



MINUTES OF
2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, March 23, 2013
Leominster, MA

The meeting was called to order by Ted Ritchie, President of Massachusetts Youth Soccer, at 10:27 AM. There were 40 delegates present, representing 235 votes. A quorum was determined to be present to conduct business. Ted made welcoming remarks, introduced the members of the Board of Directors of Massachusetts Youth Soccer who were in attendance and also the Presidents of leagues who were present. Ted reported on Lancaster as a town and how it was changing. Youth soccer is also changing and Ted discussed the establishment of a committee on soccer culture that would be addressing the changes and how we should address them.

Ted then asked for a credential report. The total membership represents 857 votes, with 450 member organizations, leagues and board members. There were 40 delegates present in the room, representing 235 votes. A majority vote requires 118 votes and a 2/3 majority requires 157 votes.

Approval of last year's minutes

Charlie Calcagni moved, seconded by Terri Filippetti, that we approve the minutes from the March 2012 AGM. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

Reports of Officers, Directors, and SYRA

Financial Report

Derek Smith, treasurer presented the financial report and reviewed the statement of activity & proposed budget.

Ray Robinson moved, seconded by Maura Doyle to approve the financial presentation. Motion was approved by a voice vote.

Mike Borislow moved, seconded by Charlie Calcagni to accept the budget as presented. Motion was approved by a voice vote.

Directors' Reports

It was noted that the reports appear in the booklets that were distributed at the registration desk.

Additions to the reports were offered from the floor as follows:

Under recreation, Nancy Hart reminded everyone about the Kohl's Cup, April 21.

Under Outreach, Ray Robinson described the TOPS program for those who might not be familiar with it.

Under SYRA, Brian Treanor reviewed his report.

Executive Director's Report

Appears in the booklet. Mike Singleton highlighted a few items. There is a new concessions supplier at the Lancaster complex, Dolce/Dunkin Donuts. New online catering options will be available to teams playing at the complex. The septic system has been increased. Mike also reviewed new services available to the membership and reviewed events that took place during the past year. Charlie Calcagni raised the issue of advance notice of general meetings, and proposed the following motion: advance notice of at least 30 days should be required for all general meetings. Nancy Hart seconded the motion. After some discussion, it was decided this should be in the form of a resolution and not a motion. Charlie withdrew his motion. The wording was then presented as a resolution and was passed unanimously by voice vote.

Election of officers

Ted Ritchie turned the meeting over to Steve Smoller, chairman of the nominating committee, who, after identifying the members of the committee, presented the slate:

The committee members are: Caryn Goulet, John LaRoche, Tony Loftis, Jared Scarpaci, and Steve Smoller.

The following are the positions to be elected and candidates for the position

Secretary (three year term) – Robert Trudeau

Director Outreach Programs (three year term) – Ray Robinson

Director at large – District 2 (three year term) – Eric Freeman and Caroline Foscatto, candidate by petition

Director at large – District 4 (three year term) – David Dalrymple

Director at large - District 6 (three year term) – David Boloz and Keith Begun

Charlie Calcagni moved, seconded by Jeff Chambers, for the secretary to cast one ballot for the uncontested candidates. Motion passed by a voice vote.

Election proceeded to the two contested positions.

Each candidate was allowed to make a brief statement and then the vote by ballot was to be taken.

District 2 Election

Eric Freeman was not present to make a statement. Brenda Davis spoke for him. Ballots were collected.

Caroline Foscatto was declared the winner. Dan Bielenin moved, seconded by Ed McDonald that the ballots be destroyed. Motion passed on voice vote.

District 6 Election

Keith Begun was not present to make a statement. Ballots were collected.

David Boloz was declared the winner. Dan Bielenin moved, seconded by Clifford Cloutier, that the ballots be destroyed. Motion passed on voice vote.

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

Ted Ritchie turned the meeting over to Steve Smoller, chairman of the Constitutional Review task force.

There were a number of proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws presented. Discussion followed regarding the membership feeling they did not receive sufficient advance notice of the proposed changes and the wording of the changes. One of the proposals changes the term of the fiscal year. The rest involved titles and job descriptions of certain board positions. It was decided the change in the fiscal year was fairly clear cut and important to deal with at this meeting, while the rest of the proposals could wait for consideration until the membership received more timely notice.

Suggested Change to the Constitution:

1.01 Fiscal Year Change

When trying to budget for the following year as multiple programs are still operating and beginning of the year registration is occurring poses many challenges to us. National Championship series finishes in late July and the District Program in August. Coaching courses and camp are ongoing and our field complex is quite active in August. Trying to accurately account for all final expenses and revenues of these while also trying to service our membership during Fall Registration (busiest registration time of the year) does not allow us to do either optimally. Pushing this date back by a couple months will allow us to better budget and support our membership. Pushing the date to November 1st and not a later date allows us to still benefit from undergoing our annual audit at a time that CPAs are not extremely busy and thus it reduces the cost of doing performing our annual audit.

Mike Borislow moved, seconded by Jeff Chambers that Massachusetts Youth Soccer's fiscal year shall be November 1st to October 31st. Motion passed on voice vote.

The following proposed changes were then tabled. After considerable discussion and several attempts at drafting a motion, Jeff Chambers moved, seconded by Mike Borislow that the following proposed by law changes be tabled and 30 days prior notice will be required before the membership can be requested to consider them. Motion passed on a voice vote

.The following are the proposed changes.

Suggested Changes to the Bylaws:

1.02/6.01 Composition of Board Directors & Role Description Placement Rationale

It was evident that there was little to no description of the roles of our Board Directors At-Large. This has led to confusion and frustration and needed to be addressed. To clarify these positions better a committee formed a Role Description for these positions which was board approved. Further, to avoid any confusion between the District Select Program and these positions we have changed the position title to Regional Representative. Lastly, as we have been working with consultants for the past 10 months it became clear we needed to consider the organization and role of our board. To allow us to improve our organizational board structure going forward we think it best to move all Board Descriptions, other than those descriptions of Officers, into the Policies section of our organizational documents. Doing so will allow us to keep improving these descriptions and refocusing as need be and the youth soccer environment demands. You can see edits in red below and all in green would be moving to the Policies Section of our organizational documents.

Composition of Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall consist of the following elected Officers and other appointed or designated positions:

President
Executive Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary/Clerk
Director – Instructional Programs
Director – Olympic Development Program
Director – Leagues Committee
Director – National Championship Series
Director – Outreach Programs / TOPSoccer
Director – Recreational Programs
Director(s) Emeritus

In addition, seven (7) Regional Representative Directors shall be elected each representing a Region.

In addition, the Immediate Past President shall remain a Director for so long as his or her successor serves as President (or, if later, the meeting at which such successor's replacement is duly elected and qualified).

OFFICERS and ROLES

President. The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the Association, ex-officio member of all Board committees (standing and ad hoc), and, subject to the direction of the Board of Directors, shall have general supervision and control of its business. He/she shall ensure that all orders and resolutions of the Board of Directors and mandates voted by the general Membership are carried out. He/she shall preside, when present, at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors. The President shall be the principal contact with regional, national, and international youth and senior soccer organizations.

Executive Vice President. In the absence of the President, the Executive Vice President shall be vested with all of the powers and perform all of the duties of the President. In case of disability, resignation, or other long term absence of the President, the Executive Vice President shall assume all duties and responsibilities of the President until the next AGM or any special meeting called for the election of a new President.

The Executive Vice President, when directed by the President or Board of Directors, shall be responsible for Massachusetts Youth Soccer fund raising and public relations activities, in addition to any other special assignments which, from time to time, may be given by the President or the Board of Directors.

Treasurer. The Treasurer, subject to the direction of the Board of Directors, has general charge of the Association's financial affairs. He/she shall keep, or cause to be kept accurate books of account. He/she shall submit an annual financial statement of the Association, prepared using generally recognized accounting methods, for the AGM. He/she shall have custody of all funds, securities, and valuable documents of the Association and shall perform all the duties incident to the office of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall chair the Budget Committee.

Secretary/Clerk. The Secretary/Clerk is the Clerk of the Board of Directors and acts as Clerk at all meetings of the Association. He/she shall keep all the records of the Association, shall cause a determination of needs for a smooth transaction of business for all Corporate officers and events, and shall perform all duties incident to the office of Clerk and have such duties and powers as from time to time may be delegated by the Board of Directors. He/she is empowered to publish and distribute any and all publications of the Association.

Remaining board roles are described in our Organization Policies.

Director – Instructional Programs. The Director – Instructional Programs shall function as a clinical, administrative, and managerial consultant to the Technical Director and Instructional Program Staff. His/her primary function will be to assist the Technical Director and Instructional Program Staff, in the development, implementation, and support of coach/player education and training programs.

Director – Recreational Programs. The Director – Recreational Programs shall be responsible for determining, developing, and delivering recreational soccer programs to support the Organizations and affiliated Leagues within Massachusetts Youth Soccer. In addition, he/she shall be responsible for the implementation of sportsmanship initiatives and the development and coordination of recreational soccer events. With the assistance of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Office, the District Select Program shall also be coordinated by this individual.

Director – Olympic Development Program. The Director – Olympic Development Program shall chair the Olympic Development Program (ODP) Committee and is responsible for the ODP.

Regional Representative Directors. Each Regional Representative, being elected to a three year term by the whole organization at the AGM, plays a vital role in developing and promoting the goals and objectives of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association in that Region and by extension, at the state level. Therefore, in order to maximize the effectiveness of the Regional Representative position, the Regional Representative should assume the following responsibilities:

At the Regional Level: The Regional Representative is expected to: assume a role of active participation in the activities of the Region’s leagues, clubs and organizations; help to grow membership by creating and/or expanding soccer opportunities to underserved populations of the Region; demonstrate support for the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association to the members of the Region by promoting its good work, generating goodwill for the organization, and encouraging support for its efforts; introduce the organization to new communities, corporate sponsors, foundations, media, helpful individuals and potential partners within the Region.

At the State level: The Region Representative is expected to: attend all Board of Directors meetings; contribute knowledge and skill in at least one area essential to Board governance by serving on Committees or task forces and/or accepting special assignments; attend Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association Program meetings, events and functions as requested by the President; help to develop new initiatives, a strategic vision and set long-term priorities for the growth of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association; actively engage in professional development opportunities; celebrate the successes of the Region through an annual “State of the Region” presentation to the Board of Directors.

Director – Leagues Committee. The Director – Leagues Committee shall chair the Leagues Committee. Working in conjunction with, and on behalf of the Leagues Committee, he/she is responsible for (1) all aspects of MTOC, (2) implementation of policies, procedures, and guidelines that pertain to play among affiliated Leagues and the towns in those Leagues, and (3) for applying Massachusetts Youth Soccer and USYS rules and regulations.

Director – National Championship Series. The Director – National Cup shall be responsible for aspects of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer State Cup Championship and for applying Massachusetts Youth Soccer and USYS rules and regulations.

Director – Outreach Programs / TOPSoccer. The Director – Outreach Programs / TOPSoccer shall be responsible for determining, developing, and delivering special soccer programs approved by the Board of Directors to support the goals and objectives of Massachusetts Youth Soccer. He/she shall oversee the TOPS Program and other such programs that may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

New Business

There was no new business.

Good of the Game

Ted Ritchie thanked everyone for coming and for their input and reminded them that we are all trying to do what's best for the youth of Massachusetts.

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Smoller, Executive Secretary