

March 30, 2025

SOUTH CAROLINA REFEREE COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING

I. MINUTES:

The minutes from the February 23 meeting were emailed out prior to the Zoom meeting. Correction to the minutes was the announcement that Don Wilbur was awarded the US Soccer Federation's Eddie Alvarez Award. Don is resident of Mt. Pleasant, SC.

II. REPORTS:

A. State Director of Instruction (SDI)

Rick Rogers – reported that there are no real updates since the previous meeting. Was currently doing an assessment.

B. State Director of Assessments (SDA)

Danny Thornberry – Currently we are looking at 10 regional assessments in the works as well as 5 additional referees looking to upgrade. He then shared a screen about the new USSF mentor, mentor +, and referee coach and national coach program. Anticipate a letter to be sent out for recruitment. Including new as well as existing expectations. Expecting to have a class at the end of July or the first week of August. The Mentors are not to be on the field but observing the match. This is a good way for those that want to stay involved in the game but choose to no longer officiate the game. Goal is to work with the ARA's and Assignors to make sure the mentors, coaches, etc are being used properly. He is currently developing guidelines for the on-field sessions. He is going to send those guidelines to the ARA's and mentors. His goal is consistency in the training across the state.

C. State Assignments Coordinator (SAC)

Kris Kenney shared her Referee Lead program and stressed how it differed from the mentor program. The Lead program works with assigning experienced officials with the brand-new officials – goal is to avoid throwing new officials directly into the fire. Concentration is on the newer youth referees and helping them form correct habits. Program includes reaching out to the new official prior to their first game, making sure that the officials learn about the proper pregame procedures, and it is followed up with post-game surveys for both the lead and new official. Biggest difference from mentoring is that the Referee Lead is working alongside the official. Guidelines for the Leads have been established as well to ensure continuity. SAC also reached out to all the assignors in the state to try and make a connection as this position has been vacant for a while. A survey for how the SAC can help was sent. The board asked about training opportunities for assignors and the goal is to figure out what needs are currently out there.

D. Area Referee Administrators (ARA's)

1. Greenville/Spartanburg #1 Steven Faria reported that he had a new baby.. His next field session will be April 8th.
2. Rock Hill #2 – George Cobbina reported next on field training is scheduled for April 13th
3. Columbia #3 – Marion Shull reported that they had 8 new referees at the last field session and they expect to have 1 more in April. Stated he has 296 Arbiter referees and 44 are listed as not ready . He is checking in with assignors to make sure they are getting games.
4. Myrtle Beach #4 and Florence#6 Jack Schultz reported he also had 8 new referees and 2 still need to do on field training.
5. Charleston #5 Bucky Jones reported that he covered a field session las weekend and plans on another next weekend. He is also trying to help the Hilton head area with their sessions.
6. Aiken #8 Brian Marshall – absent

E. Treasurer

Gary Smith emailed a budget to all SRC members. \$278,000, money is diversified into \$25,000 CD's at 3,6, 9 and 12 month maturity. Cash in Fidelity account as well. The 2025/26 budget process needs to start now.

F. State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA)

Chris Woods absent due to family emergency.

G. State Referee Administrator

Joe Balazs – shared information provided by Chris Woods about participation in a retention survey that is geared toward those older than 18.

H. SCYS President

Kevin Kollegger – Thanked everyone for their support and having him sit in on the meetings. He also mentioned his observations at the field as a coach, SCYS member and as a spectator. He is seeing some positive changes in the game. As well as the SCYS is moving ahead with firm consequences for violating the RAP.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Website update

Danny reported that there is movement toward ownership of our account – Screferees.com. However, we can migrate to the new site without having to purchase or change the name. Jeremy Smith (web designer) said it would cost \$2,000-3000 with an hourly fee of \$35 for ongoing Maintenance and Support. SRC will have access to make changes without having to go through Jeremy. Danny made a motion that we make the changes, 2nd by Marion. All voted and motion passed.

B. Bylaws, Policies and Procedures

Michael Copeland reported that he is still working on them as well as a mission statement. He is will meet

with Gary for the financial information

C. **Selection of Referees to Youth Regional and Presidential Cups**

Joe reported that Chris Wood has sent out the formal invites for both events.

1. Michael asked about ordering shirts, (swag) through a sale on Official Sports, deadline 4/15. Concern is getting SC Referee logo printed on the USSF logo shirts.
2. Joe also mentioned wanting to send referees to other events. Danny recommends an application process to help offset travel fees to attend. Would like the SRC to set up a google docs page that will identify major events that we will support. If this is done, the procedure will need to be added to the bylaws. Bucky recommended having a link on the SCreferees webpage for this google doc so referees will know it is an option.

D. **Selection of Referees for the Adult tournament in North Carolina**

Sofia is working on collecting names. The event will have a National Referee Coach present, so this event is aimed toward officials that are working adult games and wanting to upgrade. Sofia said SCASA is willing to pay 50%. Joe wants 4-5 referees. Rick sent a list of Regional referees that are currently supporting adult matches for consideration.

E. **Communication channels to the Youth Association**

Chris Wood is the SYRA – recommended that he has a seat on the board, however that may be an issue as it is not in the SCYS bylaws per Kevin. He is welcome to attend meetings. Kevin Kolleger mentioned that currently they need to fill the Rules and Compliance Chair. This is an appointed position and needs to be filled. A referee in this position may help blend the 2 organizations.

F. **Communication channels to the Adult Association**

This is not an issue because Sofia is the SCASA president and also on the SRC Board.

G. **Status of USSF Referee Abuse Prevention (RAP)**

Concern is that there is overuse/application of this plan. Kevin Kolleger mentioned that SCYS has been following the guidelines and has put BILU/BISA on notice. They have had too many issues covering different locals. Issue is tracking the suspensions. The state needs to start a RAP tracking system.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Increasing Mentors and Coaches**

Danny said we are very short on numbers; says we only have 10 to 12 active mentors/coaches across the state. He is hoping to get a list of potential mentors and referee coaches from the ARA's. There is going to be a 1-day class for new applicants. There will not be a limit on the class size. We need to focus on officials that want to give back to the game.

B. **Official Sports Group order/referee kits for the Youth Referee of the year.**

Michael said the deadline for ordering is April 15th. Danny said we should order for the delegation representing us at Regional and the Presidential Cups.

C. **Youth Referee of the Year**

Danny is heading that up. Suggestion to name the award after either Don Wilbur or Joe Machinek.

V. Our Next Meeting

A. Budget Session and Review.

Gary Smith is going to send out the preliminary budget to all SRC members. Goal is to be prepared – our next meeting will be geared toward finalizing that budget. There was a suggestion that we have a mid-month meeting, but a majority of the board decided that an email of the budget and then dedicating the next meeting is better way to go with the heavy load of soccer this month.

B. Next Meeting April 27th at 8pm

VI. Meeting adjourned at 9:27

A. Attendance:

Michael Copeland, Joe Balazs, Rick Rogers (via cell while), Danny Thornberry, Kris Kenney, Steven Faria, George Cobbina, Marion Shull, Jack Schultz, Bucky Jones, Gary Smith, Sofia Hernandez, and Kevin Kollegger