

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

**October 16, 2016  
OYSAN Headquarters  
6650 Snowville Rd, Brecksville, OH 44141**

Meeting was called to order at 2:59 pm by Mr. Chapman, State Referee Administrator.

**ATTENDEES:**

**Voting Members:**

Tom Chapman, SRA  
Bill Nest, SDI  
Blaz Pesorda, State Assignor Cor  
Gina VanVorous, Adult Rep.

**Non-Voting Members:**

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  
\*Ron Stuver, SDA  
Mike Farmer, Youth Rep

**Non-Voting Members:**

Kalman Toth, SRC Treasurer  
Paul Emhoff, Pres. OYSAN  
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 August 9, 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)

- Referees and personnel should note that the new Laws of the Game had been produced directly by IFAB. Written copies had been ordered and we received 98 copies of the published LotG for distribution to State Referees, Instructors, Assessors, and Emeritus members as well as members of the SRC. These would be distributed at re-certification clinics.
- 2017 Badges had also been delivered and would be distributed to those DRAs in attendance. We received a total of 2195 badges as compared to 2165 for 2016.
- Mr. Chapman suggested that during re-certification clinics that we recommend to our referees that they can download copies of the updated LotG at no cost. It was also suggested that the directions to do so could be sent in an email blast to all referees.
- Mr. Chapman shared that discussions were progressing with Michael Kennedy as a possible presenter for the Advanced Referee Clinic scheduled for December 17 & 18.

- The Referee Department update (from US Soccer) confirmed that beginning in 2017 referees could print their own Registration Cards from Middleware which is accessible through US Soccer or GameOfficials.
- Mr. Chapman opened discussion that had been tabled from the August 9 meeting relating to the required game count for progression to a Grade 6 Referee in Ohio North. **A motion was made by Mr. Nest and seconded by Mrs. VanVorous to accept the recommendation put forth by SYRA, Mr. Brian Miller:**
- The game count shall be a total of 75 qualifying matches
  - o 50 (of those 75 total) shall be as the Center Referee in at least a three person match:
    - 25 Shall be as Center Referee of adult matches in qualifying leagues
    - 25 may be as Center Referee of youth matches; U-17 or higher and of competitive nature as State Cup Matches, Midwest Regional League or U-16 if US Soccer Developmental Academy matches
  - o 25 matches will be required working as an Assistant Referee on a match meeting or exceeding the level described above.

**The motion passed unanimously**

- Mr. Chapman passed around the booklet that he received while at the US Soccer mid-year meeting. He shared that a lot of good information was shared while at the meeting:
  - o 2016 registrations: 135,086 referees – 1,516 assessors – 1,763 instructors
  - o 2015 registrations: 137,247 referees – 1,418 assessors – 1,899 instructors
  - o 2014 registrations: 141,000 referee – 1,616 assessors – 1,774 instructors
  - o There was an informative presentation by Dr. Wilbur on concussions as it relates to refereeing soccer.
  - o Mr. Chapman also pointed out that one of our own, Vito Testa Jr. was in attendance as part of his duties with US Soccer. Mr. Chapman and Mr. Pesorda both stated that Mr. Testa was doing good work and “making OHN proud.”
  - o 2017 will see Grade 5 State Referees return to the management of individual states
    - Grade 6 referees must have at least one year of time in grade
    - Gr 6 must receive favorable scores on three assessments at the National level
    - Certification of Grade 5 in 2018 does not guarantee selection as a National Referee Candidate
  - o US Soccer is discussing the formation of “technical advisors” to work directly with states as representatives of US Soccer.
  - o The position of a National Inspector/Assessor has been eliminated. Such personnel, working as assessors and instructors are National Referee Coaches. That list was published and our own Mr. Jeff Mellen is named among that new position.
  
- Mr. Chapman informed us that neither he nor the SYRA would be attending the AGM this year. Mr. Chapman noted that such meetings located in Hawaii could raise questions of financial responsibility and give the “appearance of a vacation”. Both he and Mr. Miller (if available) would be attending the annual coaches’ convention instead.

- Mr. Chapman wanted to thank Mr. Stuver and his volunteers for administering the fitness test that took place on October 9. Twenty-five (25) referees attended, 24 from OHN and one visitor from PAW, all in attendance passed the test.

**State Youth Referee Administrator:** (Brian Miller)

- Mr. Miller was unable to attend as he was offered and accepted a NISOA assignment for a college playoff match. He submitted a written report in absentia.

**State Director of Instruction:** (Bill Nest)

- Mr. Nest shared that US soccer had released and distributed the exams for Grade 8, 7, 6 and for futsal. Those exams had been sent to Mr. Roth and were in the process of being added to gameofficials for use in re-certification.
- He discussed further the idea that 2017 re-certification clinics would be conducted by a select cadre of instructors. Although this group would not be compromised exclusively of state instructors, they would take the lead. This would allow those instructors more repetition of the same topic to become more comfortable with the presentations and with the most common questions that would arise.
- Mr. Nest suggested a shift in the number of hours devoted to online vs. in person re-certification hours. Owing to the difficulties experienced last year with online courses and this year's abundance of changes, the in person re-certification clinics will allow up to four hours for instructors to ensure the highest standards possible moving into 2017.
- Mr. Nest suggested a centralized instruction time for 2017 where both instructors and assessors would hear these LotG updates to pass them along correctly and accurately during their efforts in 2017. **November 20, 2016 was selected as the date to plan the instructor/assessor meeting to be held at Cuyahoga Community College if Mr. Brian Miller could secure the location.**

**State Director Assessment:** (Ron Stuver)

- Mr. Stuver was unable to attend as he'd received notification one day earlier that his son, Brad, would make his first MLS start as GK for the Columbus Crew at NY Red Bulls match on the same day as this meeting.

**State Assignment Coordinator:** (Blaz Pesorda)

- No report at this time.

**Recruitment:** (Jim MacQueen)

- Mr. MacQueen reported that he was well into plans for the cycle's recruitment plan. As suggested earlier, he would rely more on Facebook advertising this year.
- Mr. MacQueen informed us that the information gathered from FB ads were far more helpful. We could track where traffic had been generated, which individuals actually clicked our links, and if a direct link was made, we could see if an individual created an account on Ohngameofficials.net
- He was again planning to update members of the SRC as data began coming back in from ads.
- He also suggested a direct email from the registrar (as to the Web Master) when new clinics were created within gameofficials so he could add them to the Facebook campaign.

### **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 administrator had been combined in the past and that open communication should be helpful.

### **Registrar:** (Bill Roth)

- Mr. Roth reported that he had been working with GameOfficials to finalize the re-certification requirements online. At this point we look on pace to have all clinics posted in time for the Thanksgiving Holiday or by the end of November at the latest.
- Mr. Roth inquired as to the direct content for re-certification by grades.

Mr. Roth shared information about the set-up for the Assignor Course currently planned for November 5. During that discussion, it came to light that no course fee had been added to that registration. Mr. Roth stated that he would add a fee, set at \$20.00, to the course and inform those who had already registered for the course so their fee could be collected.

### **District Referee Administrators**

**Akron:** (Jim MacQueen) Mr. MacQueen was moving forward with discussions for a private group clinic to be sponsored by GAASA. He was negotiating with Mr. Tom Pickett and expected to have more details available soon.

**Cleveland:** (Tom Lewis) Mr. Lewis asked for some time to discuss a proposal to assist in earlier completion of referee re-certification. Mr. Lewis cited the later and later completion of referee re-certification as a cause of difficulty and stress on administrative issues and instructors in to the start of the leagues’ playing seasons.

Mr. Lewis suggested that we date re-certification from November 15 through March 15. “Late clinics”, those dated March 16 through March 30 should not be assessed a fee. He suggested that each district be permitted to schedule one “last chance clinic” in the month of April, but referees

attending those clinics should be charged a late penalty. Discussion centered on two points. Should there be one late fee or should there be two windows; one late to be charged a certain fee (\$25) and then an increased fee (an additional \$25 for) for those missing that cutoff. The second point was the dates to be set and enforced.

Mr. Nest suggested that the fee be \$25.00 per person for all referee re-certification clinics scheduled in April. Consensus had been met and none opposed the suggestion. **Mr. Nest asked the registrar to implement this moving into 2017 registrations.**

No other district reports:

**Unfinished business:** Nothing additional at this time

**New business:** Our discussions prompted Mr. Chapman to remember and advise us that GameOfficials (Bonzi) had been purchased by Bluestar sports. The company, owned by Jerry Jones of Dallas Cowboy fame, had bought gameofficials outright. He suggested that we'd have to keep track of changes made within the company as they relate to gameofficials or our interaction with them.

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 4:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bill Roth,*

Secretary

Ohio North State Referee Committee

( 5 pp. included)