

United States Soccer Federation
Referee Committee Meeting
Chicago O'Hare Hilton
May 26, 2005
CONFIRMED OCTOBER 1, 2005

Members present: Alvarez, Baldeosingh, Bouda, Hunt, Lyslo, Machnik, McCormick, McKee, Motta

Regrets: Balboa, Harkes, Mason,

In Attendance: Baharmast, Garibay, Ilacqua, Kleinaitis, McGuire, Tamberino

Call to Order: The chair called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. CDT.

Agenda: The agenda was distributed by e-mail and is in the member's notebooks. It was announced that due to recent surgery Bill Mason would not be able to attend the meeting. A get-well card is being circulated for members to sign.

Approval of minutes: **Moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 25 meeting.** Discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed to approve the minutes as corrected to indicate that Paul Tamberino was in attendance.

Reports: Machnik discussed the highlights of his written report including statistical analysis of officials for April and May. There was discussion regarding referees that are working both the MLS and the MISL. Motta reported that the Adult National Cup finals will be played August 5, 6, and 7 in Dallas TX. It was noted that there will also be an Assessor Academy at this event. The Co-Ed tournament will be held August 19, 20 and 21 in Albuquerque, NM. Bouda commented on the last BOD meeting held in March at the same time as the AGM. The meeting was very productive as members worked to solve their differences. Bouda also mentioned that the results of the election for the referee representative were not yet known. Ilacqua noted that the next BOD meeting will be held June 4 in Salt Lake City, UT. She complimented the committee on the good work and significant accomplishments achieved over the past year. She also discussed the recently completed SDI/SDA workshop and mentioned that it was a very productive meeting because of the quality of the material and presentations given to the attendees. Members were given the new booklet "OFFSIDE MADE EASY". The revised "Guide to Procedures" is in the final stages of editing. When it is released state referee committees should insure that every assessor and instructor receives a copy. A new web site will be opening soon – YOU MAKE THE CALL – watch for details and more information at ussoccer.com.

Financial Report: Garibay and Ilacqua discussed the Revenue and Expense Summary for the twelve months ending March 31, 2005. There was discussion regarding income and expenses regarding the referee categories. The auditors have asked for some changes in the way registration income is reported and those changes will be implemented.

Registration Report: Garibay handed out the Grade Demographic (registration) reports for referees, assessors, instructors and assignors. Total registrations as of the date of the meeting are approximately 111,000 with another 10,000 or so in the office waiting to be processed. On line registration will be tested in several states prior to next year's (September) registration cycle. The goal is to have a virtually paperless registration process for all people that re-register. New registrations will probably still require the paper registration form. US Soccer will have the capacity to process paper forms for the foreseeable future, for those referees not using the on line system. Training for the new process will take place at the SRA Workshop. The new system will be web based so there will be no requirement for new software, etc. There was extensive discussion following this report regarding how registration funds will be handled, how reconciliation reports will be filed and how to keep track of people that register online but do not attend required clinics or meetings. Details to these and other questions will be provided at the SRA Workshop.

Referee Grade Criteria: Questions have come up regarding the training course requirements for Certifying and Upgrading of referees as defined in the Administrative Rule Book. For example; what is required for content in the 5 hours of training for Grade 8 and Grade 7 referees? Discussion. Staff will incorporate agreed upon changes to the training course nomenclature. Course requirements for Grade 5 and 6: Discussion. Staff will update and clarify the experience requirements and it will be incorporated into the revised booklet.

National Referee: Discussion regarding game counts. **Moved and seconded to increase the number of games from 150 to 175 and increase the number of Div 1 adult games to 75 and add, or other approved, between professional and games to be effective for 2007.** Discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed. Staff will make the required wording changes and additions to the handbook.

5. Field Evaluation. Discussion. **Moved and seconded that One assessment as a Referee at the Professional or other approved match must be completed by an assessor designated by National Staff. Change to be effective for 2007.** Discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

Fitness: Discussion on the results of the fitness tests taken at the National Camps. **Moved and seconded to change the minimum distance requirement to 2600 meters in 12 minutes to achieve and retain a national badge to be effective for the 2006 national camp.** Discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed. (6 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention) Discussion on time requirements for the 50-meter and 200-meter run. **Moved and seconded to revise the minimum time for the 50 meter run to 8.5 seconds and 35 seconds for the 200 meter run to achieve and retain a national badge to be effective for the 2006 national camp.** Further discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

Grade 3 referee requirements. Discussion. **Moved and seconded that Grade 3 referees must be eligible for FIFA designation.** On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

League Patches: Some leagues, within state associations, are asking referees working their league games to wear league patches on referee uniforms that designate the referee as “their” referee. Discussion. **Moved and seconded that only manufacturer logos and USSF approved patches or badges may be worn on referee uniforms. Reference the Administrative handbook for uniform standards.** Discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

AYSO cross certification: Discussion on the process for cross certifying referees. **Moved and seconded that cross certification and registration forms include the referee e-mail address. Forms may be downloaded from USSF/AYSO web sites. Completed forms sent to the affected SRA.** On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

Champions League: Discussion on continuing approval of this league for having assessments count. **Moved and seconded to renew approval (fall 2005 and spring 2006) of the Champions League subject to assigning procedures as outlined in an e-mail to Julie Ilacqua.** On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

Add Women’s tournament to approved list: The former U-17 Youth International Tournament is now composed of U-18 players. These players will be evaluated for the Women’s National U-20 Team. This Tournament should be added, for this year, to the approved list. Discussion. **Moved and seconded to add this tournament to the approved list for 2005 only.** On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

Define Amateur State Cup Championship on list of Additional Approved Games: Discussion. This is defined as the top men’s and women’s cup championship match within a state (two matches total). Staff will incorporate nomenclature changes to the approved list.

Realign order of Game Priority in Referee Appointments: Discussion. Staff is directed to respond to the request for realignment.

Request for a waiver from attendance at National Camp. The committee reviewed and discussed the subject request. **Moved and seconded to deny the request.** On a voice vote the motion was affirmed. Staff will so inform the affected referee.

Request for a medical exception for 2005. The committee reviewed and discussed the subject request. **Moved and seconded to approve the request.** On a voice vote the motion was affirmed. (1 vote no). Staff will so inform the affected referee.

Request to approve NPSL Adult League for assessment game count. Discussion. Staff is directed to assign national assessors to observe and determine the quality of league games being played and submit a report of their findings at the next meeting.

Emeritus grades: Request to eliminate the grade and/or reverse the changes previously made. Discussion. Some emeritus referees are passing themselves off as being of a higher grade than they are. This is an issue that requires better education of assignors on current Policy. This should alleviate any issues regarding just what grade the referee held before going emeritus. To clarify who is eligible to vote in the election of the referee

representative to the Board of Directors it was **Moved and seconded to reinstate grade 15 and 16 designations**. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

National Assessor Certification: McKee discussed the rationale in proposing a new policy on missed mandatory clinics for certification and re-certification of national assessors. The proposal is in the committee notebook and would be implemented retroactively to those national assessors missing the last two Recertification seminars. Discussion. **Moved and seconded to accept the proposed policy as discussed**. Letters will be written to the affected assessors. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

Uniform for Futsal and Indoor referees: Official Sports is indicating there is interest in a new color. **Moved and seconded to table until the fall meeting**. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

Assignor code of ethics: The existing code was discussed and it was the decision of the committee to leave it as is.

Review of SRC job descriptions: Individual job descriptions were reviewed for content and clarity. With the exception of State Assignment Coordinator they were approved as presented. **Moved and seconded to modify the job description for the State Assignment Coordination as follows; (Function) add the word, registered, between the and referee, change the minimum age to 25 and in (Responsibilities) add, but may not re-assign referees, to the end of the first bullet point**. Discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

SRA Workshop: Will be help August 13 and 14 in Colorado Springs.

Next meeting date: Being that this is the last meeting of the current committee no date or place will be sent until a new committee has been appointed.

Adjournment: With no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Submitted by: Wally Lyslo. Recording secretary