MYSA BOD Meeting
January 16, 2002


Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. A quorum was declared present.

Acceptance of December BOD minutes

John Burrill moved, seconded by Thom Laine to accept the minutes. PASSED unanimously.

Announcements

Terri Filippetti, new indoor commissioner, was introduced.

Sid Bloom announced that Al Cosentino was stepping down as SRA as of February 1, 2002. Rich Frongillo has been selected as the new SRA.

Executive Director Report

Jim Gondek submitted his report via email in advance; a copy is appended to the minutes. John Burrill inquired about the meeting held with Meredith & Grew. Jim reported they have developed a marketing piece that was mailed to keep prospects (users & developers). They expect a firm offer in February. They hope to have the land sold by Fall.

Reports of Program Managers

- State Cups – (see report in addenda)
- MTOC – nothing new to report.
- Instruction – there were 50-60 attendees at the Lowell regional conference.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported the districts program is running smoothly. Information is going on to the web page. Tide American Cup will be in October, she is looking at dates. She is seeking support from the leagues committee.
- Indoor – Terri Filippetti had nothing to report.
- TOPS – Joe Nagle had nothing to report.
- ODP – Thom Laine reported indoor training starts Sunday.
- Appeals – Dennis LaVersa reported two hearings were conducted on the previous night. Also, the referee committee had been trying to use the ARAs to help run the program instead of an exec. committee approach, but Dennis feels the trend is moving back toward the exec. committee approach.

800 Number

Jim Gondek brought forward his one-year cost analysis for the 800 telephone service. John Burrill moved, seconded by Skip Gorman that we keep the 800 phone service. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial YTDSummary
Carl Goldstein distributed the latest financial report.

**Budget Amendment Process**
Discussion arose on establishing a threshold figure for new programs to require approval. It was proposed that over $1,000 but less than $2500 could be approved by the executive director; $2500 - $5000 would require the approval of two officers, and over $5,000 would require the approval of the full board. **Carl Goldstein moved acceptance of this proposal, seconded by John Burrill.** Motion passed unanimously.

**Soccer Trophy Case**
There had been a proposal a few years ago to establish a trophy case at Foxboro Stadium featuring Professional, Adult and Youth Soccer. This project had fallen between the cracks. The location was discussed, alternatives were discussed, but it was felt Foxboro was still the best location.

**Old Business**
- John Burrill is still working on his video project. His target is next Fall.
- Jim Gondek reminded program managers their reports for the AGM mailing are due.

**New Business**
- Koerper Scholarship - John Burrill said the funds from this scholarship should be utilized.
- New Sponsors
  Sid Bloom announced there are four new sponsors with USYS: Kohl's Department Stores, Florida Orange Growers, Band Aids, and Blue Cross.
- Web Page hits
  Jim Gondek will be providing monthly reports on web page activity.
- Symposium
  Will take place Feb 9 and 10 at Brandeis and Wheaton College
- December workshop
  Sid Bloom announced that a targeted project will be conducting a workshop in December, hopefully the first weekend.
- Referees
  Rich Frongillo wants strong communication between the referee committee and the MYSA BOD.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

**Addenda:**
Executive Director’s Report

January 16, 2002

Memo To: MYSA Board of Directors

From: Jim Gondek

Subject: Executive Director Report for BOD Meeting – January 2002

With the start of the new year, the office has focused on several projects that are not necessarily time sensitive. The holiday season kept outside pressures to a minimum. A summary of activity follows:

- We updated the mail list for The Bay Stater. We merged registration lists from the last three soccer seasons, eliminated duplicate entries and then attempted to get the list down to one per household. At the same time, we had a number of address changes/deletions that were incorporated. The new list was used with the January issue of the paper.
- The January issue of the paper is now on the streets sporting perhaps the largest use of color yet to date and a couple of new features. I continue to get good support from the Patriots Football Weekly staff, making the publisher job a bit easier.
- We are starting our next phase of web development. This segment will allow us the opportunity to have a number of our forms to be completed on-line with the capacity to email them to us. Concurrently, we will also be looking to implement credit card payment features to facilitate advance registration for courses and programs.
- The project to transfer email accounts out of CompuServe has been accomplished.
- The office is preparing to support several instructional initiatives in the coming months. Regional Coaching Conferences have or will be held in four geographic areas of the state. The program for the Coaching Symposium is set. Finally, we are gearing up to staff a growing number of coaching instruction courses that will take place in February and March.
- Sid, John Davagian and I met with Meredith & Crew to review a number of issues including four suggested site plans preliminarily designed to give prospective developers an idea of what space accommodations are available on the site.
- The Executive Committee met earlier this month to concentrate on planning events for the coming calendar year.
- Indoor training time slots were secured for the ODP teams, coach notification letters sent out, player information packets were prepared and mailed to all players and the ODP invoices were mailed to the player’s parents.
- The audit is well underway. We are looking for a preliminary draft to be completed and forwarded to us for early February with an overall objective of having a final audit by February 21st.
- The date of the Annual General Meeting was rescheduled to March 23rd and it will be held at the Sheraton Framingham. At the time the original date was preliminarily set, I was unaware that Sid would be out of the country.
- We received a $5,000 grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to help fund player development clinics in the Boston inner city area.

State Cup Report

to all

Total cup applications (except for the U-12 who are not due until 4/29) 250 - which represents an increase of about 12% over last year - notwithstanding the increase in fee.
Seeding, brackets, rules and roster procedures have been distribution to all teams

Still no word from UMass for either Cup or MTOC.

John Burri!

SYRA Report

An SYRA Report January 14, 2002 o After a brief hiatus over the end of year holidays, the Massachusetts State Referee Committee (MSRC) resumed support of its registration and recertification season. Nine of the original twelve clinics have been held to date with the remaining scheduled on 1/19 and 1/20. The clinics continue to be well-attended (nearly 2500 referees so far) and many positive comments have been shared. I have attended all but one session to date, presenting an administrative segment to all attendees regarding the need to increase one’s level of professionalism as a referee. The rate of incoming e-mail has been heavy with many inquiries related to the recertification process, upgrading, and testing. Having mentioned it in my last report, I should note that pre-printed registration forms from US Soccer started to arrive Massachusetts referees around the fourth week of December, almost two months later than we had hoped. At the most recent clinics, the vast majority of referees had their forms. o The MSRC financial database with an expanded chart of accounts was returned to the treasurer before the holidays. o I wrote an article, edited a few other articles, and pulled together a referee calendar of events for the January issue of the Bay Stater. o I attended the January 6th meeting of the Leagues Committee. Several issues and frustrations were shared by the presidents during the meeting; in particular, there seemed to be a common perception that the MSRC is out of touch with the needs of the leagues. This meeting was a decent first step in rebuilding a relationship between the two committees which will allow the MSRC to prove that the reality is different from the perception. I sent a follow-up note to the Leagues Committee expressing my interest in working together with them. o Preparations for the January 23rd meeting of the MSRC have begun. The agenda will be quite full. o I met with MYSA President Sid Bloom and Mass Soccer President Larry Frisoli, and was later offered the position of State Referee Administrator to replace current SRA Al Cosentino who is resigning as of January 31, 2002. Accepting the SRA position, I will continue my SYRA duties until a new SYRA is selected. I do not believe that there is great urgency in finding a new SYRA, but the search for potential candidates should begin.
MYSA BOD Meeting
February 20, 2002


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

Acceptance of January BOD minutes

Thom Laine moved, seconded by Skip Gorman to accept the minutes. PASSED unanimously.

Reports of Program Managers

- State Cups – (see report in addenda)
- MTOC – John Linnehan reported the tournament is confirmed at Umass for June 21-23.
- Instruction – Tim Castle reported that the courses are still going strong, weekdays as well as weekends. The Symposium had excellent presentations, but the attendance was disappointing. It was approximately half of last year”. Tim said they don’t know why the attendance fell off. Sid Bloom reported that Tim Castle, Brett Jacobs and Glenn Cristofori made a good presentation at the Adidas Workshop in Atlanta.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported the districts program has ordered uniforms and is having a meeting in two weeks. The Tide Cup will be held October 27 in Framingham.
- Indoor – Terri Filippetti has started visiting the indoor facilities in order to improve communications. She is planning an indoor tournament next February-March.
- TOPS – Joe Nagle had nothing to report.
- ODP – Thom Laine reported more scholarship applications are coming in this year. He is placing more emphasis on fund raising activities. He has scheduled a meeting at the training center to discuss the scouting process for Spring and incorporating the development program April Heinrichs introduced for the national team. The issue of what happens if he runs out of scholarship money and has to turn players away came up. Thom said he would come to the board for more money if that occurs.
- Referees – Rich Frongillo reported recertification clinics are almost done and over 4000 referees have registered.

Big Apple Tournament 2002

Ray Robinson proposed running the tournament again this Fall. He felt the cost would be about $5700. The tournament involves teams from the Inner city and Queens, New York who come here at their own expense. Last year we had seven teams from New York and fourteen local teams. John Burrill moved, seconded by Thom Laine, that Mass Youth Soccer appropriate $6,000 for the Big Apple Tournament with Ray Robinson in charge of the event. Motion PASSED 10-0-1.

Financial Overview and Audit

Carl Goldstein reported the auditor came in and conducted the audit. Carl has reviewed the draft report and the revenue summary.

Constitution and Bylaw changes

The board reviewed the proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws. It approved the changes required for housekeeping and compliance with US Youth Soccer, but turned down proposals to change voting members on board and establishing open directors’ positions on the board.

Under 12 at State Cup
John Burrill moved, seconded by Thom Laine, to eliminate U-12 from State Cup and regional play effective 2002-2003 playing year. John added that there would be a U-11 friendly tournament and a U-12 tournament to seed the upcoming U-13 groups for the following year. Two regions have already discontinued U-12 play. The motion PASSED 10-0-1.

Continuing Education for MTOC/State Cup Coaches

Sid Bloom indicated he’d like to institute a way to have coaches at this level attend clinics annually much like referees are required to attend. Tim Castle suggested establishing a committee representing MTOC, State Cups, and Instructional to see how best to proceed. John Linnehan will bring the idea to the leagues committee.

Sponsorship of Mia Hamm/Salem State College Bronze Circle Series

Sid Bloom reported that Salem State College has an event coming up where Mia Hamm is appearing. We were invited to help sponsor the event. Skip Gorman moved, seconded by Thom Laine that we donate $1,000 to the Salem State Bronze Circle Series. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Old Business

- John Burrill distributed a proposal for the video project submitted by the producer/scriptwriter. The projected total cost is $30,000. John Burrill moved, seconded by Thom Laine, that we proceed with the project as proposed. It was noted that Region 1 and US Youth Soccer are both interested in funding the project, and this has been placed on the agenda for the US Youth Soccer general meeting. Carl Goldstein offered an amendment to proceed only if funding is made available. This amendment was not seconded. After further discussion, the motion PASSED 8-3.
- Instructional course breakdown – the development coaches are doing a larger portion of the courses.

New Business

- ODP coaching appointments. It was reported to the board that after it had appointed two development coaches as the head coaches for U-13 (boys and girls) and two development coaches as assistant coaches for these teams, Dean Conway made the four coaches all co-coaches, and their contracts were re-written. Sid Bloom re-affirmed the vote of the board. The executive board will further investigate this action which seemingly contradicts the direction of the board.
- Mediation prior to hearings
  Dennis LaVersa stated that many appeals could and should be settled in another manner. He is trying to mediate before the hearings and wants to host a course on mediation for league representatives. Dennis wants feedback from the board on this. He needs fifteen attendees to hold a course. John Linnehan will bring the idea to the leagues committee.
- TOPS Grant
  Joe Nagle is applying for a grant and has to indicate what Mass Youth Soccer is willing to give as part of the process. He asked if Mass Youth Soccer would waive registration fees for TOPS players.
- John Burrill reported that the priest in Liberia to whom we shipped our surplus equipment sent us a thank you letter with pictures of the kids wearing the uniforms we donated.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smolier,
Secretary
Mass Youth Soccer Board Of Directors Meeting

March 20, 2002


Meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM. A quorum was declared present.

Acceptance of February BOD minutes

Thom Laine moved, seconded by Skip Gorman to accept the minutes. PASSED unanimously.

Land Update

John Davagian explained the process of our hiring Meredith & Grew to sell our land, and expressed some concerns with their conduct. John reviewed the various proposals brought to us by Meredith & Grew for selling either all of the land or portions of it. John then explained the benefits and drawbacks of each proposal. Discussion followed on the decision of selling all of the land or retaining a portion on which to build a scaled down version of the original fields site plan. John Burrill suggested we wait till next month to make a decision. Carl Goldstein moved, seconded by Skip Gorman that we develop the various scenarios of the sale to present to the membership.

We will need more information on the two offers being strongly considered in order to accomplish this. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director’s Report

The report was submitted in advance via email and is appended to these minutes. The report was accepted as submitted.

Reports of Program Managers

- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported the Tide Cup will be October 6 at Merchant Road Fields in Framingham.
- Indoor – Terri Filippetti had nothing to report.
- ODP – Thom Laine reported the region 1 symposium took place, and Massachusetts was the best represented state. The Boys’ ID Camp will have some changes. The curriculum will be based on team needs. The teams won’t be seen at ID camp by the regional coaches. Thom Laine announced he will not be a candidate for re-election at the AGM.

Financial Overview

Carl Goldstein distributed the latest set of financial reports for the board’s review.

Video Project

John Burrill reported that the producer attended the Indiana Youth Soccer annual meeting/workshop. She has already filmed some material. Larry Harmon from US Youth Soccer has reported that they like the project.

Old Business

- John Linnehan will bring feedback from the leagues committee on the idea of a mediation clinic back to this board.
New Business

- The AGM is this Saturday.
- Todd Smith is still in hospital and can have no visitors. A special email address is being set up by the Revolution.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

Executive Director Report – March 2002

Project activity as well as activity relating to the start of the Spring 2002 season has resulted in a full schedule for office and support staff. Here are some of the highlights:

- The office has provided support for a series of instructional events – regional coaching symposiums, the annual instructional symposium and a growing number of coach license courses.
- We have prepared for the Annual General Meeting. Notices were sent to all league and organizational presidents announcing the meeting and providing the agenda. This was followed by a release earlier this month with the AGM booklet. Ballots have been prepared. Finally, we will be working with Steve Smoller to have registration sign-in sheets available.
- Registration information for the Spring 2002 season has begun to be received. This week we began the process of notifying all League registrars of those organizations that have affiliated to date, and we are providing them with affiliation figures to allow them to assess if the numbers make sense relative to the number of teams they have entered.
- The project to update our KidSafe records is ongoing. We are working with the organizations to provide them with a list of coaches who have submitted KidSafe forms and we are securing additional forms as needed. In addition, we have commenced refilling with the state to secure updated CORI reports. The cumulative effect of this project is not only to update the status of all adult volunteers, but to allow us to thin out our organization files by shredding old forms.
- Meredith & Grew have put out a “call for offers” and the submission deadline was Friday, March 15th. In essence, they are attempting to solicit bids on the property from all interested parties and to facilitate a review in total rather than on a case-by-case basis. The summary will be presented March 18th at a meeting at John Davagian’s office. The Executive Committee will review this prior to the Board meeting, and the Board will have an opportunity to discuss on the 20th.
- Activity on the web site continues to remain strong. A separate activity report will be prepared for the BOD meeting for informational purposes. A World Cup Contest for both kids and adults has been designed where the entry form appears on the web.
- The latest issue of the paper will be mailed on Wednesday, the 20th. It represents one of our largest issues ever (72 pages). Billed advertising exceeded $30,000.
- I have been working with Ray Cabral to finalize plans for two week-long summer clinics. One will be held at UMass Dartmouth and then other will be in Central Mass at The Habitat. Both give us the opportunity to go indoors in the event of poor weather, something that caused us a problem last year.
- I will be attending a Soccer Start Summit in Dallas on April 12-14 to determine how our inner city initiative can draw from the national program. US Youth Soccer is funding all costs associated with this summit.
Mass Youth Soccer Board of Directors Meeting
April 17, 2002


Meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM. A quorum was declared present.

Acceptance of March BOD minutes

Skip Gorman moved, seconded by Thom Laine 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. The report was accepted as submitted.

Reports of Program Managers

- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported she is receiving emails from the web page about the Tide Cup. The Districts tournament will have some teams from Canada attending. It takes place the first weekend in July.
- Indoor – Terri Filippetti is still visiting indoor facilities. A discussion followed on why we are involved with the indoor facilities. This issue will be examined in the future.
- ODP – Thom Laine reported the Border Cup is this weekend. It appears he will be able to cover all of the scholarships being applied for. Jackie Shannon has asked to step back from some of her responsibilities with the girls’ U-13 team.
- SYRA – Rich Frongillo reported that the last of the entry-level courses has been run. Last weekend a pro clinic was conducted with Paul Tamborino and Angelo Bratsis running the course. Six referees and two assessors are going to the ODP Ryder Cup. Fourteen referees and three assessors are going to the regionals. Questionnaires for State Cup availability have gone out to the referees. There are 4100 referees registered in the state to date. Rich expects the final total to be close to 4300. Rich announced the appointments of John Uder as the State assignment co-ordinator. The referee committee is running courses for assignors. Larry Frisoli of Mass Soccer would like to run a meeting of all assignors who have completed the course to help co-ordinate youth and amateur assignments. Tim Castle would like to collaborate continuing education for referees and coaches so they can better understand each other’s perspective.
- Instruction – Tim Castle reported there was a regional conference in western mass, and vacation week clinics have been booked.

Financial Overview

A revenue summary was mailed to board members prior to the meeting. John Burrill requested Carl Goldstein provide comparable last year figures for comparisons.

Region 1 and National Championship Ad/Sponsor Support

The board decided to continue to place an ad in the Region 1 book as we have done for many years. The board decided not to place an ad in the book for the National Championship tournament to be held in Maryland this year.

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.

Video project — John Burrill reported the producer is still gathering film footage and researching articles.

New Business

John Burrill inquired if one league suspends a coach if all of the other leagues follow the suspension. Consensus was they do if they are aware of the suspension.

Land Issue — John Burrill asked where we stand on this. We got an extension from the potential purchaser for us to come up with an analysis and plans for use of the land. John is concerned about selling all of the land and never having a field complex. Carl and Jim are to bring a cost analysis for building fields, and Jim will bring an analysis of potential sponsors to a special meeting to consider land use/sale.

Sid Bloom announced that Mass Youth Soccer was inducted into the Special Olympics Hall of Fame as a corporate sponsor.

Health Insurance Plan — Rich Brane explained that we had to adopt a section 125 plan that outlines exactly how the health plan for our employees works. John Burrill moved, seconded by Skip Gorman that "That the restated Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association, Incorporated Section 125 Plan be adopted in the form presented at the meeting, effective January 1, 2002. That the appropriate officers of this Corporation are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Plan and to take any and all actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the foregoing votes, including the making and execution of any subsequent changes or amendments to said Plan. That this Corporation indemnify and hold harmless each member of its Board of Directors, the Administrator (including each member of any committee designated as Administrator) and each other employee of the Corporation or any of its affiliates who acts as a Plan fiduciary, from liability and expenses arising from his/her official capacity with respect to said Plan, except to the extent that his/her conduct amounts to willful misconduct or gross negligence." Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

Executive Director Report – April 2002

Project activity as well as activity relating to the start of the Spring 2002 season has resulted in a full schedule for office and support staff. Here are some of the highlights:

- The office has provided support for a series of instructional events – regional coaching symposiums, the annual instructional symposium and a growing number of coach license courses.
- We have prepared for the Annual General Meeting. Notices were sent to all league and organizational presidents announcing the meeting and providing the agenda. This was followed by a release earlier this month with the AGM booklet. Ballots have been prepared. Finally, we will be working with Steve Smoller to have registration sign-in sheets available.
- Registration information for the Spring 2002 season has begun to be received. This week we began the process of notifying all League registrars of those organizations that have affiliated to date, and we are providing them with affiliation figures to allow them to assess if the numbers make sense relative to the number of teams they have entered.
• The project to update our KidSafe records is ongoing. We are working with the organizations to provide them with a list of coaches who have submitted KidSafe forms and we are securing additional forms as needed. In addition, we have commenced refilling with the state to secure updated CORI reports. The cumulative effect of this project is not only to update the status of all adult volunteers, but to allow us to thin out our organization files by shredding old forms.

• Meredith & Grew have put out a "call for offers" and the submission deadline was Friday, March 15th. In essence, they are attempting to solicit bids on the property from all interested parties and to facilitate a review in total rather than on a case-by-case basis. The summary will be presented March 18th at a meeting at John Davigan's office. The Executive Committee will review this prior to the Board meeting, and the Board will have an opportunity to discuss on the 20th.

• Activity on the web site continues to remain strong. A separate activity report will be prepared for the BOD meeting for informational purposes. A World Cup Contest for both kids and adults has been designed where the entry form appears on the web.

• The latest issue of the paper will be mailed on Wednesday, the 20th. It represents one of our largest issues ever (72 pages). Billed advertising exceeded $30,000.

• I have been working with Ray Cabral to finalize plans for two week-long summer clinics. One will be held at UMass Dartmouth and then other will be in Central Mass at The Habitat. Both give us the opportunity to go indoors in the event of poor weather, something that caused us a problem last year.

• I will be attending a Soccer Start Summit in Dallas on April 12-14 to determine how our inner city initiative can draw from the national program. US Youth Soccer is funding all costs associated with this summit.

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. A quorum was declared present.

Acceptance of April BOD minutes

Skip Gorman moved, seconded by Thom Laine 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. The report was accepted as submitted.

Reports of Program Managers

- State Cup – submitted via email.
- MTOC – John Linnehan thanked John Burrill for being very helpful with securing the Umass facilities.
- Recreation – no report. We discussed the Tide Cup tournament
- Instruction – Tim Castle reported the season is in progress, so there is no instruction going on. Tim and Dean will evaluate the development coaches and report back to the board. Sid Bloom questioned the timing of the email notice for the regional coaches education meetings and also wanted to know what the associated costs would be.
- Indoor – Terri Filippetti revisited the safety issue of indoor facilities. The physical condition of the various facilities and policing the age groups teams are placed into are concerns. Ross Weaver had suggested to Terri it might be time to get out of the indoor soccer business.
- TOPS – We applied for a US Youth Soccer grant. Joe reported his problem is that parents assume we have a program with almost every town. When they learn they will have to travel to a town that has a program or establish a program they run into problems with local organizations that don't want to get involved. Joe feels he needs help from a higher level to support a push to the town organizations to form a TOPS program. John Burrill suggested we run a full-page ad in every issue of the Bay Stater promoting the TOPS program. Action item: compose a letter from Sid Bloom and Joe Nagle and an ad for the Bay Stater.
- ODP – Thom Laine submitted his report via email. Thom added he would have a report on Ryder Cup and Border Cup for next meeting.
- SYRA – no report.

Financial Overview

A revenue summary was mailed to board members prior to the meeting. Forecasts are on target. Invoices for fees and underpayments on registrations will go out soon. Bay Stater ad revenue is higher than anticipated.

Indoor Program

John Burrill moved, seconded by Thom Laine that we eliminate any formal involvement with indoor soccer. Based on previous discussion and the fact these are private businesses, we should walk away. Motion passed unanimously. A letter will be drawn up with John Davagian to mail to the membership and the indoor facilities.

Dual Roster Issue

The bylaws currently preclude multi-rostering for over 14 year old players. John Burrill wants these kids to be able to play on a MAPLE roster and a State Cup team roster. John Burrill moved, seconded by Thom Laine, to modify section 201 of the Mass Youth bylaws to permit multiple rostering of players over the age of 14 who are rostered to a team entered in the MAPLE league for those players to play on a separate team declared for State Cup. The motion passed unanimously and takes effect immediately, to be ratified at the next general meeting.
State Cup Fall Play

John Burrill proposed having 13 and 14 year olds challenge rounds be run in the Fall. This would alleviate the crunch of challenge games in the Spring and lessen conflicts with the Spring town leagues. Steve Smoller moved, seconded by Thorn Laine that we support John Burrill’s proposal to schedule the 13 and 14 year old challenge games in the Fall if possible. Motion passed unanimously.

Fall Registrations

(Jim Gondek to insert his comments on this item)

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 distributed a draft of the schedule for the February workshop.

New Business

- Web Site – Cindi Callaghan asked when the calendar is updated, since March was still up. John Burrill requested we get a rolling calendar for the year at board meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

Executive Director Report – April 2002

As might be expected, office activity has heightened with the start of the Spring league play and the related activities. Here is a summary of office related activities:

- Although we have moved past our traditional busy season for instructional programs, we continue to see interest in coach license programs. In addition, plans are already underway for Mass Youth Soccer’s second annual Coach Education Week in August, with Tara generally being the primary contact for those inquiries.
- The ODP program is in full swing. Uniforms were ordered, received, screened, sorted and delivered to the teams far earlier than had ever been done. This was not without its own set of glitches, however, as socks and GK shirts are back-ordered, but expected in time for Rider. The office typically ensures all necessary rosters, forms, room reservations, etc are provided to the Region to support the program. Finally, we also coordinate production of the Boys and Girls book.
- Most Spring registration is done. The final registration report from the organizations are due May 17th. We are about to begin the process of invoicing organizations for the additional $.50 we are required to pay US Soccer. We have an agreement with US Soccer to delay payment until we collect these funds.
- We are also engaged in a project to identify organizations that have not reported U6 or U8 players. These will be contacted in the coming weeks to determine their status, and to find out if we need to initiate discussions with local Parks & Rec, etc.
- Our efforts to manage The Bay Stater database is proving to be successful, measured by a significant decrease in return postage/address corrections we received from the last issue.
BOD 5/15/2002

- With Memorial Day approaching, we are seeing increased activity in permission to travel requests from Massachusetts teams looking to travel to tournaments out of state.
- The office is also committed to support State Cup and the production of electronic forms required by Region 1. Working with John Burrill, we have identified a process that should allow us to meet the Region's requirements.
- District Select uniforms have been received, sorted and sent to the screener. They are expected back in early June and will be distributed to the teams.

On a more global front:

- I have been working with Ray Cabral on our summer player development clinics. Two weeks are planned in August.
- Discussions are ongoing with potential sponsors; a couple of meetings have been scheduled for the week of May 20th.
- I attended a Soccer Start Summit in Dallas in April. US Youth Soccer is committed to pushing this program forward and they are developing a new Soccer Start manual. Region 1 is very active with ongoing programs.
- The next issue of The Bay Stater will hit the streets on May 22nd. Three special supplements are planned – Club section, State Cup section and MTOC section. Advertising generated by the office exceeded $40,000.
- Discussions are ongoing on land issues, both with the potential purchasers of the land and with parties looking to provide some form of financial support for a proposed facility.

State Cup Report

To all

1. Total applications for cup 2002: 296
2. Total games to be played 164 challenge round matches; 208 round robin matches and 56 semis and finals (quarters for the 12’s)
   2A As of today 2 rounds (of 3) of challenge play have been completed.
3. We will use 16 fields at UMass and have 2 additional fields for the Amherst youth program so they can run as well
4. Refererees will be housed at Hampshire College
5. Costs at UMass up considerably over last year
6. Ticket program with Revs continues this year for cup winner and runners up
7. 16 state champions and 1 wild card (girls 12) will represent Mass Youth at Region 1 championships in Niagara Falls New York

r/s
John Burrill

ODP Report
May 2002

The Mini-Camp has been set. Ron finally heard from Region 1 and apparently the coaches had been contacting Jim instead of Ron but the upside is the coaches are set Rich has booked them rooms and the day is all sorted out. The girls’ side was set several weeks and Ron will work with Jason on making sure all the sessions go according to plan.
Rosters for our teams for Rider Cup have been sent to Region 1. Coaches are picking the teams for Rider and have completed their selections or will shortly.

Scholarships have all been awarded. I instructed Rich to send letters to all the requesting families notifying them immediately. He has done that. We had several more requests than last year but the individual dollar amounts were a bit less overall. Jim and Rich found some funds that we had not originally included in our budget figures. This allowed us to follow the directive from you all of last year and be sure no player was denied for financial reasons. In other good news related to the budget, preliminary discussions with Jim and Rich indicate that the ODP budget is again in the black. I won’t make any predictions at this time relative to a surplus but things look good.
We have replaced Jackie Shannon as Glenn's assistant. Jackie asked to step back from ODP coaching for this year. After a phone conversation with her I agreed. We have also appointed an assistant to work with Mike Kersker. He is Kenney Finn and has worked with Mike at Mike's own expense for the past few years. Kenney has always helped out and does a very good job working with Mike.

I have been in contact with Jared and am asking him to step in on more and more of the decisions. He has agreed to and has begun working out his Fall tryouts. The dates are in The Bay Stater and he will post more definitive information on the website over the next few weeks. Jared has also agreed to take responsibility for the U-19 teams. He will be submitting a letter to Jill soon for her to mail to our past boys and girls U-17 teams.

Thom Laine
Mass Youth Soccer Board Of Directors Meeting  
June 19, 2002


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 Scarpeci 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 for 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.**
BOD 6/19/2002

- 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 screeners. 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 tack of all the yellow and red cards (far too 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 is 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 Koerper 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 didn’t 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 |
| 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 LIGHTNING

R/S

John Burrill
Mass Youth Soccer Board Of Directors Meeting
July 17, 2002


Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. A quorum was declared present.

Acceptance of June BOD minutes

Thom Laine moved, seconded by John Burrill 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 – submitted via email. (appended below)
- MTOC – John Linnehan stated the official report will be ready for next month’s meeting.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported there are 78 teams in the districts program. She is working on the tournament schedule. When completed it will be posted on the web. Nancy reported she is getting applications for Tide American Cup from all over the state. Plans for the tournament are progressing well.
- ODP – Thom Laine is waiting for the complete list of players who made the national pool. Sid Bloom has requested Region 1 circulate a questionnaire to the region 1 associations regarding ODP so all of the states will be aware of what the others are doing. Sid raised the issue that some players were allowed to play even though they had not paid yet. The policy was set that the players must pay before they are allowed to play. Jared Scarpaci will look into preparing more explicit instructions for the players and parents.
- SYRA – Rich Frongillo submitted his report via email (appended below)

Financial Overview

A revenue summary was mailed to board members prior to the meeting. John Burrill questioned the revenue from instruction courses. It appears it is less than half of last year despite the fact we have the four full time development coaches. While on that subject, it was reported that Brett Jacobs had resigned, and Jackie Shannon has reduced her hours from 40 to 30 per week, Skip Gorman questioned the permission to travel projections and permission to host projections. Carl reviewed the new budget process which will include hearings with the new budget committee.

Special Meeting Date

Jim Gondek reported we have executed a purchase and sale agreement with Bovenzi, and anticipate closing in late October or early November. We need to schedule a special meeting for the membership to vote on the sale of the land. The date of August 21 was approved.

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. John is exchanging email with a contact in Atlanta on this subject. Will report back with some information.
- 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. John reported there is no interest in this from the leagues. The item is dropped.

- Video project – John Burrill reported the producer is working on scripting,
- Open action item: Action item: compose a letter from Sid Bloom and Joe Nagle and an ad for the Bay Stater.

New Business

- Region 1 annual meeting will be held October 18-20 in Pittsburgh, PA.
- Bay Stater articles are due by August 6.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

July 16, 2002

Executive Director Report – June 2002

The majority of the late spring and summer programs are done, or well on their way to conclusion. The office is gearing up for the start of the Fall season, only some six weeks away. A summary of the past month’s activity follows:

- State Cup and MTOC support is essentially completed, save for some additional accounting activities. We are still awaiting the MTOC results for both posting on the web and inclusion in the August issue of The Bay Stater.
- All ODP ID Camps have been completed. Some preliminary results are in. We should have final results of Massachusetts players selected for the pools shortly.
- The office is beginning to prepare for the District Select season-ending tournament in early August.
- Registration packages for the Fall season were mailed to all organization registrars. We have established a registration report date of August 14th. All organizations are expected to have their registration material submitted by that date.
- To help facilitate affiliation on or before September 15th, we are invoicing all organizations based upon the registration information they submitted in their first registration report last year. The organizations are given the opportunity to either pay the invoiced amount, and then follow-up with all other required registration material, or to submit the traditional Fall registration package and fees. An accounting spreadsheet has been developed to reconcile invoiced amounts to the actual reports when they are submitted.
- Photo galleries of State Cup, MTOC and Region 1 Championships were generated by Brian Lowe and posted on our web site shortly after the conclusion of these events. The same will be done for the District select tournament.

On a more general front:

- Plans are underway, and assignments issued, for the August Issue of The Bay Stater. This issue will feature a special supplement that recaps State Cup, MTOC, regional and District Select play.
- The Bovenzi purchase and sale agreement has been executed, and the deposit has been made. The Bovenzi group has a sixty day due diligence period and they must close within thirty days of that date. We will need to schedule a special corporate meeting as the membership needs to approve the sale. We are looking at a date in mid-August.
- In addition to the notification given to indoor facilities of the decision to drop our indoor program, we have submitted notification of that decision to New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut. These state associations needed the notification in the
event out-of-state teams apply for permission to travel and play at a Massachusetts facility.

- Sid Bloom, Skip Gorman and I plan to attend the US Soccer and US Youth Soccer Annual General Meetings in early August. In addition, Region 1 and the Youth Council will hold meetings.
- Although the registration books are not officially closed, we are nearing the end of the current year registration process. Thus far, we have affiliated more than 186,400 players and 23,500 adults. This represents a growth of nearly 4,000 players compared to last year.

John Burrill - Regionals Report
Wednesday, July 03, 2002 8:30 AM

To All

Happy 4th of July to all.

Over this past weekend 19 teams from Massachusetts played in the Region 1 championships. The weather got hotter each day and from Sunday on the matches were halted 1/2 way through each half for water breaks. All the teams from Massachusetts played exceptionally well and represented our state in a first class fashion. While some individual team results were not what was expected, other teams far exceeded expectations.

At the head of the class were both our U-12 girls teams, South Coast Scorpions and FC Bombers. Each made its way through the bracket only to face each other in one semi final match. The match was exceptionally well played and it took overtime to decide the result with South Coast prevailing 3-2. In the final South Coast ran into a very difficult team from Eastern Penn and came up a bit short - but had a terrific tournament.

Our girls 15 team, Bandits, also had a great tournament coming through the bracket unscored upon. In the semi final the score was 0's at half however the Bandits surrendered 2 goals in the final 40 minutes to a very good Connecticut team. Again another great run for the Bandits girls.

The FC Greater Boston Eagles boys 16 teams also had a terrific tournament. Pressed to the 79th minute in their final bracket match - they scored a last minute goal to advance to the semi finals. In the semis they absolutely dominated a team from Delaware to play for the championship on Tuesday. Playing FC Delco from Eastern Penn in the final the boys were simply outstanding. After 80 hot, tough minutes of play the score was 0-0. In the first overtime 3 goals were scored in the space of less than 4 minutes and Eastern Penn prevailed 2-1.

The other team that must come in for recognition is the Lusitano Giris 19 team. Playing with heavy hearts and with their coach, John Santos present the team won its first 2 matches and led in the 3rd 1-0 with less than 20 minutes left in the match. Unfortunately Cinderella did not find Prince Charming and the girls fell to Easter New York, the regional champion, 3-1. High grades go to the region 1 staff and referee administrators who had a moment of silence before each match in memory of Stephanie.

Here is the final report card by state association

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of teams in the Semi Finals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>boys</td>
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3
Our overall record was 36 - 22 - 5 a winning % of 57 %.

While we had the same number of teams in the Finals as last year 2 - we came up short of last year for the Semis.

You all know by now where I am coming from on these issues but to my way of thinking these results are very disappointing from a state association point of view. As the largest state in the region were are not maintaining our competitiveness at the regional level. - plain and simple.

The current model for success appears to be New Jersey which for years was dotted with single clubs all over the state dividing up all the best players. Two years ago along came the Player Development Academy - PDA - and that club now has all the best players in each age - and the proof is in the results.

The state cup application that I sent out several weeks ago and the one currently on the Mass youth web site must be revised. It will be done shortly and I will send out to all and the revised one will be up on the web by Tuesday of next week.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer.

John Burrill
National Cups Commissioner


The end of the spring season brought us to many post-season tournaments to which MA referees were sent: Region I ODP in New Jersey, Region I Championships in New York, Amateur Under-20 and Under-23 Cup in New Jersey, Veteran's Cup in West Virginia, and more. All of the appointments are listed on the MSRC website, www.massref.net. Of course, these are in addition to the tremendous efforts put in at State Cup and MTOC in June. All in all, our referees turned in great performances outside of the state. Of particular note, Eric Jansen of Lexington was selected to participate in the National Youth finals in Maryland. Eric was the head of the Massachusetts delegation in Niagara Falls, and most deserving of the recognition. Niko Bratsis of Norwood was selected to officiate at the amateur National Cup finals in Pennsylvania and Ed Shea of Fiskdale was recently appointed to represent Region I at the amateur Soccer Festival in Houston, TX at the end of July. Terrific accomplishments.

Beyond tournament preparation, the referee committee has spent time in the following areas:

- Financials It has been a priority of mine from day 1 to get the MSRC financial picture in order. Significant progress has been made. It is budget season, and many steps have been taken to prepare for the upcoming fiscal year. Internal reviews of the 2001-02
income and expenses have brought us closer to understanding where we have been and where we might go. Much more work has to be done in the coming weeks to prepare.

- Registration: The final registration package for 2001-02 was submitted at the end of June. We registered 4,233 referees, 56 assessors, 43 assignors, and 32 instructors. Registration packets from US Soccer for 2002-03 were mailed to most MA referees at the end of June, a marked difference from the delay of last year.

- SYRA appointment A handful of candidates have been identified and are being evaluated in preparation for my providing a recommendation to Mass Youth to fill this role. My hope is to have the process allow for a candidate approved by Mass Youth at its August BOD meeting.

- Certified assignor compliance State Assignment Coordinator John Utter has made some terrific initial strides to help Massachusetts comply with US Soccer's requirement that affiliated games be assigned by certified assignors as of 9/1/02. Building on the pilot course run in March, two additional courses are already scheduled and two more will likely be scheduled in the near future. Beyond compliance with the requirement, the initiatives that John has begun will allow for greater communication amongst assignors at all levels. This is an exciting area of growth for the referee program in our state.

- Assessment During the playing and tournament season, referee assessments have been done in large number. Thanks to the efforts of Milan Robbins of Mendon and a staff of enthusiastic assessors at MTOC, over 100 developmental assessments were completed! SDA Tec Carlson has led a staff through a very busy season of professional, amateur, and youth games. Although grade maintenance assessments are lagging, many have been completed.

- Instruction Preparations for recertification clinics (to take place after the fall playing season) have begun. By August 1, all locations should be posted on the MSRC website and online pre-enrollment will be accepted. Entry-level course materials for 2003 are being prepared as well.

- Web site The content on the MSRC website is very timely with several contributors to it. Sherman Whipple continues to do a great job at making this medium a useful tool. As a result of all efforts our hit rate has risen to about 400 hits per day. This vehicle will continue to be a resource and interface for the organization. All are encouraged to check it out and provide feedback. Although some entry level courses and physical fitness tests are being offered in the next two months, summer is a time to re-group and plan for the upcoming months which will be hectic.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard J. Frongillo
State Referee Administrator
Massachusetts State Referee Committee
http://www.massref.net
Mass Youth Soccer Board Of Directors Meeting  
August 21, 2002


Meeting was called to order at 8:35 PM. A quorum was declared present.

Acceptance of July 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. Carl Goldstein had some questions on the revenue figures for the instructional courses. John Burrill asked whether the members have been billed for the $.50 per member we owe the federation – they have.

Reports of Program Managers

- Instruction – Glenn reported on education week at Harvard elementary school. He anticipates a big month of September for courses.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported the districts tournament went well, and she is now working on the Tide American Cup, scheduled for Oct 6 in Framingham. Ray Robinson reported the Big Apple tournament will be located in Chelmsford on Sept 29 and he is presently lining up teams.
- TOPS – Joe is in contact with a group from Lowell. There has been no progress on activities for summer or fall. Chevrolet gave TOPS $1,000.
- ODP – Jared Scarpaci reported all the latest information has been posted to the web page. Surveys went to 250 players/parents who were in the program this year. Jared is reviewing the responses. Glenn reported he has been scouting prospects, and has a list of names of players who will be invited to the tryouts. Jared announced the program now has a slogan, “Pride in the Program.”
- SYRA – Rich Frongillo announced there is a new director of assessors, Andy Weiss. There is a new treasurer for the referee committee, Rob Akie of Dedham. The selection process for a new SYRA is nearing conclusion. The 2003 registration process is underway. Region 1 has requested Massachusetts refs for the Deerfield call back tournament in July.

Financial Overview

Carl Goldsteing reported expenses are down and revenue is up.
FY 2002/2003 Budget Process

Carl Goldstein updated the board on the budget process. Budget hearings have been scheduled, and the schedule had been distributed to program managers. Managers will present their budgets, then the committee will meet to compile the data and prepare a final budget for the board.

Request for contribution

John Burrill reported the priest from Liberia, to whom we donated old equipment last year, is back in the area. He thanked us for our contribution and asked us to sponsor a child at their academy for this year. The cost is $100 per child per year. Skip Gorman moved, seconded by Terri Filippetti that we take $1,000 from the MyTeam scholarship funding and use it to sponsor ten children. 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. John is exchanging email with a contact in Atlanta on this subject. Will report back with some information. – this will be a topic at the coaches’ workshop in February

New Business

- Skip Gorman reported on the events and results at the USSF/USUS annual meetings in San Francisco. Region 1 is forming a directors’ league – a premier division offering summer league play to compete with the Super Y league. There will be a premier division and a division 1, playing June-July with a championship determined in August. The amateurs are now called Adult Soccer. The issue of small sided soccer was resolved with strong recommendations by the national coaches that small sided soccer, starting with 3v3, progressing up to 6v6 at U-12 be strongly encouraged. Skip’s complete report is in the current Bay Stater.
- John Burrill announced that Cindi Callaghan has resigned as State Registrar. He suggested a dual designated registrar – one in the office and the other one designated for State Cup registration, for which State Cup would provide a stipend.
- Jim Gondek raised the issue of time regarding ratifying a new SYRA if selection is made before the next meeting. Nancy Hart moved, seconded by Jared Scarpaci that an email vote by the board to ratify Sid’s appointment of an SYRA would be in order. Motion passed unanimously,

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.
Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

August 19, 2002

Executive Director Report – July 2002

It seemed that the summer passed far too quickly. In recent weeks, the office has been focused on gearing up for the start of the fall 2002 season and the new soccer year. A brief summary of activity for the past month follows:

- The District Select Tournament at Devens was completed in early August. The office prepared for that event by working with Nancy Hart to help make sure all necessary materials were available.
- During August, the Instructional Staff conducted their second annual Coach Education week. All registrations for this flowed through the office. We had a total of more than 220 coaches who attended these events (1 D; 2 E; 3 F; 2 G, plus H.S. course).
- Ray Cabral organized a player development clinic at UMass Dartmouth. We had 52 attendees in our first effort. Early reports are that the sessions were well received.
- Registration information is starting to flow into the office. In an effort to facilitate affiliation, we invoiced all organizations based upon last year’s first registration report. The organizations were given the opportunity to pay this amount and be considered affiliated (still need to provide other data later) or to submit the formal registration package. Based upon results to date, only about 15-20% of the organizations took advantage of the “invoice” method; the remainder followed standard registration procedures.
- A follow-up invoice for organizations that still owed the additional $.50 US Soccer fee was mailed. We expect to reconcile this by the end of the month.
- The new office copiers were installed. This allowed us to begin generating approximately $1,000 monthly in lease savings. In addition, the new copier will allow us greater flexibility and generate manpower savings when sending out folded material.
- Office tasks are being re-adjusted somewhat to account for Al Cosentino’s disability absence. Thus far, we have been able to handle the adjustments.

On more general matters:
• We have worked with Hammerhead to establish the process to allow our members to submit forms on line and also submit payments electronically. This should be active by the end of the month and most forms will be converted by the end of September.

• The special corporate meeting to approve the land sale has been scheduled and the meeting notice was sent to all organization presidents and Board members.

• Sid Bloom, Skip Gorman and I attended the US Soccer/US Youth Soccer Annual General Meetings. The relationships between the youth and the Federation have improved dramatically in the last couple of years. There were no controversial issues.

• I continue to follow-up with potential sponsors/supporters for the proposed soccer complex. One agreement (beverage sponsorship) is currently being drafted.
MYSA Special General Meeting  
August 21, 2002  
MYSA Office, Lancaster, MA

The meeting was called to order by President Sid Bloom at 7:50 PM. A quorum was determined not to be present, but was expected to be reached. The meeting was started in anticipation of a quorum to conduct business being reached.

Jim Gondek, Executive Director, explained the two sale proposals and John Davagian Mass Youth counsel, outlined the terms of sale.

- The two parcels involved in the proposed sale account for 55 and 77 acres respectively.
- 55-acre parcel is 65% wetlands, which we never intended to develop.

At 8:05 a quorum was determined to be present with 43 delegates present representing 94 votes.

- The 2nd parcel of 77 acres would be developed by a developer, Bovenzi, Inc. The proposed development would not conflict with playing fields.
- Anticipate closing in October or early November.
- The 42 acres without clear title are part of this parcel.

Jonathan Kopera (Nashoba Valley League) moved, seconded by Ray Robinson (Mass Youth Soccer immediate past president) that the membership of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association, Incorporated (Mass Youth Soccer) authorizes Mass Youth Soccer’s Board of Directors to sell approximately 132 acres (=/-) of land owned by the corporation in Lancaster, Massachusetts as follows:

1. Approximately 77 acres (=/-) of land to Bovenzi incorporated for the price of $1,000,000, such sale to be consummated in accordance with the terms and conditions of a Purchase and Sale Agreement executed by the parties; and
2. Approximately 55 acres (=/-) of land to David M Harper and Stephen A Harper and/or their nominee for the price of $110,000, such sale to be consummated in accordance with the terms of a Purchase and Sale Agreement, or other formal sale agreement to be executed by the parties.

Questions from the floor concerned what was to be done with the remainder of the parcel. The response was Mass Youth intends to develop the rest as a field complex, downscaled from the previous plan. The project would involve 16-20 fields and cost approximately $4.1 million. Jim Gondek is currently lining up sponsors and is looking for a commitment level to justify proceeding with the project by early October. If this happens, construction could begin April 2003, and the fields would be playable by fall 2004.

Question arose about the status of the $1 per head assessment. The response was the money will be returned, we are not sure when in the process it will be returned.

Question arose what is in it for the recreational players. The response was there are lots of programs and events that could be scheduled. A field use committee will be established to handle these issues.

The question was called by John Burrill (National Cups Commissioner). The question was called by voice vote. The vote on the motion was passed by voice vote.

There being no further business before the membership, the meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Smoler
Executive secretary
MYSA BOD Meeting
September 18, 2002


Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. A quorum was declared present.

Acceptance of July BOD minutes
Skip Gorman 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.
John Burrill asked for clarification of the status of the Bovenzi sale – it’s on course for an early November closing.

Reports of Program Managers
- State Cup – John Burrill’s report was submitted via email and is appended to these minutes. He added that the search for a Cup Registrar was ongoing.
- Instruction – Carl commented on the prior year figures reconciling revenue and course registrants. Since the prior year figures were drawn from several sources, there was some question as to their accuracy. Dean commented on the heavy course activity that had taken place in August, including the Coach Education Week. The development Coaches also attended the KNVB training sessions. He outlined the framework of a new project – development of a coherent progression training program, from U6 thru U14. He expected to have a working draft in a couple of weeks. John Burrill asked if there was a way to go back and evaluate how effective sessions like Model Training might be. Dean indicated that was difficult to do. John Burrill indicated that MAPLE would be interested in a MAPLE day with top level clinicians – probably be more effective than trying to involve clubs individually. Skip Gorman commented on Tim Castle’s continued absence – four meetings in a row and six of the last nine, plus absence from the budget development process. Skip Gorman moved to vacate the position of Vice President of Instruction. Seconded by Nancy Hart. Discussion followed. John Burrill once again commented on the concept of moving to a member-at-large approach for BOD members generally. Motion to vacate the VP of Instruction position PASSED unanimously.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported that planning for next year district program was underway. Some thoughts of redistricting. Expects to be formalized within a month or so. She added that there were 23-25 teams entered for the Tide American Cup, scheduled for Oct 6 in Framingham. Jim Gondek reported in Ray Robinson’s absence on the Big Apple tournament – it will be located in Chelmsford on Sept 29 and he is presently lining up teams.
- TOPS – Jim Gondek noted that Joe Nagle was in contact with a group from Lowell. That group expressed interest in coordinating a regional event. John Linnehan indicated he might be able to assist with fields if needed.
- ODP – Jared Scarpaci provided a tryout update. Two Sunday dates in October (20th and 27th – Elm Bank) were added. He also handed out a suggestion list compiled from a recently completed survey, and outlined a concept of 5 hours of community service as part of ODP scholarship award.
- SYRA – Sid Bloom indicated that a decision to select a candidate to fill the SYRA vacancy was getting close. Rich Frongillo discussed the personnel changes that were taking place within the referee community. Also, there were more entry level courses given during the summer. He said that Massachusetts was about 50% compliant on the assignor certification and that this program was good for referee education and programs.

Financial Overview
Carl Goldstein reported expenses are down and revenue is up. Healthy balance sheet for the fiscal year is projected. The audit process is about to begin.
FY 2002/2003 Budget Process
Carl Goldstein outlined the process that had been undertaken and provided an overview of the FY 2002/2003 budget that was being recommended by the Budget Committee. A series of clarification questions were raised and answered. John Burrill suggested that a stipend projected for the VP of ODP be increased to $500 monthly, funded by the ODP Program. Carl Goldstein moved, seconded by John Burrill, to accept the budget as proposed. PASSED unanimously.

Fee Increase for Instructional Courses
Jim Gondek indicated that the adopted budget contained fee increase assumptions for several of the instructional courses and that the BOD needed to approve the increases. John Burrill moved that the fee per participant for the E,F, G, Specialty Clinics and Model Training Sessions be increased by $5. Nancy Hart seconded. Motion PASSED unanimously.

ODP Coach Selection
Jared submitted his list of coaches recommended for the OPD Program. Jared addressed the complaint raised by the MAPLE Commission that objected to assignment of certain coaches at or close to the same age group as their club teams. Considerable discussion took place as to the ability to set coach assignments two years removed if a proposed ODP coach also coaches club. Carl Goldstein moved that the BOD adopt, effective immediately, a policy that requires, at a minimum, a two-year age separation in ODP assignments from any club coaching assignments. He further moved that the BOD adopt the list developed by Jared based upon the two-year age guidelines, and that if any changes had to be made, they could be approved by email vote. John Burrill seconded. Discussion followed. Jared felt the policy should begin next year. John Linnehan felt that Carl’s motion should be split to allow separate votes. John Linnehan moved to split the vote. Skip Gorman seconded. The motion to split the vote FAILED by a 5-2 vote (yes: John L and Jared; no: Skip, Carl, Terri, John B; Nancy). A vote was then taken on Carl’s main motion and the motion PASSED by a 4-3 vote (yes: Carl, Terri, John B and Nancy; no: Skip, Jared and John L).

Video Project
John Burrill provided an update on the video project. We were still trying to get Mia Hamm to act as narrator.

Bad Standing
Jim Gondek provided an overview of organizations that had still not affiliated, and organizations that still had not paid the additional $.50 fee increase assessed by US Soccer. John Linnehan moved to place these organizations in bad standing if they remain unaffiliated or refuse to pay. Nancy Hart seconded. 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. No discussion.

New Business
- No new business

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Gondek for Steve Smoller, Secretary

Addenda:
September 16, 2002
Executive Director Report – August 2002

A substantial portion of the office activity during the month of August has been devoted to the Fall 2002 registration process.

- August registrations were due in mid-August. To facilitate affiliations we offered organizations the opportunity to pay an invoiced amount, then submit the actual registration paperwork and a final accounting. Only about 30% of the organizations took advantage of this approach. One of the things we discovered was that this approach actually increased workload in the office as we often spent time dealing with questions on how the number we invoiced was determined.
- In conjunction with the registration processing, we worked with the several tournaments that were set to run on Labor Day. The tournament directors were extremely helpful in helping us get organizations affiliated. As a result, all Mass teams that participated in Mass sanctioned tournaments were affiliated.
- We have also been working with the Leagues, providing them with updated reports of affiliated organizations. This will continue through the end of the month. By the 18th, we will identify any unaffiliated organizations for possible bad standing action.
- The office also worked on the administrative aspects of getting ready for ODP tryouts that began this month. We will have registration support at all of the tryouts.
- Coach education activity remained at high levels throughout August and the early part of September. With a number of our instructional staff unavailable due to other coaching commitments, this has presented us with a challenge to adequately cover all courses. It appears October will remain busy as well.
- We are planning to enhance professional development in a couple of areas. We want to find Access training to increase our database capabilities. In addition, one of our employees has expressed interest in learning Spanish.

With respect to more global issues:

- The due diligence period for the Bovenzi sale has expired. Their deposit has been turned over to us. There are a few issues that need to get resolved, but the parties have agreed in principle to the terms. Tentatively we are looking to close on the sale no later than the early part of November.
- I continue to work with prospective sponsors for the complex. We should see the draft of one sponsor agreement within two weeks. A formal sponsor packet has been developed and this will be used to further promote interest in the soccer complex.
- Gatorade has dropped their sponsorship of state associations, looking instead to make more effective use of where their marketing dollars are utilized.
- Budget activity has been a major focus over the last few weeks. A new process this year was developed and the steps leading to the development of the budget was made more formal. This should provide a good base for budget development in the future.
- We will be sending between eight to ten representatives to the Region 1 meeting in October.

State Cup Report for September

September 17, 2002

To AI:

1. Total # of applicants for the 13's & 14's is 105 up 20% from last year

2. Search for Registrar continues

3. Challenge round matches in fall
   - Entry round played by 9/30 - 11 games
   - Challenge Round 1 - October 5, @ 4 locations throughout state - 30 games
Challenge Round 2 - October 26 @ 4 locations throughout state - 16 games

Respectfully submitted,

John Burrill
National Cup Commissioner
Mass Youth Soccer Board Of Directors Meeting  
October 16, 2002


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 or 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
Mass Youth Soccer Board of Directors Meeting  
November 20, 2001


Meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM. A quorum was declared present.

Acceptance of October BOD minutes

*John Burrill moved, seconded by John Linnehan to accept the minutes.* PASSED unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Jim Gondek submitted his report via email in advance; a copy is appended to the minutes. Jim also announced the recipients of the Coach of the year, Volunteer and Parent of the year, and this year's Hall of Fame inductees. Boys' Coach of the year—Joe Flynn of Marlboro; Girls' Coach of the year—John Ford of Braintree; Volunteer of the year—Mark Dewire of Waltham; Parent of the year—Joseph Silk of Worcester. Hall of Fame inductees are John Davagian and Paul Irwin.

Email addresses

*John Burrill moved, seconded by Tim Castle, that, effective immediately, all organizations that wish to register with Mass Youth Soccer must provide an email contact in order to register.* Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Program Managers

- State Cups – (see report in addenda)
- MTOC – nothing new to report.
- Instruction – submitted report at meeting:
  Development coaches and Dean have been putting a network together of local town and club coach education directors. In an effort to broaden this network, a meeting and clinic is planned for all existing town and club coach education directors and presidents as well as league presidents. The meeting is scheduled for Sat. Dec 1 at Wheaton College. The annual instructors’ meeting will be Dec 8 in Milford.
  Two regional youth conferences have been set (like mini symposium where each development coach puts on a one-day clinic. One clinic will be in Lowell Jan 12; the other will be at Massasoit Community College March 23.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart attended the Tide American Cup tournament in New Hampshire.
- Indoor – Greg Avakian has resigned. Discussion followed regarding a successor and whether the position is still required.
- Referees – Rich submitted his report via email (attached). He added that the re-certification clinics were currently under way. The Referee Committee requires in order to take the grade 8 course a referee attain the age of 15 or have at least one year's experience at another grade.

Web Update

Jillian Pierce is the office contact for updating the web page. Jillian’s email address is *jpierce@mayouthsoccer.org*

Proposed Mass Youth Soccer/UNICEF Festival Day

The technical staff suggested running a festival day involving a day of futsal games at various indoor facilities around the state, the proceeds of which would go to UNICEF with the specific
request the money be used to provide soccer equipment where it is needed. Tim Castle moved, seconded by John Burrell, to accept the proposal. Motion passed 6-1.

ODP Coaching Selection Ratification

The following slate of coaches was presented to the board by the ODP staff and Dean Conway for ratification:

U-13 Boys – Brett Jacobs coach, Mario Prata asst.
U-13 Girls – Glenn Cristofori coach, Jackie Shannon asst.
U-14 Boys – Tucker Reynolds coach, Greg Cosgrove asst,
U-14 Girls – Eric Stallings coach, Mike Bergstrom asst.
U-15 Boys – Mike Kersker coach, Jaros Scarpaci asst.
U-16 Boys – Tony Martune coach, Gary Crompton asst.
U-16 Girls – Jason Dewhurst coach.
U-17 Boys – Ralph Ferrigno coach
U-17 Girls – David Morris coach.

Discussion on the issue of using development coaches for ODP teams followed. John Burrell moved, seconded by Tim Castle, that the board ratify the slate of coaches as presented. Sid Bloom requested a "friendly amendment" that the coaches must sign a commitment to be available for the entire season, tournaments, and I.D. camps. The amendment was accepted and the motion passed 4-2-1.

Old Business

- Tim Castle inquired what was the status of the marketing position being considered. It is on the "back burner."
- John Burrell is still working on his video project.

New Business

- Email service: John Burrell moved, seconded by Skip Gorman, that MYSA cancel our CompuServe service by the end of the year. Motion passed unanimously.
- John Burrill commented the Bay Stater is much better. He also expressed a desire to receive the auditors report in a more timely manner so we can provide the information to our members. Carl Goldstein reported the audit report would be available in January. He expects to be able to send the information to the membership the beginning of March.
- Nancy Hart proposed we do what New Hampshire does – run the AGM, banquet, and symposium all on the same weekend.
- The Adidas coaches convention will be in February. Those program managers wishing to attend should make their requests.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

Executive Director's Report

With the Fall season winding down, we have been able to catch our breaths a bit and get caught up on some administrative issues. The following identifies some of the issues that have involved staff support:
We have completed the initial phase of the project to redesign our web site. Virtually everyone on staff provided support in gathering materials to be posted, modification of text to facilitate the actual posting and proofing the pages once they were on line. The amount of material and forms reviewed, developed, etc resulted in this project occupying a significant portion of our time.

The most recent issue of The Bay Stater was published, pretty much concurrent with the web activity. While I am convinced it was the right decision to use the paper to announce the launch the new site, the fact that both deadlines were nearly identical caused its own set of complications.

We have completed the first phase up updating our database records. Letters were sent out to all organizations validating data and invoicing outstanding balances due.

We secure the final payments of the special assessment. ODP tryouts were completed and supported by office staff. We are in the process of sending out the notification letters.

We have created a new database for The Bay Stater mail list. The paper is now being issued to more than 135,000 households. Additionally, we have a process established to internally adjust the mail list for address changes, deletions and additions. We are preparing to support the Annual Awards Banquet on December 2nd.

We are also working with the technical staff to develop a binder to be distributed to all organization coaching coordinators at the December 1 gathering.

In terms of other projects:

Work is proceeding on securing the necessary background support material to support this year's financial audit. Our target is to have this material available for the auditor by the end of November.

A series of meetings was held with representatives of Meredith & Grew. We provided them with background information about the site, access to all prior testing and other documentation and a list of individuals with whom we had prior discussions. In addition, we are working with them to develop marketing material.

I have been asked to attend a special session of the Governor's Council on Health & Fitness to discuss issues relating to health and fitness of the Commonwealth's youth. That meeting will be held on Saturday, December 1st.

We are establishing a formal process to regularly update the web site. The site will be reviewed weekly to ensure old information is removed, and we will be continually looking for current information to post. In addition to regular updates, we will shortly begin the next phase of the web development project that will lead, in part, to the ability of our members to complete forms on line without having to download and print.

Jim Gondek

SYRA Report

The Massachusetts State Referee Committee has been focusing on its registration and recertification season which began on 11-Nov-2001 and will continue until 01-Jan-2002. A postcard mailing was prepared and distributed to all 4,300 referees announcing the schedule. The MSRC website, www.massref.net, has been updated with information about this educational season.
With SRA Al Cosentino, I attended the SRA/SYRA Workshop in Colorado from 19-Oct-2001 to 21-Oct-2001. The program covered many policy statements, previewed a new educational video on off-side, and provided a great opportunity to learn about other state's programs. The US Soccer referee registration program was introduced and distributed.

I wrote and submitted articles for the November Bay Stater regarding referee registration and recertification. I gathered an educational piece for inclusion as well.

The quarterly MSRC meeting was held on 25-Oct-2001. Emphasis was placed on the importance of the Recertification Clinic schedule as an educational vehicle. Also discussed was a renewed focus on grade maintenance requirements. We reviewed a September letter to state level and higher referees regarding a requirement by Mass. Amateur that all higher level officials referee at least ten amateur games per year. Coincident to the meeting, several referees took a written exam for upgrade.

I was unable to attend a Leagues Committee meeting as yet, but John Linnehan attended an MSRC meeting. I wrote and distributed a policy statement regarding an age limit for candidates interested in a grade 8 referee certification.

I have worked with the MSRC Treasurer to try to produce a more useful reporting tool for the program directors of the referee committee. This is a work in progress.

Richard Frongillo

State Cup Report

The only state cup item for this month is that applications for Cup (13-19) together with payment in full are due to me by December 15.

John Burrell
Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting
December 18, 2002


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

Acceptance of November BOD minutes

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

Review of Audit

Carl Goldstein provided an overview of the FYE 08/02 audit draft that had been submitted in advance to the BOD. He commented on the scope of the FY balance and indicated that despite the favorable year, the corporation’s liabilities were still in excess of its cash position. He pointed out that there had been changes made from the prior year – we are now reporting all in-kind contributions; certain revenue is now categorized differently.

Dean Conway

On behalf of the BOD, Sid gave Dean Conway a plaque acknowledging Dean’s tenure with Mass Youth Soccer and his dedication and service commitment to the organization.

Dean addressed the BOD and thanked the group. He stressed the need for continued and improved communication at all levels. He also indicated he felt the need for the BOD to re-evaluate the direction the organization is taking – what are we going to do; who are we going to serve.

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.
- MTOC – John Linnehan reported that the planned dates for MTOC have been changed by UMass Amherst. MTOC will now be held on June 20 – 22. He also indicated that work was underway at revamping referee selection/use procedures. John also questioned the role that the Leagues Committee should have – should it be an expanded role dealing with general league issues? The suggestion was to change the C&B to provide the needed flexibility.
- Instruction – Report from Howie Blatt submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Howie then initiated a discussion as to the role he and the development coaches should play in selection of workshop clinicians.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart indicated that Ben Myers, a member of the Mass Youth Sportsmanship Committee, would be making a presentation to the Leagues Committee in January. In the theme of sportsmanship, the idea is to find a way to give coaches and parents a basic knowledge of the game. Sid stated that US Youth Soccer announced that Tide will be cutting its support for the Tide Jamboree to $4,000 next year.
- ODP – Jared Scarpad reported that he had revised the ODP coach selection guidelines for next year. He asked for some leeway in getting coaches submitted to the Board due to the hiring of a new Director of Coaching. Jared also reviewed the Overseas Travel Guidelines he had proposed and distributed prior to the BOD
meeting. Finally, he reported that he had secured Groton School for some ODP training in return for payment of in-kind support for athletics.

- SYRA – Marc Lamoureux reviewed the proposed MTOC referee selection requirements. He indicated that there was likely to be a reduced number of assignments over the course of a day, and acknowledged that as a result, more referees would likely be needed. He reported that we are ¼ to ½ way into recertification. The number should approach 3,000. Clinics have been reformatting, and the entry level courses have been well received.

Land Update

Jim Gondek provided an update on the land sale development. The Bovenzi Group had not closed as planned. Jim presented three options for proposed deals. The first was to continue to explore options with Bovenzi with a view of a January close date. The second was to accept an offer from David Hirsh ($1.25 million; close in early March). The third was to accept an offer from Brentwood Development ($1.0 million; close in mid-June). John Burrill moved, seconded by Nancy Hart, that we accept the Hirsh sale offer. Motion passed unanimously.

Video Project Update

John Burrill updated the BOD on the status of the video project. He indicated that additional equipment had been purchased by the director to clean up some of the noise issues, and that at least one of the individuals had been re-interviewed. The video was reviewed by the Leagues Committee and they plan to use it and may even extend its use to younger age groups. The video was sent to Larry Harmon, a member of the US Youth Soccer Board of Directors. There is a possibility that US Youth Soccer will fund the project. The Board also had a preliminary discussion on how the video might be distributed within the state. The video will be shown at the Adidas workshop and at the Mass Youth Soccer workshop.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- Marketing position – Jim Gondek reported that the job description has been completed and forwarded to the Executive Committee for review.
- John Burrill questioned the appropriateness of using email BOD votes for all but routine issues. The BOD generally agreed that on any substantive issue, either a special meeting needed to be scheduled or at a minimum a conference call had to be held.
- Nancy Hart asked for an update on the search to replace Dean, and the status of the Workshop. Jim commented on the results of the national search thus far. Skip updated the BOD on the status of the Workshop.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

Executive Director Report
Executive Director Report—November 2002
With snow on the ground and the holiday season fast approaching, office issues focused on
gearing up for the coming Spring season.

- Working with Jared, we prepared revised agreements for ODP coaches, assistant
  coaches and the Boy’s and Girl’s Administrators. These have been sent out for review
  and should be ready for distribution in December.

- Utilizing the recent ODP rosters created to date, we also began working on the player
  packets that will be distributed to all players selected for the several ODP teams. Again, a
  December mailing is planned.

- We also helped to coordinate the first indoor ODP training session for U13s and U14s.

- Bad standing letters were sent to the one player and two organizations with outstanding
  fees.

- We are working at developing a new mailing list for The Bay Stater. The new database,
  which will contain all new fall registrations, is expected to be ready for use in the March
  issue. Once done, the list will need to be modified to remove duplicate addresses within
  the same household.

- The office also provided support for the December Coach Education Director meeting
  and the Instructional Staff meeting held last weekend, and the regional Youth Conference
  held in November at Wheaton College.

- Al Consentino resumed activities on a part-time basis on December 6th. He will be working
  approximately four hours a day for the remainder of the month, with a new medical
  assessment scheduled for December 30th.

In terms of other activities:

- Advertisements soliciting resumes for the Director of Coaching were placed in Soccer
  America, the NSCAA web site and with US Youth Soccer. More than a dozen resumes have
  already been received.

- Sid and I met with Ray Cabral. Ray has agreed to serve as a temporary, part-time
  replacement for Jackie Shannon’s territory. Ray is scheduled to work 15 hours weekly,
  will report through me to Howie. The appointment will be re-visited after the new Director
  of Coaching has been selected.

- We are preparing to launch the first issue of an email newsletter “Free Kick” in mid
  December. Brian Lowe will be serving as editor, coordinating activity with Hammerhead.

- We have started to receive reservations for vendor space for the Workshop. We are
  promoting the Workshop with our regular course mailings and on the web site. Working
  with Skip Gorman, a preliminary schedule has been established.

- We have also dealt with the changing scene on the sale of a portion of our land. The
  Bovenzi sale did not close as planned in November. He had requested a three-month
  extension, which has not yet been granted. Subsequent to that, we received two
  additional offers for the same parcel. An additional overview will be presented at the
  Board meeting.

- The internal work supporting the audit is done. It is anticipated that the audit will be
  finalized before the end of the year.

- A job description for a Marketing Director has been developed and forwarded to the
  Executive Committee.

State Cups Report

We finally completed the challenge rounds for the fall. the final two matches took us an extra
month to play due to weather and team commitments, however the final two matches were
played under very favorable playing conditions.

State cup applications have closed for the 2003 year. We had 105 teams in the U13 & 14 age
groups apply in the fall. For the older ages we had 156 teams enter for a total of 261 teams in all.
This compares with a total of 296 for the 2003 year -however that figure contained 59 applications
for the U-12 age which we have since eliminated. thus the relevant number is 238 and therefore
we are up 25 in total over last year ( 10.5% ) for comparable ages.

The break out by age is as follows
We have two teams/clubs from the town leagues participating in this year’s cup competition, a 16 boys and 16 girls team. We also have 3 teams who will play in the New England premier league (and "y" league).

The seeding will be done on Thursday, December 19 and published shortly thereafter.

The budget assumptions for the state cup 2003 budget were based on a total of 250 teams.

John Burrill
National Cups Commissioner

Instruction report

- Dean Conway will be resigning his full-time State Head Coach position effective December 31, 2002. He will be staying on as part of the Mass Youth Soccer part-time Instructional Staff. The BOD, at the request of Sid Bloom, took a vote to reconsider its earlier decision to designate a November 30, 2002 resignation date for Jackie Shannon. Jackie had originally submitted her resignation with a December 31, 2002 date but the BOD instead designated a resignation date of November 30, 2002. Based upon the result of the reconsideration vote, Jackie Shannon was offered an alternative resignation date of December 15, 2002. Jackie respectfully declined the alternative resignation date. Jackie Shannon’s resignation of her full-time Development Coach position was accepted effective November 30, 2002. Ray Cabral, current Director of Player Development, was offered the opportunity to come on as a part-time Development Coach to help cover the South Shore region, previously covered by Jackie Shannon. Ray has accepted that opportunity and has already been contacting area league presidents and C.E.D.s to inform them of his new role.

- Jackie Shannon and Dean Conway led a Coach Education Seminar (November 19th) in North Attleboro. Both Dean and Jackie reported that the program went very well. Jackie Shannon also organized and facilitated the South Shore Regional Youth Conference at Wheaton College (November 24th). More than 100 coaches attended this conference. The conference offered coaching demonstrations (a progression through the various age groups and a goalkeeper session) facilitated by the three Mass Youth Soccer Development Coaches and the State Head Coach. This conference had the highest attendance of any previous regional youth conference to-date. I spent the entire day at the conference and the feedback, which I actively sought out, was consistently positive and constructive.

- I met with Tara Pierce, the Instructional Program Administrator, to better understand what her role is within the Instructional Program. We discussed the administrative end of managing the 3-Year Plans, the licensing courses, and discussed her many other responsibilities. Our discussion generated a couple of new, more immediate, ideas regarding some of the administrative elements related to the licensing courses. We also discussed a plan to meet with the Development Coaches, the Executive Director, Tara, and myself, sometime after the New Year, to generate ideas and suggestions as to how to make the 3-Year Plans more "administrator-friendly".

- The Second Annual Coach Education Directors Meeting at Fore Kicks (December 7th) had about 45 C.E.D.s in attendance. The morning session offered didactic presentations by the State Head Coach and the Development Coaches. The midday session offered the opportunity for C.E.D.s to meet together in small groups with other C.E.D.s in their specific regions. In these small groups, each with their respective development coach,
there was active discussion and brainstorming on a variety of relevant issues affecting our membership. The afternoon session offered live demonstrations of clinical materials presented at the conference. Two new programs, “Soccer Nights” (Local C & A Sessions) and the “Mass Youth Soccer Player Development Seminar” were introduced at the conference. Six C.E.D.s signed up to host the new “Soccer Nights” discussion groups right on the spot! From my various interactions with our C.E.D.s on that day, it was clear that our development coaches have been establishing solid working relationships with our interested members. The C.E.D.s that I sought feedback from had nothing but positive things to say about our instructional program offerings, our development coaches, and the instructional staff as a whole. Tara Pierce received many compliments as the program’s front line administrative contact person.

- The Annual Instructional Staff Meeting (December 14th) was a daylong meeting for the part-time Mass Youth Soccer Instructional Staff to refresh and update licensing course materials and the methodologies involved in teaching them. The morning session involved didactic presentations by the State Head Coach and the Development Coaches on the various levels of licensing courses. Jeff Pill, Bob Jenkins, and Geoff Anthony also did didactic presentations. The afternoon session had the instructional staff out on the field as demo players for the development coaches to review and demo licensing course methodologies. About 30 Instructional Coaches attended the all day meeting. I was very impressed with the tremendous working energy generated by our Instructional Staff.

- Mario Prata and I have begun talking with Jeff Pill and Bob Jenkins about their possible participation in the Mass Youth Soccer Workshop Coaches Clinics. We will be following up on this after the New Year. Mario is also working on the possibility of having the Portuguese community sponsor the Portuguese National Coach to visit the U.S. and do a coach’s clinic at the Mass Youth Soccer Workshop while he is here.

- I continue to attend weekly development coach meetings whenever possible. Each meeting starts with a soccer-related “philosophical warm-up” encouraging an open sharing of ideas that promoting team building & group cohesion. Recent meetings were used to do a post-conference review of the Coach Education Seminar (November 19th) and the South Shore Regional Conference (November 24th). They were also used to prepare for and process both the C.E.D. Conference (December 7th), and the Annual Instructional Staff Meeting (December 14th). In addition to planning, processing, and further developing ongoing programs, the development coach staff also uses these meetings to review the current literature on “the game” at all levels. The coaches discuss shared articles to keep up-to-date on the current trends and issues in the soccer world and to gain new program planning insights.

Respectfully Submitted,

Howie Blatt
Mass Youth Soccer VP of Instruction