

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

April 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Meeting held at the Hampton Inn, Rochester NY. Meeting called to order at 10:01 am

**Roll Call:**

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Michael Tata; SRA               | <a href="mailto:sra@wnyreferee.org">sra@wnyreferee.org</a>                   |
| 2. Dave Baxter, Chairperson        | <a href="mailto:chair@wnyreferee.org">chair@wnyreferee.org</a>               |
| 3. William Campbell, SYRA          | <a href="mailto:syra@wnyreferee.org">syra@wnyreferee.org</a>                 |
| 4. Art Jaspé, SDA                  | <a href="mailto:sda@wnyreferee.org">sda@wnyreferee.org</a>                   |
| 5. John Kramer, SAC                | <a href="mailto:sac@wnyreferee.org">sac@wnyreferee.org</a>                   |
| 6. James Pitcher; DRA Binghamton   | <a href="mailto:Binghamton@wnyreferee.org">Binghamton@wnyreferee.org</a>     |
| 7. Bill Helwig, DRA Buffalo        | <a href="mailto:buffalo@wnyreferee.org">buffalo@wnyreferee.org</a>           |
| 8. Jerry Sullivan, WNYSR Rep       | <a href="mailto:ejsreft@hotmail.com">ejsreft@hotmail.com</a>                 |
| 9. Tom Ross, SDI                   | <a href="mailto:sdi@wnyreferee.org">sdi@wnyreferee.org</a>                   |
| 10. Bill Bianchi – Rochester       | <a href="mailto:Rochester@wnyreferee.org">Rochester@wnyreferee.org</a>       |
| 11. Jim Pashalidis; Rochester      | <a href="mailto:JPash@Rochester.rr.com">JPash@Rochester.rr.com</a>           |
| 12. Rob Richmond; Batavia          |  |
| 13. Steve Wu ;Treasurer            | <a href="mailto:Treasurer@wnyreferee.org">Treasurer@wnyreferee.org</a>       |
| 14. John Cook; Ithaca              | <a href="mailto:Ithaca@wnyreferee.org">Ithaca@wnyreferee.org</a>             |
| 15. Chris Chilano; Batavia         | <a href="mailto:Batavia@wnyreferee.org">Batavia@wnyreferee.org</a>           |
| 16. Tom Barker; Elmira             | <a href="mailto:Elmira@wnyreferee.org">Elmira@wnyreferee.org</a>             |
| 17. Jeff Cook                      | <a href="mailto:FFjcook@hotmail.com">FFjcook@hotmail.com</a>                 |
| 18. Bill Phearsdorf; Southern Tier | <a href="mailto:Southerntier@wnyreferee.org">Southerntier@wnyreferee.org</a> |
|                                    | <a href="mailto:phearsdorfb@yahoo.com">phearsdorfb@yahoo.com</a>             |
| 19. Angela Paparo; DRA Syracuse    | <a href="mailto:Syracuse@wnyreferee.org">Syracuse@wnyreferee.org</a>         |
|                                    | <a href="mailto:apaparo@twcnny.rr.com">apaparo@twcnny.rr.com</a>             |

**Not Present**

Steve Wu, Bill Bianchi, Chris Chilano, Bill Phearsdorf

Meeting minutes were reviewed from January SRC meeting.

There was a motion to accept the minutes with one change by Michael Tata seconded by James Pitcher. Minutes are approved.

**New Business, SRA report and topics:**

**Michael Tata**

- Discussed treasury report in Steve's absence (his notes and financial report below)
  - Savings of \$200 for consolidation of quick books.
  - Rochester unit better, Southern Tier new treasurer is Mark Jackson, Batavia still needs to communicate with Steve.
  - Motion to accept treasury report by Michael Tata, seconded by Bill Campbell, all in favor, non opposed
- Registrations are being manually updated/entered into the US soccer site as has Bill Campbell (250). There is no file upload available.
  - To input this data you have to have the site rights therefore it is difficult to have someone do it for us.

- This is a time consuming task; using a salesforce.com interface which will allow an upload from systems so it should not be an issue next season. We will still have to pull data from the Arbiter site. USSID will be the primary key for registration purposes.
- 500 are in the US soccer data base – Bill C to run the spreadsheet to cross reference with the risk management.
- Note – if referees do not have a risk management pass in hand they should not be accepting games.
- Renewed the Norton anti-virus software – the bill has been paid and there are 7 licenses consumed. Click “Update” to update the system software
- Meeting location –
  - Looking at the Diplomat which has a Sunday brunch – the challenge is that restaurants are not open Sunday morning.
  - Also a downtown theatre on E. Main St is the 2<sup>nd</sup> option but does not offer lunch on premise.
- AGM – Angela is working on this event and has some calls scheduled over the next few weeks
  - Rooms for approximately 100 people.
  - Finding a place accessible to options for outings.
  - Working around the wedding season (March – May).
  - Is looking at the Holiday Inn – near Destiny USA mall and the airport.
  - Angela has brought it up to the board to help assist in this event as it will be held in Syracuse.
  - The event will have various training events – taxes, fitness and nutrition, feature speaker from national (referee specific), awards luncheon for each district to present - a nice way for everyone across the state to get together. Agenda ideas have been shared.
  - We must have a location secured by mid-May.
- Upgrade list – has been shared with all of the DRA’s – need to get a list to Tom Ross.
- Grade 7 - US Soccer has ‘watered this down’, we will continue to require an assessment and a fitness test. The state adult association is fully in favor of this. All adult league matches must have a referee that has passed an assessment and a fitness test.
  - Fitness test requirement – recommendation is to require a fitness test for upgrade to grade 7 but not require one for maintenance.
  - Yes –there are consequences to assignors who assign games to those not qualified. No grade 8 holds a whistle in an adult match. Rochester and Buffalo have the greatest number of adult leagues.
  - For anyone to do the middle of an adult match you have to take the course. Grade 7 has to go to a grade 7 recertification next year – per National.
  - If we do not have enough qualified referees we have to notify the league of this issue. The leagues cannot continue to add teams without being proactively involved in recruiting for referees.

**Bill Campbell; SYRA**

- Cannot ask for a list of risk management for referees as the list includes others who are not referees
- In the process of completing the list to print after cross referencing to send for approval
- It is the referee’s responsibility to obtain and maintain their risk management passes.

- Presidents cup -1 assessor and 6 referees – crew is ready – Memorial Day weekend – May 23-24-25 – Slippery Rock PA. All referees have to be 18 years of age or older and risk management must be within 12 months.
- ODP – 2 assessors/9 referees – invite list sent out – ¾ accepted - - June 7, Ryder.
- Region 1 championship – 2 assessors/13 referees - invites will go out toward the end of this week – Rhode Island (end of June/beginning July).
- Will send out State Cup invites – need official list from Rochester (Jim will follow up), need update from Buffalo – all other districts have replied. May 31 – June 1 Cortland, NY.

#### **John Kramer; SAC**

- Has a list of 1800 names of people with risk management passes – this generated calls to youth U18 – this list is about 90% correct – will send this list to Bill Campbell (not everyone due to confidentiality issues).
- From Chicago, in the assignors clinic
  - Discussed increasing fees.
  - Parental involvement – several states like ours that we provide information to parents as some states do not have this and parents are concerned as to who is communicating with their children.
  - Assignor test – upload next year so that assignors can take the test.
  - Game Officials vs. Arbiter – the states that have a small number of referees and games said Game officials was adequate.
- 21 new assignors (had 2 assignor classes)
  - Dealing with house leagues in Buffalo which will put their information in Arbiter.
  - Have gained a few new assignors in Batavia.
  - Tried to target areas where we didn't have availability in the assigning field.
  - Had several assignors who were not available for the assigning clinic because they were doing indoor games.
  - Bill Campbell has spreadsheet list going back to 2009 if required.
  - Still a few areas void of assignors.
- EBAY tournament – gorge tournament – John needs to get additional information and contact a meeting to give them a local assignor – this is the same weekend as state cup and tournaments in Rochester and Erie. Data has been incorrect and John is concerned. Would be nice to establish an adult tournament. Will keep everyone informed as data continues.
- If anyone is interested and needs starter kits or items, please contact John.

#### **Tom Ross; SDI**

- Fitness testing – please do not tell people to call Tom to get them someone to set up fitness test
- Historically Rochester has run a fitness test in the spring – if you are having a fitness test, please send the data to Tom so that he can cascade this information to anyone who needs a fitness test
- Setting up a fitness test is directly up to the districts.
  - Tom will help if you want to do the interval test.
  - The three districts with state cup have measuring wheels
- Tom will send an email to all grades 5-6-7 in Arbiter as to the fitness tests being given in the areas.
- The fitness test is done during the registration year. Cannot do fitness testing all year due to weather. Example – 2015 registration – fitness testing can be done after August.

- Futsal – the Syracuse class was conducted – no badges were given.
  - Tom will be looking into getting some referees trained as there are futsal games going on in some of the areas that we don't know about (informal games).
  - We are going to get Futsal badges!
- Last year we did an academy at the Cobra's tournament to see how it worked – met and talked about changes to be made – is now looking to do this again at the Cobra tournament.
  - The Cobra teams will pay for referee lodging.
  - This year we are looking for assessments on a 3-game cycle – Complete a game and get assessed, have a meeting, third is on-field training.
  - Must limit candidates to a specific number. We are looking at experienced grade 8's mostly for this training. Young people in late teens to early to mid 20's. Last year there were far more requests than we could take into this program.
  - Cobra tournament is in July 11-13.
  - Weekend event – Friday night is classroom type training with a Scottish couple who travel (may open this to other referees – conduct it at TSE practice room).
  - Thinking of charging \$50 for this event and ensure that they cannot work any other games during this time.
- Books will be issued. Full interpretation to grades 6 and higher.
- Arbiter updates –
  - “A lot of stuff is almost working”!
  - Eligibility feature is working with Band-Aids – repair date is within 2 weeks – automatic update should then be working.
  - If anyone contacts Tom, before they call him –
    - They must check under central hub under eligibility and find their grade,
    - If it's not under 'completed eligibility' click on this to see what you're missing (grey mark).
    - Registration in Arbiter means payment.
    - Test check means they didn't take the right test or they didn't pass the test.
  - Please ensure that they have this data before getting in touch with Tom. If someone just completed something and Arbiter does not show, wait at least 2 days before anyone panics!
  - Arbiter is still the system to for us to use, it will take a while until all of the bugs are ironed out.
  - Most of the inquiries are operator error versus system error.
  - We are going to have to have more training for DRA's for Arbiter – perhaps an AGM topic.
- Anyone doing local training programs for referees, Buffalo has a very active training program – encourage everyone to go to Buffalo and see how they're doing it as it is very effective.
- If anyone is doing on field AR training – please start out new referees without a flag – if there is a scrimmage, just start out with position assignment & training. This will be covered with all of the instructors next year.
- Clinics next year - want a master schedule – had 2 instances this year where we didn't have instructors. This way we can get some cross referencing of clinics in the future, trying to intertwine them to get some cross functional training.
- WNY will have 5 referees above the grade of 5. Jim Pashalidis is becoming a National referee this year.

### Art Jaspe; SDA

- Upgrade assignment to go out for assessment.
- Maintenance assessment needs a list of the registered as a grade 7 and above.
  - This has to be generated from Arbiter – Michael will get this list to Art.
- Have accounted for all of the missing assessments – there were 4.
  - 2 assessments done on field – feedback may or may not have been communicated, fees were paid.
  - 1 assessment was not completed – fee was not paid.
  - 1 was accounted for and is complete.

### Steve Wu – Treasurer

- In email sent by Steve Wu –
- Financial report as of 3/31/2014:

|            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| Income     | \$111,105.85 |
| Expenses   | \$ 62,250.27 |
| Net Income | \$ 48,855.58 |

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Total Cash: Checking | \$102,514.26* |
| Saving               | \$ 50,867.38  |
| Total Cash           | \$153,381.64  |

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Checking-WNYSRA     | \$ 91,945.92 |
| Checking-ITHACA     | \$ 857.56    |
| Checking- So. Tier  | \$ 3,777.61  |
| Checking-Binghamton | \$ 4,683.62  |
| Checking-Elmira     | \$ 1,289.55  |
| Total Checking      | \$102,514.26 |

### Expenses not paid as of 3/31/2014

The USSF Registration Fee estimated \$28K

Remaining Instructors Fee estimated \$1K

The Income and Expenses are within the budget for 2014.

- I have moved and consolidated the following Referee Units back into the WNYSRA, Inc. QuickBooks. We have the Southern Tier, Binghamton, Elmira, and Ithaca in our QuickBooks. The treasurers from the above units will be cutting checks, paying their expenses and making the deposits for their local dues. At the end of each month, they forwarded me an Excel spreadsheet and a copy of their bank statement. I will enter all the transactions and do the bank reconciliation to make sure it is reconciled in QuickBooks. We have been doing this for 2 months and it is working fine.
- The Rochester Referee Unit is up to date and I am waiting for the new treasurer to get on board so I can pass the bookkeeping work back to them and also to review procedures for record keeping.

- Southern Tier Referee Unit is all set with their bank account. The check signers are Dan Foy, Mark Jackson.
- I am still trying to contact the Treasurer from Batavia Referee Unit Jay Okoniewski for over 2 months now. He is not calling me back. I called Fran Percoraro to have Jay call me. I need board approval to ask the Batavia Referee Unit put me as a signer for their checking account so we know what is going on with this account.
- I have the following people Theodore Rivero from Syracuse, Laurie Ruffino from Buffalo, and Thomas Ross from the SRC to form a Finance Committee to review our procedures for recording keeping and set up procedures for the local Treasurers. I will be forwarding the SRC Operating Statement for 2011, 2012, & 2013 for the committee to review.

### **District reports:**

#### Syracuse

- Completed 4 recertification clinics and 1 entry course
- 1 more entry course April 26<sup>th</sup> weekend is scheduled in Watertown
- First entry level clinic had 40 referees although believes numbers will be down
- This Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> a fitness test at 10 am is scheduled.
- Will do an AR clinic at 11 am on 4/13 at the same location.
- Have a general meeting May 1<sup>st</sup> with instruction and general information for all referees.

#### Buffalo

- Registration is complete in Buffalo
- Lost about 275 referees this year
- 150 new referees coming in this year so Buffalo's numbers are down to 2012 numbers
- Every year there are a large number of referees who take courses and either don't come back or don't complete games
- Completed 4 house leagues are now using arbiter – have asked referees to let them know if they're completing games for leagues which do not use arbiter
- Completed 4 unit training clinics – classroom training
- Completed 2 AR classroom clinics for new referees
- On the field clinic for new referees on the turf (60 new referees attended)
- Will have 1 more unit training clinic on May 18<sup>th</sup> - late for the college students who need in-service training completed

#### Rochester

- 5 entry level clinics will be completed
- Will have committees set up to help the process flow more smoothly
- Renegotiated a new contract for adult league
- Implemented new ranking system for referees in alignment with national's
- Targeting a fitness test at the end of the month – it will be posted if anyone needs this done

#### Southern Tier

- Not represented

#### Ithaca

- 26 new referees at the last entry class
- 1 assignor in Dansville
- Field clinic for mentors and for AR's in a couple weeks

#### Binghamton

- Numbers are down – 60-70 people

#### Elmira

- 3 recertifications
- 50-55 referees after introduction classes
- 2 assignors
- Will have about the same number as last year

#### Batavia

- 3 recertification clinics completed
- 1 referee clinic completed

#### **Next meetings:**

8/10/2014 – Executive

9/7/14– Full SRC

12/7/14 – Executive

#### **New Business:**

- Art Jaspe–
  - Payment types for assessment appear to be varied among areas.
  - There will be windows of assessment payments set up - -7 days from the game that the assessment will be posted and 7 days from the posting the assessment must be paid.
  - If he hears from either the referee or assessor he will act
  - The particulars on how the payment is made was not communicated
  - There is a pre-warning in the instruction letter policy statement that if they pay on the field there is a risk
  - Has sent out a request for increasing assessment fee on multiple assessments done – if an assessor goes to a site and there are 2 games or more to assess the fee is being requested to be changed to \$75 per game assigned by Art. (It was \$50 a game).
    - It will not be a high amount this year
    - Art is starting to assign these games – U17 and above – money from Art's budget.
- NPSL – Buffalo/Syracuse/Binghamton – Andy is assignor – have their own schedules – based on the fact that these games are part of the identification of national candidates and national referees – full assessment – 4 man crews – the assessment fee established by pro – lowest is \$120 fee for assessment. This is a little below this. If we follow their structure in mileage and fees, would like to put the fee at \$100. This comes out of Art's budget. National assessors are used. Would like to add the \$100 and mileage fee to the fee structure.
  - We must keep this policy for WNY referees
- John Kramer -
  - Ranking – looking for a policy that all referees receive a state wide ranking – to give games to appropriate referees to help in retention of referees

- Should be a system within each arbiter group to make it easier for the assignors.
- Wants it to be when you go into a game it shows the appropriate official for the game age group.
- Looking for something across the board at the local levels which would help.
- We have developed a ranking system which ranks the grade 8 referees by 10/11/12/14/16 – “700” makes them eligible for higher level games
- Comment –
  - Leave it up to the districts to determine where to put the referees.
  - It comes down to the assignor picking the referee.
  - You can set up your level in the game to only show a certain ranking of officials.
  - Understand what works in one district does not work in another district.
  - If a referee is ranked for a high level game and should not be, then they should have their ranking changed.
  - As an assignor you can propose a set of criteria and suggest this during training.
- Tom Ross –
  - New clinic requirement for upgrades – grade 7 class required to go to grade 7 and a state referee class to go to grade 6
  - Intention to do state referee class every 2 years
  - Undecided as to do this annually or every 2 years
    - Concerned if we do it annually we won’t have the numbers
    - 1 grade 7 clinic per year for state
    - Average cost per clinic depends on how many people we get – this year we had a good turnout – charge \$50, meal was \$18-19, instructor was \$200 – we broke even.
    - Based on the cost it is reasonable to start to do it annually.
  - The Rochester classes are 100+ per year which is too many people
    - Gates Chili has a large class
    - There has to be some changes in the way Rochester completes clinics
    - The maximum for an entry clinic is ~30 people so that the instructor knows the person and the people can interact.
    - By doing state and basic recerts on the same day we exclude people who cannot come in the same day. Keep this in mind when setting up clinics.
    - Note – should post all classes as they are set up.
    - Suggest that everyone talk to Bill Helwig as they have a great system set up in Buffalo. Getting the leagues involved helps tremendously as the league sets up the venue.
- Michael –
  - DRAS –give names of meeting dates so he can visit the districts
  - DRA terms up at the end of the year – flow through who is coming back – information that the DRA intends to return.
  - Tom Ross and Michael’s terms are up at the end of the year.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Art Jaspe, motion was seconded by James Pitcher ;Meeting concluded at 1:00 pm.