

KANSAS STATE REFEREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Zoom Video Conference Call

April 5, 2023

This was an interim meeting with the purpose of reviewing status on key initiatives and updating on progress around the web site hosting platform, education direction and updates and Technical Member developments.

CALL TO ORDER.

The KSRC was called to order by Rich Kaminsky at 7:06 PM on April 5, 2023.

ROLL CALL (P = PRESENT, A = ABSENT):

Voting Members:

P - Chairperson:	Rich Kaminsky
P - SRA:	Bill Davey
P - SYRA:	Gordie Wetmore
P - SDI:	Larry Weigant
P - SDA	Marc Tiemann
P - SD Assignment	Dan Smith
A - State Youth Rep:	Jon Freemon
A - State Adult Rep	Alonzo Cadena
P - Web Master	Cory Kramer

Other Members:

A - Association Representative	Vacant
A - Coaching Rep:	Jason Paepke
A - KSYSA President	Ron Schneider
A- KSA President	Alan Blinzler

Guests:

P - Sean Overton

The Chairman reported that 7 voting members were in attendance which means a quorum was present to officially conduct SRC business.

Discussion Items:

1. Nomination of Referees for National Championship Series Match, April 22, 2023 at 6 PM

- a. The KSRC has been contacted by Tony Almeida, Coach of FC Porto, notifying us of this match which is being scheduled between FC Porto and Focus FC.
- b. The following Kansas officials were recommended by the SRC for this match:
 1. Velimir Stefanovic - Center (contacted and has accepted the assignment)
 2. Drew Klemp (contacted and has accepted the assignment)
 3. Nathan Colling (left a message)
 4. Luis Tribaldo (left a message)

2. **Sponsorship on the Kansas Referee Web page:** Bill reported that he finally got a call back from Capelli and will connect with them next week. This item was tabled until after the call with Capelli. Bill mentioned that any decisions will make sure that we do not circumvent our current suppliers (OSI, the Soccer Shop, etc.).

3. **Update on surveys for Referee Retention and Utilization:** Gordie Wetmore provided the following:

- a. The Referee Retention survey was sent out and 45 responses have been received. Gordie will provide a summary of the data from this survey by the end of the month. This data will be used to design future communications and retention plans by the KSRC.
 - b. There was some confusion about the final format of the Referee Utilization survey. It was confirmed that the final Google Doc would include the changes suggested by Dan Smith, State Director of Assignment. Gordie committed to getting this survey mailed out within the next 5 days. No further discussion.
4. **Updates from SDI/SDA Workshop held in Kansas City on March 11, 2023.** Zach Richter (representing the SDA) and Sean Overton (representing the SDI) attended this meeting.
- a. Sean reported that the workshop was well attended and the attendees provided good participation. The major benefit was collaboration and networking.
 - b. Sean confirmed that based on his conversations our ELC offerings are effective. As such, we will continue to deliver the current ELC offering in the State of Kansas.
 - 1. For Recertifications, there was a discussion on which content would be most effective – the US Soccer Learning Center content which uses clips and content from MLS and World Cup matches or the Kansas content which uses clips and content from Youth matches played in Kansas. We will continue to go down the path of using our local content because the consensus is that this is the correct focus for our Youth officials.
 - c. Marc reported (based on information from Zach) that the US Soccer direction for assessments is Demosphere. This will include a change in the scoring of officials. However, the assessment application from Demosphere is not available at this time.
 - 1. Bill is familiar with the proposed scoring methodology which is used by the PRO organization.
 - 2. The following decisions were made regarding Kansas and the assessment program:
 - 1. For those officials who are declaring for National status, the assessment program will be administered by National Referee Coaches and will be based on the Demosphere application.
 - 2. The Regional Referee program (maintenance and advancement) is to be managed by the KSRC. We will continue to use our current delivery model (assessments in Game Officials).
5. **Update on Female Outreach Program:** Christine was unable to attend. Cory provided the following updates.
- a. The initial meeting was conducted in March with a small attendance. The fliers were late getting out which could have impacted attendance.
 - b. The second meeting will be conducted on April 10th. Fliers have been posted at all Heartland Venues and she is hoping for increased attendance.
 - c. The following people have agreed to be a part of the Female Outreach Program:
 - 1. Michelle Cheung
 - 2. Dannette Seffens
 - 3. Naomi Omenski
 - d. Cory shared an example of the program at work. One of our young female officials had a problem at a match. She was able to talk about how to manage the problem with another more

- experienced female official (one of the people who have agreed to be a part of the program). This was well received.
- e. Bill challenged Christine to continue to work on the program and is looking forward to positive results.
6. **Flipping Coin acquisition:** Phil Gomez forward the Hasty Awards invoice. The flipping coins were ordered by Phil, KSYSA Director of Membership.
- a. 400 coins were ordered at a cost of \$1.59 per coin (Order #08220919).
 - b. The plan is to distribute these coins over 2023 (spring and fall)
 - c. The total cost with taxes and shipping was \$722.72
 - d. The KSRC has paid this invoice.
 - e. SYRA is being advised that in the future items such as this need to be included as a part of the budget. If approved, they will be paid for by the SRC. If not approved, they should not be ordered with the expectation that the SRC will pay for them. This message was understood.
7. **State Director of Instruction updates:**
- a. Larry Weigant informed the members in attendance that he will be retiring as of June 30, 2023 for personal reasons. He will continue as an ex-officio member of the SRC in accordance with the SRC Rules of Procedure.
 - b. Larry shared that the recertification team would be meeting on Wednesday, April 12th to begin the development of the 2024 recertification clinics with the focus on Offside. The members of the Recertification development team will include Sean Overton, Troy Manzi, Christine Kramer, Peter Delany, and Gordie Wetmore. The target date for delivery will be July, with the option of updating based on changes to the LOTG after the initial release of the online clinic materials.
 - c. The plan continues to be to have 2 offerings (Basic and Intermediate) and to utilize videos from local leagues.
 - d. Based on Larry's announcement of his future retirement, and because a quorum of SRC voting members was on the Zoom Meeting, the following MOTION was made by Rich Kaminsky: Should Sean Overton be appointed as the State Director of Instruction beginning on July 1, 2023 (second by Bill Davey). No further discussion. The members present voted unanimously in favor of this motion. Sean Overton will become the SRC Technical Member, State Director of Instruction, effective July 1, 2023 and will also be a member of the Kansas Referee Development Corporation (KRDC).
8. **Policy Letter for Referees who receive SRC funds to travel to USSF selected events (i.e., outline expected give backs for investments).** Bill Davey has requested this additional Policy Letter be developed and communicated with our Referees. The purpose is to make sure we provide support for those Referees who excel and maximize our investments by getting returns that can benefit more than the individual officials. Marc Tiemann and Rich Kaminsky will review the current policy letters and prepare a consolidated Policy Letter on this subject which will be presented and discussed at the next SRC meeting.
9. **Update from USSF on U12 Referees:** Bill shared the following information as the result of a call he had with US Soccer earlier in the day.
- a. US Soccer has changed its Liability Insurance Carrier. The new carrier advised US Soccer that it can no longer house records of Referees who are under the age of 13 (it is a violation of their age policy).
 - b. Going forward, US Soccer will enforce their standard that any Referee certified by US Soccer will have to be 13 years old or older.

- c. The question for Kansas is do we want to continue our program which allows us to certify 12 year old officials?
 - 1. Bill shared that in Kansas those who become certified at the age of 12 have better retention than other age groups (10% better).
 - 2. He also shared that around 10% of our Referees are in the 12-year-old category.
 - d. The decision is that we will continue to train and certify Referees that meet the 12-year-old standard in Kansas. However, we cannot in the future administer this program with US Soccer.
 - e. This means that our program for training and insuring 12-year-old officials will be State run going forward. The following impacts and actions will be required:
 - 1. We will have to administer these registrations outside the US Soccer system. This means we need to create separate administration (currently supported in Game Officials. See Item 10 for additional impacts).
 - 2. We will not be able to provide our 12-year-old officials with US Soccer Badges. We will have to create an additional badging option for this group.
 - 3. This also means that we will have to advise these Referees that they are certified to work ONLY in the State of Kansas.
 - 4. Liability insurance will be provided at the State Level. Bill will meet with the Insurance carrier to determine specific age restrictions (how will we deal with U11 officials who will become 12 before their certification expires). The specifics from the Insurance carrier will formalize our plan for this.
 - f. Once the officials turn 13, they will be required to create a profile in the US Soccer Learning Center. At this point they will receive USSF certification and should be provided with a USSF Badge which means they can officiate across the country.
10. **Options to Game Officials:** Because of the technical challenges with Game Officials, we will consider other alternative platforms for Kansas. The current plan is to investigate Official Management Systems (used by a number of other states including Florida which has over 7,200 Referees). A steering committee has been named (Bill Davey/SRA, Cory Kramer/WebMaster, Sean Overton/SDI, Gordie Wetmore/SYRA, and Rich Kaminsky/SRC Chair) to investigate the OMS offering and make recommendations to the SRC on how to proceed.

KANSAS STATE REFEREE COMMITTEE MINUTES – Part 2

- 1. **Consideration of Official’s Management Systems to replace Game Officials:** On April 19th OMS hosted a Zoom call with attending members of the SRC to show us the features of their software and to respond to questions from the attending members. The Zoom call was recorded and has been shared with all of the members of the SRC for their review.
 - a. A motion was made at the meeting to move ahead with OMS. The motion was made by Bill Davey and seconded by Cory Kramer/Larry Weigant. The motion was to have a vote to determine if Kansas will contract with OMS to replace the current system. No further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.
 - b. The following email was sent to the members of the SRC:

Last evening a good portion of the SRC viewed a demo of the OSM registration platform. It seemingly provides everything we need to register and process referee records, including an under 12 component, assessment module, and detailed reporting and analysis capability. It also has a dynamic email notification capability. In the mill is an assignment component. The up-front cost is around \$1500, depending on the amount of work we ask them to do to customize the platform for our special needs. The per individual reg cost (revert and ELC) is \$2.50 per. Credit card

payment is also available and preferred. Even though a quorum of consensus was on the call, an official vote is required in order to proceed Please respond yes or no, as soon as possible.

- c. The recorded vote is as follows:
 - i. Bill Davey, SRA – Yes
 - ii. Rich Kaminsky – SRC Chairman – Yes
 - iii. Cory Kramer – WebMaster – Yes
 - iv. Marc Tiemann – State Director of Assessment – Yes
 - v. Larry Weigant – State Director of Instruction – Yes
 - vi. Sean Overton – Acting State Director of Instruction – Yes
 - vii. Dan Smith – State Director of Assignment – Yes
 - viii. Gordie Wetmore – SYRA – Yes
- d. The vote included a quorum of the voting members of the SRC favoring proceeding with OMS. OMS was informed that we will be moving forward with the target of being operational with the new system around July 1, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rich Kaminsky, Chairman