

Western New York State Soccer Referees Association Meeting Minutes

8 September 2019

I. Call to order

SRA Michael Tata called to order the regular meeting of the WNYSRA at 10:00 EDT on 8 September 2019 at Radisson Rochester Airport.

Roll call

The following members were present:

Michael Tata, SRA

Tom Ross, SDI

Art Jaspe, SDA

Bill Campbell, SYRA

Bill Pasnak, SAC

Steve Wu, Treasurer

Chris Rollins for Bill Bianchi, Rochester

James Pitcher, Binghamton

Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier

Bill Helwig, Buffalo

Chair Stephanie Serrano not present.

Syracuse, Elmira and Ithaca not represented

Amateur Representative not represented

Youth Representative not represented

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from 7 April 2019 previously distributed

Motion: Ross

Second: Campbell

Approved unanimously

III. Treasurer's Report – Wu

<See Appendix>

- Fiscal year ended 8/31/19. Still awaiting reconciliation of accounts from Southern Tier and Elmira, so final report not yet available.
- Treasurer recommended that current restrictions on two districts' expenditures remain in place.
- Discussion on centralizing bookkeeping under state treasurer. Concept to be considered by the finance committee.

IV. SRA Report (Tata)

- Policy and Procedure Update
 - Copies have been distributed previously
 - Executive Committee reviewed and revised at prior meeting
 - Most changes are the result of USSF changes from Grades to Levels
 - Changes were reviewed and explained. Added one section requiring that applicants for “Advanced Grassroots” status be at least 18 years old.
 - Motion to accept as revised by Ross, 2nd by Campbell. Motion carried unanimously.
- AGM – Nov 1-3, 2019 booked at Rochester Radisson Airport
 - Picture of “hoodie” design shared with the group. Approved amended logo.
- Website Upgrade
 - Changes at US Soccer have consumed a lot of time and this item has been on hold
 - Hopes to reignite soon.
- Registration
 - Four options available: US Soccer Learning Center; Arbiter; Stack Sports (Game Officials); Officials Management System (OMS). None of the

options are “good” choice, so we are left taking chances with the “least undesirable.”

- Motion by Rollins, second by Pitcher to authorize SRA and SDI to determine which system we will use ASAP. Carried unanimously.
- NOTE: This will affect the registration process only. At this time we do not anticipate any changes in assigning system.
- State Assessors
 - With new requirements for Regional Referee assessments, we have a drastic need for State Assessors
 - USSF is creating “Referee Coach” position and has not expressed interest in conducting state assessor course
 - With changes in requirements for Regional Referee fitness, we may see a dramatic drop in the need for assessments

V. SYRA Report (Campbell)

- Young Referees of the Year
 - Currently reviewing submissions
- Question from Jaspe regarding “open invitation” to Regionals sent out by Regional Committee. How do those people request financial assistance from WNY?
 - SRC will invite a certain number of people to attend Regionals as our selections. Expenses for those people will be covered.
 - Those not invited by the SRC are responsible for their own expenses

VI. SDI Report (Ross)

- AGM Update
 - Reviewed tentative schedule and confirmed speakers
 - Discussion of ways to encourage attendance by younger officials
 - Will have two training blocks designed for referees with 1-5 years’ experience

- Still attempting to confirm additional speakers
- Fitness Testing
 - Beginning next year, Regional Referees will need to pass the FIFA Women's Referee fitness test. Males have to pass "Category 1" and females have to pass "Category 3."
 - Much more challenging standard, will likely result in significant drop in the number of Regional Referees
- Recently sent correspondence to DRAs regarding scheduling of recert clinics and entry clinics
 - We will have both basic and advanced recert clinics. Schedule due by 10/31/19. After that date, district will be responsible for all costs for additional clinics.
 - Students must arrive at recert clinics by scheduled starting time. If they arrive after scheduled starting time, they will not get credit for attendance and will need to attend a different clinic.
 - Entry Clinics – We will be doing one day of "in-person" training combined with USSF's online course. Entry clinic schedules are due by 12/31/19. After that date, districts are responsible for all costs.
 - Initially request that entry clinics be limited to 30 people
 - Facility should have a place for "field training" and classroom facilities. Would like a minimum of 2 hours available for field training.
- Law Update Information for leagues
 - Sent correspondence to DRAs asking that they notify leagues that we will provide instructor to cover changes in Laws of the Game
 - Changes may impact game strategy, so it's suggested that the information be provided before teams start their winter practice

VII. SDA Report (Jaspe)

- Assessors will be required to attend advanced recert clinic.
- Assessor recert will be done online

- Question about how prepaid assessments worked out.
 - Generally satisfied. Referees generally seemed to like it better. Identified some issues resulting from late changes in assignments, etc. Assessor assignors will be discussing changes over the winter.

VIII. SCA Report (Pasnak)

- Nothing to report on assigning

IX. Binghamton

- Nothing to report

X. Buffalo

- Nothing to report

XI. Elmira

- Tom Barker resigned as DRA. Unit is looking for new candidate.

XII. Ithaca

- Absent

XIII. Rochester

- Provided information on transaction fees to treasurer

XIV. Southern Tier

- Nothing to report

XV. Syracuse

- Absent

XVI. Old Business

- None

XVII. New business

- None

XVIII. Good of the Organization

- None

XIX. Meetings

- AGM November 1-3, 2019

XX. Adjournment

- Motion – Campbell
- Second - Pitcher

SRA Michael Tata adjourned the meeting at 12:45 PM EDT