



Western New York State Referee Association

Report to New York State West Youth Soccer Association - 2017

William A. Campbell, State Youth Referee Administrator

REGISTRATION REPORT:

The referee population remained about the same with 1756 referee registrations in 2017 from 1769 referees in 2016. We completed the changeover from ArbiterSports to GameOfficials for our registration and training. Also, three districts in WNYSRA have switched to GameOfficials for referee assigning (Binghamton, Elmira and Ithaca.) GameOfficials was also used this year for state cup assignments and will be used for all state and regional assignments outside of Buffalo in 2018. We expect that more districts will make the changeover as time goes by. Our number of state level referees (who focus primarily on higher level matches) increased to 32 in 2017 from 25 in 2016. Due to some new regulations regarding who can and cannot be an emeritus referee, and due to changes in what an emeritus referee can do we expect this number to increase again in 2018. Our number of Grade 7 (entry level adult) referees held fairly steady at 77 down slightly from the 81 we had in 2016. We also expect a number of emeritus referees will become to Grade 7 to maintain their eligibility to do adult games.

RECREATIONAL YOUTH REFEREE PROGRAM:

With the new policy adopted by USSF that took 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: Due to the fact that NYSW did not send any teams to this year's presidents cup, no referees attended.

REGION 1 ODP BOYS 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, Garrett Brzozowiec, Erin Buckley, Douglas Clayton, Jerome Goodridge, Shane Greene, Cassidy Hadcock, Daniel Mccagg, Meghan Nally and Antonio Triana.

REGION 1 DIRECTOR'S PREMIER LEAGUE FINALS: Western New York nominated three referees to attend the finals in Kirkwood Delaware. They were Charles Loweecey, Mason Callahan and Ryan Trombetta. Both Charles Loweecey and Mason Callahan were invited to represent the Premier League at the Regional Championships.

REGION 1 CHAMPIONSHIPS: 17 referees and 2 assessors attended the Region 1 Championships at Huntington, WV this year. Eight of the seventeen referees were attending for the first time. Assessors attending were Dick Reif and Art Jaspe. Referees invited to the tournament were Mackenzie App,

Adam Brzozowiec, Garrett Brzozowiec, Hunter Brzozowiec, Erin Buckley, Mason Callahan, B J Dunham, Hannah Geitner, Danny Iadanza, Daniel Kaluzhnyy, Charles Loweecey, Daniel Mccagg, Meghan Nally, Alexander Parent, Douglas Scaffidi, Antonio Triana and Ryan Trombetta

Thirteen of our referees were assigned to semis with centers going to Antonio Triana, Under 13 Boys; Hannah Geitner, Under 19 Girls; and Meghan Nally, Under 13 Girls. Four of our referees received final assignments. They were Mackenzie App, Center, Under 17 Girls; Garrett Brzozowiec, AR2, Under 17 Girls, Hannah Geitner, 4th Official, Under 17 Girls and Hunter Brzozowiec, AR1, Under 12 Girls.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Campbell

State Youth Referee Administrator

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

From the State Director of Instruction - Thomas Ross

We continue to struggle to fill entry courses. We had to cancel some classes again this year because of lack of enrollment, and many – if not most – of our classes had lower numbers than we require to maintain our numbers. The districts have been asked to develop plans for recruiting, and have also been asked to consider options that might generate more “adult” candidates for entry classes. Although the youth officials are an important part of our membership, most of them leave our ranks within a few years because they get jobs, go away to college, lose interest, etc. Adults tend to remain longer, and we have never really tried to recruit at the adult level. We continue to seek assistance from leagues and clubs in recruiting referee candidates.

This was the year that the most comprehensive changes in the Laws of the Game took effect for our officials, and our recertification clinics were dedicated almost exclusively to review of the Law changes. This is challenging, as there is a lot of confusion at all levels about the interpretation of the changes in some areas. In fact, most of the changes for 2018 involve clarification of what the 2017 changes were intended to do. Fortunately, there was very little impact on the field. Although the changes were extensive, their application at this level was minimal. We will continue to build on our teaching in the coming years.

Our second Annual General Meeting was held in March in Rochester – and conflicted with a major weather event that left much of the Rochester area without power on that weekend. Attendance was still good, and all of the attendees were pleased with the presentations offered by high level speakers.

In August we trained a group of 20 Futsal Referees in order to have eligible officials for a newly formed Futsal league in Rochester. Craig Demmin has purchased the rights to the league, and had 28 team participate in an “unofficial” league last year on a trial basis. Rights to a league in Syracuse have also been purchased, and there may be a need to train officials for that league in the near future. We had several of our referee instructors attend the Futsal training so that we will be able to conduct future clinics without having to bring in an out of state instructor. After a few unsuccessful attempts, we are hopeful that Futsal will finally gain a foothold in WNY.