

SRC Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2025

8:00 PM – Called to Order at 8:03 PM

Meeting Adjourned at 9:13 PM

Attendance: Michael Copeland, Danny Thornberry, Kris Kenney, Steve Faria, George Cobbia, Marion Shull, Jack Schultz, Bucky Jones, Joe Balazs, Gary Smith, Chris Wood

I. Minutes

- Kris read corrections to the April 27th minutes:
 - Under III. Old Business, Item F (Youth and Adult Referee of the Year): Added: *"Another suggested name was Margaret Domka, who is at Clemson. She was a FIFA referee and represented the US at the FIFA Women's World Cup in Canada. However, she still identifies as being from Wisconsin."*
 - Under IV. New Business, Item A (Budget): *"State's regions"* was corrected to *"state's regional organizations."*
 - The minutes were then accepted and entered into the record with a unanimous vote.
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II. Reports

1. State Director of Instruction (SDI)

- Rick Rogers – Not in attendance

2. State Director of Assessment (SDA)

- Danny Thornberry reported increased mentoring and assessments for officials working toward the Regional badge.
- During the SCYS U13/U14 State Cup (NL and PL levels) 3 mentors attended Saturday & 2 on Sunday.

3. State Assignment Coordinator (SAC)

- Kris Kenney reported a successful State Cup weekend, despite a 3+ hour lightning delay Saturday.
- Emphasis for assigning was placed on including newer referees.
- 8 youth referees (mostly HS juniors and seniors) were given development opportunities.
- Julien and Fernando were given games as a preview of what they will see in Dallas.
- Bucky suggested opening this up more widely and branding it as a training event.
- Danny recommended focusing on training events during slower parts of the soccer calendar year.

4. Area Referee Administrators (ARAs)

- **Greenville/Spartanburg #1** – Steve Faria: Final field training planned for first weekend in June.
- **Rock Hill #2** – George Cobbia: Recent training with 4 officials; final session scheduled for the second weekend in June.
- **Columbia #3** – Marion Shull: Held a session with 5 referees; another planned in 1–2 weeks.
- **Myrtle Beach #4 / Florence #6** – Jack Schultz: Plans for a field session by the end of June for new referees.
- **Charleston #5** – Bucky Jones: 125 new officials added to 2025 badge cycle.
 - Field session today with 10 officials; 7 officials still need the on-field session to gain their badge, hope to do that in June.
 - August 23 field session/refresher at CSC Summerville complex will be offered.
 - CASRA will pay mentors and attendees for the August 23 session using funds received from the state.
- **Aiken #6** – Brian Marshall – Not in attendance.
 - It was announced that Brian worked his first MLS game as an AR. **Congratulations, Brian!**

5. Treasurer

- Gary Smith reported:
 - \$172,000 in bank; \$272,000 in CDs.
 - \$15/official paid for 1,065 officials YTD.
 - Budget planning: Use \$80/official estimate based on last year.
 - Kris: 1,582 officials with licenses; 258 inactive (possibly inaccurate).
 - Rick estimated 1,500 active officials for 2026.

6. State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA)

- Chris Wood – Not yet signed in during report time.

7. State Referee Administrator (SRA)

- Joe Balazs reported:
 - Officials attending NC Adult Regional Competition: Paige Bell, Joe Tompkins, Ashton Miller.
 - Additional candidates: John Santos, Jack Clause.
 - Event: June 12–15, Greensboro, NC.
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III. Old Business

1. Website Update –

- Danny is collecting information from SRC and ARAs for site updates.
- No phone numbers will be posted (email only) for SRC members and ARA's, Assignor's page will contain contact numbers with recommendation to text.
- Danny will request headshots of SRC members, ARA's as well as Referee Coaches and Mentors.
- A meeting with Jeremy (web designer) is scheduled for later this week to finalize the information for the website.

2. Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures –

- Michael and Gary are working to define ARA geographical boundaries in writing.

3. Youth Regional & President's Cup Referee Selection –

- Chris: Swag (bag tags, bucket hats, coins, shirts) ordered; delivery in 3 weeks hopefully in time for the presentation to those attending the President's Medal Cup: June 13–16
- Zoom meeting instead of in-person on June 7.
- Malinda Moore is Head of Delegation for the President's Medal Cup in Dallas; Torin Tompson added as referee.

4. Region III Amateur Regional Referees –

- Covered by Joe in his earlier report.

5. Identifying and Tracking Up-and-Coming Referees –

- Kris to share a Google Doc for ARA/Assignors to enter officials that should be tracked.
- Goal is to include mentor notes and development tracking.

6. Referee of the Year Awards –

- Kris: Email and Google Form to be sent out requesting nominations.
- Awards named:
 - *Don Wilbur Male & Female Youth Referee of the Year* (Both youth awards fall under Don Wilbur until a female honoree is chosen.)
 - *Joe Machnik Adult Referee of the Year*

7. USSF Referee Abuse Prevention (RAP) –

- Joe: 1 adult abuse report, no adult assaults reported or issues on the Youth games this month.
- SCASA will track violations of RAP in a spreadsheet and share that information with ARA's. Currently, it appears the leagues are following the sanctioning guidelines put out by US Soccer.
- Reminder USSF Supplemental required for reports and for SRC to act, they must be offenses made by players, coaches or team personnel on sanctioned matches. The report must be sent to SRA, ARA, Assignor and League Administrators.
- Request made for a meeting in July discussing RAP and Zero Tolerance with SCYS coaches before Fall Season.
- Danny will add RAP page to website (inspired by Louisiana model for reporting) use USSF materials.

8. 2025–2026 Budget –

- Proposal: \$250 stipend or OSI branded attire reimbursement for SRC/ARAs.
 - Danny to check with OSI for discounts. Thought is buying in bulk will give bigger discount, so he is going to also collect sizes for a large order.
- Proposal: \$100 for Coaches/Mentors- shirts + reimbursed certification.

- Proposal for Paid SRC Positions
 - Gary suggested exploring paid roles for Web Master, Newsletter Editor, Monthly Trainer.
 - Jack cautioned against paying volunteers; suggested using surplus to send more referees to Regionals.
 - Chris: If paid, ARA admin roles should be prioritized.
 - George: Would like to see the Referee Coaches/Mentors be paid positions.
 1. Danny recommended that we get Clubs to pay for those positions.
 2. Bucky said it was a good way for the Regional Organizations to use the funds allocated by the state.
- Budget must be finalized and voted on by **end of June**.
- Bucky recommended we revisit the mission statement of the SRC and then make certain to align budget with mission statement
 - Michael requested suggestions for mission statement get emailed to him.
- Budget request reminder, the following need to make sure their requests are sent to Michael and Gary:
 - Chris (SYRA): Regional Event Expenses as well as the allotted \$15,000 for Columbia training
 - Joe (SRA)
 - Rick (SDI)
 - Danny (SDA)

IV. New Business

1. For the Good of the Group –

- Danny working on a flyer for **Mentor+** program
 - First class: **July 26** 1 day in person session **in Columbia**
 - SDA to possibly cover some certification costs
- levels:
 - **Mentor+** – classroom only
 - **Mentor** – go to the fields and observe and mentor officials. They are not receiving game fees to work the game. They may be paid by local clubs, leagues or Regional Organizations.
 - **Referee Coach** – formal assessments for Regional officials in the upgrade program and their maintenance assessments. The fees for the assessments are paid out of the SDA's budget. **Must be a Mentor for 2 years before becoming a Referee Coach.
- General goal is to recruit people who have stepped away from the pitch, encouraging them to return to soccer but not as a referee. In doing so the mentors assignments will not cause conflict with the assignors who need working officials, and officials don't have to turn down good paying opportunities to mentor.

V. Next Meeting

- **Zoom Meeting: June 22 at 8:00 PM**
- **Agenda: Vote on Budget and Referees of the Year**