

2010 Report of the State Youth Referee Administrator to the New York State West Youth Soccer Association

Activities of the State Referee Committee

NEW APPOINTMENTS:

Daniel Roark, a state referee and associate instructor from Syracuse was appointed as the Coordinator of Referee Development and has been working closely with the SYRA and the districts to help identify new prospects who have shown solid abilities at the local level that are ready to move into assignments at the state and regional level. He is also working to coordinate and improve mentoring efforts at the local, district level.

REFEREE REGISTRATION:

Once again, referee registration was up in virtually all categories. In total, we certified a record number of 2081 referees this year, up from 2056. This increase was due in no small part to the improvement the state experienced in retention this year. Even though we trained 178 fewer referees in 2010 than we did in 2009; we retained 203 more officials than we did between 2008 and 2009. This is a most hopeful sign that some of our mentoring efforts are finally beginning to create returns. In addition, we had 4 new state referees and 12 referees upgraded from grade 8 to grade 7 and are starting to work more challenging matches.

RECREATIONAL YOUTH REFEREE PROGRAM:

Below is a chart of progress being made in the RYR program.

<i>STATUS</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
New Grade 9	127	196	209	200	-9	96%
Returning Grade 9	54	49	80	96	16	120%
Total Grade 9 Referees Registered	181	245	289	296	7	102%
Grade 9's Upgrading to Grade 8	23	50	52	81	29	156%
Total Grade 9's Returning	77	99	132	177	45	134%
<i>Retention Percentage</i>		<i>55%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>61%</i>		

As can be seen by the chart above, our retention of Recreational Youth Referees jumped dramatically this year. This is due, in no small measure, to the increased benefits that member clubs are seeing in following the USSF model for recreational referee training and assignment. With our state government dealing rather harshly with clubs that do not follow the USSF model closely because of budget shortfalls, several more clubs are coming to the realization that it is not wise to attempt to fly under the radar. Because of this increasing realization, retention of our grade 9 recreational youth referees now rivals the retention percentage that most states realize in all grades. There were several clubs that came into compliance last year seeing the value and savings that this program offers. Of our last 8 young referees of the year, 4 started their careers as Recreational Youth Referees. This is a trend I expect will continue due to the extra two years of experience these referees benefit from since they can register in NYW as an RYR at age 12 as opposed to age 14 for any other grade. We are continuing to make progress toward our goal of 400 Recreational Youth Referees.

REGIONAL COMPETITIONS:

Surprisingly, I personally believe we did even better at the regional competitions this year than we did last year, which was a banner year.

REGION I ODP CAMP: In many past years we have had difficulty finding people to attend this very valuable camp. We are normally asked to send 2 referees to the girls camp held in July at the University of Rhode Island. For the last 2 years, we were unable to find qualified referees who wanted to attend. We literally had referees lined up for the opportunity this year and when the Region I referee coordinator of the camp asked if we could send more people, 5 young referees who wanted to learn from some of the best

instructors and assessors that National has to offer jumped at the chance. They were Rick Nolan and Taylor Carr, both from the Syracuse District; Samantha Randall and Jeffrey Cook of the Ithaca District and Kyle Burke of the Elmira District. Of special note, Kyle Burke and Rick Nolan were assigned their first international match between a United States ODP team and a Russian national girls team.

REGION 1 PRESIDENT'S CUP: Western New York sent 10 referees and one mentor to the Regional President's Cup finals near Albany, NY. Our mentor was Daniel Roark, our newly appointed coordinator of referee development who attended to get some ideas from the region 1 referee committee about mentoring techniques. The referees who attended were Michael Barbuto and Taylor Carr of Syracuse, Jaime Lynn Beaty and Raymond Tam of Rochester, Casey Byrne from Ithaca, Kyle Smetanka of Elmira, and Molly Cunningham, Mike Ertel, Chris Mazgaj and David Monroe all from Buffalo. Of special note, Molly Cunningham was invited to officiate at the President's Cup finals held in mid-July in Tennessee because of her excellent performance at the Regional finals.

REGION 1 ODP TOURNAMENT: Once again, 9 referees and 2 assessors attended the ODP Tournament held in Lawrenceville, NJ the weekend after the NYSW State Cup. Angelo Paparo and Dick Reif attended from our assessor pool. The referees in attendance were Ellen Krasniak of Binghamton, Ian Boyle, Jordan Troisi, Mike Ertel of Buffalo; Jeffrey Cook, Will Edgecomb of Ithaca and Chris Trottier, Jaime Lynn Beaty and Kyle Sauln of Rochester. Two of these referees, Chris Trottier and Jaime Lynn Beaty were invited to the Regional ODP Finals.

REGION 1 DIRECTOR'S LEAGUE FINALS: Each year, 3 referees who work Director's League matches on a regular basis are invited to the Director's League Finals in Kirkwood, DE. This year; Phil Cunningham, Ian Boyle and William Boyle all of Buffalo; officiated these premier regional level matches. While all three performed well, Phil Cunningham was chosen to represent the Director's league at the Regional Championships. This appointment, once again this year, elevated the number of Western New York Referees at the Regional Championships to 12 referees.

REGION 1 CHAMPIONSHIPS: 12 referees and 2 assessors (Dick Reif and Art Jaspe) attended the championship tournament in West Virginia this year and once again our officials performed with excellence. In attendance for the referees were (alphabetical order): William Boyle, Buffalo; Casey Byrne, Ithaca; Taylor Carr, Syracuse; Molly Cunningham, Buffalo; Phil Cunningham, Buffalo; Will Edgecomb, Ithaca; Mike Ertel, Buffalo; Nicholas Geisler, Ithaca; Ellen Krasniak, Binghamton; Samantha Randall, Ithaca; Amanda Ross, Syracuse and Ray Tam of Rochester. Three of the twelve referees were honored with semi-final center assignments. They were Samantha Randall, U12 Girls 8v8; Ellen Krasniak, U13 Girls; and Molly Cunningham, U15 Girls. Also, an incredible 8 of our 12 referees were assigned final matches. They were Ellen Krasniak, 4th official, U15 Girls; Samantha Randall, 4th official, Under 13 Girls; Will Edgecomb, 4th official, Under 13 Boys; Amanda Ross, AR1, Under 12 Boys; William Boyle, 4th official, Under 14 Girls; Ray Tam, AR 1, Under 13 Boys; Molly Cunningham, AR2, Under 17 Girls and Phil Cunningham, Center, Under 17 Boys. Of special note were Phil Cunningham, who was invited to attend the National Championships as a referee and Molly Cunningham who was an alternate to the national championships as an Assistant Referee. Ashley Cedro of Buffalo was also invited back to the national championships because of her performance in last year's national championship tournament.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS: *(Contributed by Tom Ross, State Director of Instruction)*

Entry classes. In 2009-2010 we trained over 650 new referees. In addition to training new referees in these classes, experienced instructors also used these classes as an opportunity to train our new Associate Instructors, preparing them to upgrade to full Referee Instructors in the near future.

Recertification classes: For the first time, we offered two levels of recertification courses - a "basic" and "advanced." One of the difficulties in preparing a recertification program is the fact that we must provide training for referees ranging from second year Recreational Referees to State Referees who work professional games. This was the first step toward our plans to develop a specific recertification program for senior officials.

Written testing: For the first time, we offered different written tests for Grade 7 and experienced Grade 8s. USSF offers a single exam for Grade 7/8 referees, and our goal was to select the more basic questions for our newer referees, while testing at a higher level for experienced officials.

Futsal: With the start up of a Futsal league in the Buffalo area, it became necessary for us to certify Futsal officials. We did not have any Futsal instructors, so it was necessary to bring in a FIFA Futsal Official from Ohio to conduct the entry level course. A total of 17 officials were certified, including several of our own instructors. This will allow us to use our own people for entry and recertification training for Futsal officials in future years.

Intermediate Clinic: An intermediate clinic was conducted for approximately 70 experienced officials, many of whom are seeking to upgrade. Of particular note were the presentations of two of our newest Associate Instructors - Steve Montanino and Dan Roark - who prepared their own modules on topics of their choice. Their presentations were a highlight of the program, and both demonstrated superior instructional techniques, earning high compliments from the National Instructor who served as the lead.

Instructor Training: All instructors are now required to attend a three hour recertification program, in addition to their referee recertification, if they wish to re-register as an instructor. In addition, we are in the early stages of an instructor evaluation program, where State Instructors will sit in on classes and offer feedback to the instructors after the course.

ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS: *(Contributed by Art Jaspe, State Director of Assessment)*

For the Assessment program, 2010 was a season of transition into the computer age. All full assessments, i.e., U-17 through U-19 matches, 90 minutes in length, are now electronically completed and posted on the US Soccer's new Game Officials site. Feedbacks to all officials are sent electronically, completing the process. With the assistance of the SYRA, we have also begun the process of electronically completing and storing Developmental and Guidance Evaluations for all other youth game evaluations.

We have completed assessments and evaluations on officials at all levels of competition: 21 officials for 177 assessments at the Women's professional level; 255 WNY officials for 480 full assessments; and, 75 Developmental and Guidance Evaluations at our local levels. At this year's State Youth Cup, 65 Evaluations were completed in writing and all matches were covered with an assessor so at least verbal feedback was given in every match. The Region 1 Championships in West Virginia provided the opportunity for 30 Evaluations for our youth officials.

The learning process continues for all assessors. Once again, we will be requiring all of our assessors to attend recertification clinics scheduled around the state. Our goal this year is to improve the process and content of the feedback provided to every official we formally assess or evaluate.