

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

August 9, 2016

OYSAN Headquarters

6650 Snowville Rd, Brecksville, OH 44141

Meeting was called to order at 6:56 pm by Mr. Chapman, State Referee Administrator.

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members:

Tom Chapman, SRA
Bill Nest, SDI
Ron Stuver, SDA
Gina VanVorous, Adult Rep.
Mike Farmer, Youth Rep

Non-Voting Members:

Paul Emhoff, Pres. OYSAN
Bill Roth, SRC Secretary

District Administrators:

Jim McQueen, Akron DRA
Tom Lewis, Cleveland DRA
Ken VanWagnen, DRA Firelands

ABSENT: (* Excused)

Voting Members:

*Brian Miller, SYRA
*Blaz Pesorda, State Assignor Cor

Non-Voting Members:

Kalman Toth, SRC Treasurer
John Geyekenyesi, Pres. OSAN

District Administrators:

*Thom Sutcliffe, DRA Youngstown
Dave Habib, Canton DRA
Mike Hill, Mansfield DRA
Tred Hurst, Toledo DRA

Guests: none

MEETING MINUTES: (Bill Roth)

Meeting minutes were submitted from the June 14, 2016 SRC meeting by Mr. Roth. **A motion was made by Mrs. VanVorous and seconded by Mr. Nest that the minutes for that meeting be approved as corrected. The motion was passed unanimously.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Kalman Toth)

- No report at this time.

State Referee Administrator: (Tom Chapman)

- Mr. Chapman reported that he attended USASA Soccer Fest in Denver, CO. While he was in attendance he contacted the event assigner and volunteered to spend one day with festival administration and two days volunteering with referees at the event. He then shared some general observations from the event:
 - o Working at the administrative table was "very enlightening" and he learned a great deal of good information that might be helpful to OHN for our upcoming events.
 - o The event was hosted at Dick's Sporting Goods Park, which is an incredible facility for this event.

- On days 2 and 3 he volunteered with the referees. He was impressed with the high skill level of players and officials. He also performed an assessment of a State Referee from Massachusetts. There were four National Assessors in attendance at the event.
- Mina Kocisova attended as an invited official and Mr. Chapman also had the occasion to talk with Jamie Duling (one of three referees from OHS) about the event and some of those in attendance.
- He thought very highly of the trip and the positive experience that it was for himself and potentially for OHN in the future.
- Next year the tournament will be held in Nashville, TN and he resolved that we will probably should work to send more referees.
- As of this meeting, he had received eight 'Request to Upgrade' forms from referees within OHN. At this time, Mr. MacQueen added that had also received some from within the Akron District and the two would compare and combine their information after the meeting.
- He reported that he has begun working on the Report of the SRC to be presented at the OYSAN AGM. The AGM will be held November 5, 2016 at Sawmill Creek Resort in Sandusky, OH.
- He also reminded all in attendance that is the same date for the Entry Level Assignor Clinic which is also in Sandusky.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - October 9, 2016 will be the final fitness test of 2016. Although we are awaiting the receipt of new insurance certificate, the test will is tentatively planned to be held at Barberton High School in Barberton, OH.
 - Next meeting of the SRC will coincide again with the Bothwell Cup on Sunday October 16, 2016 to be held at Diamond Park and Soccer Complex in North Canton, OH.
 - December 17, 18, 2016 Upgrade and maintenance clinics for State Referees. Mr. Miller is to be making contact in September with a possible instructor/speaker for the weekend.

State Youth Referee Administrator: (Brian Miller)

- No report at this time.

State Director of Instruction: (Bill Nest)

- Mr. Nest reported that there has been a change in the OHN contact for Futsal instruction/clinics/ Mr. Bob Latch has agreed to assume those duties and responsibilities effective immediately.
- IFAB has released the 2017 updates to the Laws of the Game for use by FIFA member federations. They include a total or 96 changes that consume 48 pages of text. Although some are relatively minor changes in verbiage, there are several significant changes to the LOTG that have the potential for wide reaching changes to the context of many games. Mr. Nest believes that these updates will require a great majority of the time for 2017 re-certification clinics.
- None of these changes have been implemented or addressed by US Soccer to date. He is awaiting direction from US Soccer on implementation for changes to the LOTG for US Soccer and our officials.
- Once these changes and directed Mr. Nest may have a meeting for all instructors or at least the DDIs to cover how we will address and instruct these changes for 2017.

- Mr. Nest took questions about the implementation of these changes and there was a short discussion on some small details i.e. best methods to print the LOTG, updating referees via the website, social media, or GameOfficials, etc.
- Regarding 2017 badges (from Mr. Chapman): OHN had received 2195 Referee badges, 29 State Referee badges, 26 State Emeritus badges, 69 Futsal badges, one National Emeritus badge (with two more to be coming)
- Mr. Nest reiterated that no changes to the LOTG should be in effect currently. Mr. Chapman then made an executive decision that in light of that information from Mr. Nest, New Referee clinics for the duration of 2016 should be the same as those to date in 2016.
- These New Referees are being issued 2016 badges. An online module shall be created for these newest referee to complete through game officials covering the 2017 updates once released. Upon completion of this Update Clinic, the DRA of the official's home district shall issue a 2017 badge.
- In-person clinics for re-certification will be used to updates on 2017 changes to the LOTG.
- Online modules may use some situational issues, but all efforts will be made to keep them simplified. The effort should be made to instruct referees and not test their knowledge of "every minute detail". There was also a short discussion of additional resources produced for social or mass media by US Soccer.
- Mr. Nest congratulated Mr. Stuver on the successful fitness test that was held at Brecksville High School. Mr. Stuver and his team of administrators that had volunteered overcame some technical issues and excessive heat (both on the track and within the classroom) especially on Saturday.

State Director Assessment: (Ron Stuver)

- Stats for assessments:
 - o 51 State Maintenance Assessments have been conducted or are scheduled. There have been 2 assessment failures and 2 games that were not sufficient.
 - o 17 State Upgrade Assessments have been conducted or are scheduled. There are four referees pursuing State Upgrade. One State Upgrade was a mid-year upgrade. There have been 5 assessment failures and 2 games that were not sufficient.
 - o 4 7A Maintenance Assessments have been conducted or are scheduled.
 - o 7 7A Upgrade Assessments have been conducted or are scheduled. There are an additional 8 7A Upgrade Assessments to be scheduled.
- Mr. Stuver noted that the NCSL U-23 is not an "affiliated" league and as such those games may not be used for assessments.
- Mr. Stuver noted that the Tri-County league in southern Stark County is affiliated. Mr. Chapman added that he has seen some of those matches and noted their high quality of play. The decision has been made that Tri-County league games may be used for maintenance assessments of State Referees or upgrade for 7-A Referees.
- Mr. Stuver is currently awaiting a few assessments to be completed at which time he will forward a report and request the payment of assessors for the work done this season.
- Mr. Stuver reported that those administrators who had volunteered to work the fitness test had been sent a stipend the following week to offset their travel to Brecksville HS for the test.
- Mr. Stuver additionally thanked Mr. George Balasko and Mr. Brendan Balasko for their attendance as medical responders in the event one was needed at the fitness test.

- Mr. Stuver then informed us of the significant financial saving that had been made by the athletic department of BHS by the fact that they donated the field and the time of their personnel for us to be on-site at the track and within the school. Mr. Stuver then asked about the feasibility of thanking those administrators with gift cards. A short discussion led to a consensus that some may perceive impropriety by paying individuals for the use of the school. **A motion was made by Mr. Farmer and seconded by Mrs. VanVorous** that Mr. Stuver be allocated \$150.00 to cover the cost of the fitness test. The motion passed unanimously.

State Assignment Coordinator: (Blaz Pesorda)

- No report at this time.

Website: (Ken VanWagnen)

- Mr. VanWagnen asked for a current list of committees, district officers, and SRC members to update information on the website. (A comment was made about obtaining pictures for those positions noted on that page.)
- Mr. VanWagnen inquired about his authority to change content of the website. Mr. Chapman approved wide ranging authority on such issues as they pertained to the website.
- Mr. VanWagnen shared his thoughts for the direction of the website:
 - o Revising the splash page itself at OHNRefs.org so visitors are “more welcomed” when visiting the site for the first time.
 - o There was general discussion of adding posting of SRC meeting minutes, pictures, (Mr. Chapman reminded all of a new logo directive from US Soccer)
 - o He briefly entertained suggestions on the actual vs. intended purpose of the website. General consensus was to move the website more in a direction of viewable/timely content for referees and not just a sign post for referee clinics or re-certification.
- Mr. VanWagnen then asked about the general flow of information and how the website can best direct and serve referees and site users. Mr. Roth suggested that the two should begin sharing regularly as the duties of registrar and website had been combined in the past and that open communication should be helpful.

Registrar: (Bill Roth)

- Mr. Roth reported that he had been granted System Administrator permissions in GameOfficials on July 14. The first online support with website staff had taken place on July 17 and the fitness test and 7-A upgrade/maintenance clinics had been posted to GameOfficials by July 18.
- Mr. Roth shared that as a result of that first training session (90 minutes in duration) he was able to function through many “housekeeping” issues within GameOfficials i.e. resetting passwords, creating or changing clinics, viewing Risk Management, changing user permissions or statuses as directed by the SRC.
- Mr. Roth reported that a great many options and choices (such as viewable menus and reports) were available within GameOfficials and that he would communicate such options with applicable directors within the SRC to make the most use of the system for our administrative purposes.

- Mr. Roth advised that another online training was scheduled and the focus of that time was to be the registration of new referees, improving efficiency of our “Master Classes” as it relates to the site and ease of use for referees and SRC administration.
- Mr. Roth confirmed that online content will be created to add the 2017 Update Clinic that was directed by Mr. Chapman and that he will communicate with the DRAs to confirm those new referees’ completion and the mailings of badges.

Recruitment: (Jim MacQueen)

- Mr. MacQueen submitted a comprehensive report of recruiting efforts and results for the past year. (Attached as electronic document.) We were up 245 referees as a net gain over last year.
- He emphasized that social media efforts and investments seemed to show much better results than more traditional “print ads”. Facebook was the most effective and gave the benefit of tracking ads and reporting exactly who and how many had been reached.
- He suggested that any continued efforts moving forward should continue in those online directions. His experience and continuing discussions with Mr. Brian Miller (SYRA) suggest that directing recruiting efforts to college age students seem to make sense and should be planned. (Mr. Farmer added that once being approved, users are allowed to advertise for free in the classified ads for both Walsh University and the University of Akron.)
- Mr. MacQueen gave a general report of the CASA “group clinic” and responded to questions about the clinic and its results. From conversations that he had with those in attendance and communications leading up to that clinic, he believes that the majority of people attended that clinic for the financial savings offered by CASA/OYSAN subsidizing costs. There was a short discussion about the fact that multiple clinics took place on that date, but most agreed that they had little effect on the results of this group clinic.
- Mr. MacQueen advised that he had been approached by Mr. Tom Pickett, Executive Director of GAASA and Administrator of the State League about a similar group clinic that could be located in the greater Akron area. This discussion then centered on two main points:
 - o Could GAASA (along with interest from the CAK club, who had expressed a similar interest) guarantee and fill the same requirement that had been asked of CASA; 100 registrants to offset the reduction in registration fees. There were some questions, but general consensus held that the greater Akron area would struggle to provide 100 referees at this time
 - o The second point of discussion centered on costs of such group clinics moving forward. It was noted for the record that the April 9 clinic for CASA was subsidized by CASA and OYSAN. This generous and helpful offer from OYSAN shouldn’t be taken for granted, may not be able to be repeated, and certainly shouldn’t be factored in as a given when moving forward with the planning of group clinics. This discussion also led to the fact that one group or association shouldn’t be charged differently than others. One possible solution was a sliding scale based on the number of attendees to be guaranteed by the group. A cost for fewer than 50 attendees, 50-75 attendees, or more than 75 attendees, etc. No motion was made nor was any executive decision finalized at this time.
 - o This discussion led to a brief discussion of fees currently charged to New Referees in OHN and the breakdown of those fees. New referees pay \$75.00 to register. (Registration fee = \$40.00 / [\$20 to US Soccer and \$20 to OHN], Course fee = \$25.00,

and Other* fee = \$10.00) This registration cost doesn't not include the clinic fee charged by a sponsor to cover instructors or site costs.

- Mr. MacQueen would continue a dialog with Mr. Pickett regarding a fall class to be held on a Sunday, for instructor availability, and report relevant updates to Mr. Chapman and the SRC as they become available.
- Mr. Chapman asked Mr. MacQueen to serve again for another year as the chair for the recruiting committee. Mr. MacQueen agreed. They will meet soon to discuss the budget for this year.

Unfinished business: Nothing additional at this time

New business:

- Mr. Stuver opened a discussion on the requirements of game counts as they relate to upgrades for State Referees in OHN. US Soccer requires 50 games as a center referee and 25 games as an assistant referee. OHN currently requires 100 center referee games and 25 games as an assistant referee.
- There is some concern that this game count may be excessive. If an average of ten centers on adult-level matches per year can be assigned (and most agreed that this number would be optimistic based on the number of referees currently competing for the assignments in the adult leagues) that the number of years required to become a State Referee might deter referees from upgrading. This timetable would also place our referees at a disadvantage when attending tournaments out of state as their game counts limit them to a 7-A while many referees from other states are Grade 6 with far fewer games worked.
- The discussion led to a possible change. 75 total games, 50 of which had to be adult matches and 25 of which had to be center referee assignment in a three referee game. In addition, 25 games would be required as an assistant referee.
- **A motion was made by Mr. Nest and seconded by Mr. Stuver** that this discussion be tabled until the October SRC meeting to give time for deliberation and input from Mr. Brian Miller (SYRA).
Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Chapman asked for final comments and there were none.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Nest and seconded by Mrs. VanVorous. Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Roth,

Secretary

Ohio North State Referee Committee

(6 pp. included)