

# **Western New York State Soccer Referees Association Meeting Minutes**

29 April 2018

## **I. Call to order**

Chairperson Serrano called to order the regular meeting of the WNYSRA at 10:00am on 29 April 2018 at Radisson Rochester Airport. Welcome to new Chair S. Serrano and Secretary D. Wolgast

## **II. Roll call**

Wolgast conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Stephanie Serrano, Chair

Michael Tata, SRA

Tom Ross, SDI

Art Jaspe, SDA

Bill Campbell, SYRA

Bill Pasnak, SAC

Dave Wolgast, Secretary

Steve Wu, Treasurer

Gary Levine, Rochester on behalf of Bill Bianchi)

James Pitcher, Binghamton

John Cook, Ithaca

Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier

Bill Helwig, Buffalo

Mike Kozak, Batavia

Elmira not represented

Syracuse not represented

Amateur Representative not represented

Youth Representative not represented

### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Minutes from previous meeting were not available

### **IV. Treasurer's Report – Wu**

<See Appendix>

Tata – Currently money coming in for registrations

Wu – Will provide information to districts on request

Motion to approve – Ross

Second – Cook

No Objections – Approved

### **V. SRA Report**

- Has been a contentious/accusatory tone and some animosity recently – Please remember that we are all volunteers and work together to give good service to our referees. We put in many hours and much effort, and we need to be more forgiving of periodic issues and mistakes
- National stopped providing insurance. Was handled by Jan 2018. It is currently in place, and we now have supplemental medical coverage from Sadler for our members. Includes D&O coverage
  - Helwig – What certificate of insurance should be provided to a venue for a clinic?
  - Tata - If venue wants to be additionally insured, produce Sadler cert. Otherwise, does not matter. Can use US Soccer
- Tata – Pro Clinic – should be US Soccer event – WNY should not pay or provide insurance
  - Ross– US Soccer put these burdens on states
  - Tata – Estimated that US Soccer collects \$3.8 million total, only \$1.3 not allocated to PRO
  - Tata – For 2019, National Assignor should first go to US Soccer to fund pro clinic or charge attendees

- Wolgast – Asked about small subsidy for WNY Referees in attendance – has been previously discussed and rejected
- 2018 Administrators workshops held in Dallas
- Batavia Rochester Arbiter from 2017 has not been paid \$3725 – Wu confirmed – Districts please pay outstanding fees
- State has been paying for GO, no intent to charge districts at this time. Much less expensive. Rochester, Batavia and Syracuse were added
- Next full SRC: September 9<sup>th</sup> @ Radisson
- Registration: Sent 111 registrations. Issue with national processing the registrations. Took a few days, but was fixed. 90 more holding + registrations from entry clinic in progress will conclude 2018 registrations. No additional recerts will be held.
  - Helwig – Some referees attended recerts, but not completed exams. Their registrations will not be completed for 2018.
  - Helwig – Is there a way to speed up registration process?
  - Tata – There is a per batch fees, so we want to send reasonable batch sizes to avoid administrative burden on us, and minimize batch fees.
  - Campbell – Needs to be done no more than every 1.5-2 weeks to not overwhelm Campbell (GameOfficials) and Kozak (Risk Management)
  - Kozak – No problem with RM done early
  - Helwig – Are referees considered registered when they appear on Bill Campbell's list? Yes
  - Badges – Short 175 grade 08 badges – have been ordered & received. Short 10 State Emeritus badges
  - DRA (or designee) should be at recerts to distribute badges
  - Ross – Instructors ARE NOT responsible for receiving or distributing badges
- State Referee Coach (Assessor) Course – Going to try to hold in Binghamton in August to fill need in WNY & ENY
- Jaspe – No curriculum yet & US Soccer says may not be available until fall 2019.

- Buffalo – How are Buffalo Junior League Referees paid? Arbitrator Pay. Are there additional requirements on Buffalo referees for working Jr, League? Yes. League is in jeopardy legally of becoming an employer (workers comp, social security, etc...). Other districts should be aware of this. Other leagues have clubs pay on field. Does not remove the obligation for 1099
  - Helwig – Assignor is contractor for league. Responsible to League policies and US Soccer/State policy
- Pasnak – Assignor’s responsibility to verify RM
- AGM held in Rochester in March – more bad weather.
  - Disappointed in numbers. Many late cancellations
  - Very good program
  - Focus for future: How can we get newer/younger referees to attend?
  - Make suggestions for topics/speakers
  - Recommend move to 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in November 2019
  - Ross – Speakers – March is difficult because start of MLS. November will be better for getting speakers. Lost speakers this year due to health and travel/weather. November better chance for speakers and weather. SRC should meet during AGM and be present throughout. Tom will hold meeting to discuss changes
  - Serrano – Who is the target audience? By-laws state AGM should happen between 9/1 and 11/20
  - Tata – We have traditionally called September SRC meeting the AGM for legal reasons
  - Pasnak – supports 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in November
  - Levine – Determine structure of program before picking venue
  - Tata – Bids welcome from Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse

## **VI. SYRA Report (Campbell)**

- Email issue – blocking Campbell’s email. He is working on getting it fixed.
- If SRC wants email box, work with Campbell

- State Cup (June 1,2,3) invitations coming out Monday. Please respond to test email.
  - Candidate lists submitted by all but Rochester, ST, and Syracuse.
  - Must be complete by May 20 to get hotel rooms
- ODP must be turned in on Monday. 2 assessors confirmed. 9 of 10 referees confirmed
  - Regionals – 15 slots – sent 18 invites, 8 accepts, 3 declines
  - Region 1 redoing referee payment structure for 2019. Should not affect WNY. 2019 scheduled for Huntington or Charleston. Going to game fee system paid by USYS.
- We will not be sending anyone to President’s Cup
- We will be sending 3 referees to Eastern Regional League finals (May 12-13)

## **VII. SDI Report (Ross)**

- AGM
  - Requested Chris Bailey (SDI AL) assist to create programming for new referees for 2019 AGM
  - Training will be focused on refereeing higher level youth and adult matches. Pro is not as much of an emphasis.
  - Suggestions requested for speakers/topics
- Gameofficials:
  - There are some known issues – Random cases – Name on credit card gets inserted into display name. Tell Tata or Ross and they will fix
  - Sometimes, GO is telling referees to bring cash to class – this is not correct. We are removing them and asking them to re-register
  - Incorrect amounts showing up in reports for amounts people were required to pay
  - GameOfficials is becoming OfficialsConnect (rebranding), part of US Soccer Connect. US Soccer has teamed with a vendor to convert to a full-featured service for soccer community. Planned launch in October with Development Academy
- Recerts
  - Issue with referees being tardy – 2018-19 there will only be a 10-minute grace period after which attendance will be closed
  - Tata: Walkups are an issue. How do we fix? Badges and room sizes are potential issues.
- SDI Workshop
  - Change being planned to combine Assessors and Instructors to be coaches. 4 day seminar. No date set to begin the program
  - Entry Level – mix of online, classroom, and field. Online pre-work, first day classroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> day, field – difficult for WNY – weather and facility issues

- Entry Level Instructor clinic
  - Nominate people from underrepresented districts
  - At least 5 years referee experience
  - Application process will come out soon
  - Need in Batavia, Elmira, Southern Tier
  - Could use new people in Buffalo, Rochester
  - If a district does not have at least two instructors, the district will be responsible for expenses for any session requiring a second instructor
- SRC Role
  - Rochester – Lack of leadership: poor management of fitness testing – Picked dates, did not arrange instructors. At least 2 instructors required for fitness
  - Certificate of insurance – Most districts used venues which did not require listing as co-insured. Rochester and Batavia continued to use other facilities and did not make the necessary changes. Recerts were cancelled. Insurance issue settled in January
  - Next year – needs to be a change to how Rochester schedules clinics
  - Batavia – Scheduled recert early. Cancelled. Rescheduled for March, 40+ registrants at Batavia HS. Batavia HS required insurance certificate. Certificate was sent. Tata & Ross followed up with BHS, determined that BHS was never reserved (could not have been reserved due to SAT exams) as well as insurance certification already complete for 2018. Tata rebooked Gilliam Grant Center quickly.
  - SRC role is to coordinate activities. We will not book locations. District role is to set up clinics. Deadline for recert request: Nov 1. Entry-level has no deadline
  - It takes approximately 48 hours after request to have insurance certificate produced with venue listed as additional insured
  - Will add fitness as a written test as part of the recert course
  - Entry level classes may not register more than 40 participants
  - Recert can be more, but 20-30 is optimal
  - Have had success with offering courses through school districts' continuing education programs
  - Fitness tests should be scheduled early and spaced
  - Start looking at recert dates and locations for 2019 registration
  - Kozak – Looking to make Risk Management easier for minor referees

### **VIII. SDA Report (Jaspe)**

- Assignments for upgrade and maintenance have been posted. Very few downgrades in 2018 for not completing assessments
- Is it possible for entry level clinic to contain more content relevant to assistant referees on second day?

- Ross – will be reviewing entry course to see if reconfiguration can be done
- Helwig – Confirming new flat assessment fee in place \$75 + \$15 for additional on a game.

#### **IX. SCA Report (Pasnak)**

- No assignor courses planned before Feb 2019
  - Better assess local needs
  - Have better idea what assigning platform will be used
  - 5 years referee experience
- Upgrade clinic moved to weekend before Thanksgiving
- Campbell – Referee is added into GameOfficials group as soon as they become registered. They are emailed a link to training material.
- If any assignor issues, please report to Pasnak
- Ross – Assignors should be looking for opportunities to use new referees

#### **X. Batavia**

- New Referees – growth is flat
- BRU will coattail RRU mentor program
- Empire Showcase next weekend and following weekend
- Unit meeting yesterday and May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Rob Richmond will be leaving BRU July/August 2018

#### **XI. Binghamton**

- Youth (12 & under) are unable to unclick privacy check box for profile. Other minors get warning when they unclick.

#### **XII. Buffalo**

- Was granted request received for mentor program for Buffalo? Tata - yes
- Conflict of Interest Forms: Are they available? Tata – Not at this time
- Concerns about updates to Instructor laptops – Instructors should connect laptops to the internet to allow updates prior to classes so they do not get stuck in an update during a class
- Question about remote assistance – Campbell - suggestion use Google Remote Desktop

#### **XIII. Ithaca**

- 35 people at AR clinic last week including some from Elmira and Binghamton
- District by-law changes have been made and are available

#### **XIV. Rochester**

- 529 registered 329 returning, 200 new
- Mentor program in full swing in April
- 3 AR clinics held
- 2 mentor 101 classes, more to come
- Outdoor clinics this & next weekend
- Those that attend say they enjoy and benefit
- Franz Sauer retired from assigning – Tony Perdue will take over
- Rochester & Batavia assigners working together on Great Lakes Alliance

#### **XV. Southern Tier**

- Recerts all successful
- Referee from OH-N attended our recert, will register with OH-N
- Added referees, retained more referees. Numbers are up

#### **XVI. New business**

- Tata – Mentor Program
  - Define goals and success criteria
  - W9 needed if mentors are getting paid
  - No issues with district proposals – recommend awarding \$2,000 per application (some districts have submitted combined applications)
  - After the season, each program will be evaluated
- Motion: Approve \$2,000 per district for one year
  - Second Campbell
  - Discussion:
    - Ross – Why \$2K per district?
    - Tata – Larger districts have more local dues and can support more
    - Ross - Is it fair to have referees in those districts pay a larger share?
    - Pasnak – Evaluate amounts after 2018 program concludes and adjust for 2019

- Vote: In favor: all; Opposed: none, motion carried
- Phearsdorf – If league pays for mentors, is W9 required? Tata – That is up to the league; Wu – we are trying to avoid paying referees. If unit pays the \$2000 to the league, the league will get a 1099
- Tata - Directory will be sent out for SRC and local boards
- Tata – Local accounts (Paypal, etc...) – not allowed. We will shut down any other local accounts
- Ross – We will not accept additional Risk Management requirements from venues on our Instructors (e.g. St. Bonaventure)

## **XVII. Adjournment**

- Motion – Ross,
  - Second - Paskak

Chairperson Serrano adjourned the meeting at 2:13pm EDT: Name

Minutes approved by: Name