

**OHIO NORTH  
STATE REFEREE COMMITTEE, INC.**

**April 13, 2016**

8447 Chippewa Road, Brecksville, OH 44141

Meeting was called to order at 5:20 pm by Mr. Chapman, State Referee Administrator

**ATTENDEES:**

Tom Chapman, SRA

Brian Miller, SYRA

Bill Nest, SDI

Toby Tomazic, SDA

Blaz Pesorda, State Assignment Coordinator

Ron Stuver, SRC Secretary

Bill Roth, invited guest

Meeting was called to recess for dinner.

Meeting was called back to order

**MEETING MINUTES: (Ron Stuver)**

Meeting minutes were submitted from the February 13, 2016 SRC meeting by Mr. Stuver.

Motion by Mr. Nest and seconded by Mr. Miller that the minutes for that meeting be approved. The motion was passed unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT: (None at this meeting)**

**Reports:**

**SRC Personnel: (Tom Chapman)**

Mr. Chapman formalized the announcement that Toby Tomazic was resigning his position as State Director of Assessment. Mr. Tomazic is moving to Kentucky. Mr. Chapman thanked him for his years of service and outstanding contributions to the State Referee Committee and to the referees of Ohio North.

Mr. Chapman then announced the appointment of Ron Stuver as the new State Director of Assessment.

Mr. Chapman then proposed the appointment of Bill Roth as the new Secretary for the State Referee Committee. Mr. Nest moved to approve the appointment and Mr. Stuver seconded. The appointment was approved unanimously.

Mr. Chapman then announced the appointment of Mark Martin as the new District Director of Instruction for Cleveland.

**INSTRUCTION: (Bill Nest)**

- There was a brief review of the reduced fee novice clinic that was subsidized in part by a local league. 176 people attended this clinic and were certified as new referees.

- Feedback was given from the 2016 Recertification clinics. Clinics were generally complaint free and most of the feedback received was positive.
- There was brief discussion about outsourcing the creation of our required online recertification modules. Consensus was reached that although this idea bears some investigation for the future, we are too late in the cycle for this to be a viable option for 2017. Our modules will continue to be created within OHN for this year. There will be a new direction to shorten and simplify the online modules while extending and focusing the in person clinics.
- Proposals were heard and discussion was had on how to make the online recertification more efficient and more topical to “everyday refereeing” for the most common scenarios encountered by Grades 7 and 8
  - For 2017 the online recertification should target a 30 minute (0.5 hour) requirement to include the time for taking the test. This will be a reduction from the three (3) hours required online in 2016.
  - If possible, find a way to cite or link the information to find Resources (i.e. Laws of the Game or Referee Guide to Procedures) available on US Soccer’s website that can be used for the recertification modules.
  - Consensus was reached to have one module for Grade 7 and Grade 8 recertification.
  - There should be a separate module for Grade 6 and Grade 7A recertification.
  - 80 % should be the required grade to pass the respective recertification modules.
  - Both modules should be created to be more objective than subjective. Striving to measure the knowledge of the referees in more “black and white” questions.
  - Questions/modules should be completed and ready to forward to Mr. Brooks no later than July 01, 2016 due to the difficulties and time requirements of uploading materials to be ready for recertification.
- The following topics were discussed for the In-person 2017 Re-certification:
  - Recertification clinics for 2017 should target a three (3) hour agenda for clinic duration. This is an increase from the two (2) hour requirement for 2016.
  - The selection of a small cadre of instructors to teach for the Grade 7 and Grade 8 recertification clinics. This would assist the SRC and SDI by focusing a smaller group of instructors to present a more unified curriculum across all districts and at all clinics.

**General Recertification Issues:9 ( All )**

- There was an open discussion of starting recertification earlier in the cycle (November or December). Data was shared to suggest fewer people attend clinics when offered prior to February and March. The same data indicated that largest clinic attendance happens the later into spring that clinics are held. It was discussed that we should try to find ways moving forward to incentivize earlier reregistration to reduce the difficulties had by waiting until weeks before the season starts.
- There was substantial discussion on the difficulties of recertification for State Referee and Grade 7A referees as well as extra challenges for officials wishing to upgrade to these grades.

- There was discussion about returning to paper registration for Grade 6 and Grade 7A. Problems centered on collecting payment as they differ between 7 and 7A and online testing procedures as 7A register within GameOfficials as Grade 7.
- All recertification testing will continue to be done online through GameOfficials.
- Consensus was eventually reached to continue with the use of “Master” tracking lists through GameOfficials and to work with Mr. Brooks to increase the efficiency and ease for Grade 6 and Grade 7A to recertify. This plan should also include those referees wishing to upgrade to Grade 6 or Grade 7A.
- Lastly on this point, there was discussion about final administrative authority to approve upgrades within GameOfficials in an effort to ease some of the workload on the system administrator. Some information is difficult to track on the Master Recertification List i.e. referees who attend fitness tests or advanced clinics outside of OHN. Some additional questions were asked about the ability for the SDI, the SDA, or the SRA to approve such special cases on an individual basis.

**Assessment: (Toby Tomazic and Ron Stuver)**

- There was a proposal submitted for new standards of Physical Fitness for Grade 7A referees:
  1. Endurance: 2200 meters in 12:00 minutes.
  2. Speed: 50 meters in 9.00 seconds. (Repeated 4 times) The referee should be allowed one additional repeat if they fail one sprint attempt. Two sprint failures is a failure for the fitness test.

Motion by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Nest to accept these standards for Grade 7A for the 2017 year. Motion was passed unanimously.

- The first testing opportunity with these new standards will be done in conjunction with the Grade 7A upgrade clinic. (Tentatively scheduled for July 23-24, 2016)
- Additional fitness testing may be scheduled and administered by local DRAs and their districts.

**Assigning: (Blaz Pesorda and Tom Chapman)**

- Discussion was had about the nature of the assignor recertification module.
- Assignors’ clinic is rescheduled to coincide with OYSASN’s AGM on the weekend of November 5, & 6, 2016.

**SYRA: (Brian Miller)**

- Midwest Regional Championships will be June 23-29 in Westfield, IN. Ohio North will send 20 referees and three assessors for the week. Mr. Miller is in the process of selecting the delegation of referees and on additional assessor. Mr. Stuver and Mr. Jim MacQueen have been selected thus far to represent OHN in Indiana.
- Brief discussion was had about identifying referees in OHN for consideration at future tournaments.

- We will have a U19 competition this year in the Boys' division. The championship will be a two-legged tie with the leg to be coordinated the preliminary weekend which will be the first weekend in June. There was a brief discussion of planning a referee night in conjunction with that match for possible instructional purposes. Topics may be grade relevant and prepare those in attendance with specific points to focus on and watch for during the U19 Boys' game. Mr. Nest will work with Mr. Miller on viability of this program.
- SRC will again be financing a Mentoring program this spring. Mentors selected will be scheduled and attend State Cup matches this spring to offer feedback for improvement to referees and crews at the games they attend.

**SRA: (Tom Chapman)**

- Report was given of US Soccer AGM.
- Discussion was held that US Soccer was returning Grade 5 directly to oversight of local SRC. Referees will be required to pass three (3) assessments by National Assessors or higher for upgrade and grade maintenance.
- There were some referees who contacted Mr. Chapman to voice their frustration at the recertification process for 2016. The majority of those were referees who attempted to upgrade this year to Grade 6 or Grade 7a or they were referees who experienced difficulty reregistering as such. He expressed his empathy for their situation. He also stated that we need to be better and that we *will* do better this year for 2017.
- State Referee recertification and upgrade clinic will be 17 & 18 December, 2016. There was discussion of potential candidates to invite for the weekend to be a guest presenter. Mr. Miller will make contact and begin to check the availability for that weekend.
- Mr. Chapman thanked all the members of the SRC present for their hard work, dedication and open attitudes to the referees of Ohio North. There were some challenges this year, but they were all met by the volunteers of the State Referee Committee.
- Mr. Chapman asked for final comments and there were none.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Stuver and seconded by Mr. Nest. Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bill Roth,*

Secretary

Ohio North State Referee Committee