

Mass Youth Soccer Board Of Directors Meeting
June 19, 2002

Present: S. Bloom, S. Gorman, J. Scarpaci, N. Hart, J. Burrill, J. Nagle, T. Filippetti, S. Smoller, R. Frongillo, B. Lowe, C. Callaghan, D. Conway, R. Braney, J. Gondek, G. Cristofori.

Meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM. A quorum was declared present.

Acceptance of May BOD minutes

Skip Gorman moved, seconded by John Burrill to accept the minutes. PASSED unanimously.

The Bay Stater – Brian Lowe

Brian wanted to meet with the Board and get feedback on *The Bay Stater*. The Board is quite pleased with the appearance and content of the paper, particularly its appeal to the players. The board thanked Brian for his continuing efforts to improve *The Bay Stater*.

Executive Director's Report

Jim Gondek's report was submitted in advance via email, and is appended to these minutes. Rich Frongillo asked if there was any response to the letter to the indoor facilities. There was only one response expressing concern about getting referees and insurance coverage. The report was accepted as submitted.

Reports of Program Managers

- State Cup – submitted via email and appended to these minutes.
- MTOC – Skip Gorman reported all is ready for the tournament.
- Instruction – Dean Conway reported that this is a lull period with no instruction going on.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported there are 80 teams in the districts program. Four Canadian teams are coming on the first weekend in July. They had changed the original dates, so Nancy is scrambling to find teams for them to play.
- TOPS – Joe Nagle still needs support. They got the grant from Chevy, but nothing from USYS. Still open from last month: **Action item: compose a letter from Sid Bloom and Joe Nagle and an ad for the Bay Stater.**
- ODP – Jared Scarpaci was here for his first meeting. Rider Cup was very successful.
- SYRA – Rich Frongillo reported there are 4200 referees registered.

Financial Overview

A revenue summary was mailed to board members prior to the meeting.

FY 2002/2003 Budget Process

This item was tabled since Carl Goldstein was not present.

Video Project

John Burrill played a video of some footage the producer shot. She is seeking feedback from the Board regarding the content and direction of the project. The Board feels she is on the right track.

Memorial Contribution

Terri Filippetti informed the Board that Stephanie Santos, from the Lusitano girls' U-19 team, was killed in an accident. There is a scholarship fund established in her name, and Terri feels MYSA should

contribute. *John Burrill moved, seconded by Terri Filippetti, that MYSA contribute \$250.00.* Motion passed unanimously.

Pick-Up Soccer Truck

Dean Conway wants to encourage pick-up soccer. He wants to acquire a pick-up truck, decorate it appropriately, and go places to promote pick-up soccer. The board feels we need to look at actual costs, whether people would come, and analyze this. A suggestion was made to try to get the towns to organize pick-up nights during the summer. We can use the old van to start and see if this takes off. The proposal to acquire a pick-up truck was tabled.

Roof Repairs/Air & Heating Systems Repairs

Jim Gondek reported the roof is in need of repairs, with some of the leaks causing damage. The air and heating systems also need repair. Expenditures were postponed while the issue of how long we would occupy the premises was in question, but the repairs are now needed badly. Jim estimates the roof repairs will cost up to but not exceeding \$10,000, and the Air & Heat up to but not exceeding \$6,000. *John Burrill moved, seconded by Terri Filippetti, to approve the expenditures up to those limits for the repairs.* Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Open action item: John Linnehan will bring feedback from the leagues committee on the idea of a mediation clinic back to this board. – still open.
- Open action item: John Linnehan will bring feedback from the leagues committee on the idea of establishing a committee representing MTOC, State Cups, and Instructional to see how to proceed with a continuing education program for coaches. – still open, John was not aware he was to get feedback on this.
- Skip Gorman announced the date of the coaches' workshop was changed from February 28 to March 1, 2003.
- Open action item: Action item: compose a letter from Sid Bloom and Joe Nagle and an ad for the Bay Stater.

New Business

- Jim Gondek reported he needs equipment orders by July 8 for Adidas allotment.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

Executive Director Report –May 2002

The Spring season is in its final stages. State Cup play has ended and MTOC is about to begin. The office has provided a range of support for the several programs that ran during the Spring. A summary follows:

- State Cup Challenge Round, Round Robin and Semi-Final results were regularly posted on the web site. In addition, this year region 1 required all state associations to submit a variety of forms and information electronically. Working under the oversight of John Burrill, this information was assembled and forwarded to Region 1 the day following completion of State Cup competition.

- ODP uniforms, rosters and other information pertaining to both the Rider Cup and ID weekends were handled. A late change made by Region 1 concerning housing accommodations for coaches required us to scramble a bit, but ultimately resolved.
- District Select uniforms were received, assembled by district and team, and sent off to the screener. They have been returned and we are now in the process of distributing them to the teams involved.
- We have invoiced towns and clubs for the additional \$.50 due US Soccer, as well as for any additional registration funds due us. Those payments have started to be received.
- We have started the process of preparing registration packages for next Fall's registration. These will be mailed before the end of June to all registrars of record.
- We are about to begin a final registration audit and would expect to have that completed by mid-July.

On a more general front:

- Letters have been mailed to all indoor facilities advising them of the Board's decision to discontinue the indoor program. Thus far, one facility has called to discuss the action.
- The May issue of *The Bay Stater* was published, with three special supplements – one for Clubs, and separate pull-out sections for State Cup and MTOC. The August issue will feature a recap of State Cup, MTOC and the District Select tournaments.
- A purchase and sale agreement draft has been prepared for Bovenzi Incorporated and we have received comments back from them. There are a couple of sticking points that are currently being negotiated, but these are expected to be resolved shortly.
- Discussions have been held with a potential beverage sponsor (soda, water, juice) and I expect to have their proposal by early July. Additional sponsorship discussions have been initiated with several other parties – both for the state soccer complex and for general sponsorship opportunities.

R/s

Jim Gondek

State Cup Report – June 2002

On a colder than normal Father's Day Sunday June 16 the 2002 edition of the Massachusetts State Cup championships were concluded. I believe this was our best run, most successful championship. The tournament was marred by a very tragic event, on Saturday evening, June 8 a traffic accident claimed the life of one of our U-19 players, Stephanie Santos and another young woman. Stephanie was the daughter of the Lusitano U-19 coach and a standout player at UMass. As we all know events such as this tend to bring us back to reality quite quickly..

Numbers:

This year we had a total of 296 compete in state cup, an all time record and now with the elimination of the U-12's a record that may not be broken. A total of 429 Cup matches were played

Format:

This was year two of the revised format. Seedings were done in late December based on prior year's results and by a blind draw. I think it was improved over the previous year but some minor tinkering is still necessary. The U-12's presented a unique problem and did the U-15 boys. For both a modified seeding and challenge round system was used and on balance I think worked quite well. There was still some grumbling about the process and there are those who think we should seeded on results all the way to the last team entered. However I have rejected that idea as I do not believe a clear distinction can be drawn between teams 9/10 and the 20. As it turned out approximately 70 % of the top 4 seeds would have been the same under the old system as they were under the new one.

Again this year there was minimal conflict with either the town league programs or the ODP program. I think coaches made a sincere effort to avoid conflict and we were able to keep some of the bigger town leagues updated with the scheduling of matches. This seems to work quite well

Administration

With a new registrar coming on board it took a while to get up to speed but the addition of Cindi was a real benefit to the program. Her enthusiasm and attention to detail and her follow up and follow through skills made things go quite smoothly. This year we made things a bit more difficult for her by permitting teams to submit rosters on the day they played. This gave team maximum flexibility and once everyone got used to the process, it went well. This single biggest problem remains the fact that people either fail to read, read poorly or pay no attention at all to the paperwork requirements. I do think this year we identified the correct people but things had to be repeated far too many times and folks asked questions that were answered in the distributions. I suspect this area will continue to be a headache. I have no current solution for folks reading skills or attention to detail.

Cindi did an outstanding job and had a staff of well-prepared volunteers to assist her. We eliminated several unnecessary steps as far as team registration goes and that went very well. We will make an effort to streamline the process even more for next year.

Terri Filippetti kept track of all the yellow and red cards (far to many) as well as did the tabulations for the Fair Play awards.

The Region 1 paperwork requirements were a bit of problem as so many teams had to do the work that turned out to be unnecessary given that they are not moving on. I will discuss with the Region 1 cup chair and see if something can be done to help out - I think it can but it will be her decision.

The administration of off site matches turned out to be no problem.

The biggest plus was the state cup score site on the web. This enabled us to keep everyone informed of the results on an up to the day basis and everyone seemed to appreciate this. A very good investment indeed. We were even able to post scores from UMass by means of a wireless link.

All information was distributed via e-mail and this system worked well. With few exceptions the right folks had the information and were able to act on it. This saved much money in mailings and enabled us to get timely information into the right hands quickly. An e-mail distribution list is essential to running this tournament at this stage.

Rules

This year several rules presented some problems. We had our first protest which resulted in the replay of a match. While I have no quarrel with the protest committee's decision, I have never heard of a match being replayed and will take steps to ensure that does not happen again. While I suspect I must permit protests I will have a rule that says " under no circumstances will a match be replayed" or words to that affect.

Also I have a cap of goals allowed and a team advanced on the least goals allowed tie breaker because of the cap. That is wrong in my view and I will change that language for next year.

Referees

This area was a real strength of the tournament. Rich Filippetti handled all the assignment of officials for the challenge round portion of the tournament – approximately 140 matches. In all be a very few we had 3 officials for each match and all did a fine job. This was a very large administrative task but Rich handled everything in an outstanding manner. Quite frankly the challenge system would not work without Rich or someone with his dedication and attention to detail.

Rich Frongillo was responsible for the round robin and finals piece of the assignment process. Rich had Jon Utter and Rich Filippetti assist him and both did an outstanding job..

The overall quality of officials was excellent throughout. We have lost some of most experienced officials due their success and advancement. However a new crop are coming along behind and doing a nice job.

Competition

The competition was excellent. While there were some mismatches in the early stages of the challenge round, many games were decided in overtime and some in Pk's. We moved to the golden goal for all challenge round and quarter, semis and final matches. Everyone seemed to like the system and we had a fair number of matches decided by the golden goal. The competition at the round robin was excellent and we had a few surprises as favored teams were beaten. The semis and finals were very well played and Massachusetts has an outstanding group of teams representing it at Regionals. I fully expect us to challenge for region championships in many age groups.

The competition was without incident this year. Matches were hard fought but within the rules and there were no incidents of any kind to report.

Site

UMass was once again the site however seven fields on main complex were taken out of service so we had to use field on the main complex and well as fields behind the football stadium. These are ok and having two sites did not prove to be a problem. We were even able to accommodate the Amherst Youth program as well. The fields were in the best shape they have been in years.. The folks at UMass were very helpful, the first weekend we were plagued by very high winds and several goals actually blew over. Fortunately no one was injured. The university staff was very helpful in placing sand bags on all the goals. The condition of the goals and nets were an issue. Much work needs to be done to rehab the goals and I have spoken to the administration staff about that. We went out and purchased seven sets of new nets and actually hung 5 complete sets so the condition of the nets has improved markedly. The staff will replace 2 additional sets next year..

Since we will be faced with field rehab issues next year as well I think we can make some minor adjustments for next year and things should improve even more. At this point we have an excellent working relationship with the administration at UMass..

Trainers

Kathy Boyd of the UMass staff handled this and they were outstanding. We had ample staff on site and they were able to respond quickly and effectively when necessary. We had only 1 serious injury, a U-14 boys with a neck injury. An ambulance was called and took about 10 minutes to respond. I do not think the injury was serious. Many favorable comments were made about Kathy and her staff.

Concessions

UMass services provided these. The food was ok but a bit pricey for some. Most felt \$3.00 for a hot dog was a bit much. I did pass this along but prices remained the same.

We had two vendors selling various items, which seemed to be very well received.

Awards Presentation

Even with the weather this was a real highlight. Kid and parents were very proud and the ceremonies were done with some style and pizzazz. Sid's presence added a great deal to the day. We also had Sue Koeper and her daughter Allison in attendance as well – this was a real treat.

The New England Revolution again came through with ticket packages for the champions and finalist. All teams going to Regionals were given Mass Youth T-shirts. We had awards for the MVP and

goalkeeper. A real success again was the awarding to each team going to regionals a stipend to help defray costs. The Region Director gave Massachusetts 2 comp rooms – which were passed on to the teams.

The named cup presentations were again a big hit and permitting the teams to keep the trophy for a year went over quite well. This year we introduced the Kathy Irwin, Girls 13 and Cathy Cresta, Boys 14, cups.

Both Snickers and Gatorade had giveaways, which were nice.

Medals were again given to the top 4 teams.

Staff

This again was the real strong point of the tournament. There is just an outstanding group of folks who contributed their time, effort and dedication to make the event a success. Everything went off without incident and basically on time. Paperwork was accomplished with a minimum of disruption and hassle and the positive upbeat attitude of the staff prevented problems before they arose.

Cindi Callaghan, Ross Weaver, Paul Irwin, Kathy Irwin, Dave Bergstrom, Terri Filippetti, Rich Filippetti, Jon Utter, Rich Frongillo, Kathy Kelly, Jim & Marlene Gondek and Jillian Pierce and several others were instrumental in making the tournament a success and putting up with me. Of particular note are Cindi, Terri, Ross and Dave who basically did all the work and left nothing for me to do which fortunately I did not manage to mess up. They all managed to make me look good – a difficult task indeed.

Changes in the works for next year

1. Eliminate the U-12's
2. Play several rounds of challenge matches for the U-13's & 14's in the fall
3. Expand the round robin to 3 groups of 4 at 15-18 – thus eliminating lots of challenge games in the spring.

Our State champions are

Boys 12	Inter
Boys 13	Inter
Boys 14	Inter
Boys 15	FC United
Boys 16	FC Greater Boston
Boys 17	Western United
Boys 18	South Shore United
Boys 19	Juventus Crusaders
Girls 12	South Coast Scorpions FC Bombers - Wild card
Girls 13	Western United
Girls 14	Western United
Girls 15	Bandits
Girls 16	South Coast Scorpions
Girls 17	Stars of Mass
Girls 18	FC Greater Boston
Girls 19	Charles River United Lusitano - Wild Card

Our Fair Play award winners are

Girls	
U-12	STINGRAYS
U-13	NOVA
U-14	WESTERN UNITED

U-15 SOUTH COAST SCORPIONS
U-16 SPIRIT OF MASS
U-17 STARS OF MASS
U-18 SPIRIT OF MASS
U-19 BOSTON LIGHTNING

Boys

U-12 DEVILS UNITED
U-13 LUSITANO FC
U-14 BOMBERS
U-15 WHIRL SC
U-16 BANDITS
U-17 WESTERN UNITED
U-18 SOUTH SHORE UNITED R
U-19 BOSTON LIGHNING

R/S

John Burrill