



Meeting Notes: LRO Call - 12/3/2013

Attendees: Ed Todd, Britt Jacobs (Referee Department), Simon Smith (VA), Brei Gussack (Potomac), Gary Hartzell (West), Charlie Haupt (Eastern Rockies), Andy Wenger (MO), Bill Caulfield, LuAnn Campbell (So Cal), David Pelton (PNW), Paul Bretz (Nor Cal).

1. Adopt a National Referee

- Consensus that it could draw people to webinars/conference calls
- Many have poor attendance at conference calls
- Agree that a 'National' agenda/ lessons for calls – created by the National office and distributed to LROs monthly- would be beneficial. NO will also seek “celebrities”, who would be willing to contribute, and focus on “hot topics”.
- Many feel that their referees receive information through different mediums- email/ social media
- The concept is to allow LRO's to adopt-a-NP Referee, who will actively participate and contribute to regularly scheduled meetings, be they face-to-face (via phone/Skype) or web based (Webex, Goto Meeting, Fuzebox, etc)

2. Ongoing SRO relations

- Many feel that SROs while they want the best referees, don't see the value in paying for best referees, or are fiscally unable to pay the same as college and clubs. SRO's are often looking/demanding high level referees for lower level matches U12/U14
- Not enough high quality referees to meet demand
- Issues in collecting payment for referee services
- SROs send many coaches through ref training courses but don't want these coaches to officiate as they may be biased to their groups. It was noted that around the world, especially at lower age grades, parents, teachers,. And coaches regularly referee, supported by the home union.
- Some have found success requiring one official per team
- Don't always see the value in coaching/ performance reviewing
- Nor Cal noted a positive challenge, namely, there are over 200 youth referees. The challenge is finding a way to train and develop so many.

3. Other notes:

- Online law examinations that allow creator to view the missed questions and thus cater meeting agendas towards areas of need
- View game prior to webinar and discuss the pieces of the game with the National referee who officiated it (Potomac did this using Ed Gardner)