

South Carolina Referee Committee

Minutes of the January 30, 2025 SRC Meeting

- I. Minutes – None on-record from previous meeting
- II. Attendance – Joe Balazs, Danny Thornberry, Kris Kenney, Gary Smith, Bucky Jones, Marion Shull, Jack Schultz, Michael Copeland and Chris Wood.
- III. Reports –
 - A. Chair – Michael Copeland gave his vision of what the SRC should currently be focused on in the coming year.
 - 1.) The SRC should be customer-oriented with our number one customer being the referees. Our second customer is the SC Youth Soccer Association. Our third customer is the SC Adult Soccer Association. What we do as a committee is to serve these three groups of individuals.
 - 2.) The SRC should be transparent in our decisions, policies, and procedures. This will start with regular scheduled meetings. There should be clear and open two-way discussion between the SRC its ARAs and local (regional state) referee associations. We will strive to return all emails and phone calls in a timely manner.
 - 3.) The SRC shall follow its bylaws and create standardized policies and procedures as to running the State Referee Committee in order to be compliant with the United States Soccer Federation’s Policy 531. In order to be a customer-friendly and transparent organization it will post on its website its Governance so that members can easily refer to our bylaws, notices of meetings, meeting minutes, our policies, and our procedures.
 - B. State Director of Instruction – Rick Rogers not present / no report
 - C. State Director of Assessments – Danny Thornberry - We currently have between 10 -12 Regional Referees, 6 Referee Coaches, and 10 – 15 Referee Mentors. Other states like NC and GA have approximately 30 Referee Mentors. There is a need to use “assistants” or “aids” who have not completed the USSF Mentor course. A certified USSF Mentor (or Coach) is required to be present for all Field Training Sessions for new referees and any video training sessions. ECNL procedures have a Walk the Fields guideline that could be incorporated into all referee pregame procedures. There is a new assessment form that is being used.
 - D. State Assignment Coordinator – Kris Kenney was introduced as the new SAC, and she gave brief remarks about looking forward to serving.
 - E. Area Referee Administrators
 - 1.) Charleston / Region 5 – Bucky Jones gave a brief report.
 - 2.) Columbia / Region 3 – Marion Shull was introduced as the new ARA and gave a brief report.
 - 3.) Myrtle Beach & Florence / Regions 4 and 6 – Jack Schultz gave a brief report.
 - F. Treasurer – Gary Smith had previously emailed a financial report as of December 31, 2025. He would be cutting checks to the local area referee associations.

- G. State Youth Referee Administrator – Chris Wood was able to attend via Zoom towards the end of the meeting. He had previously submitted a Power-Point presentation for his report with the emphasis on selecting the referees to attend the USYS Regional and USYS Presidents’ Cup.
 - H. State Referee Administrator – Joe Balazs addressed the group and reemphasized his support of the direction of the SRC as presented by Michael.
- IV. New Business – An open discussion concurred on the following topics:
- A. (What Are We Doing Right?)**
 - 1.) Financially responsible with the treasurer keeping up with financial reports and sending them out in a timely matter.
 - 2.) Being able to financially function on a limited budget.
 - 3.) The website is functional, but it needs a lot of updating and should always be up-to-date with the latest information.
 - 4.) ARAs do a good job of identifying new referees to attend the SCYSA State Cup.
 - 5.) In-person training and getting financial support from some local clubs like South Carolina United FC to help promote the training and purchase Referee In Training t-shirts for attendees.
 - 6.) Getting Regional Referees their assessments.
 - B. (Where Do We Need to Improve?)**
 - 1.) We need a Mission Statement
 - C. (Governance)**
 - 1.) Our By-laws need to be reviewed and updated
 - 2.) We need to review USSF Policy 531 and ensure we are in compliance with it.
 - 3.) The SRA and SYRA should be attending all regular meetings of the South Carolina Amateur Soccer Association and South Carolina Youth Soccer Association.
 - 4.) We need an organizational chart of the different soccer associations within the state.
 - 5.) We need written policies and procedures on how we conduct our business and decision making processes.
 - 6.) We need written job descriptions.
 - D. (Financial Management)**
 - 1.) We need written policies and procedures concerning the management of our fiscal matters.
 - 2.) We need written policies of compensating Referee Mentors and Referee Coaches
 - 3.) We need written policies on the giving of money to the local area referee associations and their accountability of those funds.
 - E. (Coordinating with the SCYSA and SCASA)**
 - 1.) The SYRA should attend the SCYSA’s Board of Directors’ meetings and serve as a Liaison between them and the SRC.
 - 2.) The SRA should attend the SCASA’s Board of Directors’ meetings and serve as a Liaison between them and the SRC.

- 3.) Our website should have a calendar with our events, the SCYSA's events, and the SCASA's events.
- F. (Communication with Referees, SCYSA, SCASA, and regional/national associations)**
- 1.) We have a Constant Contact account and should use it more.
 - 2.) The SRC needs to send out a monthly newsletter.
 - 3.) ALL emails and phone calls should be returned in a timely matter.
- G. (Website / Facebook / X / Instagram)**
- 1.) A designated Webmaster with the sole purpose of managing the website is needed.
 - 2.) The website has too much information.
 - 3.) It should be easier to use – Florida's SRC website.
 - 4.) It needs updating.
 - 5.) There needs to be page that is "How to Become a Referee".
- H. (Assignors)**
- 1.) Game Schedules are too fluid with too many changes
 - 2.) Some assignors try to claim ownership of certain referees.
- I. (Arbiter)**
- J. (Area Referee Administrators)**
- 1.) Assignors need to be sent a list of all new certifying referees in their areas – ASAP.
- K. (Regional Referee Associations / Local Area Referee Associations)**
- 1.) The SRC should coordinate better with the local associations.
 - 2.) There needs to be better direction from the SRC as to the implementation of Mentors and Coaches.
 - 3.) There is a need for accounting of the SRC money allocated to the local associations.
- L. (Coaching and Mentoring)**
- 1.) For video assessments, we need to have a large data base.
 - 2.) More mentors are needed.
 - 3.) Columbia and Greenville need more referee coaches.
 - 4.) If a mentor reports a a certain problem, we need to have training available to address the problem.
- M. (Discipline)**
- 1.) Referees must know that all instances of Referee Abuse must be reported on a Supplemental Report and who all to submit it to.
- N. (Support of Regional Youth and Adult Tournaments/Cups)**
- O. (Pathway for Referees to Advance)**
- 1.) Promote the idea of becoming Regional Referees
 - 2.) Bring back State Youth Male and Female and State Adult Male and Female Referees of the Year.
 - 3.) Develop a list of referees that need higher level games to advance.
- P. (Training)**
- 1.) How to report Referee Abuse
 - 2.) More in-person field training for all experience levels of referees.
- V. Action Items / Our Priorities Going Forward**

- 1.) Website – Begin to Update the SRC Website – Marion and Danny**
- 2.) By-Laws, Policies, and Procedures – Begin to review, update, and write – Michael**
- 3.) Selection of Referees to Regional Tournaments – Begin the process of selecting, notifying, and coordinating – Chris for the Youth and Sofia for the Adults**
- 4.) Communication Channels – Begin to review, improve, and implement better communication methods – Chris and Michael for the Youth / Sofia and Joe for the Adults**

VI. Our Next Meeting – February 23, 2025 at 8:00PM via ZOOM