

**United States Soccer Federation
Referee Committee Meeting
September 13, 2003
Chicago O'Hare Hilton**

Members present: Alvarez, Baldeosingh, Bouda, Lyslo, Machnik (represented by Jeff Thiffault), Mason, McCormick, McKee, Motta

Regrets: Balboa, Harkes, Hunt

In Attendance: Baharmast, Garibay, Ilacqua, Kleinaitis, McGuire, Tamberino

Call to Order: The chair called the meeting to order at 08:00 a.m. CDT.

Agenda: The agenda is found in the committee member's packet.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the March 29, 2003 meeting are in the packet and also posted on the USSF web site. **Moved and seconded to approve the minutes.** Discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

Member reports: Machnik submitted extensive written reports and statistical information from the MLS, WUSA, MISL and the "A" League. Thiffault commented on the highlights. Discussion of the reports followed.

Adult Association: Motta mentioned the number of cup games played this past summer that included; National Cup, Regional Cups, Soccer Festival and the Co-Ed Cup. Proper assignment of referees to these matches was a challenge.

US Youth Soccer; Lyslo talked about the championships that have been held since the last meeting including the inaugural National Director's Cup. He also commented on the recently concluded seminar held for youth Director's of Coaching and Referee Administrators. McKee, Ilacqua, Kleinaitis and Silva were included as presenters. Comments received from the recently concluded National Championships indicate that coaches and players recognize that the average age of the referees is coming down and in some cases the level of experience shows, especially when working as 4th officials. It seems that the increased need for referees at all levels of the game is putting pressure on the available pool of qualified referees. Upcoming events include; the February Workshop in Boston and the ODP National Championships in March. Ilacqua/Kleinaitis indicated the Department would increase participation in referee training sessions at ODP camps.

Board Representative: Bouda discussed his participation in resolving the financial problems associated with one of our member State Referee Committees where there was a violation of section 531-2, Section 2 of the Referee Administrative Handbook. There was lengthy discussion on this subject. Also mentioned was the passage of the Referee Committee proposal, during the AGM, allowing for restructuring of the voting process to elect the Referee Director. The process for this year's election is underway. The problem of dealing with Misconduct Toward Game Officials (Policy 531-9) was discussed in light of two incidents where misconduct against referees was reported and adjudicated with unfavorable results. It was determined that a task force was needed to review this policy and recommend changes, if needed. McCormick, Motta and Lyslo are assigned to this task force. Ilacqua will be staff liaison. **Subsequent to the meeting McCormick researched this issue and offered the following: It is suggested that the proper way to implement a change in Policy 531-9 would be through the Governance Committee as this issue appears to fall under their charge and would be the proper forum to have a recommended solution developed. If the Referee Committee were to recommend a policy change it would have to be brought to the NBOD meeting in March at the AGM.** By way of these minutes the Referee Committee concurs with this suggestion.

AYSO: Mason presented a written report detailing events since the last committee meeting. Ilacqua, Baharmast and McKee have been or will be participating in some of these meetings. The AYSO Referee Training program has been revised to allow referee training in modules suitable for evening sessions.

Business and Financial Report: Ilacqua went through Registration Fee Annual Comparisons and several Year-end Preliminary Financial Results. The members discussed these reports in detail.

2004 Registration Procedure Up-date: Garibay told the committee that the final registrations numbers totaled 129,049 up 8.3%. He mentioned how the department reconciles submissions by the SRAs with the registrations actually processed to insure accuracy in the registration process. He also talked about use of the Internet as the repository of forms for on-line registrations. This method of registration eliminates the

need for special software. Training and explanations of this registration method will be conducted at the SRA Workshop. All forms for 2004 have been mailed out. Historical data on registration numbers going back to 1999 were included in the member's packets. All of this data will be posted on the referee page as time permits.

Report from the Overseas Branch (OB) Administrator: Mack Alarcon, who is retiring submitted his final report detailing the efforts on the OB. His work as the only administrator of the OB is greatly appreciated and US Soccer will properly recognize the contributions made by Mr. Alarcon.

Bylaw 412, Section 2, proposed changes: As mentioned above this Bylaw was amended at the AGM with the understanding that some confusion over language would be corrected at the next AGM (March 6, 2004). Accordingly, a proposal will be submitted to the Rules Committee clarifying exactly who is eligible to receive a ballot and vote for the Referee Director. Discussion. McCormick will work on the corrections for submission to the rules committee. E.g. Emeritus referees must have been at least a grade 5 when they requested emeritus status. Ilacqua mentioned that a call for nominations would be sent out shortly via e-mail. Resumes and pictures of nominees will be posted on the US Soccer web site. Checks and balances are in place to insure that no one votes more than once. Membership Services will administer the balloting.

Old Business

New Jersey Leagues request to be added to "Other Approved" list for National Referee game experience: This request and league compliance issues will be reviewed by Tamberino and McKee. Discussion. **Moved and seconded to accept the Champions Soccer League request to be added to the Approved List pending the outcome of a review by David McKee and Paul Tamberino.** On a voice vote the motion was affirmed. Ilacqua will outline the conditions of approval to the Interim State Referee Administrator.

OSI update. Official Sports has given notice that they will be changing the coloring of the logo on the sleeve of the referee shirts. The change is being made to provide for more contrast between the background color of the shirt and the color of the logo. Discussion. There will be no problem with referees wearing either a shirt with the new or old logo or a referee crew wearing a mix of both logos. Shirts with the up-dated logo would be sold in the spring of 2004.

Indoor Referee Training: The committee reviewed criteria necessary to register as an in-door referee for affiliated in-door members. At the present time referees may register as an in-door referees using their existing grade and successfully passing the in-door course. By 2006 it is expected that criteria will be developed for in-door only referees. The committee also reviewed FIFA physical fitness testing for Futsal referees. Current registration fees will be the same as for out-door. A new badge will be developed and the current registration form will be updated to include in-door. Standardized rules of play will be developed by November of this year with a presentation to the BOD regarding grades and fees on November 23/24. This whole process will be discussed at the upcoming SRA Workshop. A training curriculum will be developed for presentation at the SDI Workshop in May 2004.

New Business: Builders Award. The National Soccer Hall of Fame is developing a process relating to the induction of an individual as a "Builder". This category would include those who are being considered for their accomplishments outside of the Player category, such as referees, administrators, coaches, managers, owners, etc. The Hall expects to have the criteria ready by the 2004 elections. In addition, the Hall is planning on adding an Eddie Pearson Award display in the Museum.

2004 FIFA Panel selection: Baharmast reviewed the regulations governing the registration of international referees and assistant referees. He then presented the findings of the Technical Sub-Committee. **Moved and seconded to accept the recommendations for the female candidates to the assistant referee list.** Discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed. **Moved and seconded to accept the recommendations for the female candidates to the referee list.** Discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed. **Moved and seconded to accept the recommendations for the male candidates to the assistant referee list.** Discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed. **Moved and seconded to accept the recommendations for the male candidates to the referee list.** Discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed. The list of names for the International Panels will be forwarded to the BOD for its concurrence.

Eddie Pearson award: Names of candidates for this award are submitted to the Referee Department by State Referee Committees. A list of candidates is sent to the screening committee consisting of previous Eddie Pearson Award winners. The final selection will be made by the National Referee Committee. The recommendation of the screening committee was reviewed and discussed. **Moved and seconded to**

accept the name of Alfred Kleinaitis as this year's award winner. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed.

FIFA Referees' Special Award: A state association nominated an individual for this award. Award criteria was discussed. **Moved to accept the nomination.** There being no second the motion failed.

Referees failing to register for two or more years: A question was brought to the Referee Department regarding Referee Registration Instructions #6 (Referee Administrative Handbook). Referees not registered in the previous year. Discussion centered on the grade of the referee, how long have they not re-registered, what their last grade was, etc. **Moved and seconded that beginning in the 2004 registration year a Grade 8 referee that does not register for one or two years may re-register upon successful completion of a Recertification course. A Grade 8 referee that does not register for three or four years may re-register upon successful completion of the Bridge Module Course. A Grade 8 referee not registering for five or more years may re-register upon successful completion of the Grade 8 Entry level course.** Further discussion. On a voice vote the motion was affirmed. (Grade 7 and higher referees can only be registered at the grade they qualify for. Referees who were Grade 7 or higher should be downgraded one grade per current policy.)

Insurance coverage: The topic of when is a referee registered (Referee Administrative Handbook). Registration is annual and runs from January 1st to December 31st. Insurance coverage is continuous even though the certificate of insurance may have an end date of August 31. The new policy takes over immediately.

Assignor Grades: the committee discussed Registration and re-certification of assignors. The subject was referred to Kleinaitis for review with the directive to add retention and development to the assignors' course.

Next meeting date: April 3, 2004, place TBD.

Adjournment: With no further business before the committee it was moved and seconded to adjourn at 3:26 P.M.

Submitted by: Wally Lyslo. Recording secretary.