

2007 Report of the SYRA to the NYSWYSA Board of Directors

REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

Referees invited to work at the Region 1 ODP Tournament and Region 1 Championships made great strides in their careers this year in the competitions and were honored with several post regional appointments.

The ODP Tournament, held at Rider College in Lawrenceville, New Jersey on June 8-10, 2007 saw 9 of NYSW's most promising young referees officiate games that are renowned for the speed and talent of the individual players. Representing NYSWYSA were Ryan Carnevale (Binghamton), Chris Richey (Ithaca), Stephanie McKay (Buffalo), Katie Nesbitt (Rochester), Jon Baxter (Rochester), Ray Tam (Rochester), Phil Cunningham (Buffalo), Brian Morgan (Rochester) and Dan Cheatham (Ithaca). Also representing our state were assessors Angelo Paparo and Dick Rief. All of the referees performed extremely well but two particularly stood out. Ray Tam and Stephanie McKay (New York West's Young Female Referee of the Year), both had incredible performances at ODP and as such, were invited to the ODP Finals in Kirkwood.

At the Region 1 tournament, held from June 27 to July 3, 2007 near Portland, Maine, 11 young New York West referees were able to show what they were capable of. They were John Baxter (Rochester), Dan Cheatham (Ithaca), Ashley Ernst (Buffalo), Andy Evangelos (Rochester), Mike Gabor (Buffalo), Mike Huntley (Batavia), Chris Luhrs (Binghamton), Stephanie McKay (Buffalo), David Mon (Rochester), David Monroe (Buffalo) and Chris Richey (Ithaca). Again, all of our referees performed extremely well and all were rewarded with semi-final matches and six of the eleven were assigned to the finals. Assignments on the last two days were: Jon Baxter (AR#1 on a U14 Boys Semi and AR1 on the U13 Boys final), Dan Cheatham (Center on a Under 14 Girls semi), Ashley Ernst (4th official on a U19 girls semi and center on the U19 Girls final), Andy Evangelos (AR2 on a U16 Boys semi), Mike Gabor (4th on the U12 boys semi and center on the U13 boys final), Mike Huntley (AR1 on a U15 girls semi), Chris Luhrs (center on a U15 girls semi), Stephanie McKay (Center on a U13 girls semi and AR2 on the U15 girls final), David Mon (Center on a U13 boys semi), David Monroe (Center on a U15 boys semi and 4th official on the U18 boys final) and Chris Richey (4th on a U14 girls semi and center on the U12 boys final). Also honored was David Monroe who was selected as an alternate Assistant Referee to the US Youth Soccer National Finals.

Of particular note however was the invitation that came to Ashley Ernst, a grade 7 referee from the Buffalo district. She was invited and assigned to the US Youth Soccer National Finals in Frisco, Texas as an Assistant Referee. This was a great honor for her and a wonderful experience as well.

TRAINING

There were over 35 recertification clinics and over 30 additional entry level clinics for referees. With all of this training Western New York was able to register a record number of people for 2007. With 1,080 recertifying referees and another 676 new referees...2007 had an increase over 10% over those registered in 2006.

Also, in 2007 Western New York was able to offer an entry level assessor course and an assignor course.

MENTORING

The Broome County Soccer Association began its program of mentoring all youth officials on U10 matches. This provided the opportunity for some 50 young 1st and 2nd year officials to be seen on 139 matches. The U10 program was extremely well received by the league, the young referees and the individual member clubs and will continue. Due to the success of that program, the Tompkins County Fall League decided to also adopt the program and it is running now in the 3 referee districts as we speak adding more valuable training to our newest referees. The Broome County league is still negotiating with the 3 WNYSSRA districts involved to provide some mentoring funds to a number of U12-16 matches as well still with a target beginning date of April 2008. In addition to the programs which have been running in Buffalo and Rochester, the SRC has approved a plan to

pay for assessments on certain selected regional and state cup playdown matches within NYSW. With a large influx of new assessors, we were also able to assess almost 75% of the matches played at the 2007 NYSWYSA State Cup. We are hoping to be able to continue that program in the coming years.

RECREATIONAL YOUTH SOCCER REFEREE PROGRAM

The recreational youth referee program in Western New York is getting healthier but still far short of where it needs to be. Total referee retention (all grade 9 referees who either returned or upgraded) was at 60%. Although this number is still below the national average, it is well above the 42% that returned in 2006 and the 15% that returned in 2005. The table below shows the statistics of registration comparing 2007 to 2006.

STATUS	2006	2007	Change	Percentage
New Grade 9	82	127	+45	+54%
Returning Grade 9	46	54	+8	+17%
Total	128	181	+53	+41%
Grade 9's upgrading to grade 8	14	23	+9	+64%
Total Grade 9's returning	60	77	+17	+28%

These numbers will not likely become more reasonable until a program for compliance with USSF Policy 531-8 is in place and enforced. In that light, during the past 8 months, the SYRA has been in constant communication with the NYSW board of directors whom have been supportive of an initiative to bring NYSWYSA into full compliance with USSF Policies regarding match assignment and officiating; most notably Policy 531-8 which, in short, requires all affiliated matches to be officiated by currently certified USSF officials. In light of the compliance issues, several pricing documents were created to deflect some of the concerns expressed in the past by the clubs and leagues affected as well as revive the Grade 12 Assistant Referee grade in our state (attachments 1, 2 & 3). These programs allow a club or league to sponsor a referee class at a lower cost and without the mandatory minimums previously required by the State Referee Committee. The Grade 12 program allows areas which are currently only using 1 official on matches to train and use the same people who typically end up being the club linespeople as fully trained and functioning AR's. Between these possibilities and the ever increasing number of classes being offered by the SRC, we are looking forward to a very healthy future.

NYSWYSA has agreed to help by educating their membership as to the issue and advertising the program as devised by the SYRA, SRA and the SRC. In addition to our normal class schedule, we are attempting to schedule 4 pairs of clinics in the state. Each paired clinic will start with a recreational youth referee instructor class and end with a recreational youth referee class. Both classes are 8 hour classes and are aimed at making it possible for the local clubs to train and certify their own officials by certifying local volunteers as referee instructors. We have asked that Buffalo schedule a pair of clinics in December 2007, Syracuse in January, Elmira/Binghamton/Ithaca in February, and finally Rochester in March. With the exception of the final clinic pair in Rochester, I have asked that each of the forenamed districts schedule these classes on either consecutive days or on consecutive Saturdays. In Rochester, since we believe it may end up being the "catch-all" class for the state, I have requested that they be scheduled on consecutive days. We are working toward a major announcement of the program surrounding the 2007 Annual General Meeting of NYSWYSA in November 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
 William A. Campbell
 State Youth Referee Administrator
 WNYSRA and NYSWYSA

**GENERAL COURSE FEES FOR GRADE 9 AND GRADE 12 COURSES
IN WESTERN NEW YORK AS OF JANUARY 14th, 2007**

For purposes of this document, *course set up* shall refer the following activities:

1. Reserving, arranging and paying for suitable classroom space for up to 8 hours of classroom time on one day.
2. Receiving student fees and paying for USSF registration fees with one check made out to "WNYSRA" and the instructor directly with a separate check so that the instructor need only handle 2 checks.
3. Advertising and other activities needed to find students for the class.
4. Registering students for the class and providing the instructor with a list of students one week prior to the class.
5. Appointing someone to meet the instructor at the course site ½ hour prior to the class and then again at the conclusion of the course to help with students arriving, room access and final shut-down/clean-up of the space.

Under all circumstances, the Western New York State Referee Association will pay for all USSF mandated course materials. The instructor will also be responsible for grading all exams and handling the initial referee registrations according to the procedures defined by the Western New York State Referee Association (WNYSRA).

If a district of the WNYSRA handles course set up, the fees will be as stipulated by the current fee structure accepted by the WNYSRA. As of 1/14/2007, this fee is \$15 per student with a minimum of 10 students enrolled in the class.

If an affiliated club or league wishes to request a course **and handle the course set up**, the fee structure will be as follows:

Registration fee will be \$20 per successful candidate for the Recreational Youth Referee (Grade 9) badge and \$15 per successful candidate for the Assistant Referee (Grade 12) badge. Please note: these are two separate courses and cannot be combined per USSF policy.

For either course, the instructor's fee will be as follows:

\$150 minimum, which will cover up to 20 students (no minimum number of students is required)

For each student over the base number of 20, the requesting club or league shall pay the instructor \$10 each to a maximum of 35 students.

In the case of the Recreational Youth Referee class, the course must be requested of the State Youth Referee Administrator.

In the case of the Assistant Referee Course, the course must be requested of the State Director of Instruction.

Requests can and should be handled through the local District Referee Administrator for the area in which the course is being held.

The WNYSRA will not charge the State Management Fee to any Grade 9 or 12 referee and no local district will charge local dues to 1st year Grade 9 or 12 referees. (The WNYSRA strongly recommends that no local dues be charged to these grades.)

**COURSE FEES FOR GRADE 8 COURSES
IN WESTERN NEW YORK
When the course is Set-up by a League or Club**

For purposes of this document, *course set up* shall refer to the following activities:

1. Reserving, arranging and paying for suitable classroom space for up to 16 hours of classroom time on any combination of the following: two days; multiple evenings; two evenings and one day; a weekend, consisting of a Friday evening, all day Saturday, and half of Sunday.
2. Receiving student fees and paying for USSF registration fees with one check made out to “WNYSRA” and the instructor directly with a separate check so that the instructor need only handle 2 checks.
3. Advertising and other activities needed to find students for the class.
4. Registering students for the class and providing the instructor with a list of students one week prior to the class.
5. Appointing someone to meet the instructor at the course site ½ hour prior to the class and then again at the conclusion of the course to help with students arriving, room access and final shut-down/clean-up of the space.

Under all circumstances, the Western New York State Referee Association will pay for all USSF mandated course materials. The instructor will also be responsible for grading all exams and handling the initial referee registrations according to the procedures defined by the Western New York State Referee Association (WNYSRA).

If a district of the WNYSRA handles course set up, the fees will be as stipulated by the current fee structure accepted by the WNYSRA.

If an affiliated club or league wishes to request a course **and handle the course set up**, the fee structure will be as follows:

Registration fee will be the current registration fee charged by the WNYSRA (currently \$30 per successful candidate) for the Referee (Grade 8) badge.

The instructor’s fee will be as follows:

\$240 minimum which will cover up to 20 students (no minimum number of students is required)

For each student over the base number of 20, the requesting club or league shall pay the instructor \$10 each to a maximum of 35 students.

The Grade 8 course must be requested from the State Director of Instruction.

Requests can and should be handled through the local District Referee Administrator for the area in which the course is being held.

This fee structure will be offered until 8/1/2012.

ATTACHMENT 3

THE WESTERN NEW YORK STATE REFEREE ASSOCIATION PROGRAM FOR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF GRADE 12 ASSISTANT REFEREES AS OF JANUARY 14, 2007

PART 1: TRAINING

A person can become a Grade 12 USSF Certified Assistant Referee by attending an approved 7.5 hour class offered by the Western New York State Referee Association (WNYSRA).

The fee for this course is \$15 to the student and the annual USSF registration fee which is currently \$15 for a total (currently) of \$30.00. The State Director of Instruction shall be responsible for assigning and certifying instructors for this course.

The WNYSRA has established a minimum age for this grade of 12 years old as of May 1st of the registration year.

PART 2: ANNUAL RECERTIFICATION

Grade 12 Assistant Referees must recertify annually with USSF through the WNYSRA by attending the same recertification classes which have been approved by the State Director of Instruction for recertification of grade 9, 8 and 7 referees.

There will be no charge for the recertification class will be levied against WNYSRA Grade 12 Assistant Referees.

The Grade 12 referee will be responsible for payment of annual registration/certification fees in accordance with USSF policy.

PART 3: UPGRADE PATH

Grade 12 Assistant Referees may upgrade to grade 8 by attending the 16 hour USSF Entry Level class at a discounted price of \$15.00 plus any additional certification/registration fees and dues mandated for that grade by the WNYSRA and the local districts of WNYSRA.

Instructor fees for those upgrading via this method will be according to the WNYSRA instructor fee schedule in effect at the time of the class.

PART 4: ASSIGNMENT LEVEL

Grade 12 Assistant Referees may not under any circumstances be assigned as the center referee in ANY match.

Grade 12 Assistant Referees may be assigned as assistant referees in any affiliated match (youth or adult) based on their age and experience.

PART 5: OTHER FEES

The WNYSRA will not charge Grade 12 Assistant Referees the State Management fee.
No local district shall charge any Grade 12 Assistant Referee local dues in their first year of registration.
The WNYSRA strongly recommends that no Grade 12 Assistant Referee be charged local dues.