

TASL MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 2017



The regularly scheduled TASL meeting was held on March 8 2017 with the following in attendance: Tina Lowry, Jimmy Holland (PSC), Dave Dearborn, Nan Beck, Teresa Phillips, Brad Killenbeck (AYSO), Brian Francazio (BFC), Caryn del Castillo (CSC), Michelle Fernander (CSL), Scott Truesdale (CUSA), Meredith Holl (CUSC), Robert Tucker and Jack Carroll (SSC), Brandon May (SYAA), Michael Boyko (TSA), and Mike Dick (WBSC), and Jimmy Kinlaw (Bookkeeper). Guests included Referee Assignors

Tina Lowry, President called the meeting to order at 6:46pm. She thanked the Referee Assignors (RAs) for attending and then asked that everyone introduce themselves and state their club affiliation. She then turned the meeting over to Dave Dearborn. Dave stated that he and his committee members, Jimmy Holland and Mike Dick were tasked with coming up with ideas on how to better communicate and support the RAs with the ultimate goal of making everything better for our players. A handout had been passed out to all that gave a listing and description of the four main points of review that the committee had determined as the key ones for the purpose of this meeting. These included Referee Development, Misconduct towards Referees, Review Quality and Review, and League Rules and Policy. Dave then gave an overview of each one. However, before each main point was discussed the RAs were asked for their input on issues they felt were of importance to discuss. The following were given:

- Retaining referees – There is a shortage for all sports. Coach conduct is a huge reason for this. A new approach is going out to colleges to recruit and offer courses. Dave suggested a follow-up plan be put in place for new referees after they have completed the course, giving them a list of RAs with their contact information. It was suggested to list the RAs on the club website. Tina then further suggested that a question could be posted on the TASL website such as “Do you want to be a referee?” and also add the link to the Metro DC Referee Association for more information.
- Delay in payments to RAs
- When asked who gets these new Referee Kits, Tina explained that the distribution just started at the end of last year. Dave explained the history of how this originally developed but it did not work so this new approach required TASL to search for courses which they did and found out from AG Gomez that courses were being offered at the Fieldhouse in Virginia Beach and by two member clubs, CSL and SCC. Karen Arnold, RA suggested that money be used for training after the courses instead of purchasing the kits, Tina responded that TASL would look into doing both. Further discussion on supporting new referees stressed the importance of giving a personal approach. Several suggestions including the Club Reps meeting them on their respective field sites to help

them feel more comfortable and supported. It was also suggested that TASL members could come to the last hour of the classes to meet them. Setting up clinics on the fields to get experience with mentors was also suggested. Karen then described the “shadowing process” she uses for new referees. It was then pointed out that continuous training is needed with support from RAs while all their referees are on the fields.

With a focus on the main point #3 of Referee Quality and Review, Tina stated that feedback she received suggested use of assessment sheets by an appointed evaluator going around from site to site which could be a random monitoring process or a focus on evaluating those referees who needed more oversight. These evaluators would be paid \$20 to \$25 an hour. She pointed out that if TASL is paying for these assessments, TASL would need to receive the reports. Dave suggested it should be more like an “informal site monitoring”. He then brought the discussion back to main point #2, Misconduct towards Referees, stating that there needs to be a process of free flow of information. His concern suggested that there may be misconduct that the referees are not reporting consistently. Thus, TASL is not aware of any issues and the Club Reps may not even know about it for their own coaches. There was much discussion on the referees submitting reports and how it should be done; pointing out that per TASL sanctioning documents reporting, yellow and red cards to VYSA is required. Karen stated that her referees are responsible for reporting all cards given to players or coaches to her and stated that she would like to see all cards reported to all RAs. After various suggestions were given, Tina offered a solution to use the TASL website for RAs to enter the cards and then the Club Reps would get an email about this, working similar to how the Club Reps receive information when their club coaches complete their declaration forms. Then, the next step would be for TASL to determine “accumulation rules”. Teresa then added that she receives information on cards issued in mysoccerleague.com if submitted, and if so, she sends it onto the Club Reps for their awareness. Plus, this information on cards issued is the only information that TASL can report to VYSA as required. She pointed out that the TASL Handbook states that TASL is to receive information on cards given so it can be reported to VYSA as required. However, currently, everyone is allowing the coaches to “self-report” and no one is aware if players or coaches are sitting out like they are required to do. Teresa added that she plans to review better scheduling programs over the summer and will see if they also have better features for reporting.

Dave then redirected the discussion to the main point #4, League Rules and Policy. Dave stated that TASL needs to establish a simple resource for referees on TASL rules since there are numerous rules to follow depending on age groups and type of games playing in various leagues. Tina then asked all which rules are confusing. The main responses included offsides, headers, and length of halves. Tina then stated that she would create a type of reference card for the referees and would send to the RAs by Friday.

There was a short discussion on RAs working for the clubs but they could work for TASL. TASL could pay the RAs directly and they would continue to complete their 1099s. Tina then asked that this topic be dropped and will be discussed at the Board level. Tina then referred all to the topic, as listed in the handbook, that referees are suppose to check team rosters and player cards prior to the games. The issue of referees wanting the team roster was discussed, stating that Team Managers should have copies instead. However, it was pointed out that the personal information on the rosters should not be shared. So, giving them just a name

and jersey number was suggested. Karen stated that she did not agree that the referees should be checking rosters and player cards, saying that they are not taught in class they have to do that; plus, she pointed out that they do not have the authority to keep ineligible players from playing. She further stated that if they need to be checked, the Team Managers should check each others. Mike disagreed, stating that an unbiased authoritative person such as the Center Referee should check them. Karen responded that if there is a paperwork issue, the referee cannot start the match, and if it is not a sanctioned match, then the referees are not covered by insurance. Final word on referees checking rosters and player cards was that this is the rule in the handbook.

The discussion was then reverted back to main point #3, but this time, stressing the point that it is important for coaches to give input on referees. A suggestion was made for coaches to enter input into mysoccerleague.com for Referee Assignors to see. Dave suggested a midseason report be sent to RAs with comments on this input. Tina stated that she would take for action to research into mysoccerleague.com to determine its capabilities for doing this.

Then a discussion on the scheduling of referees began with the issue of referees not being scheduled for back to back games which creates a lot of wait time between matches. Teresa pointed out that she sends out emails through mysoccerleague.com for schedule review. She will ensure RAs get these reminders also. Her focus is to make sure each teams has equal home and away games but if there are problems she does not mind reviewing them. However, she does have a rule not to change Saturday games after Wednesday of the same week since she feels it is unfair to the teams. If she cannot make a change, she will let you know and the reason why it cannot be changed.

Karen then made several requests:

- If scheduled matches are forfeited, referees should get paid.
- If scheduled matches are cancelled, RAs should still get paid since they have already done a lot of work to assign the referees for these matches.
- If referees are assigned three games and the first and last games are cancelled but the middle game is not, the referees should get paid for all three.

Tina responded to both requests by stating that there will be further discussion on payment for forfeited matches and she will check back on payment records but she is pretty sure RAs were paid for cancelled games.

Tina then reviewed all the action items she had listed as a result of the round table discussion:

- Promote recruitment of referees on the TASL website with the Metro DC Referee Association link added.
- Hold clinics after the referee courses and continue to give out kits.
- Create a game report on the website for referee reporting with password protection.
- Research mysoccerleague.com for game report capabilities about quality of referees for feedback from coaches.
- Create a summary card on rules for referees.
- TASL continuing to reimburse clubs for referee fees or directly pay RAs
- Further discuss paying referees for cancelled and forfeited games.
- Create a simplified game day team roster for the Center Referee since TASL currently does not have a policy of giving them a copy of the roster when requested.

- Further discussion for a resolution on referees checking rosters and player cards
- Continue meetings with RAs on a regular basis, possibly bi-yearly with the meeting date planned for about four weeks prior to each season.

Tina then thanked the RAs for coming. She reminded them that TASL is available to them and she encouraged them to keep the lines of communication open. The round table discussion then ended at 9:14pm

The regular monthly meeting was then continued with Tina asking if there were any questions or corrections to the February meeting minutes previously sent out by Nan Beck, Secretary. There were none so she asked for a motion to approve. Jimmy Holland made the motion and Brad Killenbeck seconded it. The motion carried.

Financials: Jimmy Kinlaw, Bookkeeper had been excused from the meeting prior to the round table discussion. He passed on the following information to Tina prior to leaving:

- He has possible access to Quicken Books requiring use of an Apple Macintosh computer but if that does not work out, TASL would need to purchase one for his use.
- He will provide hard copies of the 2016 Actuals prepared for review at the financial meeting planned at 6:15pm on March 29th with location to be determined.
- Tina then asked about interest in the renewal of the NSCAA membership and whether to renew the current plan or upgrade it. After a short discussion with an interest in renewing, Mike Dick made the motion to renew the current premier NSCAA membership at a cost of \$1300 with an option to upgrade at a later date. Dave Dearborn seconded the motion and it carried.
- The check for \$500 for the approved donation to Kickin It For Cancer was issued tonight.
- All club fees have been paid.

Ongoing or Unfinished Business:

Website updates - Tina shared information about the new website, stating that the updates are continuing to be done on weather hotlines and field addresses with Goggle maps. She stated that she will take care of updating field status on game days until the next meeting but will need volunteers to help after that.

Preseason report – Teresa Phillips, Administrator reported that two teams have folded which will create a change in the schedule for teams playing in the U11G division and U10B “C” division. Another team may fold but they are trying to make it work. The following scheduling issues were then introduced:

- Mike stated that teams were having a problem playing on March 18th due to participation in the Shamrock Runs. Tina suggested that those games be rescheduled after the Shamrock and be played at Williams Park. Teresa asked that all who have teams with conflicts with this, send her a list of them. Dave then suggested that when Club Reps let their Referee Assignors know there has been a change in the schedule to include the reason why the change had to be made.
- Games scheduled around area Spring Breaks are creating issues for team numbers. It was pointed out that it is impossible to schedule around all Spring Break weeks since there are many different ones in the area. Dave suggested that if teams cannot play, then their

games should be taken off the schedule and the teams would just have one less game. Tina asked that this topic be tabled for a solution at the next meeting.

- Teresa reminded all that everyone needs to be in “GroupMe” for field communication. Everyone was reminded that it is only used for reporting when fields are closed.

Tina then made closing remarks about the meeting with the Referee Assignors, stating that there is a lot of work to be done but it will only make TASL better; thus, make it better for the players. She further stated that since there are a lot of action items, she will plan to prioritize them based on short, medium, and long term goals.

Tina asked if there were any other comments. The following was stated:

- Dave brought up an issue that had been previous but briefly mentioned during the meeting with the assignors, confirming that if a referee is assigned three games at a site but the first and last games get cancelled but the middle game is played, the referee should be paid for all three assigned games. All agreed.
- Michelle stated that she needs New Referee Kits. It was pointed out that SCC needs some but the number was unknown. A count will be sent to Dave.

Tina then adjourned the meeting at 9:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Beck, TASL Secretary

TASL Meeting on 3-8-16

Action Items	Responsibility of:
Provide hard copies of the 2016 Actuals prepared for review at the financial meeting planned at 6:15pm on March 29 th .	Jimmy Kinlaw
Update field status on game days until the next meeting but will need volunteers to help after that.	Tina
Send list of teams to Teresa who have conflicts with games due to Shamrock.	Club Reps
Solution for scheduling issues around area Spring Breaks at next meeting	Club Reps/BOD
Prioritize RA action items based on short, medium, and long term goals.	Tina
More New Referee Kits to be ordered/SSC to send count needed	Dave/Robert
Motion	Made/Seconded
Motion made to renew the current premier NSCAA membership at a cost of \$1300 with option to upgrade at a later date	Mike Dick/Dave Dearborn
Approval	Approved by
If a referee is assigned three games at a site but the first and last games get cancelled but the middle game is played, the referee should be paid for all three assigned games.	Club Reps/BOD

