

Mass Youth Soccer Board Of Directors Meeting
October 16, 2002

Present: S. Bloom, S. Gorman, J. Linnehan, J. Scarpaci, N. Hart, J. Burrill, T. Filippetti, S. Smoller, M. Lamoureux, R. Braney, J. Gondek, G. Cristofori.

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM. A quorum was declared present.

Acceptance of September BOD minutes

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

Executive Director's Report

Jim Gondek's report was submitted in advance via email, and is appended to these minutes.

Reports of Program Managers

- State Cup – John Burrill's report was submitted via email and is appended to these minutes. He added there were a few conflicts with October 5 matches and town league games.
- MTOC – There is a conflict with UMass on dates. The complex is not available for June 20-22, but June 27-29 is available. The number of available fields is still unresolved.
- Player Priority List issue – there have been reports of violations of this list. It is the consensus of the board that these issues should be directed to the league presidents to handle or to the leagues committee to be handled at that level if necessary.
- Instruction – Sid Bloom raised the issue of the regional conferences being scheduled too close to our workshop. He would like the conferences to be rescheduled.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported the Mass Youth Soccer Sportsmanship Committee has tried to get input from Dean Conway on its coaching guidelines, but he has not responded.
 - Big Apple Tournament had 2 bus loads come in from New York. There were 9-13 year-old players, but no girls' teams.
 - Districts added a new age group and is finalizing the packets with new guidelines. The information, including the new districts will be available on or web site.
 - Tide Cup had 34 teams attend. *John Burrill moved, seconded by John Linnehan that we pay Framingham United Soccer Club up to \$50 per match for use of their fields. Motion passed unanimously.*
- ODP – Jared Scarpaci thanked the board for approving his list of coaches. One coach did not accept the position and Jared added another coach. Tryouts are taking place now. There are three players

who still owe from last year. One boy has not responded, one girl said the check was in the mail, another boy, whose father resides in N.H. owes \$300 but made the regional pool. *John Burrill moved, seconded by Skip Gorman, that we cover the balance as long as he does some community service.* Motion passed unanimously.

Skip Gorman moved, seconded by John Burrill, that if the issue is not resolved on the other two players by next month's meeting, they be put in bad standing. Motion passed unanimously.

- SYRA – The new SYRA, Marc Lamoureux was present. The report was submitted in advance via email from Rich Frongillo and is appended to these minutes.

VP of Instruction appointment

Sid Bloom announced that the position of VP of Instruction is vacant and recommended Howard Blatt of Holden be appointed to fill the remainder of the open term. Howard was Mass Youth Soccer coach of the year in 1998 and has attended the annual Adidas workshops at his own expense since then. *John Burrill moved, seconded by Nancy Hart that we appoint Howard Blatt VP of Instruction.* Motion passed unanimously.

Player Priority Guidelines Change

This issue was handled during the MTOC report.

Coaches Code of Conduct

This issue was also handled during MTOC report.

Golf Tournament Proposal

Jim Gondek proposed we conduct a golf tournament as a fund raiser. It would begin next year and require a deposit of \$12,000. We'd need 36 participants to break even on expenses. The consensus of the board was that it is a good idea but not realistic for now. No motion was made.

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. – this item was closed since there will be a session at the workshop dealing with the topic.

New Business

- Presidents' meeting in Dallas
Sid Bloom reported US Youth Soccer has established a premier summer league leading to a Directors' Cup for Premier and Division

one level teams. The Boston Breakers are entering two teams. All four women's professional teams located in Region 1 are entering teams. The season will run seven weeks from June 1 till the end of July, and will work around ODP and regional play. The fees will be significantly lower than the Y league fees.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

October 11, 2002

Executive Director's report – September 2002

As was the case in August, a substantial portion of the office activity during the month of September has been devoted to the Fall 2002 registration process.

- We compiled a list of organizations that had not yet affiliated for the Fall 2002 season. Letters were prepared and mailed to the organization president via certified mail that they were being placed in bad standing as of October 11th due to their failure to affiliate, and that their insurance was now considered void. These organizations were advised that in addition to submitting their affiliation records to remove the bad standing status, they would also have to pay the \$250 reinstatement fee. That letter created a flurry of activity over the past week. From an original list of 9, we have pared this down to 3 owing an estimated \$1,095.
- A similar list was compiled for organizations that had not paid the additional \$.50 fee that had been assessed by US Soccer, as well as organizations that had outstanding balances due from last year. In terms of the additional \$.50 fee, we have reduced the list from 57 to 13 (\$1,614.50 outstanding). The list of organizations who still owe additional amounts from 2001/2002 has been reduced to 4 (from 10) and the amount due is \$256.00.
- The office provided support for the three ODP tryouts held in September. Three additional tryouts are planned for October.
- Instructional course activity remained consistent with last year. We continue to attempt to utilize our development coaches to conduct as many of the license courses as possible. A separate report will be forwarded.

With respect to other issues:

- The land sale is progressing forward. Closing is expected on or before November 8th. At this point we have no indications that both closings will not proceed as scheduled.
- Substantive progress has been made in securing a major sponsorship for the soccer complex. [The interested party has requested we not disclose any further specifics until the deal can be jointly announced.] We are expecting a formal proposal in 30-45 days. It is believed that the proposal will involve naming rights to the complex.
- In addition, a proposal for beverage rights is moving forward and is expected by the end of the month. Gatorade has announced termination of its general state association sponsorships, but we are awaiting word as to whether they will be a participant in the overall beverage sponsorship that is developed.
- Roof repairs and repairs to the heating system have been completed.
- We changed insurance companies for the corporation's health plan, effective September 1st. We are now using Tufts Health Plan. The change also involved some plan changes (increased deductibles, co-pays). The new plan will save Mass Youth Soccer approximately \$10,000 annually, and save our employees an additional \$4,000.
- *The Bay Stater* will continue to be published five times a year. In order to generate the savings required by the budget process, we will eliminate a total of 16 pages from each issue. I am working with Brian Lowe to reconfigure the layouts for both the player and adult sections.

State Cup Report

On Saturday, October 5 we played 30 single elimination matches at 4 locations throughout the state. The new system worked very well and there were few if any problems with the matches. Previous to 10/5 we had played 11 Entry matches as well.

On Saturday, October 26 we will play 16 additional matches at 2 locations. This will reduce the 13's & 14's to a total of 12 teams each (48 in total - from 105).

The only oversight was mine in not having a trainer present when we use more than 1 field at a location all day. I think from a precautionary measure I should have done that and will correct the problem for the 10/26 matches.

We had one problem with one club coach who refused to permit his players to play in a town game. Town game was scheduled for 9am and Cup match was scheduled for 3pm. The town president was quite upset - probably a bit over the top in my view but he was right on the main issue - the club coach was dead wrong and I wrote and told him so as well as the club president. Unfortunately we cannot prevent the occasional lapse in judgment by folks.

Sid reported that some town folks (perhaps limited to BAYS) are thinking of raising the issue of dual rostering and perhaps eliminating it. I think that would be a terrible mistake for the overwhelming number kids who enjoy both. For the very

few problems that arise I cannot see the wisdom in eliminating this practice.

John Burrill

SYRA Report

A Report of the State Referee Administrator October 15, 2002

Since July, the Massachusetts State Referee Committee (MSRC) has been investing in strengthening its infrastructure to prepare for the soccer year beginning September 1. Personnel changes, budgetary discussions, summer entry level courses, and planning for recertification courses were highest on the list. The focus on raising the professionalism of the organization is still paramount. Here are some particulars:

- **Personnel changes**
Andy Weiss of Kingston has replaced Ted Carlson as State Director of Assessment. Marc Lamoureux of Leicester has been appointed as State Youth Referee Administrator. Rob Akie of Dedham has replaced Pasquale Puleo as MSRC Treasurer. Randy Croteau and Gerry Carrington have stepped down from the MSRC. Jeff Rousseau of Springfield and Bruce Beaupre of Shrewsbury have agreed to help out as Area Referee Administrators (ARA).
- **Financials**
The committee has approved a budget for fiscal year 2003 (9/1/2002 to 8/31/2003). The budget predicts a near-\$23K deficit on \$133K in revenue. Although adjustments to revenue sources may need adjustment next year, the committee agreed to utilize some of the \$73K cash reserve to cover the budget deficit this year. The FY2002 actuals reflect a \$6K deficit on \$134K in revenue.
- **Instruction**
The MSRC increased its offerings this summer over last consistent with a trend that will likely continue for a couple more years. The instructional staff ran three Grade 8 courses, 11 Grade 11 courses, and two Referee Assignor courses from July to September. Many more courses are being pulled together for the winter months.
- **Recertification 2003**
All referees are required to participate in a program of in-service training during the year. The course schedule has been published. Pre-enrollment is being accepted and encouraged to help the planning process (see www.massref.net). The MSRC is committed to uphold the US Soccer requirements for grade retention and upgrade. In that spirit, many higher-grade referees (grades 5, 6, and 7) who have not yet completed their 2002 grade maintenance requirement were contacted. They were given a slight extension to meet those requirements.
- **Certified assignor compliance**
Although we are off to a good start, much more needs to be done to comply with the US Soccer requirement for using certified assignors. A course is being offered on November 17 in Plymouth; pre-enrollment is required (see www.massref.net).

- **Assessment**
Andy Weiss is off to a great start as SDA. He has several initiatives in the works. At the September MSRC meeting he proposed a series of guidelines for higher-grade referees to maintain their grade going forward. He is investing in technology to improve the communication and efficiency of the assessment program.
- **Web site**
A subcommittee has been formed to improve the MSRC website in all facets -- presentation, content, functionality. SAC John Utter, Jay Jolicoeur of Holden, Russ Wolf of Auburndale, and Sherman Whipple of Hingham have all participated extensively. We are looking forward to pushing forward with our use of technology.

In the next month, the fall playing season will be over and the training season will begin. Looking forward to seeing you all in the coming months.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard J. Frongillo
State Referee Administrator Massachusetts State Referee Committee
<http://www.massref.net>