



Western New York State Referee Association

Report to New York State West Youth Soccer Association - 2015

William A. Campbell, State Youth Referee Administrator

REGISTRATION REPORT:

The referee population declined about 8% decreasing from 1895 registrations in 2014 to 1740 referees in 2015, however it should be mentioned that these numbers may not be entirely accurate. This is due to the fact the USSF changed their registration system from USSoccer.info to a Salesforce based application in the middle of the season and our current registration system (ArbiterSports) had difficulty interfacing with the new system. We have already decided that if this issue is not resolved during this registration year, we will likely change vendors. Our number of state level referees (who focus primarily on higher level matches) declined significantly from 59 in 2014 to 46 in 2015. This is not viewed as a major issue however because it was caused mainly by the restructuring of grades by USSF last year and we expect that this number will decrease again this year. The new Grade 7 description is actually about the same as the old state grade definition and if you add those referees into the mix, we actually increased our numbers of adult capable referees slightly. We trained 541 new grade 8 referees which is comparable to previous years.

RECREATIONAL YOUTH REFEREE PROGRAM:

With the new policy adopted by USSF taking effect in 2016 that ALL affiliated games MUST be assigned by a USSF certified assignor, clubs should be aware that if they need referees to handle these younger aged (U14 or lower) recreational matches, they should contact the SYRA (syra@wnyreferee.org) to set up instruction for these new referees. If a club has not been using a certified assignor for their games, they should contact the State Director of Assignors (sac@wnyreferee.org) to get a list of certified assignors. There is no longer any allowance based on whether or not the assignor is paid... (s)he MUST be certified. This was adopted to give national more control on whether or not the referees doing these matches are doing so in accordance with national policy.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COMPETITIONS:

Western New York referees enjoyed another solid year at the regional and national level.

REGION 1 PRESIDENT'S CUP: WNYSRA sent 5 referees and one assessor to the tournament this year in Slippery Rock, PA. They were Bojan Atanasovski, Jonathan Bilinski, Evan Holl, Daniel Kaluzhnyy and Ankur Singh. John Kramer attended as an assessor. Of particular note was the fact that Jonathan Bilinski was invited to the National President's Cup finals based on his performance at the tournament. This is the 2nd year in a row that WNYSRA has had someone invited to the national event. Also of note, WNYSRA Assessor Kevin Barci was invited to the tournament as the lead assessor and WNY helped another region 1 state by sending Steve Montanino as an assessor.

REGION 1 ODP TOURNAMENT: 10 referees and 2 assessors attended the event held the weekend after state cup in the Lawrenceville/Princeton area of New Jersey. Assessors attending were Dick Reif and Sam Akinbami. Referees in attendance were Mackenzie App, Mason Callahan, Drake Garner, Michael Guzzetta, Daniel Kaluzhnyy, Khiem Chau, Charles Loweecey, Bojan Atanasovski, Antonio Triana and Nicholas Wodo. Due to the level of their performance at this tournament, both Nicholas Wodo and Daniel Kaluzhnyy were invited to the regional finals in Kirkwood, DE.

REGION 1 DIRECTOR'S PREMIER LEAGUE FINALS: Western New York nominated two referees to attend the finals in Kirkwood Delaware. They were Rabee Naji of Buffalo and Daniel Kaluzhnyy of Binghamton. Once again, Rabee Naji was invited to represent the Premier league at the Region 1 Championships.

REGION 1 CHAMPIONSHIPS: 15 referees and 2 assessors attended the Region 1 Championships at Huntington, WV this year. For many of the referees, this was their first year at the tournament and I am happy to say that they represented Western New York extremely well. Assessors attending were Dick Reif and John Kramer. Referees invited to the tournament were Mackenzie App, Bojan Atanasovski, Jonathan Bilinski, Mason Callahan, Jeffrey Cook, Michael Guzzetta, Ellena Holl, Evan Holl, Daniel Kaluzhnyy, Brianne Lilly, Charles Loweecey, David Rousseau, Amy Shmoys, Jwan Smith and from the Premier League Rabee Naji. Unfortunately, our 16th invited referee, Ankur Singh, had a family emergency only two days before the tournament and was unable to make the trip.

All but 3 of our referees were assigned to semis with centers going to Jonathan Bilinski, Under 12 Boys Small Sided; Brianne Lilly, Under 12 Girls Small Sided; Mackenzie App, Under 14 Girls and Jeffrey Cook, Under 17 Boys.

Three of our referees received final assignments. Those were Rabee Naji, Under 12 Girls Small Sided Center; Daniel Kaluzhnyy, Under 16 Boys AR1; and Jeffrey Cook, Under 17 Boys as a fourth official.

Of note, Jeffrey Cook was sent to the National Finals based on his performance at regionals.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:

Mackenzie App, our 2014 NYSW Young Female Referee of the year was also named the Region 1 Young Female referee of the year. This was not known at the time this report was submitted last year.

We continued our Western New York Referee Association Development Academy in 2015. Eighteen of our promising Grade 8 and 7 referees were selected for the Academy. The Academy was held during the Cobras FC Tournament in July. On Friday evening, participants received training in the classroom. They worked a minimum of three games on Saturday and Sunday, and were assessed after each game. Instructors were present to supervise observation and review of ongoing games. On Sunday, the group watched as some of our professional referees officiated the U19 boys championship game.

WNYSRA is under continuing pressure to support the Region 1 ODP camps in July in Rhode Island. We have not been supporting these camps in recent years because the games have been slowly, over the years, become less competitive and the instruction offered has become quite basic. We have been using our WNY Academy to train more of our referees on more competitive games for less money. We may be required to send a few pre-State Cup referees to the tournament either this year or in future years.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Campbell

State Youth Referee Administrator

New York State Youth Soccer Association and the Western New York State Referees' Association