

Western New York State Soccer Referees Association Meeting Minutes

13 September 2020

I. Call to order

Chairperson Serrano called to order the regular meeting of the WNYSRA at 10:03 EDT on 13 September 2020 as an online conference.

Roll call

Secretary 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

Bill Bianchi, Rochester

James Pitcher, Binghamton

Ithaca not represented

Bill Phearsdorf, Southern Tier

Bill Helwig, Buffalo

Chad Sustello, Elmira

Jason Byrnes, Syracuse excused, not represented

Amateur Representative not represented

Youth Representative not represented

Also present: Jim Pashalidis, incoming SDA

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes from April 2020 previously distributed

Motion: Bianchi

Second: Ross

Approved unanimously

III. Treasurer's Report – Wu

<See Appendix>

Motion: Tata

Second: Bianchi

Approved unanimously

IV. SRA Report (Tata)

- Policy and Procedure updates <See appendix for proposed changes>
 - Pashalidis requested modification to amount of time before Assessor forfeits payment – to be added

Motion: Tata

Second: Campbell

Approved

- Meetings: Radisson Inn has closed. Proposed Fazool's Restaurant in Brockport as substitute site – no facility charge. Only payment for food. Estimate approx. \$150 per meeting, as opposed to \$300 per meeting at Radisson
 - Bianchi: What about NYSWYSA office? Tata: too small for our group
 - Serrano: Can we continue to meet via Zoom? Tata: would prefer meeting in person when possible
 - Pasnak: Can we do next meeting (Jan) by Zoom to give time to find suitable location? Tata: We will do Zoom for January 2021 and we will reconsider for April 2021

V. SYRA Report (Campbell)

- Changes happening at Regionals, State Cup, Thruway league – no information available yet
- State Youth Referee of the year – 3 male and 1 female applications – Winner has been chosen but not yet notified. Will be announced at a later date.
- Tata has asked NYSWYSA to dedicate Youth Referee of the Year after Jonathan Solow, who passed away in 2020 at age 22. State has verbally agreed pending Jonathan’s parents’ approval. Also proposed a scholarship fund for Youth Referee of the Year winners. Winners would each be awarded \$500.

Motion: Tata

Moves that the State Youth Referee of the Year award be dedicated and named for Jonathan Solow, and each winner granted a \$500 scholarship to be paid to their post-secondary educational institution of choice. Those who do not plan to attend post-secondary education may choose a charity for donation of the funds

Second: Campbell

Approved Unanimously

VI. SDI Report (Ross)

- Recert clinics – Likely will be done online at this time
 - Usual facilities are not allowing outside groups to use space
 - Do not want to place burden on instructional staff to manage masks, social distancing, etc...
 - Will be training instructors to provide online seminars
 - Tata: Can we wait until 2021 to schedule recerts? Ross: We do not want to wait beyond January for scheduling concerns
- Entry Clinics
 - Holding off on scheduling entry courses at this time, 70-80 new referees were certified online but none were able to referee.
 - If online, prefer holding course as close to the season as possible (March, April and May if necessary)
 - Mandatory field training will be skipped if course is online

- Upgrade clinic – no upgrade clinic currently scheduled – dependent on numbers and public health situation
- SafeSport – referees must update SafeSport prior to current SafeSport expiration in order to register
 - Pasnak request – please include instructions on verifying SafeSport date in 2021 registration instructions
- Safe and Healthy Playing Environment course must be completed in Learning Center for re-registration. Content will be covered in Entry Level classes

VII. SDA Report (Jaspe)

- Grade 7 assessors and instructors will combine into Referee Mentor classification and must complete new coursework
- Regional Assessors must take coach course to get Referee Coach license
- 32 regional referees, 6 regional assessors, 2 national referee coaches – Loss of 2 regional assessors in Rochester district
- Regional licenses will be valid until Coach program is established

VIII. SCA Report (Pasnak)

- No Report

IX. Binghamton

- No Report

X. Buffalo (report given by Tata)

- Some adult and youth games occurred. Fall house leagues being planned, ECNL-RL games played yesterday
- Attempted to book town/school and private rooms – organizations are not currently permitting use and are unwilling to give timeframes. Private facilities that are willing to host are very expensive

XI. Elmira

- Request clarification on local dues – Lower rate offered for referees <18 years old (\$10 discount). Can refund or collect those dues separately

XII. Ithaca

- No report

XIII. Rochester

- Some non-affiliated youth play occurred this summer. Some fall leagues happening (including Livonia/GV league)
- RDSL season completed
- Tata: Assault hearing for RDSL incident – Tata needs to recuse for potential perceived conflict of interest – requests someone volunteer to sit on hearing in his place
- Discussion on Rochester District finances & accounting issues
- Tata recommends collecting all local dues as part of OMS registration process
 - Set up a clinic in OMS where referees register to pay local dues
 - Pasnak: verify that all districts have closed PayPal/Square/etc... accounts

Motion: Tata

Local units close to all financial accounts other than primary M&T Unit Checking account and provide verification to SRC by September 30th 2020

Second: Campbell

Approved Unanimously

- Discussion about Fine collection for 2019 Rochester leagues late/missing report fines

XIV. Southern Tier

- No Report

XV. Syracuse

- No Report

XVI. Old Business

- Campbell – it is legal for a team from NY to leave NY to play. It is not legal for a team outside NY to play inside NY
- Pashalidis – Request clarification on unaffiliated play
 - Tata – we do not support for unaffiliated matched, but we cannot prevent referees from working those games. They are not covered by our insurance and must not wear their badges.

XVII. New business

- Social Media presentation <attached>

XVIII. Good of the Organization

- Please fully vet health situations prior to publicizing and requesting assistance – there was a misidentified situation earlier this year
- We may need a new treasurer as Mr. Wu has resigned as of the end of 2020 tax filings

XIX. Meetings

- January 10, 2021

XX. Adjournment

- Motion – Pitcher
- Second - Pasnak

Chairperson Serrano adjourned the meeting at 12:42 EDT

Minutes approved by: <Name>