

SRC Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2025

Meeting Details:

- Date: September 28, 2025
- Time: 8:00 PM – 9:20 PM
- Called to Order: 8:03 PM by Michael Copeland
- Adjourned: 9:20 PM
- Attendance: Michael Copeland, Kris Kenney, Jack Schultz, Marion Shull, Joe Balazs, Gary Smith, Kevin Koelleger, Bucky Jones

I. Minutes

The minutes from the August meeting were not available for review at this session.

II. Reports

State Director of Instruction (SDI) – Rick Rogers

Rick Rogers was unable to attend the meeting but provided a report via email, which was read aloud during the meeting. Rick noted that new referee registrations continue to be strong. There are nine webinars remaining in the current season, and he anticipates having the spring schedule completed, including the statewide training weekend, by the next meeting. As previously reported, 25 new mentors are in the process of being certified. Rick and Danny have scheduled three webinars in October that will be mandatory for both new and current mentors.

State Director of Assessment (SDA) – Danny Thornberry

Danny Thornberry was also unable to attend and submitted his report by email, which was read to the group. Danny welcomed Kathryn Perry as the newest Referee Coach, noting she has just passed the course and completed her first official evaluation. Three webinars are scheduled for first-year mentors and current mentors, and all SRC members and ARAs are encouraged to attend at least one. The webinars are set for October 8, 14, and 19, each from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Danny has sent ARAs the list of mentors invited to participate, based on recommendations and expressed interest. Additional recommendations should be submitted by Tuesday. The website is being finalized this week with updated 2025/2026 modules, budget, and SRC minutes, with plans to go live on Friday. ARAs are encouraged to request any needed developmental evaluations. Danny also plans to schedule a call with all ARAs to discuss mentor utilization and expectations at the local level. He requested that ARAs send dates and times of first-year referee field sessions to be posted on the website, with the option to send announcements via Arbiter if necessary.

State Assignment Coordinator (SAC) – Kris Kenney

Kris reported working with a new assignor for SCYS games in the Richmond Hill area, involving a Georgia-based assignor who resides in South Carolina. Since SC referees and teams will be present, she is monitoring the situation carefully. Kris discussed administrative challenges with SCYS's Walter Clapton, specifically relating to proper player check-in, receipt of rosters for incident reporting, and the use of Jot Form for USSF reports, which currently excludes ARAs, SRAs, and assignors from the notification loop. Walter is planning to adjust the system to ensure proper notification after a report is submitted. The group discussed the need for improved communication and enforcement of red card reporting, with Marion expressing concern about the current lack of follow-through and Jack noting that referees are issuing cards but not consistently submitting reports. Kris suggested requiring referees to note disciplinary actions in Arbiter, and Michael proposed annual training to emphasize proper reporting. Kris and Kevin discussed the option of coaches checking in the players and then providing a QR Code to the official. This electronic system using playmetrics game day

rosters with QR codes to streamline the check in process. Red cards could be recorded in the app alerting Hans to look out for the USSF report that he would then share with the referee's ARA and Assignor by placing in an online folder. The check in process would be modeled after systems used by ECNL. Additionally, Jack reported that National League Piedmont uses playmetrics and they get both a QR code and a paper game day roster. The group agreed this would be beneficial, and Gary supported the continued use of paper rosters supplemented by QR codes. As a wrap up, Kris noted that SCYS is moving to adopt the USYS banned word list, information which will need to be shared with all referees. She is working to disseminate these updates to all assignors. The Jot Form for USSF reports is to be used only in SCYS sanctioned leagues and tournaments.

Area Referee Administrators (ARAs)

- Greenville/Spartanburg #1 – Steve Faria: Not in attendance.
- Rock Hill #2 – George Cobbia: Not in attendance.
- Columbia #3 – Marion Shull: Marion is planning to schedule on-field training for new referees in the Midlands. He also requested that Kevin add links to all regional clubs on the SCYS website, aiming to increase club involvement in referee recruitment.
- Myrtle Beach #4 / Florence #6 – Jack Schultz: Jack has conducted field sessions in both Myrtle Beach and Florence, successfully training three new officials in Myrtle Beach and four in Florence.
- Charleston #5 – Bucky Jones: Not in attendance.
- Aiken #6 – Brian Marshall: Not in attendance.

Treasurer – Gary Smith

Gary provided a report on the SRC's financial status, including balances and investments. The SRC holds over \$229,000 in cash and investments. Specific account details are as follows:

- Wells Fargo Bank Account: \$138,455.09
- Fidelity: \$101,294.97
- Western Alliance Bank: \$25,000 (matures Oct 30, 2025 at 4.2%)
- Goldman Sachs Bank: \$25,000 (matures Jan 28, 2026 at 4.15%)
- Wells Fargo Bank: \$25,000 (matures May 27, 2026 at 4.15%)
- Wells Fargo: \$25,000 (matures Sep 11, 2026 at 3.75%)
- Money Market Savings: \$1,277.47

The fiscal year 2024-2025 ended on June 30, 2025, and tax reports have been submitted. These reports, along with the budget information, need to be posted on the website. A one-month fiscal year adjustment was approved by the SRC, with transactions posted and reports forthcoming due to conflicting IRS rules. Tax reports for this adjustment are to be submitted in September and posted on the website once completed. The 2025-26 budget (August 1 – July 31) has been issued and also needs to be posted on the website.

State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA) – Chris Wood

Chris Wood sent an email to the SRC regarding State Cup referee pool lists, which are due from the ARAs by October 15. He will send a reminder to ARAs this week. Communication regarding the travel scholarship has been revised based on group feedback and was distributed at the last meeting; Chris has not yet created the Google Form but will do so before the next meeting. He also plans to reach out to US Soccer for a list of "important events" that referees should be aware of, or use an existing list provided by a referee. All invoices and bills from Regionals/Pres Cup have been closed. There is no update yet on Spring Training.

State Referee Administrator (SRA) – Joe Balazs

Joe discussed the handling of Referee Abuse Prevention Program (RAP) reports. He noted that adult league incidents are reported to SCASA, but youth organizations do not always communicate RAPP reports to the SRC. Especially those that are region based but play within the state or affect our coaches/players that carry multiple cards. The group discussed the challenges of tracking RAP incidents across leagues and organizations. Kevin suggested that Chris Wood and Walter work together to create a monthly summary

report to improve monitoring for youth games. All RAPP adult incidents go first through the league and are reported to SCASA where they track. Joe mentioned the next stage of the Referee Abuse Prevention Program (RAPP), which would involve a national database for tracking those in violation of the RAPP matrix and subject to suspension. Currently, information is shared with North Carolina and Georgia.

SCYS Representative – Kevin Kollegger

Kevin reported the growth of SCYS, now up to 31,000 players statewide. He explained that USYS requires new clubs to meet certain guidelines before joining. Once these are met, SCYS must admit the club, which presents challenges as the organization manages ongoing growth. This remains a work in progress for SCYS.

SCASA Representative – Linos Cotsapas

Linos Cotsapas was not in attendance.

III. Old Business

- Website Update: Addressed in Danny's report.
- Mentoring Update: Addressed in Danny's report.
- Identifying and Tracking Up-and-Coming Referees: Kris shared that a Google Doc has been developed for ARAs and assignors to enter officials who should be tracked as potential upgrade or State Cup candidates. She has submitted some ideas but has not yet discussed them. Jack and Marion expressed concerns that previously submitted candidates have not been considered and that feedback has not been provided. Joe agreed to follow up on these candidates and potentially meet with relevant parties to improve transparency.
- Paid Administrative Position: The group discussed the paid administrative position held by Ricky, who provides services under contract to the SRC. Michael and Gary reviewed Ricky's average workload of 20–25 hours per week, with 5–10 hours dedicated to managing the state Arbiter system. The group agreed that Michael would speak with Ricky to clarify his role and responsibilities and determine whether Ricky wishes to continue as a contractor or transition to the SDI position. A previous vote had determined that Ricky should not hold both positions.

IV. New Business

- Assigning of Unsanctioned Matches (Danny/Joe): Tabled for next month.
- New Method of Referee Reporting of RAP via Jotform (Chris/Kevin/Joe): Tabled for next month.
- Annual General Meeting (Michael): The group decided to hold a one-day annual general meeting with training sessions and provide lunch for attendees.

For the Good of the Group

All members were invited to share comments or suggestions.

V. Next Meeting

- Date and Time: October 26 at 8:00 PM (also Jack's birthday)
- Location: Zoom Meeting
- Agenda Items:
 - Referee tracking update
 - Discuss paid administrator position
 - Assigning unsanctioned matches
 - RAPP reporting Jotform
 - Updating red card tracking options in youth matches
 - Discuss reimbursement of incurred expenses

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.