

SRC Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2025

8:00 PM – Called to Order at 8:01 PM by Joe Balazs

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 PM

Attendance: Michael Copeland, Kris Kenney, George Cobbia, Marion Shull, Joe Balazs, Gary Smith, Chris Wood, Danny Thornberry

I. Minutes

- The minutes were from the June 22nd meeting altered to reflect that Marion Shull gave the update on the Website. Erroneously the update was attributed to Rick Rogers. Move to accept minutes by Joe and seconded by Danny, the minutes passed with a unanimous vote.
-

II. Reports

1. **State Director of Instruction (SDI)** Rick Rogers –
 - Unable to attend meeting. He sent a report through email to all of the Board members. See attached.
2. **State Director of Assessment (SDA)** Danny Thornberry reported that Wayne Pavlishek and Phil Conway - current referee coaches went to Regionals. Phil was assigned to referee coach the U19 final referee crew. Danny also reported that Rick was able to send an email to all those that qualified to become referee mentors with a goal of getting more people involved in mentoring. This email led to 42 responses. A couple of Board members said they did not receive the email and requested that a copy of the solicitation get sent to them as well. Danny also suggested that he would like to see that all Assignors attend the training, so they are aware of the duties of the mentors. Requirements: 18 or older and > 2 years exp of experience.
3. **State Assignment Coordinator (SAC)** Kris Kenney reported that there have not been any new issues from the assignors. She has also noticed that more assignors are utilizing the statewide system to recruit officials for events.
4. **Area Referee Administrators (ARAs)**
 - **Greenville/Spartanburg #1** – Steve Faria: Not in attendance.
 - **Rock Hill #2** – George Cobbia:
 - Currently preparing for the August sessions. Expects 20 new referees to attend.
 - There is a plan for a classroom sessions August 9 & 10 followed by an on-field session at Manchester Meadows, there is going to be a changed of location due to availability.
 - **Columbia #3** – Marion Shull:
 - Plans for 2026 classes on August 9 & 10. Will also add a second set the weekend of 16 & 17th due to the ECNL tournament in Greenville utilizing a number of mentors that would normally help with the training.
 - Marion requested a standardized field mentor session so what they are teaching in Columbia is what other parts of the state are teaching.
 - He also reported that Rob Mann an MLS referee is going to help with the mentoring in the Columbia area.
 - **Myrtle Beach #4 / Florence #6** – Jack Schultz: Not in attendance.
 - **Charleston #5** – Bucky Jones: Not in attendance.
 - **Aiken #6** – Brian Marshall – Not in attendance.
5. **Treasurer** Gary Smith
 - **Reported** the SRC has over \$229,000 in cash and investments
 - **Prior to the zoom meeting, an email was sent to all SRC members outlining some issues Gary would like to discuss**
 - Requested that the SRC Budget year aligns with the USSF training year of Aug1 to July 31
 - Would also like to set a deadline for requesting refunds/payments of the SRC
6. **State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA)** Chris Wood
 - An email was sent to the SRC a report on the happenings at Regionals. See attached.
 - Our referees are making an impact on the National stage: Chris Park went to Nationals. Nate Bragg was selected in 2024 for the 2025 President's Cup Nationals.

- Shared a PowerPoint on the process for identifying officials for State Cup. It needs to start now. State Cup is scheduled for 12/20 & 21 in Florence.
- Shared a process for offering travel scholarships for SC referees that are willing to work out of state tournaments to receive mentoring. This would be for tournaments that will have referee coaches/mentors in attendance, but they do not offer any travel support. There has been an allotment of \$7500 for these scholarships and they will be issued on a first come first serve basis. \$150 for those that are driving and \$300 for flying. A maximum amount will be set that a single referee can use.
- It was also suggested that we wait for the mass training event until later in this season or early next season. Would rather we do it right.
- Chris will send copies of his PowerPoints to the SRC.

7. State Referee Administrator (SRA) Joe Balazs reported: nothing new on the Adult front no new RAP issues.

8. SCYS Representative Kevin Kollegger – Not in attendance

9. SCASA Representative Linos Cotsapas - Not in attendance.

III. Old Business

- 1. Website Update –**
 - Danny reported meeting with Jeremy the web designer. There has been a delay in going live due to US Soccer not releasing some of the needed 2026 material that will be placed on the website.
 - SCREFEREES.org
 - Jeremy will be paid once the website goes live.
- 2. Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures –**
 - Michael was only in the meeting for a few minutes due to a family emergency. He expects to have them ready for presentation at the end of August.
- 3. Identifying and Tracking Up-and-Coming Referees –**
 - Kris shared that a Google Doc for ARA/Assignors to enter officials that should be tracked because they are potential upgrades or State Cup candidates has been developed. Danny asked that we also try to make a Jot Form.
- 4. Referee of the Year Awards –**
 - Kris: presented a plan based on the notes from the June meeting. This plan was not accepted as it left out officials that could not attend the State Cup.
 - Chris Wood recommended following the process used by North Carolina.
 - Kris will rework the plan and send to Danny, Chris and Michael. Then present it to the board during the August meeting. This will give the Assignors and ARA's the needed information before the Fall season gets underway.
- 5. USSF Referee Abuse Prevention (RAP) – Joe – nothing to report**

IV. New Business

- 1. Moving the SRC fiscal year to begin August 1.**
 - Gary requested a change in the SRC budget year aligns with SCYS and US Soccer. The move to Aug 1 will require a 1 month balance to close out July then a restart for August 1.
 - Chris Wood moved to accept the change and Danny Thornberry seconded the move. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2. Reimbursement Policy for incurred expenses – Gary**
 - Tabled until next month due to Michael and a large number of the board not present
- 3. Paid Administrative Position**
 - Tabled until next month due to Michael and a large number of the board not present
- 4. For the Good of the group**
 - A request was made that a tournament page is added to the SC Referee website. This will help referees across the state to know where they can go to get more games.

V. Next Meeting

- **Zoom Meeting: August 24 at 8:00 PM**
 - Agenda items:
 - Referee of the year criteria for next year.
 - Discuss paid administrator position
 - Discuss Reimbursement of incurred expenses
-

Meeting adjourned at 9:13. George moved that we adjourn, Gary 2nd. All approved.

Email from Rick to SRC Members,

As I'll be on vacation during the next SRC meeting, I wanted to provide my report to everyone.

Item #1

Final 2025 Registration Year License Numbers

1,424 Total Licenses Issued by SC

1,382 Total Referee licenses

595 NEW REFEREES LICENSED...this is an insanely amazing number of new officials. It represents a more than 50% increase over our new referee licenses for 2024.

Now, the goal is to keep them!

We had a little more than 400 officials who were certified in 2024 that did not complete a 2025 recertification. All of those lapsed officials were emailed earlier this week, letting them know that they had not recertified and giving them information on how to recertify for 2026. All ARAs received the list of these officials as well in case they wanted to reach out directly to those officials from their area.

Item #2

Our 2026 NEW Referee clinics are posted for the full fall season. The full schedule of them can be found on screferees.com. All courses are open for registration.

We will have our statewide new referee training day the weekend of August 9-10. We presently have six clinics scheduled for Saturday and five scheduled for Sunday.

SCYSA and SCASA both sent out emails to their membership.

Item #3

In the process of getting recertification courses posted for 2026. All recertification courses should be posted by August 15.

Any questions please let me know

Thanks
Rick Rogers