

REPORT ON 2003

Jerry Gompers, SRA

Overall Goals for the Two-Year Period 2003-2004:

- Provide well-trained referees to meet our customers' needs.
- Simplify the administrative process and streamline the paper transaction flow (e.g., registration, database and payments).
- Enhance the Coordinator position to relieve volunteers from menial tasks so that they have more time and energy to apply to programs.
- Select key personnel.
- Find a way to get Oregon referees on the road to national grades.

Commentary:

Advisory Committee

From the beginning, I have tried to get all parties involved by creating a Steering Committee that would help me think through the issues and give me advice. The committee included Padman Senthirajah (SDA), Ken Jameson (SDI), Janet Berri (GPSD and OPSL Assignor), Shana Saavedra (OYSA Assignor), Rick Brand (ASRA), and Craig Hill (Ombudsman). Roger Hamilton (OASA President) and Harry Garabedian (SYRA) also attended some meetings. We met 8 times and brainstormed to identify what was important and prioritize what needed to be done.

Administrative Process

One thing that we concluded was that the administrative process needed to be simplified. My intent was to have one point of contact for all administrative process. Changing the Coordinator's job description in this way would alleviate wasted administrative time.

In line with this, the ORC set up a mailbox which now is the official address for the Referee Committee (listed below). All mail regarding upgrades, registrations, and resumes, and all re-registration paperwork for all referees, instructors, assessors, and assignors, and any other official business is to be sent to this address for now and the future:

Oregon Referee Committee
10940 SW Barnes Road, #158
Portland, OR 97225

The Coordinator will retrieve the mail regularly and either deal with it directly or forward it to the proper person.

New Coordinator

The expanded position was offered to Paula Waddle, the Coordinator through the first two-thirds of the year, but she wanted to spend more time with her kids. It took a while, but finally we did select a Coordinator to replace Paula. After a notice of the position was posted in various places, including the OYSA and OASA websites, we (Padman Senthirajah (SDA), Ken Jameson (SDI), and I) interviewed four candidates for the Coordinator position. In the end Peg Phillips came out on the top. Peg is a registered referee and also runs a small business, so she is familiar with many of the needs of referees and also has experience working with Quickbooks (so that she can take over the ORC's bookkeeping). Having her on the job should help accomplish my goal to simplify and streamline all the paper flow dealing with referees.

New SDI

It also took a while, but finally the ORC did select Ken Jameson to be my replacement as SDI. Ken is well qualified (better qualified than I am) for this position and I'm looking forward to seeing lots of improvements in the instructional arena.

New Assistant SRA

Since there always is a potential of my being deployed by Uncle Sam (my other job – Navy), I wanted someone to take charge while I was gone. Who would do a better job than I? That individual also had to be someone who is caring and always considerate of others. Rick Brand graciously accepted the position of assistant SRA. Rick has also been acting as our web development lead person.

Other Positions

The ORC also selected a new Professionalism Committee Chairperson, Patrick Duffy. Pat is well qualified for this position. In the past few months he has reviewed many issues and provided excellent feedback. I'm looking forward to seeing lots of improvements in the communication between the referees and the associations and leagues.

I also want to congratulate Craig Hill for accepting the Ombudsman position. Craig is an ideal person for this position. He is such an easygoing person that everyone should be able to talk to him with ease.

Instruction

Other than the January USSF intermediate training clinic that we coordinated at the University of Portland and some specialized training at events (ODP, Beaverton Cup), we did not provide meaningful improvement training for the referees. We need to do better! I was spending more time looking at what we can do to improve the organization and referees, but failed to implement very much.

The following registrations for 2003:

Grade 5: 7

Grade 6: 18

Grade 7: 74

Grade 8: 1,286

Grade 9: 189

Instructors: 31

Assessors: 19

Assignors: 31

Upgrades for 2003 were as follows:

Desi Miller to grade 5

Dave Grbavac to grade 6

Thomas Brown to Grade 6

Joe Torres to Grade 7

Randal Poff to Grade 7

Cloy Swatzenruber to Grade 7

Peg Phillips to Grade 7

Randi Nicholai to Grade 7

Ric Secor to Grade 7

Ivan Cortez to Grade 7

Joe Pardo to Grade 7