



Western New York State Referee Association

Report to New York State West Youth Soccer Association - 2018

William A. Campbell, State Youth Referee Administrator

REGISTRATION REPORT:

The referee population decreased slightly once again from 1756 referees in 2017 to 1741 referees in 2018. As of this year, six districts in WNYSRA have switched to GameOfficials for referee assigning (Batavia, Binghamton, Elmira, Ithaca, Rochester and Syracuse.) The only districts not currently using GameOfficials for assigning are Buffalo and Southern Tier. Our number of state level referees (who focus primarily on higher level matches) held steady at 32 in 2018. 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, our number of Grade 7 referees (able to do adult matches) increased from 77 to 90 in 2018.

RECREATIONAL YOUTH REFEREE PROGRAM:

The recreational youth referee badge is being phased out by USSF with the proposed change in referee grades that will likely be adopted in 2019.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COMPETITIONS:

Western New York referees enjoyed another solid year at the regional and national level.

EASTERN REGION PRESIDENT'S CUP: Due to the fact that NYSW did not send any teams to this year's presidents cup, no referees attended.

EASTERN REGION ODP GIRLS 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 John Kramer and Sam Akinbami. Referees in attendance were Adam Brzozowiec, Hunter Brzozowiec, Jason Grana, Alisa Hines, Danny Iadanza, TJ Jiries, Teo Levitan-Armstrong, Daniel McCagg, Sam McCagg and Alex Parent. Based on their performance an unbelievable four referees were invited to the Eastern Region Finals. They were Adam Brzozowiec, Hunter Brzozowiec, Danny Iadanza and Alex Parent. Of the four, only Hunter Brzozowiec was able to attend due to prior commitments made by the other referees.

EASTERN REGIONAL LEAGUE FINALS: Western New York nominated three referees to attend the finals in Kirkwood Delaware. They were Danny Iadanza, David Rousseau and Antonio Triana. Both Danny Iadanza and Antonio Triana were invited to represent the Premier League at the Regional Championships.

EASTERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: 17 referees and 2 assessors attended the Eastern Regional Championships in Fredericksburg, VA this year. Assessors attending were Rabee Naji and Art Jaspe. Referees invited to the tournament were Adam Brzozowiec, Hunter Brzozowiec, Mason Callahan, Noah Gould, Jason Grana, Cassidy Hadcock, Alisa Hines, Danny Iadanza, Andrew Kennedy, Charles Loweecey, Daniel McCagg, Sam McCagg, Meghan Nally, Alex Parent, Douglas Scaffidi, Daniel Simich and Antonio Triana. Thirteen of our referees were assigned to semis with centers going to Cassidy Hadcock, Under 12 Girls; Mason Callahan, Under 14 Boys; and Alexander Parent, Under 15 Boys. Four of our referees received final assignments. They were Alex Parent, AR1, Under 15 Boys; Adam Brzozowiec, AR1, Under 13 Boys, Meghan Nally, 4th Official, Under 13 Girls and Cassidy Hadcock, AR1, Under 12 Girls.

Based on their performance at the championships, Antonio Triana was invited to the National Finals

and Alex Parent was nominated as an alternate. Due to a family emergency overseas that developed shortly after he returned home, Antonio had to decline the invitation.

2018 YOUNG REFEREES OF THE YEAR:

Adam Brzozowiec and Alisa Hines were named the NYSWYSA Young Male and Female Referees of the Year for 2018. Adam Brzozowiec was also the Male Eastern Regional winner and we believe that he stands an excellent chance to win the national award as well.

THE FUTURE:

The future of the referee program, particularly with respect to USYSA events is unclear. At a meeting of state referee administrators at the Regional Championships we were informed that the states no longer needed to support referees in terms of travel to these events. Even though the game fees proposed are somewhat higher than in years past, the loss of the travel reimbursements means that the referee group as a whole has lost more than half of the funding that was previously provided. In addition, it was stated that the Championships were going to be extended to 7 days making it difficult for a referee to commit to the tournament. We were also told that the Regional Referee Committee will be making all appointments to the tournament and that the head of delegates slot has been removed meaning that the referees who attend will be on their own and will have to personally deal with any issues that may arise.

Complicating matters even farther is the fact that USSF no longer considers any part of the USYSA National Championship competition as a referee identification event, concentrating their efforts on the Development Academy Showcase events. The primary reason most of the referees attended the USYSA events was the chance to be seen by National and invited to participate in higher level competitions. As of this writing, that connection appears to be broken.

It was also learned that due to disagreements with the direction that USYSA appears to be taking with these tournaments, the regional referee committee chair, Frank Giancroce, has resigned his position with the Eastern Region. A replacement has yet to be found but whomever is named will control the future viability of these events in terms of referee performance, advancement, attendance as well as cooperation with the state administrators. While I am currently working to preserve the state cup competition as a viable state identification event, the inability to send referees directly to these regional tournaments as well as the costs associated with referees who wish to attend these regional events threatens the viability of the tournament and only through experience will we know what the impact of these decisions will be long term.

It should also be noted that USSF is planning major changes to the referee program that have only been partially publicized and are still being worked on at the national level. What the effect of those changes will be on our state referee program is unknown.

Respectfully submitted,

William A. Campbell

State Youth Referee Administrator

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