

Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting
January 21, 2004

Present: S. Bloom, C. Goldstein, N. Hart, J. Scarpaci, H. Blatt, S. Gorman, J. Linnehan, T. Filippetti, T. Murphy, S. Smoller, J. Burrill, C. Pacilio, J. Utter, R. Braney, P. Irwin, B. Bilicki, Andy Nelson.

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

Approval of December board meeting minutes

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

Appointment of Director of Outreach Programs

Sid Bloom appointed Bob Bilicki of Winchester to fill the open position of Director of Outreach Programs. **Steve Smoller moved, seconded by Nancy Hart to ratify the appointment.** Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director report

The report was submitted via email and is appended to these minutes. Also appended are reports from the Office Manager, Director of Coaching, and Marketing Director. John Burrill added to the report that Hirsch filed for bankruptcy. We had sold him a portion of our land and he owes us money plus interest on it. John believes we have primary position on the land.

Reports of Program Managers

- State Cup – report submitted via email and appended to these minutes.
- MTOC – John Linnehan reported the sub committee reviewing the player priority list is meeting next Thursday. The MTOC draw will take place next week.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported she met with the Districts administrators. She gave Catherine a copy of a previous ad so she can try to get the leagues to run it in their books. Nancy said they are looking to pull in more teams from the more sparsely populated areas. Sid suggested Nancy request the leagues put the districts information on their web sites.
- Instruction – report submitted via email and appended to the minutes as part of Director of Coaching report.
- Outreach – no report.
- ODP – Jared Scarpaci reported the program is off and running.
- SYRA – John Utter reported the recertification clinics are almost completed. They are making progress getting lists of referees from the leagues for MTOC.

Land Committee update

Paul Irwin began the presentation. We can fit 16 fields on the site. The committee is considering four artificial surface fields. They are getting the hard cost estimates next week. They are planning some nature trails for the complex. The Neoscape Group, our marketing consultants, are putting together a fund raising plan and visuals. John Burrill recapped that we authorized spending up to \$100,000 for the consultants and related work costs. John is now asking we increase spending authorization to \$250,000 to allow us to hire Neoscape to develop our marketing program for the project as well as to allow us to progress with Carol Johnson, our architect, on preparing the required drawings and permitting. Carl Goldstein analyzed where we are on the project. Paul Irwin felt it was very important to move ahead with the permitting process before anything changes and sets us back. We should have done some of this before and could have saved some time and expense had we done so.

Nancy Hart moved we authorize the land committee to spend up to \$250,000, seconded by Teri Filippetti. Discussion followed regarding the amount of the proposed increase and the question arose will there be further requests to raise the spending authorization. The response was that this was what it will cost to bring us to the next level. Once there, we will be able to determine whether we can proceed with completion of the complex or not. Further spending will be tied into the fund raising portion of the project. Motion passed 8-1-1.

Review of Audit Report

Carl Goldstein reviewed the draft of the Auditor's report.
Carl also reviewed the monthly budget report.

US Youth Workshop

Skip Gorman everything is all set. The bag stuffing will take place on Feb 18. Mass Youth will have a booth in the vendor area. We will have three tables at the Friday night banquet. The Awards luncheon will take place Sunday Feb 22 11-2 at Sheraton Four Points in Waltham, followed at 3 by the AGM. The estimated attendance for the workshop is over 2,000.

US Youth Soccer requested fee increase

Sid Bloom reported US Youth Soccer is seeking a \$.50 increase in their fee. Region 1 is unanimously against the increase. However, Sid does not know what position the other regions are taking. The issue will come up at the Presidents' meeting in March at the USSF meeting in New York City.

Proposed age change back to calendar year

Sid Bloom reported the Super Y league wants to change the age eligibility date to January 1 instead of August so that it would be the same as international and ODP dates. The region presidents oppose the change. The consensus of this board is to oppose such a change.

By Law changes and update on elections

John Burrill has submitted some changes to the constitution and bylaws to be considered at the AGM. These are all basically house cleaning. Steve Smoller reported that all incumbents are running for re-election and there are no nominations for additional candidates.

Privacy Policy

Steve Smoller brought this to the board at the request of one of the leagues. The Chem Lawn mailing that took place last summer caused some complaints concerning use of our mailing list. Carl Goldstein inquired if we have a legal responsibility. John Burrill will check with John Davagian on this and report back to the board.

Conflict of interest policy

Tim Murphy has looked at the policy other associations have adopted and has proposed a policy for Mass Youth to adopt. He will circulate the proposal for board feedback.

Old Business

- Revisit donation to McNamara Family fund
Skip Gorman moved, seconded by Nancy Hart to reconsider the vote taken last meeting on the donation to this fund. Motion passed 5-4. There was some discussion regarding the total amount voted and the fact other sources of revenue were being utilized to augment the total donation. **Steve Smoller moved we donate up to \$10,000 from the proceeds of the tournament, raffle and we make up the difference.** Motion was defeated 4-5.

Skip Gorman moved, seconded by Carl Goldstein, we donate \$2000, the tournament proceeds and \$2000 from the raffle proceeds for this year only. Note: all proceeds this year will total \$10,000. Discussion followed regarding the amount of the donation and the precedent this sets. Motion passed 5-4-1.

New Business

- Soccer Kicks for Cancer – Catherine reported that we will run ads in the Bay Stater and also have people from the Leukemia Society at the workshop and World Kids Fair to distribute material concerning the Soccer Kicks for Cancer program we are supporting in memory of Todd Smith.
- National Directors Cup Committee – John Burrill had a conference call with the committee. There are 17 teams from Massachusetts so far in the Directors Premier league and 13 teams in the Northeast Region League.

Meeting adjourned at 10:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

1. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR JANUARY BOARD MEETING

While the late December time frame is generally a down time and the office was in fact closed for 4 days given the holidays, a number of things remain on going.

Work continues to prepare for the workshop, Award banquet and AGM in February. Things seem to be rounding into form

Our access database should be fully installed as of January 16. This will enable us to better report our data. Make comparisons to last year much easier, make the KidsSafe reports and tracking easier and provide better tracking of our course completion information. It will require some modification of data that the local organizations submit however this should not create any major heartburn for folks.

We have set up a super coaching clinic for January 25. Mike has outstanding staff of coaches and we expect 300 coaches to attend.

We have set up the fund raising tournament for the McNamara family for March 28. In addition through Catherine's efforts we have some nice prizes for a raffle for the workshop, with some of the proceeds going to this fund as well.

Along with Catherine we continue to look at companies to redo our web site. In addition I have met with numerous companies who do on-line player registration and some will be making proposals to the board for sponsorship arrangements. We have informed Active Sports that we intent to enforce our rights under the contact we had with them and take them to arbitration to recover the monies they owe us.

The initial deadline has come and gone with respect to the Wagner deal. All seems on track for that to close in April.

Andy Nelson has been a welcome addition to the development staff who are quite busy with skills academy, ODP training and course offerings. We continue to investigate the possibility of running an overnight summer camp.

Pressure continues to be exerted in the registration area and we appear to be tracking slightly ahead of last year and well over budget in this area. I am getting ready to write to the organizations we identified as underrepresented and solicit them to register additional players and coaches with us.

Yours truly has been added to the National Committee which runs the Director's cup (summer league) and together with the VP from Eastern New York will run a new spring region 1 league.

Discussions are on going with the leaders of the referee community about attracting and retaining referees.

Work on the land project continues and we are on plan for a presentation at the AGM. Carol Johnson and the team are busy preparing documents and pictures and making sure we are fully informed of pertinent wetland and river issues which affect the project. The video project is also moving ahead nicely.

Attitudes are Contagious will have 2 showings at the US Youth Workshop.

2. MYSA Monthly Progress Report Richard Braney - Office Manager December 2003

Audit: The audit has been completed and the final report will be presented by Carl.

ODP Programs:

The majority of all Pool Fees were collected prior to the first training date. Subsequent steps are being taken to insure that all have made payment or have made other arrangements prior to the second training session.

Coach's checks will go out early in February.

Insurance:

D&O Policy – This policy has been placed with Tony Petruzzi. We have enhanced our coverage while reducing the premium.

Workers Compensation – As a result of having justified several classes of individuals as no longer employees of Mass Youth Soccer Association but rather Independent Contractors, we have reduced our premiums.

REGISTRATIONS:

Registration File- Through December we still are running slightly ahead of the number of members being affiliated.

There are only two clubs that have yet to send a final disk with the membership. Both have promised such by mid January.

We have completed an audit of clubs whose number of coaches appears substantially lower than what would be expected. Initially 45 clubs were contacted. At this time only 6 have not identified the reason for the ratio difference. We expect to complete this in January

Access Software- The contract to write this program was awarded to Tinatrix for \$4,000. The completion date has been moved to January 16, 2004. Thereafter we will begin training.

On Line Registration – After meeting with this organization it was determined that their product, though appearing to be an effective one, would not work for our organizations. The determining factor being that it would have to be mandated that everyone use this product.

Spring Registration Packets- Will be mailed by January 15, 2004.

Kidsafe Files:

Kidsafe Files- We have updated the files and are awaiting the installation of the Access Software. This will allow us to download the forms done on line. At that time we will be able to continue the process of submitting to CORY. No change

Office Procedures:

We have set-up a process to track excused absences using our payroll system.

We are continuing to have problems with the nightly back-up of the server.

With the distribution of brochures and other related materials, it has become apparent that it is quite costly to do so using outside copier companies or printers. In January will be review the possibility of purchasing a color copier.

December Objectives

1. Continue process of developing program to convert our files to Access
2. Update all Kidsafe files and send to CORI
3. Continue preparations for closing books of FY 2004 and finalizing audit
4. Finalize remaining clubs that have not submitted a disk with membership
5. Finalize player/coach ratio questions
6. Review color copier alternatives
7. Review server problems

3. Mass Youth Soccer Director of Coaching Board Report 1/04

- Skills Academies are now all full and have been well received. Attending coaches have been appreciative and I expect to see our interaction will result in increased presence in towns and possibly with camps in the future.
- We will be offering a buffet of camps this summer for teams and/or associations. We will have half day and full day camps as well a specialty camps (GK, finishing and attacking, defending etc.) and HS/club prep camps. We will also offer camps for teams transitioning to 8 vs 8 or 11 vs 11.
- The pre-spring rush is upon us and coaches will be running throughout the state in the coming months as we have many coaching courses scheduled.
- Our change in fee structure for specialty clinics has resulted in people actually requesting them. We will have surpassed the total number of specialty clinics offered all of last calendar year by the end of April.

- The annual instructional staff meeting is scheduled for Jan 31st.
- A handful of towns/clubs are indicating their wish to hire a director of coaching and we are in the process of helping them develop focused and directed goals as an organization as well as providing examples of job descriptions and helping them with all considerations in this process.
- Mario has returned from the A course and feels it went well.
- The instructional staff all went to the NSCAA Convention and greatly appreciate the support of professional development from the board.
- A coaches Superclinic is scheduled for Jan 25th at Atlantic Union College and will include Sam Snow (US Youth Soccer Asst. Director of Coaching), Matt Driver (NE Revolution Asst. Coach), Sue Ryan (Head Coach Girls Region I ODP and Head Women's Coach at the State University of New York at Stonybrook) and Lew Atkinson (US Soccer National Staff Coach, Region 1 Staff Coach, Delaware State Director of Coaching). Steve Nicol (NE Revolution Head Coach) will also join in the panel discussion.
- The McNamara family benefit tournament has been scheduled for March 28.
- The ODP winter training has begun and we have received a fantastic response from parents. Many have commented on their appreciation of the improvements and direction of the program.
- Our partnership with High Performance Sports will prove extremely valuable as they will be involved with ODP and Instruction. Initial ODP response is overwhelmingly positive.

4. Marketing Director- January BOD report

Mike and I are happy to announce a new strength and conditioning partnership with High Performance Sports (HPS) for the year of 2004. HPS will be offering our ODP players a free conditioning program which will parallel their winter indoor training sessions, starting in late January. Once the relationship has been established, the HPS partnership will expand to incorporate benefits for all Mass Youth Soccer members. A handout of the proposal describes the relationship in more detail.

The search for a web redesign firm is coming to the final stages. We have narrowed the list to three firms. Although, in the past week, two more additional candidates have sprung up and will be considered as well. Two special meetings will be held next week from 6:30-9:00pm allowing all candidates to present their proposals.

The Bay Stater will be mailed out on Wednesday, January 21st. Due to *The Bay Stater*, the next issue of *Free Kick* will be in February.

At the World Fair for Kids on February 14-16th, we will be manning a booth for Mass Youth Soccer and US Youth Soccer. It will held at the Hynes Convention Center from 9 am - 6 pm. Volunteers are welcome to help out! We will also be having a booth at the USYSA Workshop and Convention. Mass Youth Soccer marketing materials and information will be handed out at both events. As for the raffle, the prizes gathered so far are listed below:

Legal Seafood Clam Bake for four

Eurosport \$100 Gift Certificate
Adidas Prize Package
Holiday Inn weekend getaway for two (2)
Bally's Total Fitness One Year Membership

If you have any ideas for other prizes let me know!

As for the all-star staff indoor team that has been put together, our record of 1-0-2 does not reflect the years of experience and skill our team displays. We have strategically decided to gradually improve as the season moves on, giving the other teams a wake up call!

Catherine :)

5. State Cup Report

Applications for the U15s - U19s State Cup 2004 closed on December 15th. A total of 173 applications were received.

Girls		Boys	
U15	25*	21	
U16	22	24	
U17	20	17	MASSACHUSETTS STATE CUP
U18	17	14	2004
U19	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	
	88	85	

Entry games* (1 only) must be played by 4/20
Challenge Round 1 must be played by 4/27
Challenge Round 2 must be played by 5/11
Challenge Round 3 must be played by 5/25
(All games to be played at the higher seed's field)

The seeding lists, the challenge schedules and revised Challenge Rules will be posted on the State Cup website by Jan.16th.

Note: There were 115 teams, U13s and U14s, that applied in the fall. Total Cup applications for 2004 is 288 teams.

Our Mass Youth Soccer Region 1 NSA Entry Form was filed and fee paid prior to the 1/12/04 deadline.

The US Youth Soccer State Cup Information Form was completed before the 1/15/04 deadline.

Our new State Cup Logo has been approved by US Youth Soccer and the appropriate revisions are being made on the website.

The contract from UMass for use on June 5th and 6th for the Round Robins matches is expected to arrive shortly. The officials for these dates will again be housed at Hampshire College.

BOD 01/21/04

The U20s will participate at Regionals under US Youth Soccer. Region 1 is still working out the details. FC Greater Boston boys and Blackhawks SC girls will accept the challenge.

Respectively submitted,

Terri Filippetti
National Cups Director