do one at the end of January, and then at the end of February complete spreadsheets bi-weekly.
 - If you have someone not registered through WNY (out of state) give Bill their names to check their information and ensure that they are properly registered
 - If you have anyone out of our state association, you must tell Bill what their previous state's risk management
 - Keep your eye open for Nationals – last year someone slipped through
 - Ongoing discussions with the state – a lot of conversation about referees showing their risk management pass at the beginning of games – meeting in mid-December we went through their policy, shortly thereafter the president lost his position so there is nothing official yet
 - Did not have a definition as to what games are being covered (3 leagues NYW leagues and the games are not in NYW) so this policy cannot apply to this
 - Also added that the coach must ask for the pass prior to the match, if they did not ask, no continued conversation
 - Pass must be requested at least 5 minutes prior to the match or when the referee is checking in passes at the match.
 - Section about consequences was removed
 - Planning on creating a committee appointed by the president of NYW as to the base consequences, no committee has been appointed so there has been no progression of this issue.
 - In Buffalo, the travel coordinators were told to have the referees show their risk management – this is NOT policy yet - - Bill Helwig, please send this email to Bill Campbell for follow-up.
 - Director's league and colonial league will not be affected
 - Director's league – have not heard from them formally
 - Colonial league – have not heard from them formally
 - Will be using same assignors for regional games that he uses for State cup
- The DRA home site home page has all of the information you need for games this year
 - If you see an error please call Bill
 - All override codes are posted

John Kramer; SAC

- Have gotten a few emails from people who did not register or meet the requirement of assignor
 - Have left the course open
 - Note that people were never notified although we did check and they did get the information but failed to communicate as to their whereabouts.
 - If someone has an issue in your district, contact John directly
 - Rectify if someone did not show up, communicate that they have lost their opportunity
- Policies – assigning – if we don't have the officials to assign to a game, don't assign them! Don't go to a lesser grade official as we have liability in assigning someone who is not qualified
 - If you have a state emeritus, they can referee to the extent that they qualify
 - Mike is not aware of the policy that we have no 8's on a U17 or U19 game unless they have applied for an upgrade – the policy states that they can do U20 and under
 - Assignor needs to use the best qualified referee available

- Reinforced those that want the games must work toward an upgrade
- The only way we will develop our referees is to give them the games that they are qualified for
- Best way to retain a young referee is to help them out the best that we can
- Spoke about registration and risk management – not a whole lot of policies about indoor games, hope that when we look at assigning people we are looking at people who are registered and have risk management – not a NYSW issue – it is up to the facility – can put anyone on the game – this is the facility’s responsibility. Considered a “practice” on indoor leagues.
 - In Buffalo the facilities have made a commitment to use only USSF certified referees
 - The referee does not wear their badge during these games (as then you are not a US Soccer official) as they are unaffiliated games
 - Need a way to police the indoor games and unaffiliated games to ensure that they are not wearing their badges
 - This has to be explained word for word to our members and the assignors
 - This definition has to be specifically explained and placed in our by-laws
 - The separation is that the assignor is paid by the facility, that is their employer

Tom Ross; SDI – Not present, minutes copied from email to SRC members

- I would like to throw out an idea for discussion. I’m not currently “advocating” for this. It’s something I’ve been considering, and I’d like to get some input to identify issues that I haven’t thought of.
- You may or may not know that there was a plan in the works to revamp the grading of referees, and that plan would have given states a lot of latitude in establishing requirements. Though I wasn’t completely sold on the idea, I did see some potential for improving our training program. That plan, however, was shelved because of widespread disagreement - probably a good decision in my opinion. But I’m wondering we can still do something in the context of the current USSF grade standards.
- The process for new referees that I’m thinking about is:
 - Entry level - All entry level courses would be the Grade 9 (Recreational Referee) course, and all 1st year referees would be Grade 9. (The course is 8 hours.)
 - Second year - All second year officials would take the “Bridge Course” - an 8 hour course that qualifies them for upgrade to Grade 8. Second year referees would not be required to attend a recertification clinic.
 - Third year and beyond - Maintain current recertification standards.
- Discussion followed on this issue.

Here are some of the pros that I see:

- The Recreational course can be done in one day, and may be more attractive to potential candidates.
- The Recreational course charge would be less than the full entry course and 1st year officials would not pay the \$5 state fee or local dues. I’m thinking in terms of charging \$20 for the course (instead of \$35), so the savings would be \$20 and whatever the local dues are. (We’d also charge \$15 or \$20 for the Bridge course in the 2nd year as well.) This shouldn’t have a significant impact on finances, as the instructors’ fees would be based on a single day course instead of a multi-day course.
- Entry level (Recreational) course would key on the absolute basics - what someone needs to know to officiate a U8-U10 game, or serve as an AR on a lower level youth game. I think that we

overload entry students with information that won't be useful to them in their first year. Better to get them comfortable with the basics before moving forward.

- Bridge course would build on both the Recreational course and the referee's year of experience. This is one of the main benefits from my perspective. We teach entry courses in a vacuum. Students have never had the "referee experience" and they think in terms of players. We've done some work with second year referees at district levels, and find that the year of experience makes the teaching more meaningful.

A significant number of entry students never ref a single game.

- They attend because their parents made them, or because their friend was taking the course. But they play on six different teams and don't ever have time to referee. We'd be wasting less of their time and less of our time. In theory, the Bridge Course students would be more committed and create a better learning environment.
- I'm looking at this in the context of making the upgrade in the 2nd year "mandatory." This should make the administrative end easier. All 1st year officials would be Grade 9. The only option they would see in the 2nd year would be "Bridge Course" - which would upgrade them and schedule them for the appropriate clinic.

I have some thoughts on the areas of concern, and I have some responses. But I'm sure that there are issues that have not occurred to me.

- All first year referees would be limited in their eligibility for game assignments.
- As a practical matter, the vast majority of first year officials are only assigned to games that are "Grade 9 eligible." There are a few situations where 1st year Grade 8s are assigned to higher levels, and I confess that I'm looking at this from an instructional perspective. I recognize that it might make more life difficult on some assignors.
- Some Grade 9s might not want to upgrade.
- I still think that those who want to stay a Grade 9 should be "required" to receive the Bridge Course instruction in their second year. From an administrative standpoint, I don't want us to have to keep track of different classes of Grade 9s, so everyone would be a Grade 8 in their second year. The individual always has the option of limiting his/her assignments to specific leagues or levels, so they won't be "forced" to do higher level games.
- We will be required to revamp our training programs. Although there are USSF training programs available, they would need to be reworked to meet our needs. Additional training for instructors would also be needed.
- This one falls on me, and if all other concerns are addressed and the change is eventually made, I'm willing to accept the extra work.

I do think that this has to be "all or nothing." Last year we tried making Game Officials optional, and that created far too much confusion and extra work for the administrators. I think it has to apply to all courses in all districts in WNY in order to be workable.

On the bright side, we'd only be doing this for new people, so for them it wouldn't be a change. There wouldn't be issues for current referees - only for new referees, administrators, instructors and assignors.

I wish I could be present to discuss this in person, but timing is everything. If we want to look at starting this in 2014, we need to get the wheels turning because it will take time to develop the necessary training programs ready for next year.

My request is that there be discussion at the January 13 meeting, with the expectation that any action to implement it would be taken at the April 14, 2013 meeting. If the consensus is that it's not a good idea, we can put it aside and move on with other things. If the consensus is that it is a good idea, I'd like to spend the time between January and April addressing any concerns and formalizing the process so that we can get a final "yea or nay" at the April 13 meeting.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about what's going through my head - admittedly that is a risky proposition.

Thanks for taking the time to review and discuss this

Art Jaspe; SDA

- Refer to minutes of last meeting – after discussion with assessors and working with referees and knowing about the 1099 policy for payment, the idea for prepayment of referees for assessments is gone.
- The selection of approval of approval of assessors to deal with referee based upon the grades of the referees and the assessors it became a solution in search of a problem – it works with the addition of 2 assessors assigned to one referee – allows for participation and for referee to find a second assessor early instead of waiting for assessor. The idea of 2 assessors allows for an early hookup in May, there is an alternative rather than going to Art for the solution. In essence, they will assign 2 assessors to referees who need an upgrade.
 - Preliminary list is where they'll start
 - Had few misses last year, and few non-payments
 - Seems to becoming less of a problem of assessors not posting the assessment
 - System appears to be working
 - There are 28 upgrades
 - States – 5 (1 missed last year)

Steve Wu – treasurer:

- Has the financial information as of year ending June 2012
 - Total revenue \$131,000
 - Includes referee registration
 - Expenses - \$121,000
 - Includes training, computer expense, USSF registration
 - Surplus \$10,000
- Budget is conservative, expenses have been very low
- Budget is checked every quarter, all information is in line
- Last year at year end he did not have enough information to give to our auditor as some of the areas were not using quick books – Southern Tier, Rochester, Batavia & Elmira
 - Southern Tier:
 - Has had conversation with each of these areas. Southern Tier still has yet to give information to Steve
 - Must have this information to give to our auditor by January 20th and has to issue 1099's
 - Needs to get this information that was promised to him
 - Buffalo is up to date and reconciled

- Rochester
 - No record as of today, last information is June 30th entered by Steve – three emails sent to treasurer and president
 - Bill Bianchi is meeting with Neil tomorrow – will tell him that he has to give information to Steve by the end of this week else Bill will get a new treasurer
 - Needs a bank statement as well
- Binghamton
 - Need to update Quick book for December (the only month lacking)
 - Need to reconcile the bank
- Syracuse – up to date and reconciled with the bank
- Ithaca – up to date but need to reconcile with the bank
- Elmira - No record on quick books and not reconciled
- Batavia - Updated but needs to reconcile with the bank
- Watertown – Angela will get an update as they run separate from us and will get information to Steve within the next week. Will work to integrate Watertown and Syracuse accounts.
- Steve has been doing this for 3 years this January – there is a lot of duplicate effort and money to be managed.....
 - SRC pays \$210 a year for a unit that does not use Quick books
 - Concern that his effort is not able to be spread over the year, there are areas with a lot of activity that needs to adhere to the rules of this club else his recommendation may be to take control back at the State level.
 - Need to enforce the rules with the districts that are not performing to date. In Rochester Bill Bianchi will begin to check the books monthly to ensure that the treasurer is doing his job – if he continues to fall behind, Bill will make a treasurer change as Rochester has a large number of transactions each month.
 - This is a district issue – Bill needs password and user ID for 5 Star Bank. Also please get the bank statements from July - December.
 - For Southern Tier –Steve needs M&T bank user ID and password.
 - For the rest of the districts – please make sure that the bank account has Mike Tata and/or Steve Wu’s names on the account so that they can call the bank and get information.
 - Our state account is at 5 Star Bank– if the districts want to move to 5 Star, we will support that to make it easier as we can link in the account with the state account. Let Mike know if you move to 5 Star and there will be no financial impact to the areas if they move.

Jerry Sullivan

- Not present

District reports:

Syracuse

- Held 2 re-cert courses
- Half-way through registration
- Another re-cert is in February

- Entry level is scheduled for last week which was cancelled, instructor did not fulfill his duties, notifications went out late, there were only 4 people signed up, so a follow-up entry level class is scheduled for March
 - Starting this week to put out advertising for this class
- Have a couple people upgraded last year who completed everything but is still showing in Game officials – make sure that they look at the instructions from Mike!
- Needs regular badges from Bill Campbell –email him and he will send them out

Buffalo

- Half-way through re-cert process, about the same as in the past, there will be a big push at the end
- Have had 2 entry level courses and brought in 40-50 new referees
- 4 more entry level classes scheduled and signing up on Game Officials
- Using Arbiter for the house program (Steve Wu) which is allowing Bill the ability to track these referees
- Feedback from re-cert in regards to the referees about not getting the law books – Bill has provided 200 books to Bill, the rest of the referees they've given them a printed out version of the law changes. Referees felt that the state should give out law books – please keep this in mind as we go forward. National is not currently printing them; you can go online and get the changes. Everything is online as a PDF file.
- Multiple emails have been sent in regards to instructor resources. Having a bit of a difficult time downloading instructor materials from the US Soccer website. Tom's answer was that they required software to complete this – all of the instructor materials should be on our website.
 - US Soccer referee development – new items with Michael Kennedy – information from the federation
 - Latest paper regarding the Muslim woman allowing them to wear headgear
 - Question to Tom as to why it's not on our website
 - Mike's comment is any instructional material that is used needs to be on our website
 - Need information from Tom Ross as to what could/should be on the website as many of our computers are not able to be downloaded as the sufficient software is not available
 - Believes we took a step back as the information was not readily available
 - If we all have the information we can share it
 - Some of the instructor laptops do not have the most recent information and software
- Mike will be set for Saturday – Bill will bring Buffalo laptop, it is a three hour (3) session

Rochester

- 250 registered referees, one more recertification set up, entry courses complete with a couple pending
- Paul Tam is going to Emeritus

Southern Tier

- Have not started re-cert yet, does want to get an entry level course set up
- Trying to get information from previous DRA
- Working to get things straightened out

- Actually have a board after many years now to get things straightened out

Ithaca – No Update

Binghamton

- Normally have 80-90 referees, now have 39, have re-certifications set up
- Way down in numbers which is their biggest problem as they won't have enough referees
- Binghamton has sent notices out; different reasons including not liking Game Officials, not liking taking the test online, lack of games, and some are just done refereeing.
- Mike really wants to know why referees are not coming back
- Binghamton needs a new laptop as theirs is broken – James is using his own laptop

Elmira

- 1 re-cert class, not a lot of names have been registered yet
- Will have an introduction class in March
- There are some new league teams

Batavia – no update

Next meetings:

3/03/2013 – Executive

4/14/2013 – Full SRC

8/11/2013 – Executive

9/08/2013 – Full SRC

12/08/2013 – Executive

New Business:

- Will mail badge to Philip Wade
- For the next budget year – consider revising the current instructor fees especially the clinic
 - Re-cert - \$75 for one instructor, \$50 for 2 or more – there is prep time and 3 hours of time – believes that these fees should be revamped. Take this up with Tom Ross.
- Sad note - Joe Dunn's wife passed away before Christmas and his mother passed away between Christmas and New Years
- Woman's national game – Katie Nesbitt & Amanda Ross WNY referees on a full international match!
- Coffee mugs compliments of the State referee committee!
- If anyone knows of any business to make our polo shirts, etc, let Mike know. He would like to go through a company that offers a kickback to us when people order.
- Mike will let people know when others are downgraded

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Bill Campbell, motion was seconded by James Pilcher; Meeting concluded at 1:34pm