

Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting  
January 15, 2003

Present: S. Bloom, S. Gorman, N. Hart, J. Scarpaci, J. Linnehan, J. Burrill, T. Filippetti, J. Nagle, S. Smoller, J. Gondek, M. Lamoureux.

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM. A quorum was declared present.

**Acceptance of December BOD minutes**

*John Burrill moved, seconded by Nancy Hart 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. Jim added the Hirsch purchase & sale agreement was in progress and he hoped it would be signed by the end of the week.

**Reports of Program Managers**

- Instruction – Report from Howie Blatt submitted via email and appended to these minutes.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported the boys' and girls' U-15 and U-17 teams from Canada that participated in the Districts Tournament last year are going to participate again this year.
- TOPS – Joe Nagle was asked what TOPS programs are running across the state. Joe mentioned he cannot make any headway in western Massachusetts, there is a group in Lowell very well organized that added soccer to the rest of their year-round programs. There are programs in Winchester, Wilmington, Lowell, Acton, Hingham and Rockland. Joe suggested Eli Wolf from Northeastern University for participation at the workshop.
- ODP – Jared Scarpaci reported that he had met with the leagues committee and had a question & answer session. Jared distributed copies of the player packets that were distributed to all of the ODP players. It is very comprehensive and covers all aspects of the program. There will be a coaches' meeting Feb 1 at which time Jared will distribute manuals. Jared reported the father of ODP player Mike Spiak died in the recent airline crash in North Carolina. *John Linnehan moved, seconded by Skip Gorman that we provide a scholarship for Mike to be charged from general funds and not to the ODP budget.* Motion passed unanimously.
- SYRA – Marc Lamoureux reported there are 3 recert clinics left, they anticipate 3000 certified referees this year. There were 12 clinics conducted in all. Marc is working on referees for State Cup and MTOC. The leagues are being asked to nominate referees for MTOC. There are new ARAs and they are being trained in the mechanics of the program. There will be a grade 11 and assignor's course offered at the workshop. Grade 11s are going to be bridged to grade 9

**401(k) Plan Change**

Jim Gondek explained that federal laws required certain changes be made to our plan. Our insurance company has developed a prototype amendment to bring its plans into compliance. *John Linnehan moved, seconded by Jared Scarpaci that Mass Youth Soccer's Board of Directors hereby adopts the plan changes required by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, accepts the restated plan adopting those changes and authorizes its President and Treasurer to take the necessary steps to effectuate this resolutions.* Motion passed unanimously.

**Workshop Update**

Jim Gondek updated the board on the progress on the workshop planning. Tom Goodman from the National instructional staff and Nancy Feldman from BU were scheduled for the coach training sessions. The Revolution may provide a coach, depending on their schedule. The time slots are being finalized, and a letter is being sent to all leagues presidents promoting advanced registration. The development coaches are also promoting the workshop. Skip Gorman reported seven new vendors and six regular vendors have signed up, so we reached our goal in this area. The banquet will begin 6pm on Friday, February 28.

### **Video Project Update**

John Burrill presented the fourth draft of the video to the board. Larry Hannon, a USYS board member at large, is championing the project and is proposing USYS contribute toward funding the project. Tony Buiniskis, national chairman of recreation, also supports funding the project.

### **Old Business**

- None.

### **New Business**

- Three Massachusetts ODP players made the national team – Ashley Phillips from the Spirit, Jaime Gilbert from the Stars of Massachusetts, and Meghan Cook from Greater Boston FC. *Jared Scarpaci moved, seconded by John Burrill to give \$300 to each player to help offset expenses.* Motion passed unanimously.
- Free Kicks, our new email newsletter, will be emailed the Friday after the AGM.
- Nominating Committee – Sid Bloom appointed John Burrill chairman of the nominating committee.
- Rules Committee – Sid Bloom appointed Steve Smoller chairman of the newly created rules committee.
- Kidsafe – John Linnehan asked about the status of this program. Sid Bloom suggested we consider outsourcing the research as other state associations do. It would cost approx. \$5 per coach for a two-year pass.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Smoller,  
Secretary

Addenda:

### **Executive Director Report**

December 15, 2002

The December/January time frame is a relatively slow period for the organization. The number of contacts made with the office for things such as permission to travel, insurance certification forms and even routine questions slowed appreciably.

- We have reviewed our registration files to determine what information might be missing. For example – the required certification forms, registration disk, etc., and have been following up with organizations to obtain this information.
- Using the registration disks that have been submitted for the Fall season, we are creating a new master membership database. This will be used to create a new mail list of households for *The Bay Stater*, as well as a new mater used for mail list purposes. The new master file should be ready for processing by the end of the month.

- Since database requirements are becoming more commonplace, we are sending Rachel Woo to a two-day Access training session. This will allow us to process a number of routine requests internally.
- The office is getting a number of calls regarding the registration package called Soccer Trac. This is a proprietary package that is no longer being supported. We are starting to explore alternatives so we can respond to inquiries.
- We have identified a few situations where organizations double reported registration data. We have coordinated refund efforts with Carl.
- ODP player packages were mailed to the players. Scholarship requests have begun to be received.
- On the instructional side, we have supported the two December programs – one for Coach Education Directors and the second for the Instructional Staff.
- We have revised procedures for course reservations. These are distributed to those individuals responsible for site selection and scheduling.

In general areas:

- We have begun discussions with our liability carrier to determine process and costs of reviewing the self-funded medical claims. This will take this function out of the office, especially for more complex claims.
- We have had a few inquiries from member organizations dealing with bonding. Rich is exploring with our insurance carrier what those options and costs might be.
- The purchase and sale agreement with David Hirsh has been developed and forwarded to Hirsh for signature.
- The deadline date for submission of resumes for the Director of Coaching vacancy has passed. Approximately 35 resumes were received, with about a dozen of those representing international candidates. The review process has begun.
- Working with John Burrill, we have developed cost estimates for the production of the video. Sid has coordinated activities with US Youth Soccer, who may use the video as a recreational program project.
- Ray Cabral has been providing coverage for Jackie Shannon's assigned areas.
- We continue to support the efforts to finalize details for the March 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop.
- The *Free Kick*, an online electronic newsletter had its debut in December. The next issue will be February, and subsequent issues will be published in the months that *The Bay Stater* is not printed.

Instruction report – 1/13/2003

- Happy New Year!
- Since I will be in Kansas City for the NSCAA Conference, I will not be in attendance at the Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, BOD meeting. I plan to be meet with State Head Coach/Director of Coaching candidates that will be attending the NSCAA conference while I am out there.
- The roster of presenters for the MYSA Workshop "Coaches Clinics" is coming together. So far Tom Goodman, Nancy Feldman, and Dusan Obsajnsnik have all given verbal commitments with Tom Goodman offering to do two sessions if necessary. Glenn and Mario explored having Jeff Pill, Ed Tremble, and a Portuguese National Coach as presenters, but all have gotten back letting us know that they will be involved that weekend with their own organization's events. We have yet to hear from Bob Jenkins and Sue Ryan. Thanks to all who have been networking and contacting the various advanced-level clinicians. We are hoping to finalize the list of presenters within the next week. The Development Coaches and I will be meeting at the Royal Plaza Hotel on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, to assess the facility and what the needs will be to create an environment for successful clinical presentations.

- Weekly Development Coach meetings have been focusing on a review of the past year's events and current program offerings. Goals for the upcoming year are also being explored. Implementation of the monthly "Soccer Nights" concept (BTW more than a dozen of these have already been scheduled), revising the 3-Year Plan, and creating an "instructional" connection with MAPLE is all being discussed. We are also looking at "who the training competition is", as we see more and more area "training" offerings in the various soccer periodicals. This will be important as we look ahead towards a full-time marketing person. Ray Cabral has been working hard to let people in his region know that he is now their Development Coach. He has been contacting local soccer leaders, attending local and league BOD meetings, running licensing courses, and facilitating specialty clinics and 3-Year plans. We are all working hard to keep the Instructional Program running smoothly while we seek a new State Head Coach/Director of Coaching.
- A series of six Regional Conferences are coming up within the next month. In addition to using those conferences to educate and connect with local coaches, we will also be using them to, more directly, market the upcoming Mass Youth Soccer Workshop. I will be attending at least four of the six conferences specifically to market the March 1<sup>st</sup> workshop.
- I will be meeting with the Development Coaches, Tara Pierce, and Jim Gondek on Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, to discuss possible 3-Year Plan revisions to make them more "administrator-friendly". We will also be reviewing the overall success, and future, of the 3-Year Plan concept.

Respectfully Submitted,

Howie Blatt  
Mass Youth Soccer VP of Instruction