

**Referees Society of Virginia  
Annual General Meeting  
Minutes – July 18, 2021  
Location: Glen Allen, VA and via Zoom**

Meeting was called to order at 12:36 PM. 17 attendees were present (total; a combination of in-person and online); this met the requirement for a quorum.

New members were welcomed, as well as those who had stepped up to serve on national committees.

Officer Reports  
Budget Review  
Elections  
AOB  
NCR/USA Rugby Discussion

President reported on registrations for the coming cycle and the issues/implications concerning USAR and NCR registrations. There are lots of ideas floating around, but the bottom-line is that aspirants for national appointments need to stay away from NCR matches until USAR and NCR fix their problems. Announced that referees who registered in 2020-2021 would get a \$15 credit by USAR for 2021-2022 registrations. Noted that some summer tournaments had a lot of ref issues due to lack of numbers; clearly, more refs are required.

The Scheduler noted that team schedules were due by August 1. Additionally, referees needed to give him their weekends of availability using the previously published Google Form (<https://forms.gle/kswE8DDsKiEPevd2A>).

Referee development was discussed, particularly for coaching/guiding new refs. A USAR Coaching Training session may be set up soon, depending on availability of trainer. We have interest from 5-6 folks for “train the coach” training.

The issue of referee recruitment came up. While we haven’t dropped precipitously, the RSV is aware that we – as well as other referee societies – will have a harder time staffing matches because of the long COVID layoff and referee moves or retirements. Need to have more L1 courses; the next one coming up is on August 28<sup>th</sup> in Richmond; another may be scheduled for November after the season. Looking for five additional full time referees this year. A suggestion was to try to recruit younger referees from the colleges, as well as work with the Capital Rugby Union to do a Spring 15s tournament that could be used for referee development (on-field and AR) and coaching.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) was talked about with goals for 2025 to increase representation from women and BIPOC.

Discussion of referee abuse. This needs to be reported and not just blown off.

The treasurer's report showed that, as expected, there was little revenue over the last year, but also little expense. 2021-2022 should be a normal cycle. Largest expense the past year was for insurance.

The group discussed raising fees, mostly in the context of benefits to referees and their retention (not increased profit to the RSV). A subcommittee was set up to look at options and provide a recommendation either at the next AGM or in a Special Meeting. The group would look at how we currently charge, what would be reasonable to change, and if we had other categories that should be considered.

Elections were held and the following individuals were elected:

President - Margy Dessypris Thomas

Treasurer - Dan Boljonis

Allocations - Rob Seiler

Referee Development - TBD

Recruitment - Elvy Asonye

The following were appointed:

DEI Chair - Elvy Asonye

Recording Secretary - David Chapman

Rob noted that this would be his last year as allocator/scheduler.

Meeting was concluded at (approx.) 2:45 PM.

**Referees Society of Virginia  
Special Meeting  
Minutes – August 9, 2021**

The Special Meeting to discuss a change in fee structure was announced on July 26, 2021. The date of the Zoom-based meeting was set for August 9, 2021 at 7 PM EDT.

The proposed RSV rate changes (showing both old and new rates) are in a Google Doc at [https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQV1egzUoHO0RQ84FKmgc6bV8BOhU3oEmucJyfcJNYAEodEvxONTW2LKbz1YZg71ngIAN\\_E8GPWV-V/pub](https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQV1egzUoHO0RQ84FKmgc6bV8BOhU3oEmucJyfcJNYAEodEvxONTW2LKbz1YZg71ngIAN_E8GPWV-V/pub). The rate change was developed by a subcommittee that included David Chapman (subcommittee chair), Stuart Willis, Elvy Asonye, Chris Davis, Margy Dessypris Thomas, Rob Seiler, and Dan Boljonis.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM when a quorum of 14 was reached.

There was some preliminary discussion about lack of financial information about the RSV treasury and, primarily, that items had not been posted from the Annual General Meeting. The slides and the treasury info would be posted by August 10, 2021.

There was a brief overview of the rate changes. It was established that the clubs would not be charged for referee coaches; this would come from the generalized amounts already collected by the RSV.

Motion was made to accept the rate changes. Motion approved with no nays.

New rates for clubs and reimbursement for referees will be posted within 24 hours, as well as the AGM items (slides and financial report) noted earlier.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.