

Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting
September 17, 2003

Present: S. Bloom, C. Goldstein, H. Blatt, S. Gorman, T. Filippetti, S. Smoller, C. Pacilio, R. Braney, M. Singleton, J. Burrill, P. Irwin, J. Linnehan.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. A quorum was declared present.

Introduction of Catherine Pacilio

John Burrill introduced our new marketing director, Catherine Pacilio.

Acceptance of August board meeting minutes

Skip Gorman moved, seconded by Howie Blatt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director report

The report was submitted via email and is appended to these minutes. Additionally, John commented that registrations are not as far off as was anticipated. John will be reviewing registration numbers to make sure adults are being registered as well as players.

Reports of Program Managers

- State Cup – report submitted via email and appended to the minutes.
- MTOC – The dates for MTOC will be last weekend in June. John Linnehan is waiting for the permits from UMASS.
- Instruction – report submitted via email and appended to the minutes. Additionally, Howie will be reporting each month with which towns the development coaches are interacting. Evaluation forms on the coaching courses are now available on the web page. Mass Youth Skills Academy – applications are available on the web page. Mike Singleton is heading up a program to provide a consistent U-6 presentation to be available for all town organizations. Mike is also working on parent education to promote small-sided soccer.
- Recreation – We have 44 applications so far for Tide Cup. There are still some openings.
- TOPS – no report
- ODP – tryouts went smoothly, There will be an ODP event the weekend before Memorial Day. This event will provide a chance for college coaches to scout the players.
- SYRA – no report

Executive Session

At this point, the board voted 5-0-1 to go into executive session.
Following the session the board resumed the business meeting

Open Position on the Board

So far, we have received 10 applicants for the position who will be interviewed. We hope to fill the position by November.

Thinking Outside the Box

John Burrill expressed concern with the relationship between the board and the leagues committee. He feels the board needs to find a way to improve the relationship. John

suggested we set up a sub-committee to meet regularly with a similar sub-committee from the leagues committee. Sid will establish the sub-committee. John Burrill also suggested setting up meetings with town organization presidents.

Old Business

- Director of Special Programs – lack of attendance and performance. This was discussed and Sid will contact Joe to discuss attendance and performance issues.

New Business

- Small-sided soccer – Mike Singleton explained the status in other states regarding the adoption of small-sided soccer for U-12 and below age groups. Massachusetts is trailing the pack. Discussion followed on the pros and cons of mandating small-sided soccer.
- Free Kick – This information piece will be published monthly on the web page to augment the two issues of the Bay Stater. It is currently reaching 5500 people. John Burrill’s “Play On” will also continue.
- Breakers – Joe Cummings called the office to thank Mass Youth Soccer for all of its help and support for the Breakers.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

1. Report of Executive Director – September Board meeting

First full month on the job has gone well; still learning about the office operation and the many different aspects of the job.

Catherine Pacilio, Marketing Director is on board and getting acclimated – She will be a real benefit to the organization

e-Travel system up and running and receiving positive comments from users

e-Kidsafe up and running. Town coordinators have some questions but as they use the system they will see the positive benefits. Those completing the forms on line – like it

Now working on putting the instructional course evaluation form on line and it should be up and running within two weeks.

A general review of our forms and the information we collect or do not collect will be completed within the next 30 days.

Office renovations and repairs continue and we continue to try to make the office friendlier in appearance and attitude and more open. Expect repairs and painting to continue for another few weeks

We are attempting to unwind our involvement with e-team. John Davagian has sent them a 30-day notice to terminate our contact. There are many suitors waiting in the wings as on-line registration and player registration and scheduling seems to be the next profit center in the world of soccer.

We have finalized our reconciliation of the 02-03 player & coach registration numbers. I will be auditing the numbers in the next week or so to compare with previous years and to see what the player / coach ratio looks like. A quick glance shows some inconsistencies.

We have been flooded with registrations for the 03-04 year and most all organizations have done a very good job at getting the information into us. We have a few that seem to have forgotten and we are following up. Generally 1 call is sufficient to get the initial report and payment. In the budget process the committee and subsequently Board was concerned about a drop in registration for the 03/04 year. A snap-shot in time would suggest we are ahead of where we were last – up in player numbers and down slightly in coach numbers (this appears to be timing issue not a real drop). Our plan is to wait until mid-October before doing an audit and follow-up with towns - we will give them a chance for a second and third submission. We are following up on those that have not sent in anything.

With the help of Carl we have made the decision to move to a DATA Base program for the management of our information. We have been using excel which is a spreadsheet program as our database and it is not adequate for either data collection or generating management reports. The goal is to have one data base which would capture and store all our information and we would be able to get meaningful reports which will assist us in better managing the business. The goal is to have the program installed by December; take 2 months to work the bugs out... and be fully functional for spring registrations.

We will lose Rachel for about a week – 10 days. She was injured during a WUSA game and will require surgery - which will be performed this Tuesday at Newton-Wellesley. She will be on crutches for about 6 weeks - she will unfortunately miss the opportunity to work the women's world cup

The 'OPEN HOUSE' has been schedule for Sunday, November 2.

The Baystater hit the streets and seems to be well received. It was a well-done issue.

A review of the mail returns from the Baystater seems to show our updates are not getting into the system and we are paying for 'returns', which should have been corrected. I intend to get into this issue soon.

Ross Weaver has offered us another van, which his company is taking out of service. We will have it evaluated to see if it makes sense for us to take it.

The Board's generous donations to the City Kicks, Cambridge Economic & to New England Scores were very well received and we received thanks from all

With ODP tryouts the next two weekends, followed by Big Apple and then Tide Cup the staff will be busy helping to support these events.

As of this point in time we have no major court cases or claims. We are named in one suit involving an assistant coach who was in a traffic accident going to get cones for a practice. The injured party sued everyone around including us, however our counsel is attempting to have the suit against us dismissed... I will keep you informed.

We have renewed the Chevrolet contract for another year. 04 are the last year of the national contract and once our present arrangement expires it might make sense for us to shop around a bit to see what we might find.

I have talked with several companies who were interested in submitting a bid for our uniform business – however to date no company has made a proposal. In addition I have not seen a new contact from Adidas but I am following up with them.

We have purchased several lap top computers so if a program manager needs to borrow one just let us know. One will be ticketed for primary use by the development staff.

September is National Youth Soccer month. We are waiting for the Governor to sign a proclamation, which we prepared. Catherine is attempting to get a story on one of the 5PM news shows and we are making contact with some of the major newspapers in the state about this.

When you arrive you should notice a new storage container in the lot. With Skip's help we were able to purchase a used one. We will move all the items stored in the Trailer into the container and the trailer will be hauled away.

On a personal note I continue to meet with board members and league presidents with the goal of meeting with all. Jim continues to be a source of valuable information and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
John Burrill

2. Instructional Program Report – 9/12/2003

- Weekly Instructional Staff meetings have resumed. Meetings have been focusing on the continuing preparations for the “Centers for Excellence“, the upcoming annual Coach Education Directors and Instructional Staff Meetings, and preparations for “small-sided” presentations throughout the state. Mike has completed a Power-Point slide show, which will assist in the effort to educate the membership on the benefits of “small-sided” training and play.
- As the fall soccer season begins, Mike and the development coaches have been busy communicating with the membership through literally hundreds of phone calls and/or e-mails, along with face-to-face contacts with local boards, leagues (Middlesex), and coach and parent groups. Programs/communities that have been using the Instructional Program staff for consultation, over this past month alone, are Somerville, Cambridge, Newton, Dorchester, Andover, Haverhill, Fall River, Westfield, Ludlow, New Bedford, Tewksbury, Easton, Weymouth, Plymouth, Sharon, Kingston, Sturbridge, Wayland, N. Attleboro, Middleboro, Walpole, Foxboro, Concord, Springfield, Pittsfield, Northampton, Wilbraham, Groton, Franklin, Randolph, Norton, Maynard, Beverly, Dracut, Grafton, and Billerica. In addition, Mike has been observing and creating connections with the US Soccer Staff coaches at the U14 national camps in Concord, meeting with NE Scores, City Kicks, the Boston Breakers, and Matt Driver of the NE Revolution.
- Mike has just returned from a “Directors of Coaching Conference” in Dallas, run by Tom Goodman, Director of Coach Development for USYSA. At this conference efforts were made to begin the process of fostering more direct and open communications between the DOCs and state and national referee representatives. Also, much of the conference focused on “small-sided” training/play. USYSA has more formally adopted the following guidelines: U6 & U7 = 3v3 (no keepers), U8 = 4v4 (no keepers), U10 = 6v6, U12 = 8v8.
- During the week of August 9-13, Ray Cabral again ran the Mass Youth Soccer Clinic Program...there were about 50 players who attended the five-day program.
- During August and September the numbers of licensing courses have increased. Once again, the Coach Education Weeks were very successful. The process of on-site evaluations of the part-time instructional staff at licensing courses has begun.

Respectfully Submitted,

Howie Blatt
Director of Instructional Programs

3. National Cup Director’s Report – Sept. 17, 2003

Snickers State Cup 2004 U-13 and U-14 applications closed September 1st.

A total of 115 applications were received – the breakdown is as follows:

Girls	U-13	36 teams	(12 entry games to be played)
Girls	U-14	28 teams	(4 entry games to be played)
Boys	U-13	26 teams	(2 entry games to be played)
Boys	U-14	25 teams	(1 entry game to be played)

Entry games to be played at the higher seed’s location no later than September 29th.

October 4th

Challenge Round 1 will include 32 games played at the following field locations:

Anna Dias	1 field	- 3 games	thank you-R. Andre
Bowden	2 fields	- 8 games	thank you-R. Weaver
CRU	2 fields	- 8 games	thank you-F. Fernandez

Plymouth Dome 1 field - 3 games thank you-T. Dunn
Shepherd Hill HS 3 fields -10 games thank you-G. Avakian

October 25th

Challenge Round 2 will include 16 games played at the following field locations:

Anna Dias 1 field - 4 games
Bowden 1 field - 4 games
CRU 1 field - 4 games
Plymouth Dome 1 field - 4 games

Challenge Round 3 will be played in the spring at the higher seed.

Applications for U15+ are due December 15th

I have spoken with Al McKinnon at U Mass-Amherst. There is some concern because the field requests from Mass Youth Soccer extend into late June. There is pressure to let National Lacrosse use the fields. I will contact Al in November to get a better feel on the situation.

Terri Filippetti
National Cups Director