Staff/Guests: J. Gondek, T. Reynolds, M. Singleton, A. Weiss * phone

A quorum was declared present, meeting called to order by Ted Ritchie at 7:03 pm.

USYS Benefits – Affiliation Continued Discussion
Mike Singleton led a brief continuation of the Board discussion of the US Youth Soccer benefits and affiliation dialogue started at the December Board meeting. Mike advised the Board that he and Ted Ritchie intend to meet with USYS executives at the NSCAA/USYS Convention in Philadelphia January 16 – 18 to continue the discussion.

Board Structure Discussion
Ted Ritchie presented a proposal for restructuring the non-officer Board of Director positions. Essentially, the proposal calls for Program Directors and At-Large Director positions to all become At-Large positions. Further, the number of positions would be reduced from 13 to a total of 12. Ted explained the intent of the proposal is to better align the composition of the Board with the mission of the organization and make the Board more nimble and better adaptive to future goals, operational requirements and strategic initiatives as the objectives develop and change. Consensus of the Board discussion was that the idea has merit, but that additional time is needed to evaluate and discuss the various aspects of the proposal before making a decision to execute any changes. The proposal was tabled for additional discussion at future Board meetings.

Acceptance of board minutes for December
The December minutes were initially distributed to the Board lacking a copy of the revised Investment Policy Guidelines approved at the December Board meeting attached in the Addendum. Discovering the omission, a Rev. 1 document including the revised policy document was emailed to the Board prior to the January meeting. Derek Smith pointed out a further amendment needed to the December minutes in the Financials section. The minutes read the Board approved a motion to transfer $900,000 from the TD Bank Operating Account to the Eagle Strategies Investment Account. In fact, the motion had been to transfer “up to” $900,000. Nancy Hart moved, seconded by Dan Bielenin, to approve the December Rev. 1 minutes as amended at the January meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Mike Singleton reported that the parking lot requirements issues continue to be discussed with the obligated parties.

Technical Director/Instructional Programs Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Communications Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Events and Programs Coordinator Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.
Board Program Manager Reports

Leagues Committee
John Linnehan advised the Board that discussions of potential changes to the competitive age groupings for MTOC eligible leagues in the U16 – U19 age groups are continuing. Any potential changes will be targeted for Spring 2015 implementation. Next Leagues Committee meeting is Sunday, January 12th.

Recreation report
Nothing new to report.

Instructional report
Included in Technical Director's report.

TOPS report
No report.

ODP report
Jared Scarpaci reported ODP indoor training started the first weekend in January at Fore Kicks Sports Complex in Marlborough. Indoor training will continue through March. Approximately 350 players are participating.

SYRA
Brian Treanor unable to attend due to illness. No report.

Financials
Derek Smith reported that he and Jim Gondek are working on an approach to properly allocate monthly financials based on the recent change in fiscal year. Updated financial report will be presented at the February meeting.

Derek also reported that the final amount transferred from the Mass Youth TD Bank Operating Account to the Eagles Strategies Investment Account was $800,000.

Finally, Derek advised the Board that the IRS has acknowledged the change in the Mass Youth fiscal year period. Derek is working with the Charities Bureau of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to obtain a waiver of a review/audit requirement for the two month period (September 1 – October 31) involved in the fiscal year change.

Board Members Reports on Club Visits
No reports.

President’s Remarks
None.

Old/New Business
None.
For the Good of the Game

Mike Singleton asked the Board to reflect on the fact that Mass Youth has been able to control finances to the point the organization has now been able to invest $1M. First time that Mass Youth has been in this position.

Mike also advised the Board that the mold remediation and HVAC repairs have been completed and staff has returned to the state office. Repaired heating system is working well.

Finally, the Board wishes to convey their thanks and appreciation to Events Coordinator Jen Fickett for an outstanding job in planning and coordinating the 2013 Mass Youth Awards Banquet. The annual event continues to draw accolades from the Board and the membership. Well done, Jen!

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Trudeau
Bob Trudeau
Secretary

Addendum:

January 2014 Mass Youth Soccer Executive Director Report—Mike Singleton

Mass Youth Soccer Fields at Progin Park
The snowy season is upon us. We will be notifying organizations that to our best ability the fields will be plowed throughout Feb to allow teams to train outdoor for their late Feb and early March tourneys and league play.

Office Renovation
The work is now complete. Mold levels are now at normal levels and not a threat. The HVAC work underwent a few adjustments due to the odd configuration of our office, old ductwork and machines that needed to be removed, and electric work needing to be done. We now have heat pump units in some offices and a heat pump using existing ductwork to heat the board room and 2nd floor. All is functioning well.

Staff
Staff worked well during the renovation and it helped that many of us were on vacation for a portion of the office renovation work.

NSCAA Workshop
Coaching staff and many board will be at the NSCAA conference next week.

AGM
Our AGM is scheduled for March 22nd at the Leominster Double Tree by Hilton.
**Banquet**

Special thanks to Jen Fickett for her extra hard work to make this year’s banquet a resounding success. We saw an increase of over 100 people attending. Thank you to all staff and board who helped as I received many positive words and thanks from many of our members.

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**Instructional Program Report**

**January 2014**

*Respectfully Submitted by Ian Mulliner, Technical Director and Howie Blatt, Director of Instructional Programs*

**Technical Director**

Happy New Year and let’s hope we have seen the worst of what Mother Nature has to throw at us for the time being at least! We did have some programs impacted by the weather towards the end of 2013 and at the beginning of 2014 but hopefully now we can get a run of programming going. I am looking forward to the Convention in Philadelphia and will be seeking out ways to improve what we offer during the workshop.

**Coaching Education**

We will be kicking off the coaching education season towards the end of January and are in process of setting up more courses prior to the spring season. We have received confirmation from US Soccer that Mass Youth Soccer has been approved to host a C license course in August at our field complex. Course requests are starting to come in for before the spring season, we have F courses scheduled in Harvard, Martha’s Vineyard, Leominster, West Roxbury United, Grafton and Marblehead. We also have E courses scheduled in Grafton, N. Andover and an ALL women E course in Lancaster. The D license course that began in November will finish in early March at Framingham State University, and we will begin another D license course in late March also at Framingham State University.

**Coach and Player Development Program (CD and PD) & Specialty Clinics**

We currently have programming running in Amesbury, Arlington, Holden and Quincy.

**Technical Development Center’s**

TDC programs are running in Amesbury, Mansfield, Burlington, Lowell, Hingham, Leominster, Middleton and Somerville. There is still limited space available in Springfield, Waltham and the 3rd hour of Somerville. The Goalkeeping specific sessions have been well received and are a great addition to our programs.

**In Conclusion**

I am looking forward to making 2014 the best year yet for our organization and our membership.

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**JANUARY 2014 DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS BOARD REPORT**

**SPONSORSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Our partnership with Dicks Sporting Goods has expired and we have yet to receive any word from Dicks as to whether they want to extend the relationship. Despite our continued efforts to market Dicks above and beyond the terms set forth in the original agreement, Dicks has told us on occasion that they were not receiving what
they believed should be commensurate commercial benefits. We believe the perceived lack of return is due in part to the extremely narrow scope of merchandise covered by the Dicks promotions and also to our partnership with Soccer.com who offers a far more comprehensive selection of soccer merchandise. In the event Dicks opts not to extend the agreement, we will contact The Sports Authority who has been inquiring into a partnership agreement with us for more than two (2) years.

Both Dinn Bros. and NEPA Blue Heron have been contacted with regard to their partnerships. We are requesting a three (3) year extension for both of their contracts under the same terms and conditions. Dinn Bros. gives us and all affiliated organizations a 20% discount off all catalog pricing and provides us numerous plaques and awards for free. NEPA Blue Heron continues to offer us and all of our affiliated members a 30% discount on t-shirts. They also provide all of our screening and embroidery services. Both partners have displayed exemplary customer service over the past two years and we want to continue our partnership long term.

WEBSITE REDESIGN
An overhaul and simplification of the website is well under way. Each of the hundreds of pages is being evaluated. We are looking to delete out-of-date pages, simplify each page, remove redundant pages and to consolidate pages where possible. Performing these tasks prior to the website update will make the transition far smoother. The new website will only have a single bank of buttons. Below is our working draft of the buttons and the corresponding dropdown directories.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ABOUT</th>
<th>PROGRAMS</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
<th>ADMIN</th>
<th>COACHES</th>
<th>COMPLEX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission Statement</td>
<td>Technical Development Centers</td>
<td>State Cup (Figuring)</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Education (Sch)</td>
<td>Directions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directory</td>
<td>Summer Training Centers (STC)</td>
<td>Important Dates</td>
<td>CORI</td>
<td>G License</td>
<td>Map</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOD</td>
<td>ODP Training Academy</td>
<td>Continuity of Roster</td>
<td>Annual Report</td>
<td>F License</td>
<td>Rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office</td>
<td>Tryout Services</td>
<td>International Players</td>
<td>Affiliated Orgs</td>
<td>E License</td>
<td>Hotels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coaching Staff</td>
<td>Specialty Clinics</td>
<td>Schedules and Brackets</td>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>D License</td>
<td>Concession Stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leagues</td>
<td>Camps</td>
<td>Archives</td>
<td>Sanctioned Camps</td>
<td>Practice Plans</td>
<td>Parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>ODP</td>
<td>Open Cup</td>
<td>Forms</td>
<td>U6</td>
<td>Rental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGM</td>
<td>Outreach Programs</td>
<td>MTDC (LP - ActivitySummary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bylaws</td>
<td>GOALS</td>
<td>Draws and Schedules</td>
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<td>U12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policies</td>
<td>District Select</td>
<td>Archives</td>
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<td>U14-18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appeals</td>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>President’s Cup</td>
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<td>Goalkeeping</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minutes</td>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>Archives</td>
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<td>Backyard Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hall of Fame</td>
<td>Parent Courses</td>
<td>Kohl’s Cup</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region 1</td>
<td>Tournaments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partners</td>
<td>Annual Banquet</td>
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<td>Golf Classic</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Home Page will have ten (10) rotating assets, a video block, a news block, and semi-permanent directory blocks. It will have a block for rotating partner logos. The exact placement of each block will be finalized in our meetings with American Eagle at the NSCAA Convention.

PROGRAM MARKETING
We appreciated tremendous results in our new, more comprehensive marketing campaign for the Technical Development Centers (TDCs) this year. The main difference in our marketing was the increased involvement and commitment of our State Coaches in marketing the TDCs at their events all fall. Marketing materials included posters at the complex, e-Blasts to all organizations, an increase website presence, personal emails from the Program Manager to returning organizations and organizations in towns surrounding TDC host towns, pamphlets and brochures distributed by the State Coaches and placed on windshields at the complex. It was clearly the distribution efforts of the State Coaches that made the biggest difference. We plan to employ these same marketing tactics to other Technical Department programs as well as to our District Select Program.
Awards Banquet Recap
Our Massachusetts Youth Soccer Annual Awards Banquet held on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Leominster proved to be another huge success with over 250 in attendance. Special thanks to Dinn. Brothers for providing the awards, SportScarf for providing the Massachusetts Youth Soccer scarves and Paula Lawrence and her staff at the DoubleTree by Hilton Leominster.

This event would not have been possible without the support and teamwork from our board and staff. A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to the board and staff members in attendance, especially the following who were instrumental in the success of the banquet: Dan Bielenin, Howie Blatt, Mike Borislow, Caroline Foscato, Nancy Hart, Ray Robinson, Jared Scarpaci, Derek Smith, Brian Treanor, Marlene Gondek, Carla DeSantis, Eric Duda, Terri Filippetti, Tommy Geis, Jim Gondek, Lynn Gugliuzza, Ian Mulliner, Tara Petricca, Tucker Reynolds, Dick Threadgould, and Loy Urbina, along with emcee Mike Singleton and Ted Ritchie. We have already started preparing the details for 2014!

2014 Programs/Events Orders
We will be placing the bulk of our orders between February 1st-15th for all programs/events occurring between now and July to ensure the most favorable bulk pricing as well as to ensure all orders are accurate and received prior to May.

Fields Update
The online scheduling solution major reprogramming is expected to be completed by January 10th for retesting. We anticipate having some of our user groups help test the system mid-to-late January and hope to go live with the scheduling solution in February.

Upcoming Tournament(s):
- Scorpion Bowl Girls Weekend March 1-2
- Scorpion Bowl Boys Weekend March 8-9
- NEFC Boys Weekend March 14-16
- NEFC Girls Weekend March 21-23

Hotel Update
We are currently accepting reservations for the two Scorpion Bowl weekends, NEFC Boys weekend and NEFC Girls weekend in March as well as the GPS Memorial Day College Showcase. We have already booked out 239 of our 540 rooms for Memorial Day and anticipate being sold out before March.

The process continues to be more efficient each year as returning teams understand the process as well as teams being able to reserve multiple tournament weekends with one phone call and/or email. We continue to receive positive feedback on how easy and efficient our process is.
Thoughts on restructuring the Directors of Massachusetts Youth Soccer

With Terri having moved to a position as part time staff, and continuing to do her work as National Championship Series [State Cup] as well doing other registration functions as directed by Mike, this raises the issue of a BOD position dedicated specifically to the National Championship Series. Do we need a BOD member to ‘run’ the NCS program? We have been functioning very effectively since the spring without this 13th non-officer Board position and I think we can continue to do so.

I’d like us to:

• Open a broader conversation on BOD positions in general and re-evaluate how our current BOD positions line up with our current needs as an organization;
  o For example: the BOD position for Outreach Programs and TOPSoccer – with the job Ray is doing building TOPSoccer into the leading state program of all of USYS, wouldn’t we be better served as an organization by separating the position into two – one overseeing and guiding the TOPSoccer program and another leading our efforts in Outreach Programs?
  
  o Or, the position of Recreation Director: I have always thought it unusual that we have a position dedicated to recreation that includes a program that is highly selective and competitive and which was intended as the feeder program to ODP.

  The broadest base of our membership is the recreational player. And serving the recreational players of our organization is a huge task, in and of itself. I think our organization and membership would be better served by separating the District select program and the Recreational Program and have each of these functions overseen by different individuals.

  We might further consider subdividing the recreation program into two – say, one group for ages up to U12, and a second for those U13 and older.
  
  o We might also, as a board, brainstorm other programmatic or systemic areas, or formal committee chairs, where BOD guidance and leadership could be applied, such as:
    ▪ Strategic planning
    ▪ Technology, including CRM functionality
    ▪ Membership Development
    ▪ Inner City Program Development
    ▪ Governance
    ▪ Budget
These are offered only as examples, and the list can be much broader.

- There is also room for discussion on how we better manage the need for member organizations’ liaison and representation on the BOD. Under our current ‘regional representative’ structure there are member organizations, such as open clubs or open leagues, which are not represented.

- Would we not be better served, organizationally, by having our non-officer Board members elected just as ‘At Large’ Board members without specific titles or pre-established roles? And have individuals be recruited, or run, for election to the BOD based on their skills or expertise and what they could bring to the BOD? As we have seen over the past several years, and as our organization continues to grow in operational complexity, we require broader resources to guide us in our decision-making capacity as a board. Just a few examples would include:
  - Legal resources for litigation and liability management purposes;
  - Medical resources for advice on things such as concussion policy;
  - Real estate expertise for land management and development;
  - Construction resources to effective manage our physical plant;

- And then have the needed spheres of oversight, guidance and leadership, like ODP, Instruction, TOPSoccer, Outreach, or whatever else we, as a BOD, determine as needed areas for the future growth, development and progress of our organization, be assigned to BOD members by the President and the Executive Committee on a term by term basis, based on each individual BOD member’s areas of interest, skill and expertise?

- As we approach our next Annual General Meeting this March, we will need to charge the Nominating Committee with the task of creating a slate of candidates. Do we continue with our current structure of programmatic and at Large board positions or do we move in a different direction?

With all this in mind, I’d like to propose the following:

**PROPOSAL:**

1. Reduce the number of non-officer board positions to twelve (12) from the current thirteen (13), removing the currently vacant National Championship Series position;
2. Instead of the current mix of non-officer programmatic and at large board positions, we transition to a structure of exclusively ‘at large’ positions. These at large positions would be elected in a rotating annual cycle of four each year for terms of three years. These at large directors would not be elected to specific program
positions, nor restricted as to residency in specific ‘districts’ as has previously been the case;
3. That we charge both the Nominating Committee, and ourselves as current Board members, to seek out and recruit candidates for the Board who, in addition to their interest in youth soccer, bring an expertise, skill or talent that we determine as a need in our board composition.
4. Then, going forward, the President and the Executive Committee would be charged with the responsibility of appointing or assigning at large board members to fulfill the liaison and oversight of specific tasks, responsibilities and initiatives as determined by the full Board of Directors.

This proposal is designed to better align the composition of our Board of Directors with our mission as an organization, and make us more nimble and better adaptive as our goals, needs, operational requirements and strategic initiatives continue to develop, refine, or redefine and change, moving forward.
This proposal is not intended to displace individuals or programs – rather, it intends to better utilize our resources as a board and collaboratively focus and revitalize us with the goal of improved vision, initiative, and growth organizationally.

**PROPOSAL: FOR DISCUSSION**

**Composition of Board of Directors.**

The Board of Directors shall consist of the following elected Officers and other appointed or designated positions:

- President
- Executive Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary/Clerk
- At-Large Directors (12 positions)
- Director(s) Emeritus

In addition, the Immediate Past President shall remain a voting Director for one year after the election of his or her successor.

**Nomination and Election of the Board of Directors.**

The Board of Directors shall be elected by the Members at the AGM, based upon the following schedule.
The President and Treasurer each shall be elected for a three-year term, commencing with the 2015 AGM and thereafter for a three-year term;

The Executive Vice President shall be elected for a three-year term, commencing with the 2014 AGM and thereafter for a three-year term; and,

The Secretary/Clerk shall be elected for a three-year term, commencing with the 2016 AGM and thereafter for a three-year term.

At-Large Directors shall commence election based on the following schedule:

Four At-Large Directors shall be elected for a three year term commencing with the 2014 AGM and thereafter for a three-year term;

Four At-Large Directors shall be elected for a three year term commencing with the 2015 AGM and thereafter for a three-year term; and,

Four At-Large Directors shall be elected for a three year term commencing with the 2016 AGM and thereafter for a three-year term.

6.05 At-Large Directors.

The At-Large Directors shall serve on the Board of Directors and shall have such projects and responsibilities as may be assigned by the President with approval of a majority of the Executive Committee.

**CURRENT**

2014 [C]  
Executive Vice President  
Director - Leagues Committee  
Director - Instructional Programs  
Director - Recreational Programs  
District 3 - Director-at-Large  
District 5 - Director-at-Large

2015 [A]  
President  
Treasurer  
Director - Olympic Development Program  
Director - National Cup  
District 1 - Director-at-Large  
District 7 - Director-at-Large

2016 [B]  
Secretary/Clerk  
Director - Outreach Programs  
District 2 - Director-at-Large  
District 4 - Director-at-Large
then:
2017 [C]
2018 [A]
2019 [B]

PROPOSED
2014 [C]  Executive Vice President
          Director At Large [C1]  (now Leagues)
          Director At Large [C2]  (now Instructional)
          Director At Large [C3]  (now Recreational)
          Director At Large [C4]  (now D3)
          Director At Large [A4] * (now D5)
Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting
February 12, 2014

Staff/Guests: J. Gondek, T. Reynolds, M. Singleton.

A quorum was declared present, meeting called to order by Ted Ritchie at 7:09 pm.

Acceptance of board minutes for January 2014
Nancy Hart moved, seconded by Dan Bielenin, to approve the minutes for January 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Mike Singleton reported that he had a discussion with the Prime Group, the new operators of the Toyota auto dealership. He and Ted Richie reported on their discussions with US Youth Soccer leadership at the Philadelphia meeting and they both noted that US Youth Soccer leadership would respond to Mass Youth’s questions within 30 days of the discussions and that the 30 days would end Sunday February 16, 2014. Mike Singleton then raised the subject of the ongoing Parking Agreement dispute. He advised that he had had conversations with the other parties regarding locking the driveway and thereby preventing dump trucks from reaching the quarry. Under the Parking Agreement Mass Youth was responsible for completing the drawings and the other responsible for creating a 1,500 vehicle parking lot. The existing configuration would have cars enter the new parking lot off of Old Union Turnpike and exit the parking lot off of Route 70 near the Flea Market. Mike Singleton would like both the entrance and the exit to the new parking lot to be from Subdivision Road and Route 70. Initially Subdivision Road will be 2 lanes but Mr. Boucher wants to develop his property and make the road a four lane thoroughfare. Mr. Singleton proposes that a walkway would be constructed from the new parking lot to both the upper and lower sets of fields. Mike Singleton also wants to use Stantec, the firm that presented us with drawings last year, to prepare the parking lot drawings. The Board authorized Mr. Singleton to pursue further options.

Technical Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Mr. Blatt reported that he had seen a demo of the new Coaching Manual yesterday.

Communications Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Tucker Reynolds reported that Dick’s Sporting Goods has now reached out to him regarding sponsorship and that he will keep us posted on discussions with both Sports Authority and Dick’s Sporting Goods.

Events and Programs Coordinator Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.
Board Program Manager Reports

Leagues Committee

John Linnehan reported that the Leagues Committee met on Sunday February 9th and had the draw for wild card teams for the 2014 MTOC tournament. The preliminary schedule for the tournament is being prepared. Mr. Linnehan mentioned that there was a lot of discussion at the meeting regarding referee development. Ted Ritchie noted that the referee leadership needs to focus on the younger referees rather than helping Grade 7 referees become Grade 6 referees. Mike Singleton noted that we have a perfect storm situation – new players, new coaches, new parents, and new referees. Mr. Ritchie reported that he will facilitate a discussion with referee leadership and the Leagues Committee, probably at the April 2014 committee meeting.

Recreation report

Nothing new to report.

Instructional report

Included in technical director’s report.

TOPS report

Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Ray Robinson reported that there are 300 people involved with TOPS in Needham.

ODP report

Jared Scarpaci reported that the U13/U14 boys will be traveling to Portugal during the February school vacation period.

Financials

Derek Smith distributed and commented on the current financial statement. Dan Bielenin moved, seconded by David Martinez to accept the Treasurer’s report. Motion passed unanimously.

Old/New Business

- Upcoming Annual General Meeting Items – Ted Ritchie reminded all that the ByLaw changes proposed at last year’s AGM were tabled. They included a change in the title of Region Directors to At Large Directors, a change in the responsibilities of Region Directors, and the movement of descriptions and responsibilities of all directors other than Officers to the Policy and Procedures Manual from the ByLaws. Mr. Ritchie also noted that this year in addition to the tabled ByLaw changes there would be the following proposed changes – (1) Implementation of Term Limits for Directors; (2) Director Emeritus definition change; and (3) changes in the Nomination Committee dates. The current ByLaw provides for the Nominating Committee to present its report of candidates 60 days in advance of the AGM. Others then have time to be nominated for election. The consensus is that the time period should be shortened to 45 days in advance of the AGM. Derek Smith moved, seconded by Nancy Hart, that the 3rd sentence of ByLaw 1.03.4 be deleted and replaced with “The Nominating Committee shall report its slate of proposed candidates to the President and the
Executive Director no later than 45 days preceding the AGM.” Motion passed unanimously.

- **Nominating Committee Report** – Ted Ritchie reported that he had received the Nominating Committee's Report of candidates for election at the 2014 AGM. Discussion followed on steps to be taken to ensure that the Board include members younger in age than current Board members. **John Linnehan moved, seconded by Dan Bielenin, that the Nominating Committee Report be accepted.** The motion was approved by all directors except for Michael Borislow who abstained as he is a nominee for election.

- **Columbus Day Tournament** – Mike Singleton led a discussion on the use of the playing fields over the Columbus Day weekend. Mr. Singleton noted that many town organizations run tournaments on this weekend and he did not want the membership to perceive that Mass Youth was competing with them. The current user of the fields is a club organization that runs a town tournament. There was reference to possibly having a lacrosse event on the turf fields. Above all, Mike Singleton did not want to have an outcome that was an albatross. The consensus of Board members was that having a club organization run a town tournament is not a conflict.

- **Philadelphia USYS Meeting** – Ted Ritchie reported that the Governance Committee issued its report at the meeting. The consensus was that Region 1’s views clashed with the other regions’ views in that Region 1 was opposed to the report’s recommendations. Mr. Ritchie also suggested that Mass Youth is not the only organization looking at options for future affiliation with USYS.

- **Bleachers** – Mike Singleton reported that staff are looking at installing bleachers around the fields. Each bleacher would hold about 50 to 60 people. The project would take several years with four fields done each year. The board conceptually agreed with the plan and asked Mr. Singleton to come back with a formal proposal.

- **Staff Changes** – Mike Singleton reported that Jim Gondek is retiring in March 2014 and that Tara Petricca would replace him. Mr. Singleton is coordinating the transition and arranging for Ms. Petricca to get some training. Mike Singleton announced that he is resigning from Mass Youth to become Head Men’s Soccer Coach and Associate Professor at Washington and Lee University in Virginia. He will remain with Mass Youth through the search and transition to a new Executive Director. Ted Ritchie said that the field of potential candidates was large and the process should be completed in time for Mr. Singleton to accept his new position.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Derek A. Smith
Treasurer

Addendum:
Mass Youth Soccer Fields at Progin Park
The cold and snow has made opening our fields impossible as a 2 inch layer of ice is covering the turf fields. Dick had the fields almost playable until we got hit with three storms within 7 days making it impossible to keep up. He will try his hardest to clean the fields as soon as the weather allows.

Staffing
Tara has now stepped into the Controller role. Given we have yet to hire her replacement Jim is still working PT.

Howie, Ian, and I have looked through over 40 applications for the Technical Department Manager position. There have been many highlight qualified candidates and we will be closing interviews on Tuesday, March 4th. We will have information as to our suggested replacement at the meeting.

I have emailed many leaders around the country about the now open Executive Director position and hope we see some quality applications.

US Soccer AGM
It seems USYS has no right to prevent us from bifurcating our membership per USSF Bylaws. This was one major discussion point at this meeting and David and I will report much more for discussion.

We had a meeting about the proposed Bylaws update of USYS and there is a still a great deal of unrest amongst states about many of the proposed changes.

AGM
Our AGM is scheduled for March 22nd at the Leominster Double Tree by Hilton.

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Instructional Program Report March 2014

Respectfully Submitted by Ian Mulliner, Technical Director and Howie Blatt, Director of Instructional Programs

Technical Director

Where do I begin to express our heartfelt thanks to our beloved Department Manager Tara Petricca – The Voice of Massachusetts Youth Soccer - for all that she has done for our department over the past 13 years? Good luck to Tara in her new position as Massachusetts Youth Soccer Controller. As if that wasn’t enough to deal with we are also coming to terms with the imminent departure of our influential and visionary leader Mike Singleton. I would just like to say congratulations and thank you to Mike for your leadership and assistance during my short time here serving in the role of Technical Director.
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**Events and Programs Coordinator Board Report: March 5, 2014**

*Submitted by Jen Fickett*

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Below is a year to date summary of current orders/status.

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<td>Uniforms X</td>
<td>Coach Gear X</td>
<td>Resale Tees ✓</td>
<td>Player Kits X</td>
<td>Parade Tees ✓</td>
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<td>Medals ✓</td>
<td>Field Staff Tees ✓</td>
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<td>Tryout Tees ✓</td>
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- DSP Coach Tees
- DSP Tags
- Pending Orders: GOALS Tees
- Pending Orders: Plaques
- Pending Orders: Credentials
- Pending Orders: Tourney Tags
- Pending Orders: Ref Tees
- Ref Pins X
- Ref Tees ✓
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- Pres Cup Tees ✓
- MVP Awards ✓
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- Champion Tags
- Resale Tees
- Open Cup

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As always, most of February has been spent on coordinating hotels for teams participating in the two Scorpion Bowl weekends, NEFC Boys weekend and NEFC Girls weekend in March as well as the GPS Memorial Day College Showcase. The following is an estimate of the number of teams that have been booked to date. An actualized room night report for the March tournaments and 2013 comparison will be provided in April.

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Ray Robinson
Director of Outreach Programs
TOPSoccer
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<td>21 teams</td>
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<td>B12</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>B13</td>
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BOD 03/05/2014
Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting
March 5, 2014

Staff/Guests: J. Gondek, M. Singleton, B. Treanor, A. Weiss

A quorum was declared present, meeting called to order by David Amidon at 7:08 pm.

Acceptance of Board Minutes for February
The February minutes submitted by Derek Smith were reviewed. Dave Martinez moved, seconded by Dan Bielenin, to approve the February minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report
Derek Smith presented a financial Statement of Activities comparing the three month period ending 01/31/2014 to previous three-month period ending 01/01/2013. Overall, the organization is in good financial shape. Derek noted recent investments have already yielded $17K in investment income.

Player Priority Guidelines
Mike Singleton led a discussion of the Player Priority Guidelines for Multiple Rostered Players in the Mass Youth Policies, Procedures and Regulations document. Mike pointed out that “new” league New England Premier (NEP) and new tournament Massachusetts Open Cup are not listed in the current Guidelines document. Mike advised the Board that the heaviest volume of phone calls/emails regarding the Guidelines to the State office occurs in the June timeframe regarding conflicts between State Cup and residency based league playoff tournaments. Lengthy discussion ensued concerning whether Guidelines are a recommendation or a requirement. Additional discussion of ideas how to fit the policy to today’s changing youth soccer environment. David Amidon requested Board members to work on recommendations for the Guidelines for the April Board meeting.

Report and Discussion of US Soccer AGM
Mike Singleton, Ted Ritchie and David Amidon attended the US Soccer AGM the weekend of February 28 – March 2 in New York City. In a meeting of US Youth Soccer members at the US Soccer AGM, executive leadership for US Youth Soccer presented a number of by-law change proposals to address membership concerns expressed at a US Youth Soccer Summit in January 2014 in Texas. The draft proposals are being targeted for presentation to the membership for ratification at the US Youth Soccer AGM scheduled for the July 26, 2014 in Baltimore. Mike’s, Ted’s and David’s consensus is that proposed by-law changes are vague and do not address the concerns raised at the January 2014 summit meeting. During discussion, USYS leadership could not explain what benefits to the membership would be derived from the changes. Additional US Youth Soccer meetings to discuss changes to the proposals prior to their AGM are anticipated. Mike also reported that Ted and John Sutter, US Youth Soccer President, are trying to connect to discuss the Mass Youth proposal to only affiliate premier level players with US Youth Soccer. Due to business travel commitments, the contact is pending. More to follow by April meeting.
Executive Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Mike Singleton reported that the parking lot requirements issues continue to be discussed with the obligated parties.

Technical Director/Instructional Programs Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Mike Singleton and Howie Blatt reported that with the recent retirement of Jim Gondek, Tara Petricca is being promoted to the position of Controller. Howie also reported that after interviews of 12 candidates by Mike, Howie and Ian Mulliner, Tamie Endow, current Director of Member Services, has been offered, and has accepted, the Technical Department Management position.

Communications Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Events and Programs Coordinator Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Board Program Manager Reports

Leagues Committee
John Linnehan advised the Board that the Leagues Committee, at the request of several league members, is conducting a survey of all leagues’ paid positions. Purpose of the survey is to assist league Boards in understanding the range of paid positions and salaries within member leagues in the Mass Youth community. Survey should be completed in the April/May time frame.

Recreation report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Instructional report
Included in Technical Director's report.

TOPS report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

ODP report
No report.

State Cup, Open Cup, President's Cup report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

SYRA
Brian Treanor reported that Region 1 referee slots for Massachusetts's referees are being reviewed. He noted that the 2014 President’s Cup will be held in Western Pennsylvania region, which has a state law requirement that no referee can be less than 18 years old and must have a thorough background check. MSRC is working the requirement issue with the Western Pennsylvania host organization. Brian reported that Mass Tournament of Champions is the next tournament to be solicited for referee recommendations from participating leagues. The last 2014 Referee Recertification course is scheduled for March 15th.
Andy Weiss reported that MSRC has now hired a new Communications Director, Matthew Ames. This is now a MSRC paid position for what was previously a volunteer position. Andy commented that given the difficulty in filling volunteer positions within MSRC, paid positions would become the wave of the future.

**Board Members Reports on Club Visits**
No reports.

**President’s Remarks**
None.

**Old/New Business**
Mike Singleton reported that he has been in discussions with Dunkin Donuts Company, which is very eager to open a full service store on Mass Youth Soccer property. Dunkin Donuts has expressed interest in a location on the left side of the hill at the main entrance to the Lancaster complex. Mike is investigating the potential of a combined Dunkin Donuts store/Mass Youth office complex building in that location.

**For the Good of the Game**
Mike Singleton reported that Cezar Wislocki-Wasecki, President of the Massachusetts Adult Soccer League, was elected to the USSF National Board at the US Soccer AGM in New York City the past weekend. Congratulations, Cezar!

Bob Trudeau reported that three referees who officiate within Mass Youth Soccer leagues have received invitations to officiate at the Special Olympics USA National Games. Tom Meler, Beverly, Jerry Morin, Berwick, ME (formerly from Salem, MA) and Bob Trudeau, Danvers will be officiating the SO National Games in Princeton, NJ, June 14 – 20, 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bob Trudeau**

Bob Trudeau
Secretary
Addendum:

March 2014 Mass Youth Soccer Executive Director Report—Mike Singleton

Mass Youth Soccer Fields at Progin Park
The cold and snow has made opening our fields impossible as a 2-inch layer of ice is covering the turf fields. Dick had the fields almost playable until we got hit with three storms within 7 days making it impossible to keep up. He will try his hardest to clean the fields as soon as the weather allows.

Staffing
Tara has now stepped into the Controller role. Given we have yet to hire her replacement Jim is still working PT.

Howie, Ian, and I have looked through over 40 applications for the Technical Department Manager position. There have been many highlight qualified candidates and we will be closing interviews on Tuesday, March 4th. We will have information as to our suggested replacement at the meeting.

I have emailed many leaders around the country about the now open Executive Director position and hope we see some quality applications.

US Soccer AGM
It seems USYS has no right to prevent us from bifurcating our membership per USSF Bylaws. This was one major discussion point at this meeting and David and I will report much more for discussion.

We had a meeting about the proposed Bylaws update of USYS and there is a still a great deal of unrest amongst states about many of the proposed changes.

AGM
Our AGM is scheduled for March 22nd at the Leominster Double Tree by Hilton.

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Instructional Program Report March 2014

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**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT**

March 5, 2013

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Cup Cup</th>
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<th>Presidents Cup</th>
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B12 18
B13 25 10 3
B14 29 6 2
B15 12 19 4
B16 12 19 2
B17 12 15 1
B18 12 7
B19 7

109 94 12 215 total
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<td>G19</td>
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**Total:** 197
Staff/Guests: S. Bloom, T. Petricca, T. Reynolds, M. Singleton, S. Smoller

A quorum was declared present, President Ted Ritchie called the meeting to order by at 7:01 PM.

Executive Committee Member
Ted opened the meeting by reminding the Board that the Executive Committee for the Mass Youth Board consists of the four officers – President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, plus a fifth member elected from/by the Board. The elected member’s tenure on the Executive Committee coincides with the term of their position on the Board. Mike Borislow, At-Large Director, held the position the past three years, therefore, the position was open for nominations. Nancy Hart nominated John Linnehan. Recently re-elected to the Board, Mike Borislow expressed interest in continuing in the position. Derek Smith nominated Mike Borislow. No additional nominations were submitted. Both candidates made brief statements of interest in the position to the Board. Secret ballot election was conducted. John Linnehan elected to the Executive Committee position. The Board thanked Mike Borislow for his service to the Executive Committee.

Update on US Youth Soccer Issues
Mike Singleton and Ted Ritchie briefed the Board on continuing discussions with US Youth Soccer executive leadership regarding Mass Youth Soccer concerns with the direction of US Youth Soccer and affiliation issues. Ted has attended a US Youth Soccer summit in Chicago, where preliminary by-law change proposals were presented to the membership. There were numerous concerns raised as to the centrist theme to the proposals (centralizing power with US Youth Soccer at the expense of the Regions). Another summit to be held in Frisco, TX on April 12, 13 and finalize revisions to the by-law change proposals prior to deadline for submittal and consideration at July 2014 AGM.

Update on Player Priority Policy Suggestions
David Amidon reported he has received little feedback from the Board for recommendations or revisions to the Player Priority Guidelines. David to create a “white paper” on the subject and circulate to the Board to stimulate discussion at the May Board meeting.

Acceptance of Board Minutes for March
The March Board meeting minutes submitted were reviewed. Bob Trudeau noted one typo on page 2, first paragraph – US AGM was held February 28 – March 2, not February 20 – March 2. Nancy Hart moved, seconded by John Linnehan, to approve the March minutes as amended. Motion passed 13 – 0, 1 abstention.

Executive Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Mike Singleton also reported on the field conditions at the Lancaster complex. Due to the hard work of Facilities Manager Dick Threadgould and his crew to keep the snow cover on the fields to a minimum, most of the complex is now snow-free. Turf fields are open, but natural grass fields are still closed. Prior experience has shown that using the grass fields before the fields dried and significant root growth occurred has resulted in significantly higher maintenance costs in fertilizer and hydroy-seeding and poor field conditions until fall.
Mike also reported that Jen Fickett, Events & Programs Coordinator for the State Office is leaving her position in April. Jen has accepted a position in her home state of Wisconsin as Region II Director. The Board wished Jen well in her new position and thanked her for a job well done for Mass Youth. She will be greatly missed. Mike reported that Jen’s replacement, Laurie Jimenez from Concord, will be working on the transition with Jen prior to her departure.

Reports of Program Managers

Leagues Committee
John Linnehan reported that the Committee held a short meeting immediately after the AGM. The Committee is inviting SRA and SYRA to next meeting to discuss referee course issues.

Recreation Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Technical Director/Instructional Programs Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Howie Blatt also reported the technical staff has been previewing new on-line instructional tools for possible use in the Mass Youth curriculum.

Communications Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Tucker Reynolds also reported that Chipotle Mexican Grill has just agreed to a one-year renewal of their partnership agreement with Mass Youth.

Events and Programs Coordinator Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

TOPS report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Ray Robinson also reported that Beyond Soccer, the group working with the underserved soccer community in the city of Lawrence, is trying to raise funds for construction of a turf field with lights.

ODP report
Jared Scarpaci reported that ODP teams begin outdoor practice on Monday, May 7th on the turf fields at Lancaster. ODP coaching staff and team managers training on First Touch, a bulk communication/media tool.

State Cup, Open Cup, President’s Cup report
No report

SYRA
No report.

Board Members Reports on Club Visits
Question raised as to who is the Mass Youth representative to the US Youth Soccer program Soccer Across America? Ted Ritchie took question under advisement.

Mike Singleton reported that Arlington Soccer Club has attained the highest registration number in the history of the organization – 1,800 + registrants.
Mike Borislow had an informal meeting with Aztec Soccer Club officials. Aztec was interested in the status of the Mass Youth – US Youth Soccer discussion re: affiliation. Mike reported that many clubs he’s spoken with are dual affiliated with US Youth Soccer and US Club.

**President’s Remarks**
None.

**Old/New Business**
With the pending departure of Mike Singleton July 1st, Ted Ritchie advised the Board of the appointment of a Search Committee for the Executive Director position. The Committee will consist of the Mass Youth Executive Committee (Ted, David Amidon, Derek Smith, Bob Trudeau, John Linnehan) and Board members Howie Blatt and Caroline Foscato. Participant from outside the Board will be Joe Cummings, NSCAA Executive Director, who will assist with resume screening and the final interview process.

**For the Good of the Game**
Mike Singleton reported the office is starting to receive inquiries for field use from local high schools during off-peak hours of 2-5 PM.

Short discussion of US Youth Soccer affiliation and Region I impact.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Trudeau

Secretary

Addendum:

**April 2014 Mass Youth Soccer Executive Director Report—Mike Singleton**

**Mass Youth Soccer Fields at Progin Park**
Dick has been working hard to keep the turf fields clear and to also try to aid in the melting of the snow from the grass fields. His and his staff’s hard work helped make the NEFC Tournament possible. Our grass fields are now almost fully clear of snow but the cold temperatures and precipitation we are continually getting is keeping them unplayable at this time. We forced the issue last year and suffered later in the season because of this. Warmer temperatures and better weather overall is needed to allow for root growth before play.
Staffing
Tara is working extremely hard as our Controller and she is doing a fantastic job of cleaning up some necessary files and reconciliations.

Tamie has stepped right in as Technical Programs Manager and has made it almost a seamless transition. She is started off running already.

Tara is helping Tamie with this transition and Tamie is helping our newest hire, Katie Hunt, transition into the CORI and Programs Manager role. Katie brings a strong background as a previous youth soccer board member, a youth hockey coach, a business administrator, and previous special needs teacher as well. She is overseeing CORI and helping administrate both District Select and Open Cup currently.

AGM
Our AGM on March 22nd was a success. Thanks to all board and staff who helped make this a successful day.

US Youth Soccer
Ted, David, and I did speak with John Sutter and Ted has since gone to Chicago to meet with the US Youth Soccer Board. I will defer any comments on these meetings to Ted. Please know that many conversations and emails are happening every day on such matters.

Instructional Program Report April 2014

Respectfully Submitted by Ian Mulliner, Technical Director and Howie Blatt, Director of Instructional Programs

Technical Director
I would like to welcome Tamie Endow and offer the support of the whole Technical Staff as she transitions from her role as the CORI Administrator into the her new role as the Technical Department Manager. We also welcome Katie Hunt as the newest member of the Mass Youth Family as she takes her role as the new CORI Administrator. I hope as we all do, that winter is finally behind us and spring will bring warmer temperatures.

We have been gearing up for the start of the season by attending meetings with the towns that we are working in to finalize formatting and scheduling. Earlier this month, I was involved in a meeting with the District Select Program Administrators where we discussed solutions to the new minimum coaching requirements for the District Select Program Coaches. As a result of the meeting we are looking to aid their coaches by providing license courses that coordinate with the schedules of the District coaches. This past Saturday I was in Danvers running a coaches clinic for Danvers Youth Soccer to promote our programs and provide support to their coaches.

I am ready to get outside so I will close by saying see you all out on the fields somewhere.

Coaching Education
We are in the midst of coaching education season and we have delivered courses throughout the state. Course registrations are currently meeting our projections for the spring season. We are still accepting course hosting applications from various towns and organizations.

Interest in the C License course is still coming in. To date we have 19 registrations. We hope to meet the minimum requirements prior to end of the spring season.
**Coach and Player Development Program (CD and PD) & Specialty Clinics**

Winter programming has ended and we are looking forward to spring and working outdoors once again with the following towns: Amesbury, Bellingham, Dracut, Foxboro, Framingham, Holden (2), Mansfield, Maynard, Melrose, Pepperell, Reading (2), Tewksbury, Westford and Wilmington.

Foxboro and Dracut have scheduled fall programs and others are in the planning stages. Requests for fall programs are coming in daily.

**Summer Training Centers**

Dates for our summer training centers are now posted on our website and we are receiving registrations for these events. We just had a meeting with Peabody to determine what kinds of summer programs we can provide for them.

**Technical Development Center’s**

TDC programs are completed in Amesbury, Mansfield, Burlington, Lowell, Hingham, Leominster, Middleton and Somerville. Cambridge began in January and we have two more sessions to finish out this center. We had over 400 players participating this winter.

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**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS APRIL 2014 BOARD REPORT**

**SPONSORSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Sports Authority has been extremely aggressive in their marketing with us. This weekend they are running a 2-day Appreciation Sale with 20% off your entire purchase (see: coupon below). Lani Hall, the Regional Marketing Manager, has agreed to work individually with any member organization she may hear from. This is a drastic change from Sports Authority’s predecessor.

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital has not re-signed as a corporate partner. I will explore the possibility of having Boston Children’s Hospital assuming Spaulding’s role as sponsor of TOPSoccer. Boston Children’s
remains aggressive in their marketing efforts through us and continue to focus on the Olympic Development Program.

I have re-entered negotiations with Chipotle Mexican Grill concerning renewal of their partnership agreement which expired at the end of 2013. Chipotle now has a new Community Marketing Manager assigned to our partnership. We have been told that Chipotle does not enter multi-year marketing agreements, so this renewal procedure will most likely take place on an annual basis. Chipotle did tell us that their “Meal Currency” campaign in which we handed out free meal cards at our tournaments had the highest redemption rate of any program in the country. We were also told that the Chipotle Youth Soccer weekend in September saw 34 of 37 area stores report participation. Again this was one of the highest responses in the country.

I continue to work with Nestle Inc.’s Boston-area marketing firm with regard to their Nesquik products. We have been delayed while our concessionaire decides whether to formally assent to Nesquik’s presence on the complex or not.

WEBSITE

The website redesign has progressed well. We made the home page redesign a collaborative effort amongst all staff members. Each staff member receives inquiries each day and we have attempted to make answers to those questions more accessible on our home page. Page views continue to increase each year and we believe making links even easier and clearer will increase visits to our website exponentially.

Below is a screenshot of the new home page. This is a structural shot only. The content is will obviously be our content. For a clearer shot go to

http://previews.americaneagle.com/previews/massyouthsoccer/massyouth_soccer_v1.2.html

Most notable about the new design is that we will have 10 rotating assets as opposed to 5. Also, unlike our existing home page, these assets have full video capability. Interior pages can also be set up as media pages. Our corporate sponsors will flash in sequence as opposed to being in a rotating banner. This saves spaces on our home page and individualizes sponsor exposure. The 3 buttons located centrally will be “permanent” buttons. One will be a forms button as we determined 75% of the questions asked of our staff were forms related. In December I installed a Forms “button” on our home page. In March it received more than 500 hits. I believe this is conclusive in our need for the permanent Forms button. The other buttons will link directly to our 2 most commonly visited pages.
In March our Coaching Lesson Plans received an aggregate of over 50,000 visits. We are using this in our development of partnerships and making it easier to reach “Practice Plans” will certainly help both our membership and our marketing efforts.

The most noticeable change to the website is the drastic cut in the number of “buttons” our home page will have. The entire bottom row of buttons will be consumed by a single line up top. This is in accordance with popular website design and administration. For seasonal programs (e.g. State Cup Brackets or DSP) we will use our rotating assets and “current events”. Below is the proposed
### Events and Programs Coordinator Report Board Meeting: April 2, 2014

*Submitted by Jen Fickett*

#### Purchasing Update
Below is a year to date summary of current orders/status.
- ✓ = Approved for Order
- X = Completed

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<tr>
<th>District Select</th>
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<th>ODP</th>
<th>State Cup</th>
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<tr>
<td>DSP Coach Tees</td>
<td>Ref Tees ✓</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Pending Orders:
- Resale Tees
- MVP Awards

#### Hotel Update
Final pick-up reports for the March tournaments are being completed at the time of this report. Below is an estimated number of teams for the NEFC Boys and Girls weekends.

- Scorpion Bowl Weekend I 6 teams (Lancaster location cancelled)
- Scorpion Bowl Weekend II 6 teams (Lancaster location cancelled)
- NEFC Boys Weekend 25 teams
- NEFC Girls Weekend 26 teams

We are currently completing rooming lists for 38 teams for the upcoming GPS Memorial Day College Showcase and still have a waiting list of approximately 12 teams. We again are estimating approximately 500+ rooms or 1,000+ room nights with the required 2-night minimum.
**Fields Update**

Both Scorpion Bowl weekends in March were cancelled this year and NEFC held their two weekend tournaments March 14-16 and March 21-23.

We will be assessing our grass fields on a daily/weekly basis now that the snow is melting for proper drainage before opening our grass fields. As of the date of this report submittal, grass fields will remain closed until deemed playable. League play opened the weekend of March 30th and 31st with Region 1 and youth league games being played on turf fields only. We will be rescheduling/cancelling games initially scheduled on grass fields for April 5th and April 6th.

Turf fields are in high demand right now until grass fields open, not just at our complex, but in other neighboring areas. Outside of the current demand for turf fields, our regular Tuesday-Wednesday rental is approximately at 44% capacity, Mondays 75% capacity (with ODP) and still a just few fields on Fridays. And we are at or near capacity on Sundays for league games.

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**Recreation Report April 2014**

By Nancy Hart

The coaches are currently taking and signing up for coaching licenses. We are organizing a course for June to make it more available for coaches to have an E license before the start of the season.

All items have been ordered with the exception of the coaches shirts which will be ordered soon as the coaches are still registering online.

Tryouts are starting at the end of April and players are currently registering online at Mass Youth for tryouts to make it a smoother registration process Tucker has sent out an Email blast to all past players and we are looking for higher numbers this season.

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**TOPSoccer Massachusetts Board Report April 2014**

Training schedule and Events:

- March 28th in Wilmington – Buddy Training session - Completed
- April 4th in Natick – Coaches training
- April 11th in Natick – Buddy training
• TOPSoccer events
  - The 2014 SSSL Friendship Games will be hosted by Raynham Youth Soccer and the TOPSoccer component of the Games will take place on **Sunday April 27 from 12:30pm - 2:00pm** at the **Borden Colony Athletic Complex (Arruda and Griffith Fields) at 2254 King Phillip St., Raynham, MA 02767**.
  - Wellesley — TBA
  - Wilmington — June

Ray Robinson
Director of Outreach Programs
TOPSoccer
Staff/Guests: S. Bloom, T. Petricca, I. Mulliner, T. Reynolds, M. Singleton, S. Smoller, B. Treanor

A quorum was declared present, President Ted Ritchie called the meeting to order by at 7:07 PM. Due to several BOD members late arrivals, the meeting initially addressed some agenda items out of order.

Acceptance of Board Minutes for April
The April Board meeting minutes submitted were reviewed. Nancy Hart moved, seconded by Mike Borislow, to approve the April minutes as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Mike Singleton also reported that the grass fields at the Lancaster complex are finally open. Middle of grass fields are heavily worn from harsh winter/spring and prior use. Monitoring field conditions closely.

Club Standards Discussion
Mike Singleton and Ian Mulliner led a discussion of Mass Youth establishing minimum club standards for all member organizations. Mike prefaced the discussion by recommending the Board move slowly, limited and with measurable requirements. As an example, Mike suggested three pillars to potential requirements:
- Submission of a tax ID number as a corporation
- Organization Head Coach or Director of Coaching
- Registration minimums

As part of an implementation process, current member organizations not meeting established requirements would be given a period of time to bring their club up to minimum standards. Ian Mulliner suggested that clubs having difficulty meeting a licensing requirement may work with the Mass Youth technical staff to achieve the requirement. Ted Ritchie stated it was an excellent discussion of potential future direction and fundamental concepts. Motion by Nancy Hart and second by Dave Dalrymple that the Executive Director refine a straw man proposal on the topic and return to the Board for further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Player Priority Policy Discussion
The Board reviewed a memorandum offered by Vice-President David Amidon to provoke discussion of the Player Priority Guidelines Policy and how the policy might be modified/improved. The memorandum was based on David’s research into policies established in other states. One of the concepts discussed was a primary/secondary team policy, a concept used in approximately 10 state organizations. Further discussion on the topic is required before any modification or proposal is presented to the Board and the membership. David Amidon and Mike Borislow agreed to work together to refine a proposal and return to the Board for further discussion.
Reports of Program Managers

Technical Director/Instructional Programs Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Communications Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Events and Programs Coordinator Report
No report.

Leagues Committee
No report.

Districts/Recreation Report
No report.

Outreach (TOPSoccer) Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

ODP Report
No report.

State Cup, Open Cup, President’s Cup Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

SYRA
Brian Treanor advised the Board of a decision by MSRC to revise the minimum age for first year referees from 12 to 1 years of age. The decision is based on five years of data that shows significant drop out at ages 12 and 13. Brian further advised that USSF has made a decision to eliminate the Grade 9 “blue badge”, Grades 9 thru 7 will all wear the same black badge. Given this change, and, MSRC concerns that Grade 9 referees are already being used inappropriately in matches they should not be officiating, MSRC intends to eliminate the Grade 9 designation/course in Massachusetts. All current (Grade 9) badge holders and children currently registered for referee certification courses will be grandfathered before the changes are implemented.

Financials
Derek Smith distributed a financial Statement of Activities for the five-month period ending March 28, 2014 for review.

Board Members Reports on Club Visits
None.

President’s Remarks
None.
Old/New Business
Mike Singleton advised the Board that he has received bids on spectator stands for the Lancaster complex. The low bidder is a Massachusetts company that would provide a four level, twenty-one foot wide stand with approximately 52 seats. Cost to provide stands for all 16 fields would be $50K. Mike recommended purchasing stands for 8 fields of the complex at this time. Nancy Hart moved, seconded by Jared Scarpaci, to authorize the purchase of stands for 8 fields. Motion passed unanimously.

For the Good of the Game
None

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Trudeau
Secretary

Addendum:

May 2014 Mass Youth Soccer Executive Director Report—Mike Singleton

Mass Youth Soccer Fields at Progin Park
What can we say about the weather. Doing all we can and hopefully soon all fields will be playable. I have sought out multiple bids for bleachers for the complex to be discussed.

I met with Stantec to discuss possible roads exiting the Sartelle parking lot. We found one possible road that help us avoid wetlands relocation and conservation committee burdens. This road is more than double the length of the previous planned road, but does save much burden and possible roadblocks to the road. After this meeting I discussed this possibility with Boucher and his engineer, Bill Hannigan. They suggested moving fields 11-16 north to create space for a shorter road where the current south ends of the field are and we discussed hill parking. As we nail down particulars I will continue to update you.

Staffing
The staff has done a fantastic job of working together to make all transitions as seamless as possible. Katie Hunt has steeped right in now full overseeing CORI and helping with District Select and Open Cup. Tamie is going a great job as Technical Department Manager and Lori Jimenez, after training for a few days with Jen Fickett, jumped right into matters during a very busy time period, especially with all the rain cancellations.

Of special note, Tara has been doing extra work recovering much money past due and is doing a phenomenal job making sure all accounts receivable and payments out are 100% current. She has had to clean up a good bit and has gone above and beyond.
**Office Building**
I have met with Dunkin Donuts to discuss us working together to build a building on the north side of our property facing Old Union Turnpike. The concept is to build our offices above and fully operational store. My estimates are that we will need between 3000-3200 square feet to make our offices functional. As we get deeper into conversation I will update you.

**NEP**
There is much discussion on NEP moving completely to US Club Soccer. Clubs have varied views on this and some report being for it and others not so sure. How this would effect membership in future years is a question as many may still register players in both organizations and some may only register players in this league in US Club and not Mass Youth. It is important to be aware of potential developments.

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**Instructional Program Board Report May 2014**

*Respectfully Submitted by Ian Mulliner, Technical Director and Howie Blatt, Director of Instructional Programs*

**Technical Director**
As you are all acutely aware this spring season has been a challenge for all of us, not least the Technical Staff who are doing what they can to get the most out of what is left of spring season. On a brighter note we held an event with the New England Revolution to recognize coaches who have taken a course with us and had over 120 coaches register for the event. We are continuing to develop the partnership with the Revolution with them hosting a “Kick Off” party at Gillette stadium on Tuesday May 6th. On a personal note I had the wonderful experience of coaching players from the team that will represent Massachusetts at the USA games for the Special Olympics this past April. I am confident that I speak for all us as I wish them well at the Games. I was also involved in a National Training Center for the U-12 through U-14 Girls which took place at our facility this past Tuesday April 29th. There are additional National Training Centers planned every month for the foreseeable future.

I was at the tryouts for the District Select Program in District 4 last Saturday and was impressed with the organization and the quality of the players who attended the tryout. The Technical Staff are taking a more hands on approach with the District Select Program, which includes tryout assistance, coaching education and scouting of players.

**Coaching Education**
Registrations for the coaching education courses are coming in for the summer courses, we currently have courses set up in Acushnet, Taunton, Rutland, and Lancaster.

We have received 30 registrations for the C License course and are hoping to close off the registration by the end of the month.

**Coach and Player Development Program (CD and PD), Specialty Clinics & Tryouts**
As difficult as the start to the season has been we are now underway with programming with all of our towns that we are contracted out to. To make up for some of the missed sessions this spring, we were able to add one time sessions with Belmont Second Soccer, Taunton Sports Club and Westfield United. We are already almost full for the fall season and are still receiving requests from Towns that we haven’t worked with before. To date we have committed to Foxboro, Wrentham, Dracut, Belmont, Gloucester, and Melrose. In addition to those towns, Lowell has recently reached out to us for information on a fall program. We have contracted with Attleboro, Melrose, Mendon-Upton and Oxford, and are finalizing details with Medfield to conduct their tryouts in June.
Summer Training Centers
We have Summer Training Centers set up in Martha’s Vineyard, Wilmington and Holden and are close to setting up an event in Peabody. The registrations will be posted on our website in the near future.

In Conclusion
Let’s hope that monsoon season is over and that sunshine and warmer weather will be upon before Memorial Day. See you on the fields.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS BOARD REPORT
May 7, 2014

SPONSORSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS
Lani Hall of Sports reported that our coupon during the first weekend in April had 758 redemptions, that all 20 stores saw participation and that our coupon redemption was responsible for $65,923 total sales. We were No. 1 in the company that weekend. Sports Authority was so impressed, they are going to do another promotional weekend this spring during Fathers’ Day weekend.

Chipotle has re-signed as a corporate partner of Massachusetts Youth Soccer. Their two (2) primary promotional projects will be the Chipotle Currency cards that they distributed at MTOC last year. They will be distributing 3,000 cards at State Cup/Open Cup, MTOC and the DSP Tournament. They are also scheduling two (2) “Jersey Days” during which any youth soccer player who goes into a Chipotle will get a BOGO offer.

Dinn Brothers reports that they are now supplying awards and trophies for the Needham Memorial Day Tournament/GPS College Showcase, the largest Memorial Day tournament in the country, at the Massachusetts Youth Soccer 20% discount. Mike Dinn reports they are extremely pleased with the partnership and is re-signing for a three (3) year extension.

We are searching for a replacement for Spaulding Rehabilitation Network as a sponsor of TOPSoccer. Their original contract of May 2009 expired in December.

WEBSITE
The website redesign is in its final stage. American Eagle has finished creating the .html for our conversion. The conversion will begin by weeks end. We have consolidated many pages and discarded numerous redundant or outdated pages over the past several months. We have gone from nearly 400 pages to less than 300. This will make conversion more efficient.

CONTRACTS
• Tournament Contracts. We are in the process of updating and extending our tournament contracts. We are going out no more than two (2) years, in some instances including 2014. The rates have remained the same and continue to be amongst the highest in eastern Massachusetts. This reflects the myriad services we provide to Tournament Hosts that no other facility provides. In essence we are a “turn-key” operation.

• Golf Cart Rental Agreements. When we purchased our “fleet” of golf carts we established a Golf Cart Rental Agreement and a Golf Cart Use Protocol. The contract was implemented last Labor Day and was
used during the GPS Thanksgiving Tournament as well. The revenue generated by the rentals is meant to offset, if not entirely defray, our costs in running the “fleet” during our own events.

- Technical Department Contracts. Summer Training Center contracts have been updated and are out to both Wilmington and Holden for signature. Coaching Services contracts (e.g. Specialty Clinics) and our Tryout Services Contracts have been updated and are out for signature.

GOLF TOURNAMENT
The 3rd Annual Massachusetts Youth Soccer Golf Classic will be held at Stow Acres Country Club in Stow, MA on Monday, August 18th. The only change in the format this year will be rather than a banquet, we will be serving a variety of hors d’oeuvres. This will realize a minor savings in per golfer cost ($4.00), but more importantly will create a more collegial atmosphere during the awards and auction. We would like to have increased participation by members of the BOD and League Presidents. The cost remains at $125.00 / golfer. We have sent out initial contacts to last year’s sponsors and believe they will all return.

---

**State Cup Board Report May 7th 2014**

**State Cup:**
The Boys and Girls U13s & U14s have completed their Challenge Round games. The first round of the Round Robin is underway. The weather and field closing have created a challenge for both the scheduling of the games and the referee assigner. Round 2 &3 of the Round Robin is scheduled for May 17th and 18th in Lancaster.

**National League:** The BU14 Scorpions, coached by Dan Colwell, have advanced to the USYS National Championships at the Maryland SoccerPlex in Germantown, MD, July 21st-27th.

**Open Cup:**
Round of 16 and QF games will be played in Lancaster May 12th – June 1st.

**Presidents Cup:**
Teams completed their State competition on April on 28th. The teams listed below will be representing Mass Youth Soccer at Region I Presidents Cup in Slippery Rock, PA over Memorial Day weekend. The Region I champions will advance to the US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup held July 9-13 in Greenville, SC.

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<td>Rich Sena</td>
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TOPSoccer Massachusetts Board Report May 2014

Training schedule and Events:

• April 4th in Natick – Coaches training - completed
• April 11th in Natick – Buddy training – completed
• April 17th in Malden - buddy training – completed.
• I attended the 2014 SSSL Friendship Games, TOPSoccer was invited to participate and there were two games played and all the kids had a great time. Players and coaches from Brockton, Quincy and Stoughton were present.
• Andover youth TOPSoccer coaches training will take place the second week of May, time and place tbd.

Ray Robinson
Director of Outreach Programs
TOPSoccer

MEMORANDUM

To: MYSA Board of Directors  Date: April 9, 2014  cc: Mike Singleton, Executive Director

From: David Amidon, EVP  Subject: Player Priorities Guidelines – Revisions Project

Ladies / Gentlemen:

At the February ’14 board meeting, I was tasked with chairing an ad hoc committee, the mission of which was to revisit the extant MYSA Player Priority Guidelines (the “Guidelines”), and to make recommendations on how (if at all) the Guidelines should be revised and updated to better reflect today’s youth soccer landscape.

To date, I’ve taken it upon myself to do diligence around present practices and thought leadership on the question of balancing player priorities. There is a
mountain of interesting materials out there. But before getting too deeply into what others are doing, let alone what MYSA should consider doing, I believe it makes sense to better identify the situations and scenarios that need, or could benefit from our efforts to prioritize; and then to formulate a handful of questions for the full board to consider and comment upon. Thereafter, we’d be in a better place to consider what we should be doing...

At the outset, I’d suggest we are addressing the continuing efficacy of what is essentially a suggested dispute resolution mechanism to be used by players (and their families) who face conflicts from participating on multiple teams in the same soccer season. This can take a variety of forms, including:

. 1) Club / club conflicts (i.e., players rostered to two (or more) club teams.
. 2) Club / town conflicts (i.e., players rostered to a club team and a town team.
. 3) Soccer / non-soccer conflicts (i.e., players rostered to a club or town team and a team participating in another (non-soccer) sport.

Some other points that inform our discussions and, ultimately, our path forward:

_ Massachusetts is unique, perhaps absolutely so, in having separate town-based and club-based competitive leagues. Most (if not all) other states have only club-based competitive leagues, and the “local” component is more or less played for “fun” and to be with friends.

_ Within Massachusetts, since the adoption of the Guidelines there has been a significant increase in the number of competitive players across all levels choosing to participate in club soccer, often to the exclusion of town soccer. Much of the “opting out” of town soccer has little to do with player or family choice – it’s being dictated by the clubs. This has caused a perceptible drop in the highest competitive levels of town-based teams, vis-à-vis club leagues / programs.

A. Multiple Rostering.

The jumping-off point for this discussion should be re-looking at the current permission given to players to “dual-roster.” Section201 of MYSA’s by-laws, entitled “Multiple Rostering,” provides in pertinent part that certain players may play for more than one team during a playing season, with the following
restrictions:

. (a) The player must be age appropriate to play U14 and below.

. (b) A player cannot play for more than one team in the same competition.

. (c) A player can play for only one team in any competition sponsored by US Youth Soccer.

. (d) A player may play on one team in the fall and a different team in the spring.

. (e) A player on a MAPLE team that does not enter State Cup may play for a team for National Challenge cup competition.

Less relevant for our purposes, but still there, is the further allowance that permits a player to be placed on a state roster called a “TOURNAMENT TEAM ONLY ROSTER” for a team that exists only for the duration of a tournament and is not that player’s primary team.


Following (in no particular order of importance) is a set of preliminary questions and concerns on which I’m asking each board member’s input. And I’m sure that there are other issues that you all feel are necessary or appropriate for our consideration, so don’t be shy about coloring outside the lines here. I will use the input received to come back with a suggested revision, done in consultation with the handful of board members who have indicated their interest in helping me out.

1) Is there a continuing need to legislate around multiple rostering of players? If so, what are the various lines, and where are they best drawn?

2) Presently, the Guidelines seek to “guide” player allegiance in defined situations – tournament, match, training. What is the purpose of the Guidelines in today’s youth soccer world? Is it realistic to mandate or even simply advise on player allegiance?

3) Do the current permissions around multiple rostering still “work” in today’s competitive environment? Stated differently, do we need restrictions, or do we allow the market to dictate player and family involvement and allegiances?

4) How should the revised Guidelines apply to leagues and playing groups not in existence when they were originally implemented – e.g., NEP, Open Cup, Regional
5) One perceived consequence of the current Guidelines is implicit promotion of more competitive play within certain aspects of town-based soccer: namely, preference is given to town-based activities over the same types of club-based activities, including for Saturday matches, MTOC, and other designated tournaments (notably, Columbus Day weekend). Is this advice (mandate?) still relevant or desirable today?

6) If the Guidelines are intended to be advisory, is there role better focused on player and parent education to moderate children’s over-involvement in sports generally, and soccer in particular? Can/should they provide guidance on “best practices” in this regard, i.e., advice on combined maximum number of training sessions and matches (“deliberate sports environments”) a player should experience?

7) Given that today’s kids are athletically fully booked (whether it be soccer, lacrosse, baseball, football, basketball, or whatever) and every sport is demanding the child’s full attention and commitment, can the Guidelines address this myriad of challenges and, if so, how best to do so? How, if at all, can this be coordinated with the other sports’ respective governing bodies?

8) Are the Guidelines intended to be advisory or mandatory? If the latter, how are they to be enforced?

Please consider and get back to me with your input, comments, and questions by the close of business on Friday, April 18. I will pull together the collective mind-share and try to have something back to everyone in advance of the May board meeting.

I’ve attached the extant Guidelines and by-law authority, for your ready reference. Many thanks.

DMA:dcw

MYSA PLAYER PRIORITY GUIDELINES

Mass Youth Soccer recognizes that certain players may compete on two different teams. In doing so, conflicts arise as to which team takes priority in the event there are game, tournament or practice conflicts.
In attempting to resolve those conflicts, a comprehensive set of guidelines was developed. Players, coaches and parents are urged to familiarize themselves with these guidelines. The guidelines were developed to allow the player to continue his or her development and play at the highest possible level. At the same time, Mass Youth Soccer recognized the need to provide guidance to resolve conflicts. The player priority guidelines are spelled out in detail in Section 342 of the Bylaws.

In general, the player priority guidelines come into play for:

1. ODP (state team) players of any age who are also on another team roster.

2. Players under age 14 who are multiple rostered.

The player priority guidelines do not apply to a player who is age 14 or older and who is not on an ODP team.

The player priority guidelines establish player priority expectations in the following categories: major tournaments; state team (ODP) tryouts; regularly scheduled League games; make-up games; and practices.

These “priorities of play” are for players who are multiple rostered. These priorities:

• Apply to all State Team players – regardless of age - rostered on any other team.

• Apply to all multiple rostered players aged U14 and younger; but,

• Do not apply to non-State Team players age U15 and above.

• These priorities provide players, coaches and parents with a set of expectations for players rostered to multiple teams. They have been developed to enable players to rise to their highest level of soccer while affording them access to all levels of play. It was developed with input from representatives of all types and levels of play within the state. They have been developed to eliminate such questions as “Who do I play for?”, “Which practice should I attend?”, or “What team should I play with on a tournament weekend?” These priorities are to be respected and adhered to by all of the various soccer interests that compete for a player's attention and time. In general terms, a player’s priorities are as follows.
1. Major Tournaments:
   a. Regional ODP Tournament (after Memorial Day).
   b. State Cup.
   c. MTOC and Qualifying Games.
   d. On a major national holiday weekends:
      • Memorial Day – priority to Premier (MAPLE) Teams.
      • Columbus Day – priority to Town Teams.

All other tournaments – players are to alternate attendance in event of scheduled conflict.

2. State Team Tryouts (except Sunday afternoons during MAPLE seasons).

3. Regularly scheduled League games.

4. Make-up games.

5. Practices.

However, there exist variations in priority based on the playing season. So please read and understand each category and how they interrelate.

Soccer Activity Priority List:

1. Regional ODP Tournaments.

2. State Cup Tournament.

3. MTOC and Qualifying Games.

4. State Team Tryouts in summer, fall (other than on Sunday afternoons) and winter seasons only. Try-out dates must also be established and available through the State Office at least one month in advance.
5. All Games:
   a. State Team – Summer only.
   b. Premier (MAPLE) Teams – all year for any games scheduled from 11:00 a.m. on Sunday until dusk.
   c. MTOC Eligible Town Teams – all year for any games scheduled from Friday afternoon to Sunday at 11:00 a.m.
   d. State Team.
   e. Non-MTOC Town, or any fall teams other than Premier or winter teams.

6. Tournaments:
   a. State Team – (summer only).
   b. Premier (MAPLE) Teams – priority for Memorial Day Weekend only.
   c. Town Teams – priority for Columbus Day weekend only.
   d. All other tournaments – players are to alternate attendance in event of conflicts.

7. Practices:

2

   a. State Team – priority during the Spring season. State Team practice dates must be established and available through the State Office by at least March 15.
   b. Premier (MAPLE) Team – Division 1 only.
   c. All other teams – players are to alternate attendance in event of schedule conflict.

Section 342. Priority Guide for Multiple Rostered Players. These “priorities of play” are for players who are multiple rostered. These priorities:

   _ Apply to all State Team players – regardless of age - rostered on any other team.
   _ Apply to all multiple rostered players aged U14 and younger; but,
Do not apply to non-State Team players age U15 and above. These priorities provide players, coaches and parents with a set of expectations for players rostered to multiple teams. They have been developed to enable players to rise to their highest level of soccer while affording them access to all levels of play. It was developed with input from representatives of all types and levels of play within the state. They have been developed to eliminate such questions as “Who do I play for?, which practice should I attend?, or “what team should I play with on a tournament weekend?” These priorities are to be respected and adhered to by all of the various soccer interests that compete for a player's attention and time. In general terms, a player’s priorities are as follows.

A. Major Tournaments:

_ Regional ODP Tournament (after Memorial Day).

_ State Cup.

_ MTOC and Qualifying Games.

_ On a major national holiday weekends.

_ Memorial Day – priority to Premier (MAPLE, MASC) Teams.

_ Columbus Day – priority to Town Teams.

_ All other tournaments – players are to alternate attendance in event of scheduled conflict.

B. State Team Tryouts (except Sunday afternoons during MAPLE seasons).

C. Regularly scheduled League games.

D. Make-up games.

E. Practices. However, there exist variations in priority based on the playing season. So please read and understand each category and how they interrelate.

Soccer Activity Priority List:
1. Regional ODP Tournaments.

2. State Cup Tournament.

3. MTOC and Qualifying Games.

4. State Team Tryouts in summer, fall (other than on Sunday afternoons) and winter seasons only. Try-out dates must also be established and available through the State Office at least one month in advance.

5. All Games:

   _ State Team – Summer only Premier (MAPLE, MASC) Teams – all year for any games scheduled from 11:00 a.m. on Sunday until dusk.

   _ MTOC Eligible Town Teams – all year for any games scheduled from Friday afternoon to Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

   _ State Team.

   _ Non-MTOC Town, or any fall teams other than Premier or winter teams.

6. Tournaments:

   _ State Team – (summer only).

   _ Premier (MAPLE, MASC) Teams – priority for Memorial Day Weekend only.

   _ Town Teams – priority for Columbus Day weekend only.

   _ All other tournaments – players are to alternate attendance in event of conflicts.

7. Practices:

   _ State Team – priority during the Spring season. State Team practice dates must be established and available through the State Office by at
least March 15.

Premier (MAPLE, MASC) Team – Division 1 only.

All other teams – players are to alternate attendance in event of schedule conflict.
A quorum was declared present, President Ted Ritchie called the meeting to order by at 7:09 PM.

**Club Standards Discussion**

Based on recommendations from the Board at the May meeting, Mike Singleton presented a refined Policy proposal to establish minimum club standards. The proposal establishes the following measurable requirements as minimum Member Organization standards:

- Legal entity status (registered with the state)
- Organization Constitution and By-Laws
- Submission of a tax ID number as a corporation
- Evidence of segregated banking arrangements
- Organization Head Coach or Director of Coaching
- Registration minimum of fifty (50) players
- Effective date June 4, 2014

The policy proposal provides a grace period of two (2) years from the effective date for current Member Organizations not meeting the minimum standards to achieve compliance. The proposal also contains a clause pledging Mass Youth Soccer state office and technical staff assistance to current and potential Member Organizations to achieve the minimum standards. Overall discussion was in favor of the proposal with several minor changes. In section 2.02.6 and section 2.04, Head Coach changed to Lead Coach. In section 2.07, designation changed to 2.06 (typo). In Section 2.08, designation changed to 2.07 (typo). **Motion by David Dalrymple and second by Bob Trudeau to adopt the policy as amended. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Player Priority Policy Discussion**

Technical Director Ian Mulliner made a presentation to the Board entitled “A Child Centered Approach for Choosing the Right Soccer Environment”. Purpose of the presentation is to provide parents with information and questions that may help families in making choices for the best soccer environment for their children. Overall, Board comments/discussion was favorable for the presentation. There were several recommendations from the Board to tweak language in the presentation before posting to the Mass Youth web site. Ian took the suggestions under advisement and looked to distribute a revised document to the Board within a week. Given the size of the PowerPoint presentation, it is appended to the June minutes as a separate file.

**Acceptance of Board Minutes for May**

The May Board meeting minutes were reviewed. An omission and a typo were noted. Under Player Priority Policy Discussion, Jared Scarpaci and Steve Smoller are members of the ad hoc committee working on the Policy proposal refinement. Under the SYRA Report, the minimum age for first year referees is being revised from 12 years of age to 14 years of age. **Nancy Hart moved, seconded by Ray Robinson, to approve the May minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.**
Executive Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Mike Singleton also recognized Controller Tara Petricca for an outstanding job in collecting past due fees to the Association. Of approximately $200K in past due fees, 90% has been collected.

Technical Director/Instructional Programs Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Ian Mulliner also reported to the Board that he has been notified that he will be the instructor for the upcoming C License Coaches Course in Lancaster from August 2 - 10.

Communications Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Events and Programs Coordinator Report
No report.

Reports of Program Managers

Leagues Committee
No report. Best wishes to John Linnehan for a speedy recovery from hip surgery.

Districts/Recreation Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Outreach (TOPSoccer) Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

ODP Report
Jared Scarpaci reported that the Region I ODP Tournament would be held the weekend of June 6 – 8 at Ryder University in New Jersey.

State Cup, Open Cup, President’s Cup Report
Results of State Cup and Massachusetts Open Cup submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

SYRA
No report.

Financials
Derek Smith distributed a financial Statement of Activities for the six-month period ending April 30, 2014 for review. The bad news is that revenue from field complex rentals is reduced significantly due to weather related issues. Good news is that the Association is in sound financial shape. Derek noted that the investment account has yielded $45K in interest income YTD.

Board Members Reports on Club Visits
None.
President’s Remarks
Ted Ritchie advised the Board of continuing actions at the national level with US Youth Soccer attempting to centralize control of their affiliates in Frisco, TX. This has resulted in considerable political infighting between US Youth Soccer and the four Regions. US Club Soccer continues to make inroads against US Youth Soccer with a number of club defections in New England and New York. Ted will be attending the Region I ODP Tournament in New Jersey this weekend and attending several Region I executive meetings on the issue. Changes are coming in the youth soccer landscape and Mass Youth Soccer has to be prepared to adapt.

Old/New Business
• Regional Directors Roles – Board member Caryn Goulet had requested an agenda item of a discussion of regional directors roles and responsibilities. Since Caryn could not attend the June meeting, discussion was tabled until a future board meeting.
• Membership Status of Young Referees – Dick Penta, President, BAYS League, sent Ted Ritchie an email requesting clarification of young in-town referees status/classification pending the MSRC recent decision to raise the entry –level eligibility age for referees from age 12 to age 14. Dick questioned if a new membership category needs to be created to insure affiliation and insurance for the younger in-town referees used by many organizations. **Motion by Derek Smith, second by Mike Borislow to create an apprentice referee category within the Mass Youth Soccer affiliation process. During discussion, concerns were raised if creating such a category would insure young referees being covered by referee insurance. It was decided to remove the motion pending clarification of the insurance question.**

For the Good of the Game
• Mike Singleton reported that a significant number of applications have been received for the Communications Director position. Interviews are to be conducted the week of June 9th.
• Ted Ritchie briefed the Board on the Executive Director Search Committee’s activities and the process leading to the selection of Nick Dunbar as the next Executive Director. Ted requested Board ratification of the Search Committee’s selection. **Motion by Dave Dalrymple, second by Ray Robinson to approve the selection of Nick Dunbar as Mass Youth Soccer Executive Director. Motion approved 7 – 0 with 5 abstentions (abstentions were primarily Search Committee members).**
• Jared Scarpaci advised the Board that Geoff Cameron, former Mass Youth ODP player from Attleboro, MA has been selected to the 23 man US Mens National Team World Cup final roster. Congratulations to Geoff and good luck in the World Cup!

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bob Trudeau**

Bob Trudeau
Secretary

Addendum:
June 2014 Mass Youth Soccer Executive Director Report—Mike Singleton

Mass Youth Soccer Fields at Progin Park
We are slit-seeding the fields one again in addition to hyper-seeding and fertilizing in order to grow grass in the damaged areas on our complex. Given we had hail storms over Memorial Day it is as if we are still in winter and Dick and his staff are working very hard to try to maintain our fields to the level that our membership is accustomed to enjoying.

The bleachers will be delivered within one week so will be present for MTOC.

Talks continue to sort out possible road options to the Sartelle lot. Ted and I have a meeting with Ted Tye and Sandy Tierney later this week to discuss hopeful developments.

Staffing
It is with a heavy heart and much congratulations we usher Tucker Reynolds off to his new challenge as Executive Director of Louisiana Youth Soccer. He has worked extremely hard for us over the past years and been a key part of staff development. Please join me in wishing him nothing but the best in all future endeavors.

Applications for his position have been received and we have some very high qualified candidates. We will look to interview folks in the coming days and hire sooner than later.

NEP
NEP has announced they are moving to US Club Soccer this Fall. This next month will bring more information as to the impact of that move.

British Consulate
I am excited to share that the British Consulate will be organizing a watch party of the England vs Italy World Cup on June 14 at their headquarters in Cambridge. They will be inviting corporate partners in hopes of raising funds for our GOALS program. They may also have staff join ours for a day this summer at GOALS sites. I hope this event can be used as a template for future such events with this and other consulates.

Soccer.com
Just wanting to highlight what a great partner soccer.com is being my providing free shipping to all DSP players. We are also in talks about possibly having a free shipping week for our membership.

Farewell
Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to come back to Massachusetts and helping the children of Massachusetts as they strive to reach the same goals I sought when a young player on the same fields. Thank you for your support and guidance over the years and I look forward to our paths crossing again as we all strive to do everything we can to help the children of Massachusetts. A piece of my heart will always reside with Massachusetts Youth Soccer and I look forward to seeing wonderful developments in the coming years.
Respectfully Submitted by Ian Mulliner, Technical Director and Howie Blatt, Director of Instructional Programs

**Technical Director**
The spring season is reaching its conclusion and we are doing what we can to make up for the wet start to the season. Missed player development programs are being delivered as far into June as our members can run their programs.

I would like to convey my best wishes to Tucker Reynolds as he leaves to become the Executive Director for Louisiana Youth Soccer. Both myself, and indeed all of the Technical Department would like to place on record our gratitude to Tucker for all of the assistance he has provided in supporting and promoting our programs throughout the Commonwealth to our membership. He will definitely be missed.

I was recently at Gillette Stadium as a member of a coaches panel along with two other members of the New England Revolution Academy Coaching Staff, there were approximately 300 coaches in attendance. During the event I ran into several people who are directly involved with our programs within their towns. I am happy to report that all of them were extremely grateful and complimentary of our Technical Department for the programs and we provide and deliver to their coaches and players.

Moving forward we hope that Mother Nature assists us in providing what is becoming a full menu of summer programming.

**Coaching Education**
Registrations for the coaching education courses are coming in for the summer courses, we currently have courses set up in Stoneham (G,F,E), Rutland, Haverhill, Lancaster(F,E,D), Waltham and Taunton.

We have received 38 registrations for the C License course. The course will close at 40, at which time we will begin a waiting list.

**Coach and Player Development Program (CD and PD) & Specialty Clinics**
We are almost full for the fall season and are still receiving requests from Towns to provide them with programming. We will be working with Reading, Foxboro, Wrentham, Rockport, Dracut, Belmont, Gloucester, Melrose and Holden.

**Summer Training Centers**
Registrations are open for Summer Training Centers in Martha’s Vineyard, Wilmington and Holden and we are still working on an event in Peabody.

**In Conclusion**
I look forward to working with our new Executive Director Nick Dunbar and taking our organization to even further heights as we look to expand on our program offerings.

See you at the field.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS BOARD REPORT
SPONSORSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS
Sports Authority is running another 20% off the entire store the weekend of Fathers’ Day.

Chipotle is continuing their Currency Campaign. Cards were bundled in groups of 20, put into a small envelope and distributed to each team as they registered at the State Cup Round Robin. Chipotle is delivering another shipment of Currency Cards that must be distributed in the same fashion at MTOC and at the DSP Tournament. Chipotle is also running a Jersey Weekend June 21 – 22. Each player who wears their soccer team jersey into a Chipotle will get a free Kid’s Meal.

I am exploring a new partnership with a local company that makes custom sandals. The
Slides can be customized by colors and patterns and can boast a team, club or Massachusetts Youth Soccer emblem. The deal would be a 20-30% discount to member organizations and 15-20 pairs to the staff in exchange for a field banner and website presence.

WEBSITE
The website redesign is ready to be switched over to the new American Eagle platform. The conversion has been left for the next Director of Communications so the site can be set up in their image.

GOLF TOURNAMENT
The 3rd Annual Massachusetts Youth Soccer Golf Classic will be held at Stow Acres Country Club in Stow, MA on Monday, August 18th. I have spoken with Lori and Katie. They will comprise the new Golf Classic Committee. I have contacted all external sponsors from the past two years and additional 10 sponsors. I generated a Golf Classic manual and have gone over it in detail with both Lori and Katie. I encourage the Board to become more involved in getting golfers to register and in proposing sponsors to the Committee.

Recreation Report June 2014

Almost all teams have finished tryouts and rosters are being validated and forwarded for input into Eurosport. We are still waiting for the code for free shipping to send out the registration letters for all players.

We have found that due to Club summer programs the older age groups mostly in girls have an extreme drop in players. We do still have space available on many teams and the coaches are still recruiting players.

District Select is moving towards finalizing all the rosters, info and online uniform ordering.

Nancy Hart
TOPSoccer Massachusetts Board Report June 2014

Training schedule and Events:

- Andover Youth TOPSoccer coaches training will take place sometime this summer.
- The Fenn School in Concord would like to start a program this fall so I will be working with them to help make that happen.

The Top three questions I get:
1. Parent with a son or daughter looking for a place to play.
2. Someone looking to volunteer.
3. Someone wanting to start a program.

Ray Robinson
Director of Outreach Programs
TOPSoccer

6/1/14 2014 NCS MASSACHUSETTS STATE CUP

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Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting
July 2, 2014

Non-Voting Members/Staff: S. Bloom, T. Petricca, I. Mulliner, S. Smoller

A quorum was declared present, President Ted Ritchie called the meeting to order by at 7:03 PM.

Executive Director Discussion
Ted Ritchie briefed the Board of the negotiation process with the selected Executive Director candidate Nick Dunbar, the inability to come to closure on acceptance of the position and the Executive Committee’s determination to withdraw the offer of the position and move on. Ted recommended to the Board, and requested their concurrence, to authorize the Search Committee to utilize an executive recruiting firm option to engage additional candidates.

Motion by Nancy Hart, second by Dave Dalrymple to authorize use of an executive recruiting firm by the Search Committee in reopening the Executive Director search.

League Standards Discussion
Brief discussion of the need to create a policy specifically regarding League Standards (similar to the recently adopted Club Standards Policy). The Board requested a straw man policy proposal be developed and submitted for review at a future Board meeting. Ted Ritchie took the request and recommendation under advisement.

Acceptance of Board Minutes for June
The June Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Nancy Hart moved, seconded Derek Smith, to approve the June minutes. Motion approved 9-0 with 1 abstention.

Executive Director Report
No report.

Technical Director/Instructional Programs Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Communications Director Report
No report.

Events and Programs Coordinator Report
No report.

Reports of Program Managers

Leagues Committee
John Linnehan reported the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC) was played at the Lancaster complex the past weekend. Many thanks to the many league volunteers who helped make the tournament run smoothly.

Districts/Recreation Report
Nancy Hart reported the Districts Select Program begins play on Saturday, July 5th. It has been a challenging year administratively organizing the Program. There have been concerns with
Eurosports timely delivery of uniforms. Eurosport is shipping uniforms overnight, when necessary.

Instructional Programs
Submitted with Technical Director’s Report via email and appended to these minutes. Howie Blatt complimented both Ian Mulliner and Tara Petricca for stepping up in the state office during the recent departures of Tucker Reynolds and Mike Singleton.

Outreach (TOPSoccer) Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Ray Robinson reported he is very busy with training coaches for various programs and working with a new program in Dorchester. He continues to work closely with the Lawrence soccer program.

ODP Report
Jared Scarpaci reported current ODP teams are going to ID camps shortly. Tryouts for the 2014/2015 season start in August. Jared advised that Mass Youth teams did not fair well at the recent Region I ODP weekend. There was a conflict with NEP tournament finals and a number of teams were understrength at the ODP tournament.

State Cup Report
Nancy Hart attended the Region I Championships in Kingston, Rhode Island the past weekend. She reported that Massachusetts will be sending three (3) teams to US Youth Soccer National Championships in Germantown, MD, July 22 - 27. Winners at the Region I Championships were U13 Girls South Shore Select Elite and U14 Girls NEFC Elite. U14 Boys Scorpions SC – Boston qualified for the National Championships as a National League representative. Congrats to all our teams and good luck at the Nationals!

SYRA
No report.

Financials
Derek Smith distributed a financial Statement of Activities for the seven-month period ending May 31, 2014 for review. Field complex rental revenues continue to lag behind budget estimates. Some of the shortfall will be made up through tournaments being played at the complex through Labor Day weekend. Derek noted that the investment account has yielded $50K in interest income YTD.

Board Members Reports on Club Visits
None.

President’s Remarks
Ted Ritchie updated the Board of the continued infighting between Region I and the national level of US Youth Soccer. The Region I Director was recently forced to step down as well as a Region I state director. Ted and David Amidon attended a Region I executive meeting last weekend at the Regional Championships in Rhode Island. Scheduled for 2 hours, the meeting lasted closer to 5 hours with discussion centered around the upcoming US Youth Soccer AGM and the proposed by –law changes to the US Youth Soccer By-Laws. The meeting did elect a new Region I Director, Natalie Schwoeble from Pennsylvania West Soccer Association. Ted and Treasurer Derek Smith will be attending the US Youth Soccer AGM scheduled for July 26th in Bethesda, MD.
Old/New Business

- A discussion of roles, responsibilities and expectations of the Mass Youth Board Regional Directors position was held to help further define the job description. Focus of the discussion was the communications component of the position (with the membership). Consensus of the discussion was that Ted Ritchie would organize a conference call with the Regional Directors to discuss the subject and come back to a future Board meeting with a refined job description proposal.

- Open Action Item from June BOD Meeting – Need clarification of insurance coverage if Mass Youth Soccer creates a new membership category entitled “Apprentice Referee” to cover in-town referees below the new age limit of 14 years old established by MSRC. Ted Ritchie to seek clarification and report to the Board.

- Nancy Hart asked if the state office Controller position could be considered for a name change. Nancy raised the question as she felt few people understand a “Controller” function. Ted Ritchie took the request under advisement and will meet with Controller Tara Petricca to discuss the issue.

For the Good of the Game

- Caroline Foscato advised the Board of a recent soccer jamboree event held on Friday, May 23rd named “Boston Loves Soccer”. South End Soccer, Soccer without Borders and America Scores organizations combined to provide a field day of pick-up soccer games for over 120 of their youth members. After the round-robin tournament, players were treated to fresh fruit. Great example of organizations connecting and conducting a positive soccer, community and health experience for the kids!

- Caryn Goulet and Ray Robinson reported that the pending TOPSoccer Jamboree (date/schedule TBD) will include participants from the Perkins School for the Blind. It will be the first TOPSoccer blind soccer match!

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Trudeau

Secretary

Addendum:

Instructional Program Report
July 2014

Respectfully Submitted by Ian Mulliner, Technical Director and Howie Blatt, Director of Instructional Programs
**Technical Director**

With all spring programming now concluded we turn our attention to the summer events and fall planning. The Technical Staff will be away at Regional Camps through the middle of July when we begin our ODP Summer Training Centers.

We are excited about our new Director of Marketing and Communications, Emily Reilly and we look forward to working together to push Massachusetts Youth Soccer into the forefront of people’s thoughts going into the fall. We will be utilizing our new lesson plan software through our partnership with Academy Soccer Coach to produce what we believe will be our most attractive lesson plans to date.

Let me assure you, that all of the Technical and Office Staff are working diligently to make sure that it is not just business as usual but that we continue to go the extra mile to deliver programming, information and services during the interim period without an Executive Director. You have assembled a cohesive and loyal staff and we will make you proud of our efforts until you have selected Mike’s successor.

**Coaching Education**

Registrations for the coaching education courses are coming in for the summer and early fall courses, we currently have courses set up in Stoneham (F, E), Rutland, Haverhill, Lancaster (D), Waltham, Taunton, Douglas Axmen Soccer Club, and Concord Carlisle. In addition we have online G courses set in place for Stoneham, and Norton

We have received 39 registrations for the C License course. The course will close at 40, at which time we will begin a waiting list.

**Coach and Player Development Program (CD and PD) & Specialty Clinics**

We are full for the fall season and are now having to turn away requests from Towns to provide them with programming. We will be working with Reading, Westford, Foxboro, Wrentham, Rockport, Dracut, Belmont, Gloucester, Melrose, Pepperell and Holden.

**Summer Training Centers**

Registrations are open for Summer Training Centers in Martha’s Vineyard, Wilmington and Holden.

**In Conclusion**

We will continue to steer the ship in the right direction under your stewardship and guidance and again let me assure you that you are in safe and capable hands.

See you on the field.
TOPSoccer Massachusetts
July 2014

Training schedule and Events:

• Andover youth TOPSoccer coaches training will take place the sometime this summer.
• Amesbury is hoping to get a program started this fall
• The Fenn School in Concord would like to start a program this fall so I will be working with them to help make that happen.
• Dorchester is looking to make TOPSoccer part of their program
• Woburn will be starting a program this fall.

Ray Robinson
Director of Outreach Programs
TOPSoccer
Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting
August 6, 2014

Non-Voting Members/Staff: S. Bloom, T. Petricca *, S. Smoller
Guests: A. Weiss, D. Rainho

* phone

A quorum was declared present, President Ted Ritchie called the meeting to order by at 7:06 PM.

State Referee Administrator Appointment

First order of business was for Ted Ritchie and Andy Weiss to brief the Board of the recent selection of a new State Referee Administrator (SRA). Andy Weiss had held the position until recently becoming the Mass Adult State Soccer President. The SRA position carries a a two-year term and is a joint appointment of the Mass Adult State Soccer President and the Mass Youth Soccer Association President. Ted explained the process resulting in the selection of Del Rainho to fill the vacant SRA position and requested Board ratification of the appointment. Motion by Ray Robinson, second by Nancy Hart to ratify the appointment of Del Rainho for a two-year term as the State Referee Administrator. Motion approved unanimously.

Executive Director Discussion

Ted Ritchie briefed the Board of recent Search Committee activities including investigation of potential recruiting firms to employ in the Executive Director search effort, discussions with previous consultants to Mass Youth Soccer as to potential candidates, and, the concept of hiring a temporary Executive Director while the search continues (See D. Amidon report in Addendum to these Minutes). Board discussion focused on concerns with the cost estimates of employing a recruiting firm and if any of the (new) inquiries that have expressed interest in the position might be viable candidates. Motion by Nancy Hart, second by Caryn Goulet to recommend to the Search Committee to proceed down a dual path of continuing the investigation of potential recruiting firms, while reviewing (new) potential candidates that have expressed interest in the Executive Director position. Motion approved 9-0 with 1 abstention.

US Youth Soccer Annual General Meeting

Ted Ritchie briefed the Board on the results of the US Youth Soccer AGM held July 26th in Bethesda, MD. Focus of the AGM was on governance and a series of by-law changes proposals that essentially centralized governance under the US Youth Soccer organization in Frisco, TX at the expense of the four US Regional organizations. While Mass Youth Soccer and the majority of Region I organizations were opposed to the change proposals, with slight modifications by amendments from the floor, the proposals were approved.

Massachusetts State League

Ted Ritchie led a brief discussion of the current status within Mass Youth Soccer community of many different leagues with many different organizational standards. Ted believes the Board should be working towards the development of a single state league with one state registration system for all leagues. Ted requested the Board start thinking about the subject for further discussion at future Board meetings.
Acceptance of Board Minutes for July
The July Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Nancy Hart moved, second by Ray Robinson, to approve the July minutes. Motion approved 9-0 with 1 abstention.

Executive Director Report
No report.

Technical Director/Instructional Programs Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Communications Director Report
No report. New Director Emily Reilly has recently started working full-time. Nancy Hart offered kudos to Emily for her recent assistance – very capable and a quick study.

Events and Programs Coordinator Report
No report.

Reports of Program Managers

Leagues Committee
John Linnehan reported the next Leagues Committee meeting will be held Sunday, September 7th. Primary focus of the meeting will be an MTOC recap.

Districts/Recreation Report
Nancy Hart reported the Districts Select Program season ending tournament was very successful. Nancy reported continued problems with uniforms and T-shirts order for the Program. She would like a review of Soccer.com (Eurosport) as the designated supplier for the Program.

Instructional Programs
Submitted with Technical Director’s Report via email and appended to these minutes.

Outreach (TOPSoccer) Report
Ray Robinson reported that a training course for TOPSoccer Buddies is scheduled for September in Woburn. Also, a TOPSoccer Jamboree is being planned in Wilmington in November.

ODP Report
Jared Scarpaci was unable to attend the meeting. Ted Ritchie reported that he and Jared have discussed concerns with the depth of players’ pool in the ODP Program. Ted advised the Board that the Association needs to consider changes to the Program to make it more attractive to prospective players in today’s soccer environment.

State Cup Report
No report. Ted Ritchie reported that the three Massachusetts teams participating in the US Youth Soccer National Championships Tournament in Maryland made an excellent showing (U13 Girls South Shore Select, U14 Boys Scorpions SC and U14 Girls NEFC Elite). The
Scorpions made the semi-finals and NEFC Elite won the national championship for U14 Girls. Congratulations to all our participants.

SYRA

Andy Weiss reported for Brian Treanor that the annual Massachusetts State Referee Committee Awards Banquet will be held August 17, 1:00 PM, at the Hampton Inn in Natick.

Financials

Derek Smith was unable to attend the meeting, but forwarded a financial Statement of Activities for the eight-month period ending June 30, 2014 for Board review.

Board Members Reports on Club Visits

None.

President’s Remarks

None.

Old/New Business

- Old - Ted Ritchie confirmed to the Board that the proposed new membership category entitled “Apprentice Referee” to cover in-town referees below the new age limit of 14 years old established by MSRC will have insurance coverage once registered with Mass Youth Soccer.
- New – Discussion of leagues/organizations practice of allowing players to ‘play down’ in age group and potential insurance coverage issues. Recommendation of the Board was to refer to the Leagues Committee for discussion at their September meeting and submit their thoughts/recommendations to the Board for further discussion. Set a place-holder for additional discussion at the October Mass Youth Board meeting.
- New – Nancy Hart reported that the Kohl’s Cup Recreational Tournament is scheduled for Sunday, September 28 at the Lancaster complex. Tournament fee is $75.00/team if registered before September 21, $100/team after September 21. The Board was urged to promote this excellent opportunity for recreational teams to experience the Mass Youth Soccer Complex.

For the Good of the Game

Tom Rivet advised the Board of recent activities in the western part of the state:

- Tom recently returned from a visit to Ireland with 21 high school age players from the Chicopee area. Great experience for the players to visit and play soccer in Ireland.
- Tom reported that efforts to increase soccer participation in his area are starting to make progress. U10 registration in the Chicopee area has increased 50% over last year.
- Tom and Pioneer Valley Youth Soccer President Lou Teixeira are discussing methods to increase U16 – U18 participation. A idea being considered is creating 6 v 6 or 7 v 7 game format. Earliest implementation would be Spring 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Trudeau

Bob Trudeau
Secretary
Addendum:

Instructional Program Report
August 2014

Respectfully Submitted by Ian Mulliner, Technical Director and Howie Blatt, Director of Instructional Programs

Technical Director

With all summer events in full swing we are now gearing up for a full fall season. Our state hosted National “C” license course is underway as I write this. We have 40 coaches in attendance, which was maximum capacity for the course. At this time we are looking ahead to Winter Player Development programs and Winter TDCs. We have already begun to field inquiries for Spring Player Development

Coaching Education

Registrations for the coaching education courses are coming in for late summer and fall courses. Currently we have courses set up in Concord (G, F), Waltham, Methuen, Duxbury, Haverhill, Douglas, Westfield. The turnout at our summer courses has been strong and the fall registrations are continuing with that trend. Our heavy Fall Player development schedule has limited the time we have to schedule courses, however we are able to accommodate most requests. We will complete the second weekend of the D course in August, as well as beginning a new course at the end of the month.

Coach and Player Development Program (CD and PD) & Specialty Clinics

We are full for the fall season and continue turn away requests daily from Towns to provide them with programming. We will be working with Reading, Westford, Foxboro, Wrentham, Rockport, Dracut, Bellingham, Belmont, Gloucester, Melrose, Pepperell and Holden. Winter Requests have come in from in from Arlington, with others currently in the planning stages.

Summer Training Centers

Summer Training Centers have concluded in Holden, and are underway in Wilmington, with Martha’s Vineyard and Billerica still to come. We will be running a High School preseason camp with Ashland High School. A Goal Keeper Training Center has been added in Attleboro for the upcoming weeks.

In Conclusion

We are looking forward to a very busy and rewarding fall.

See you on the field.
REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE August 6, 2014

As you know, we previously conducted an internal search process that resulted in an offer being extended to Nick Dunbar, which he quite unexpectedly declined. The Board approved the next phase, which involves a broader search assisted by a qualified consultant / recruiter.

Since the July meeting, the committee have been researching potential recruiters and consultants for the next phase / process in our search for an Executive Director. Summarized below are the results to date.

1) We have had preliminary conversations with one firm, Third Sector, who are based here in Boston. They specialize in executive-level recruiting for non-profits. While they admittedly have never done anything for a soccer organization, they have worked successfully with other youth organizations, and have assisted in recruiting and placing over 100 ED-level positions in non-profit world. They would work with us to conduct any as-needed organizational assessment to develop a clear profile for a new ED, then conduct a national search for qualified applicants. They would review applications and work with the search committee on subsequent review and interviewing. Finally, they will provide necessary post-hire work to support our new hire / and the board (e.g., performance assessment, advisory / executive coaching, integration with staff/leadership). The anticipated timeline is between 4 and 6 months to complete. Their fee would range from $30 – 50K.

2) We have also identified several other firms – six or so from personal / networking referrals, and another 20 or so from targeted market research. We are putting together an RFP (request for proposal) that we will be submitting to some number of these firms, asking them to “bid” on working with us on this placement. I would hope that the RFP can be completed in the next several days and submitted by August 15.
One other matter we have considered is hiring an interim ED. Many of the recruiters we are considering can recommend someone, a professional interim – who would not be in the pool of prospective permanent hires – and who wouldn’t be necessarily be a soccer person, but would be a professional manager to bridge the hiring process. Such an interim ED would typically be paid on an hourly basis (i.e., ($60-120) for 2-3 days/week, plus a placement support fee to the referring recruiter of about $1,500.

While we understand that this process is moving slower than perhaps many of us would like, it is equally important to get it right as it is to get it done.

Respectfully submitted,

David Amidon, EVP & Chair, ED Search Committee
Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting
September 3, 2014

Non-Voting Members/Staff: T. Petricca, B. Treanor
Guests:

* phone

A quorum was declared present, President Ted Ritchie called the meeting to order by at 7:07 PM.

Executive Director Search
Ted Ritchie briefed the Board on the current status of the Executive Director search process. Led by Executive VP David Amidon’s efforts, executive search firms are being investigated and vetted for inclusion in a request for proposal (RFP) solicitation for recruiting services. Draft RFP is in process. Discussion included timeline for search process and the option of appointing a temporary Executive Director. Consensus of the Board was reaffirmation of the recruiting firm search process route.

Age Bracket/Grade Bracket and Playing Down
Ted Ritchie led a brief discussion of the current USSF age group requirements. In the past year and a half, the Mass Youth state office has advised leagues that unless specifically outlined in registration forms and operating rules, leagues have a significant liability risk if the league alters the age requirements. Ted noted that league age group policies vary greatly and recommended to the Board that Mass Youth evaluate establishment of a state policy on the subject. Consensus of the Board was to defer further discussion until the Mass Youth Leagues Committee discussed the topic and provided feedback to the Board. John Linnehan, Chairman of the Leagues Committee, advised he would add the topic to the September meeting agenda.

Massachusetts State League
Ted Ritchie revisited the August discussion of State League concept. The technologies to develop a single secure state-wide data base, including rosters and ID cards exists. Mass Youth needs to start the process of defining what is needed to develop the concept. Towards that objective, Mass Youth may be sending several tech-based Board Members to visit and evaluate companies that have products that could meet our needs.

Regional Representatives
Due to time constraints, topic was tabled to future meeting.

Acceptance of Board Minutes for August
The August Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Nancy Hart moved, second by Mike Borislow, to approve the August minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

Executive Director Report
No report.

Technical Director/Instructional Programs Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.
Communications Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Events and Programs Coordinator Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Reports of Program Managers

Leagues Committee
John Linnehan reported the Leagues Committee will be meeting Sunday, September 7th. Age bracket & playing down topic to be added to the agenda.

Districts/Recreation Report
Nancy Hart reminded the Board that the Kohl’s Cup Recreational Tournament will be held Sunday, September 28 at the Lancaster complex.

Instructional Programs
Submitted with Technical Director’s Report via email and appended to these minutes. Howie Blatt commented that the instructional course schedule is maxed-out through the fall season.

Outreach (TOPSoccer) Report
Ray Robinson reported that he is working with a group in Dorchester to start a new TOPSoccer program in that city.

ODP Report
No report.

State Cup Report
No report.

SYRA
Brian Treanor reported that two Massachusetts referees selected for the US Youth Soccer National Championships performed well at the event. The Mass Youth Soccer Districts Select Tournament was also very successful. Brian mentioned the MSRC Awards Dinner held in August and the Young Referee of the Year Award winners, Male – Ian Wyllie of Duxbury, Female – Elizabeth McDonald of Newton. Also, Levon Akoghlanian was presented the prestigious Flannery Award.

Financials
Derek Smith presented a year-to-date financial summary by phone. Financial report document to follow.

Board Members Reports on Club Visits
Ted Ritchie reported that he attended both the BAYS League and Essex League fall kick-off meetings. Ted focused on the new coaches section of the Essex meeting, explaining to the new coaches the large volume of beneficial instructional materials available on the Mass Youth Soccer website.
President’s Remarks
None.

Old/New Business
Under new business, Derek Smith gave the Board advance notice that the field complex rental agreement form will be revised to address field rentals to organizations not associated with US Youth Soccer. The rewrite will address loose ends in the agreement language, including a requirement for outside organizations to provide Mass Youth with a certificate of insurance coverage prior to rental.

For the Good of the Game
• On behalf of the Board, Ted Ritchie extended our sympathy to Dave Dalrymple and family at the passing of Dave’s father. A memorial service is being planned for November.
• Mike Borislow thanked the Board for the many kind expressions of sympathy he received at the recent passing of his brother, Dan.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Trudeau
Secretary

Addendum:

Instructional Program Report
September 2014

Respectfully Submitted by Ian Mulliner, Technical Director and Howie Blatt, Director of Instructional Programs

Technical Director
The fall season is already underway with a couple of towns kicking off early as they try to combat the loss of light later in the season. Just a quick note of congratulations to one of our former Technical Staff member Mario Prata, he is now the Director of Coaching for our neighbors to the south Connecticut. Mario has already attended our D License course as he looks to get up and running in his new role. I will also be meeting with Mario later this month to exchange ideas and find areas of commonality where we can work together as state associations.

I have also met with the Directors of Coaching from 6 organizations: Acton – Boxborough, Amesbury, Lexington, Sudbury, Wakefield and Wilmington to discuss ways of better serving our membership and collaborative efforts between the organizations.

Let’s hope that Mother Nature cooperates in bringing us the best kind of “soccer weather” for the fall for us to complete our programming.
Coaching Education
The C course was a rousing success with 40 registered coaches "surviving" the course and being better coaches for it. We then ran our summer D course with 22 coaches registered. For the remainder of the fall we have courses set up in Concord (G, F), Westwood, Franklin (F&E) Douglas and Westfield. The turnout at our summer courses has been strong and the fall registrations are continuing with that trend. Our heavy Fall Player development schedule has limited the time we have to schedule courses, however we are able to accommodate most requests.

Coach and Player Development Program (CD and PD) & Specialty Clinics
As stated earlier we are completely full for the fall season, all 6 of the Technical Staff are out every night and weekend. We are grateful to our part time staffers Mark Ruest and Eric Redder (New Hampshire Technical Director) for taking on some programming to help us meet demand. However we unfortunately have to turn away requests daily from Towns to provide them with programming. We will be working with Reading, Westford, Foxboro, Wrentham, Rockport, Dracut, Bellingham, Belmont, Gloucester, Melrose, Pepperell and Holden. Winter Requests have come in from Arlington, with others currently in the planning stages. Spring requests have also started, to date we have had requests from Mansfield, Maynard, Melrose and Attleboro.

Summer Training Centers
Summer Training Centers have concluded in Holden, Wilmington, Billerica and Martha's Vineyard. We have also concluded our first goalkeeper specific training in Attleboro. Planning is already underway to reach new towns for next summer.

In Conclusion
I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to thank Katie Hunt our CORI administrator who has decided to take a new position with a different company. Thank you to Katie for your time and efforts while working with our members.

As a final note, we are ready to take on our busiest fall programming since my addition to the Massachusetts Youth Soccer family.

You will find me on a field somewhere in the Commonwealth.

Events & Programs Coordinator Report

Hotel Update:
The following are the actual or expected revenues from hotel rebates and commissions from the spring, summer and fall tournaments:

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</table>

Fields Update:
Dick has relined all the turf fields so that they can accommodate 6v6, 8v8 and 11v11 play. Our current policy is to avoid small sided games on the grass, and we have successfully kept all 6v6 and most 8v8 games on the turf.
Tournament field rentals: The following are the amounts we invoiced for tournament rentals this spring, summer and fall:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mem Day</td>
<td>$ 61,586.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GPS July</td>
<td>$ 30,150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEFC August</td>
<td>$ 17,213.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aztec Labor Day</td>
<td>$ 42,400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Weekend Game Rentals: I received fall game schedules from NEP (6v6 and 8v8 only), Stars, GPS and Maple in that order and therefore I booked them in that order. All clubs and leagues were accommodated except for 1 Maple game on Kohl’s Cup weekend (9/28) and 3 Maple games on Soccerween (11/9). I believe I will be able to schedule those 4 Maple games when the tournament schedules are finalized.

All the turf fields and many of the grass fields are fully booked on Sundays this fall.

Midweek Practice Rentals: We have Stars, GPS and Delta practicing during the week. Altogether they use between 2 and 4 fields in the afternoon time slots.

Director of Communications and Marketing
Emily Reilly
Board of Directors Report
September, 2014

Sponsorships

Sports Authority – I met with Lani Hall, the Regional Marketing Manager, and she is very excited about our partnership. We shared a 20% off coupon with our membership that was good during the weekends of August 23-24 and August 30-September 1. We discussed doing the 20% off promotion every two or three months – it’s a nice benefit for our members, and it benefits Sports Authority by getting people into the stores. She would like to get a promotional booth onsite at our tournaments, but is limited by the number of staff she has available. Sports Authority agreed to donate two Red Sox tickets for the Golf Classic’s raffle/auction.

Chipotle – Chipotle will be running a jersey weekend during the weekend of September 13-14. Any soccer player who comes in wearing a youth soccer jersey will get a free kids meal. This has been promoted on our website, and will go out in the e-newsletter and through our social media accounts.

Boston Children’s Hospital – Our contract with Boston Children’s is up at the end of the month, and Ian and I will be meeting with them next week to discuss renewing the contract. At this point, both sides are happy with the current contract, so we will hopefully be able to extend it.

G-Form – G-Form, which makes an innovative new type of shin guard, approached us about a partnership. We are in the process of working out a contract with them, and hope to formalize the partnership soon. They are eager to get their product in front of our members, and would like to have a presence at all our tournaments.

Prime Toyota – I spoke with Mark Saraceno at Prime Toyota about working out a partnership. They have had signs up for several months saying that the proceeds they receive from parking cars in their lot go to Mass Youth Soccer. We estimate that they make $50,000-$100,000 per year from the parking, and they offered us $2,500 a year. I told them that that is not in line with what we receive from other partners, and it is not close to what they make from parking, and they declined to negotiate further.
Website
I am working on moving content over to the new website platform. Each page needs to be recreated, so it is a slow process, but I am making good progress. I am working with members of the staff to streamline and update the pages.

The website continues to receive a stable number of hits — close to 200,000 page views a month. I am posting new practice plans this week, and those are some of the most-viewed pages of the website.

Social Media
I have been updating the Facebook and Twitter accounts regularly. I am trying to engage users on Facebook, and our number of followers has increased by over 200 since the end of July.

e-Newsletter
I am planning to send out an e-newsletter during the first week of each month. I sent out a newsletter on August 1, and I have one scheduled to go out on September 3. Many of our sponsors have been given a certain number of mentions in our newsletter, so I want to ensure that they receive what is in their contract.

Fields Report
Dick Threadgould
September 2, 2014

So we made it through the summer relatively unscathed. Labor Day is behind us and the folks were generally pleased at not having to play Monday; the tournament having been concluded in 2 days. 189 teams made for a packed Saturday (8,000 or so), but food service went well as Dolce continues to improve their delivery logistics.

The grass fields continue to improve, slowly. We will begin our Fall seeding program in a few weeks and some minimal sodding will be done to address the referee troughs on some fields.

Vandalism continues to be a nuisance issue, petty theft (tools) and some malicious property destruction.

It may be time to look into a security camera system and steps have been made in that direction. In addition, we should look at casing in the western shelter, (we call it #3) and adding an overhead door in the front with perhaps a double door on the end.

Septic odor continues to be an ongoing issue as our system is not adequate to handle the flow. The leach field was built to handle the effluence of 1,500. And it is not unusual to have 4 times that number in attendance on any league day, spring or fall.

I recommend that the new budget call for pumping 4 times, (just prior to our large events). At present we pump 3 times. Also adding a super deodorant helps greatly with the smell.

We pumped and deodorized just prior to MTOC and again before District Select and had no issues. The next one is scheduled for the week before Soccerween.
A quorum was declared present, Executive Vice-President David Amidon called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM. David asked, and received Board concurrence, to take agenda items out of order.

**Acceptance of Board Minutes for September**

The September Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Bob Trudeau requested correction of a typo for the time of adjournment from 7:45 PM to 9:01 PM. Nancy Hart moved, second by John Linnehan, to approve the September minutes as amended. Motion approved unanimously.

**Executive Director Report**

Recently appointed Interim Executive Director Mike Borislow gave his first report since accepting the position. Among the topics he discussed with the Board:

- Several organizations have bid on rental of the field complex for a 2015 Labor Day weekend tournament. Selection process being finalized.
- CORI review process is time-consuming. Mike and staff revisiting the process to make it more efficient.
- Nominations for Mass Youth Soccer Annual Awards have been received and are in the review process.
- Mike recently completed a webinar conference with a potential data base supplier. Visit to the company to determine if their product can meet Mass Youth needs is being scheduled.
- Mike is reviewing the status of various projects with staff and will have updates to future meetings.

**Executive Director Search**

David Amidon briefed the Board on the current status of the Executive Director search process. A large number of non-profit focused professional recruiting firms were contacted (phone/email) to gauge interest in the Mass Youth Soccer ED search process. Four firms indicated interest and were sent a detailed Request for Proposal. One proposal received by bid deadline, Witt-Kiefer based in Illinois. David involved in fee structure negotiations with firm, will report results to Search Committee and Executive Committee before a decision whether to engage the firm for the search process.

**Age Bracket/Grade Bracket and Playing Down**

John Linnehan advised the Board that the Leagues Committee would discuss the age bracket/grade bracket issue at their October 5th meeting. The Board should receive a Leagues Committee recommendation on the topic by the November Board meeting.
Massachusetts State League
Dave Dalrymple briefed the Board on the information obtained from recent webinar with a potential data base supplier, Affinity Sports. Dave, David Boloz, Mike Borislow are all involved in learning more about the various features of the system and whether it is a fit with Mass Youth Soccer requirements. Further updates will follow.

Regional Representatives
The topic was tabled to a future meeting.

Dual Rostering Update
David Amidon reminded the Board of prior discussion on the dual rostering topic. David has researched how other state associations handle roster requirements, as well as national (USSF) advice on the subject. Ultimate objective is to rework the guidelines to be compatible with the current soccer landscape. David will convene the recently appointed ad-hoc committee to begin work on the issue and report status at the November Board meeting.

Concussion Certification
The Board discussed possible actions for awareness, education and training of coaches and referees regarding concussions injuries. A number of Mass Youth leagues and organizations, as well as other state associations have established requirements regarding concussion awareness. John Linnehan reminded the Board that he and former Board Member Dan Bielenin had previously researched the subject. David requested that John revisit the research and present a straw-man of a potential Mass Youth Soccer policy by the December meeting.

Technical Director/Instructional Programs Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Communications Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Events and Programs Coordinator Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Reports of Program Managers

Leagues Committee
John Linnehan reported the Leagues Committee will be meeting Sunday, October 5th.

Districts/Recreation Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Instructional Programs
Submitted with Technical Director’s Report via email and appended to these minutes.

Outreach (TOPSoccer) Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.
ODP Report
No report.

State Cup Report
Terri Filippetti, Director of State Cup, Presidents Cup and Open Cup, called into the meeting to discuss her recommendations for changes to all three competitions for 2015.

Presidents Cup – Terri recommends that Mass Youth Soccer take a one-year hiatus from participation in this competition. Reason for the recommendation is the significant cost to teams (registration, travel to final tournament) and to Mass Youth Soccer, which must provide a referee for each Massachusetts team that makes the final tournament and a state administrator to the final tournament. Further, due to recent changes in national affiliations among Massachusetts clubs, many previous Presidents Cup participants are now interested in participating in State Cup. Terri suggested revisiting Presidents Cup participation in 2016, pending 2015 State Cup and Open Cup results. Consensus of the Board was in support of Terri’s recommendation.

State Cup – Terri advised the Board of one major adjustment in the competition. The U13 & U14 age groups will be adjusted from 32 applications (teams) to 16 applications to align with other age groups.

Open Cup – There are concerns that with the possible reduction in State Cup participation at multiple age groups, Open Cup could be similarly impacted. US Youth Soccer’s definition for Open Cup is that it is a pre-qualifier for State Cup, i.e., the winner of each age group will be eligible for State Cup the following year. Terri and Mike Borislow exploring a concept that would open eligibility to the competition to any registered team in Massachusetts, regardless of affiliation. Mike is contacting US Youth Soccer national office for interpretation of the concept.

SYRA
No report.

Financials
No report.

Board Members Reports on Club Visits
None.

President’s Remarks
None.

Old/New Business
None.

For the Good of the Game
Mike Borislow thanked the Board for the many offers of support he has received since transitioning into the Interim Executive Director position.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Trudeau
Bob Trudeau
Secretary
Addendum:

Instructional Program Report  

*October 2014*

*Respectfully Submitted by Ian Mulliner, Technical Director and Howie Blatt, Director of Instructional Programs*

**Technical Director**
I would like to take a moment to say “welcome” to Mike Borislow as our interim Executive Director. Mike’s addition has already positively impacted our ability to keep calm and carry on. On the coaching front player development programs are going well with lots of positive feedback regarding our staff. I admit that while the staff scheduling seemed daunting at the outset I am happy to report that the technical staff are not only surviving but are as ever thriving, especially now that the light is visible at the end of the tunnel. If you haven’t seen me recently it is because I have been out on the field and traveling around the Commonwealth attending meetings and delivering programs. On another note I was appointed to the Region I Champion’s League Committee to serve a 2 year term by our new Regional Director Natalie Schwoeble. (Thank you Gaffer.) In addition I am working with Howie and Tamie on putting together the budget for 2015.

**Coaching Education**
As we move through the fall we are already in process of setting up our winter course schedule. At this time we have courses set up in Westfield, Wellesley and Arlington (G, F, E) With Fall underway we are now turning our focus to our winter and spring programs.

**Coach and Player Development Program (CD and PD) & Specialty Clinics**
As stated earlier we are completely full for the fall season, all 6 of the Technical Staff are out every night and weekend. Our part time staff of Mark Ruest and Eric Redder (New Hampshire Technical Director) is continuing our trend of delivering the best programs available. We are working with Reading, Westford, Foxboro, Wrentham, Rockport, Dracut, Bellingham, Belmont, Gloucester, Melrose, Pepperell and Holden. Winter Requests have come in from in from Arlington and Methuen, with others currently in the planning stages.

Our Winter TDC are being finalized as we speak and expect to have registration open this week for the following locations, Amesbury, Burlington, Cambridge, Hingham, Leominster, Mansfield, Middleton, Somerville, Springfield and Waltham.

Our spring schedule is also filling up with requests from Attleboro, Bellingham, Gloucester (Fisherman) Mansfield, Maynard, Melrose, and Rockport.

**Summer Training Centers**
We are in the discussion and planning stages of offering new Summer Programming for 2015. One idea is to offer a “Mass Pass” similar to those offered by swimming pools and other outdoor activity centers. I will elaborate more once we have decided on our direction.
In Conclusion
Thank you mother nature for allowing us to get through this fall without too much disruption. (At least at the time of writing this!!!)

See you on the field.

Director of Communications and Marketing
Emily Reilly
Board of Directors Report
October, 2014

Sponsorships
Chipotle – We partnered with Chipotle on a Jersey Weekend on September 13-14. Any child wearing a soccer jersey got a free kids meal – this was a nice benefit for our members, and a successful promotion for Chipotle.

Boston Children’s Hospital – We are in the process of renewing our contract with BCH. We have drawn up a new contract, which has the same general terms as the last contract, and BCH’s lawyers are currently reviewing it.

G-Form – We are in the process of finalizing a contract with G-Form. This is a new relationship, and they will have a presence at all our tournaments.

Website
The website continues to receive a stable number of hits – close to 200,000 page views a month. I am continuing to update the website with events and schedules, and other updates as needed.

In the last couple weeks, a new website provider was brought to our attention, and we have been researching the possibility of switching providers. The new company is called Sport Ngin, and their platform would allow us to have a mobile-responsive site as well as a mobile app. If you view our current site on a phone, it is very hard to navigate – however, our current provider, American Eagle, does not seem to have any plans to offer mobile capabilities.

A mobile-responsive site would mean that our website would be easy to read and navigate from a phone (which is how many people access websites these days). Sport Ngin also gives us the option to create a mobile app for tournament scheduling, so that we could easily update schedules/brackets, and let people know about last-minute changes (e.g. if a game was cancelled because of weather).

We are pricing out all the options, but looking at the preliminary numbers, it appears that Sport Ngin’s ongoing monthly charges are less expensive than American Eagle’s, but there would be some significant upfront costs to moving our website over to their platform. Once I get all the numbers, we can do a complete comparison on the pricing.

Social Media
I have been updating the Facebook and Twitter accounts regularly. I am trying to engage users on Facebook, and we are closing in on 700 Facebook followers.
**e-Newsletter**
I am sending out the e-newsletter in the first week of each month. Many of our sponsors have been given a certain number of mentions in our newsletter, so I want to ensure that they receive what is in their contract. If anyone has any information that they would like to have included in the newsletter, please let me know by the end of each month.

**Golf Classic**
Lori Jimenez has a complete report on the Golf Classic, but I have been assisting her with getting sponsors and raffle items. I am also working on the program for the

**Events & Programs Coordinator/Fields Report**

**Fields Update:**
The fall season is underway. The fields are busy on Sundays with Maple 8v8s and 11v11s, NEP 6v6s and 8v8s, and ECNL and NPL 11v11 games. Saturdays are significantly quieter with only a few Stars ECNL and NPL games, and adult league games. Dick has been able to manage occasional grass field closures by rearranging games as needed.
Kohl's Cup was a success with nearly 30 teams participating. The bouncy house near the pavilion was very festive!
The two day Legacy Lacrosse tournament, one day GPS Soccerween tournament, and three day GPS Thanksgiving tournament are all scheduled for November.

**Hotel Update:**
We have hotel blocks for the GPS Thanksgiving tournament, and may also pick-up some rooms for the Legacy lacrosse tournament.

**Contracts Update:**
I plan to review the expiring tournament rental contracts and hotel block contracts with Mike next month. One significant change to the current hotel contracts and room blocks will be increasing rooms for Labor Day 2015, and adding at least one additional hotel partner.

**MYSA Golf Classic Update:**
The Golf Classic is Monday at Stow Acres. We have 17 foursomes and a few more players are still trickling in. If you aren’t coming to golf but would like to join in for dinner, please let me know!

**Recreation Report – October 2014**

Kohl’s Cup Tournament was held Sunday and there were 30 teams who participated. We had one team not show but we rearranged the schedule to accommodate the teams. Tricia Desmaris assigned the referees and did a great job. All of the teams had a great time and I want to thank Steve Smoller and Terri Filippetti for volunteering. District Select Administrators and I had a meeting to discuss the 2014 season and make changes for the 2015 season.
TOPSoccer Massachusetts
October 2014

Training schedule and Events:

• With Caryn Goulet help we have completed both of the Woburn training sessions. Woburn is now ready to start this fall. Both sessions were very well attended.
• November 2 – Wilmington Jamboree at the Shawsheen fields
• October 17th -19th I will be attending the region I meeting in NY.

Ray Robinson
Director of Outreach Programs
TOPSoccer
Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting
November 5, 2014

Non-Voting Members/Staff: M. Borislow, I. Mulliner, S. Smoller
Guests: Nick Gates – Coaches Across Continents

* phone

A quorum was declared present, President Ted Ritchie called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Coaches Across Continents**
The Board listened to a presentation by Nick Gates, founder of Coaches Across Continents, a program that utilizes “Football for social impact”. Founded in 2008, the CAC Program is currently operating in 28 countries, serving 250,000 children playing soccer weekly. The objective of the Program is to use the sport of football/soccer as a common interest tool to engage young people in discussions of social responsibility and social change. Discussion between Nick and the Board centered on how the CAC Program might assist Mass Youth Soccer in improving and sustaining inner city and underserved community soccer programs in Massachusetts.

**Policy: Term Limitations (Age Groupings)**
The Board discussed a proposal to change the age limitation structure in Mass Youth Soccer Policy 5.02, see the proposal in the Addendum to these minutes. Essentially, the proposal would allow affiliated leagues the option to set guidelines for age or grade level groupings of players (teams) at the recreational level. The grade level allowance would be limited to one calendar year age difference. MTOC level and above would continue to adhere to USYS and USSF age bracket definitions without exception. The proposed age/grade levels are an option, not a requirement, so any league can elect to have more restrictive age groupings within the USYS/USSF age group definitions. The proposal was developed with feedback from the Mass Youth Soccer Leagues Committee (league presidents). A motion to accept the proposed policy as written was made by Derek Smith, seconded by John Linnehan. In discussion, objections were raised to the wording in bullet 2 of the proposed policy, which would not allow a league to place an over-aged/grade level player on a MTOC team during the fall season and/or remove the player from a MTOC tournament roster in the spring season, a practice currently used by several leagues. The consensus of the Board was to withdraw the motion and send the proposed policy back to the Leagues Committee for consideration of wording revision in bullet 2.

**Acceptance of Board Minutes for October**
The October Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Nancy Hart moved, second by Dave Dalrymple, to approve the October minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.
Executive Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes. Mike Borislow also advised the Board that he is in discussions with New England Soccer Journal as to ways the monthly soccer publication and Mass Youth Soccer might work together. Methods under discussion include placing Journal newspaper boxes at the Lancaster complex, a monthly page of MYSA news or a technical staff column. Mike requested Board members to promote the Awards Banquet on December 7th in their respective leagues.

Technical Director/Instructional Programs Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Communications Director Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Events and Programs Coordinator Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Reports of Program Managers

Leagues Committee
John Linnehan reported the next Leagues Committee meeting will be prior to the Awards Banquet on Sunday, December 7th, 10:00 AM, at the Double Tree Hotel in Leominster.

Districts/Recreation Report
Nothing new to report.

Instructional Programs
Submitted with Technical Director’s Report via email and appended to these minutes.

Outreach (TOPSoccer) Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

ODP Report
Jared Scarpaci reported that high school age tryouts for the ODP Program will start Sunday, November 9th and continue the weekend of November 15th &16th. Registrations for the Program are comparable to the previous year.

State Cup Report
Submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

SYRA
No report. Ted Ritchie advised the Board he is working on the upcoming SYRA appointment.

Financials
Derek Smith advised the Board that due to pressing matters at the state office, he was unable to complete the financial report in time for the November meeting. He is working to have the financial report and proposed 2015 budget available shortly.
Board Members Reports on Club Visits
Ted Ritchie advised the Board that he will be representing Mass Youth Soccer at the Special Olympics state-wide soccer tournament on Sunday, November 9th at the Governor’s Academy in Byfield, MA. Mass Youth Soccer is donating an insulated lunch bag, with Mass Youth Soccer logo, to every Special Olympics athlete.

President’s Remarks
None.

Old/New Business
• **New** - Nancy Hart requested that Mass Youth Soccer consider submitting a bid to host the 2017 President’s Cup Championships at the Mass Youth Soccer Complex in Lancaster. Bid submittal deadline is December 5, 2014. Tournament will be held in July 2015. Request taken under advisement to determine if a proposal can be created within the tight time frame.
• **New** – Mike Borislow shared the modifications implemented to the Mass Youth Soccer Open Cup Tournament that will allow non-US Youth Soccer affiliated teams to compete in the Open Cup and qualify for the following year’s State Cup competition as long as the teams adhere to the modification requirements. The Open Cup modifications document is appended to these minutes.

For the Good of the Game
John Linnehan advised the Board that two inner-city teams from the Soccer Without Borders organization are joining the Middlesex League for Spring 2015. The teams will initially be associated with the Everett Youth Soccer program.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Trudeau
Bob Trudeau
Secretary

Addendum:

**November 2014 Mass Youth Soccer Executive Director Report—Mike Borislow**

**Mass Youth Soccer Fields at Progin Park**

Fields have rebounded nicely from the spring kill and summer play. New bleachers have all been constructed and will be used as necessary throughout the complex. Preparations for final activity taking place:
PCA – Positive Coaching Alliance

Met representatives from the New England chapter of PCA. PCA is looking for greater exposure into the soccer community. They are interested in an endorsement. Plan to focus on organization’s boards to promote at the club/town level. Currently have a few towns entrenched in their courses. Shared ideas.

Office Technology

Currently all staff have sufficiently working computers (laptops and desktop). Of concern is our office’s server is just over 10 years old. The server only has 70 GB of storage. We need to constantly offload data so that we can store more current information. The performance is slow and getting slower. We do need to look at a new server. Also, the Sonic Wall is only licensed for 25 users. With computers, tablets, pda, phones, etc. we are always hitting the limit. The newer versions have unlimited licenses. David Wheeler will be preparing a summary and recommendations.

Staff

Staff are working very well as a team. Moved some duties around. Lori Jimenez will now handle all contract and legal related topics, either as a lead or support. Emily Reilly will be responsible for Event (i.e. Golf Tourney, Awards Banquet, AGM, etc.). These are changes in addition to each of their other various responsibilities.

NSCAA Convention/USYS Workshop

Coaching staff and many board are scheduled to attending the meeting in Philadelphia in January.

Awards Banquet

We are deep into the planning for this year’s Awards banquet. All award winners have been notified and plans are in the works for creating the presentation format and agenda. We hope to have representation from all leagues and as many associations (town/club) as possible. We also would like to have our board help generate interest in attendance as well as help with finding raffle items of value.

Instructional Program Report November 2014

Respectfully Submitted by Ian Mulliner, Technical Director and Howie Blatt, Director of Instructional Programs

Technical Director

As we wind down our fall player development programming, the technical department is reflecting on how we could provide better services to our membership based on our experiences this past fall. We will create a workable plan that we intend to implement for the spring season. Coming out of the Region I meetings I was voted to be the Region I Coaching Committee Chair by my peers. I look forward to working with them to provide a seamless coaching education, player and coach development system that incorporates all of our state, regional and national programs.
The Technical Department is working on the curriculum for the Technical Development Centers and the Olympic Development Program. All of the Technical staff will be attending the US Soccer Coaching Education event in Bradenton Florida at the end of the month as part of our professional development initiative.

Coaching Education

As one door closes another opens and so the coaching education course requests are beginning to come in for the winter. It all starts this weekend with the conclusion of the D License from August and then next weekend the November D course begins. We have F courses scheduled in Westwood, Wellesley, Easton, Woburn (Middlesex League), Arlington and West Springfield and E courses in, Arlington and Attleboro.

Coach and Player Development Program (CD and PD) & Specialty Clinics

As stated earlier we are in process of closing out the fall season for player development. We would like to thank Reading, Westford, Foxboro, Wrentham, Rockport, Dracut, Bellingham, Belmont, Gloucester, Melrose, Pepperell and Holden for choosing us as their coaching services provider. Winter programming is being set up in Arlington and Methuen.

Our spring Player Development schedule is also filling up, the following towns have secured programs to date Reading, Methuen, Dracut, Foxboro, Wilmington, Fisherman’s, and Mansfield. We have had inquiry's from Attleboro and are waiting to hear from a few others.

Our Winter Technical Development Centers are finalized; registration is open for the following locations, Amesbury, Burlington, Cambridge, Hingham, Leominster, Mansfield, Middleton, Somerville, Springfield and Waltham. Registrations for the centers are currently at 68 players.

Summer Training Centers

Planning for the Mass Pass is underway and we will have the format ready by Mid-December.

Budget

I have worked for several weeks with Howie and Tamie reviewing the FY 2014 budget. From that, we have developed an FY 2015 budget proposal and have submitted it to Tara and Derrick for final review.

In Conclusion

I hope you all get to spend the Thanksgiving Holiday with your family and loved ones.

Director of Communications and Marketing

Emily Reilly Board of Directors Report November, 2014

Sponsorships

Boston Children’s Hospital – We signed a new three-year agreement with BCH, with terms that are comparable to the previous contract.

G-Form – We signed a contract with G-Form, which makes a new type of shinguards – we will start
promoting their product on our website and through e-mails, and they will have a presence at most (if not all) of our tournaments to showcase their product.

*New England Soccer Journal* – Mike Borislow and I met with representatives from New England Soccer Journal to explore the potential for a partnership. They would like to give their publication to visitors to our field complex, and we would like to contribute content to the Journal, highlighting our programs, coaches, and events.

**Website**

The website continues to receive a stable number of hits – close to 200,000 page views a month. I am continuing to update the website with events and schedules, and other updates as needed.

We are continuing to explore different options for content management providers – we are weighing cost versus functionality in determining how to best meet the needs of our organization and our members.

**Social Media**

I have been updating the Facebook and Twitter accounts regularly. I am trying to engage users on Facebook, and we have over 700 Facebook followers.

**e-Newsletter**

I am sending out the e-newsletter in the first week of each month. If anyone has any information that they would like to have included in the newsletter, please let me know by the end of each month.

**Events**

Lori Jimenez and I are working on organizing the Annual Awards and Banquet. I have notified recipients of all the awards, and am working on sending out invitations, and we are contacting our sponsors and partners about donations for the raffle.

Lori and I exploring the possibility of holding a 5K race at our complex as a way to build community and bring Mass Youth Soccer members together (as well as reach out to people who are not affiliated with our organization). We are in the very early stages of thinking about this, and are looking into the costs and logistics of putting on an event like this.

**Fields, Hotels, Contracts & Events Update for November 5, 2014 Board meeting, Lori Jimenez**

**Fields Update:**

The NEP and Maple league seasons are ending. This past weekend was scheduled to be the last weekend of NEP league play, and next weekend the last weekend of Maple league play. We closed the fields on Sunday due to expected bad weather and will reschedule NEP games for next weekend. We also have a coaching course and ODP training the next 2 weekends.

The GPS Soccerween tournament is on Sunday, 11/9, the Beantown Classic lacrosse tournament is on Sunday, 11/23, and the 3-day GPS Thanksgiving tournament starts Friday, 11/28. Our next field events will be the March tournaments. GPS has the 2nd weekend in March, and NEFC has the 3rd and 4th weekends in March.
Hotel Update:

GPS Thanksgiving tournament hotel room bookings are underway.

Contracts Update:

We have a signed contract with Stars of Mass for their Labor Day tournament for 2015 and 2016.

I am reviewing hotel and other tournament contracts to renew and standardize both types of contracts going forward.

Events Update:

The Golf Classic at Stow Acres was a success, raising approximately $10,000. The Awards Banquet is scheduled for Sunday, December 7th at the Doubletree Hotel in Leominster. Emily Reilly has notified award recipients.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Region I Champion League

A total of 33 (25 boys and 8 girls) Mass Youth Soccer teams applied to the Region I Champion League.

South Shore Select 4 G teams
NE Rush 3 G Teams 2 B teams
Hammer 2 B teams
South Shore Utd Blazers 2 B teams
AC Arlington 2 B teams
Forza 1 B teams
Liverpool 2 B teams
Abbey Villa SC 3 B teams
Valeo 3 B teams
FC Blazers 1 G team 6 B teams
FC Spartans 2 B teams

Our recommendation list was submitted to Region I on 10/30.

State Cup

Website is in the process of being updated. I will email the "Important Dates" to staff and board this week.
Open Cup
Proposal for revised structure will be presented at board meeting.
Terri Filippetti 11/3/14

TOPSoccer Massachusetts November 2014

Training schedule and Events:

- October 17th - 19th I attended the region I meeting in Corning NY. Meetings I attended:
  
  § Region I meeting
  
  § TOPSoccer meeting discussions were on the 2015 workshop sessions, states TOPSoccer web site content, and future region I symposium, site TBD.
  
  § Risk management discussions were on background checks.
  
  · I had a meeting with South End soccer about starting a TOPSoccer program. We hope to get the going next spring.
  
  · I will be meeting with Dorchester after the first of the year to help them get a program going.
  
  · November 2 – Wilmington Jamboree at the Shawsheen fields (weather permitting)
  
  · November 15 – TOPSoccer networking session at the Fore kicks in Norfolk

Ray Robinson
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Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association’s Open Cup Tournament Modifications for Immediate Implementation

Current Status
Currently the Mass Youth Open Cup is considered a pre-qualifier tournament for the State Cup tournament for the following soccer year. State Cup is a qualifying tournament for USYS National Championship Series for the current soccer year. The 2015 Mass Youth State Cup tournament will consist of 16 teams for the U13 and 14 age groups. The U15-U19 age divisions will be limited to a maximum 12 teams each. These teams will be selected from a pool of applicants by a selection committee. One spot in each gender/age group will be reserved for the winner of the prior year’s
Open Cup winner. Open Cup is currently open to any Mass Youth/USYS affiliated team competing in a Mass Youth sanctioned league which meets the definition of State Cup qualifying league play.

For example, if the ABC Soccer Club’s U13 Boys team, a Mass Youth/USYS affiliated team, wins the Open Cup in 2014 they automatically qualify for a U14 Boys slot in the 2015 State Cup tournament. In order to maintain this spot the team must be affiliated with Mass Youth/USYS and play in a Mass Youth sanctioned League for the 2014/2015 season. Upon meeting this requirement, along with the other roster consistency requisites, the ABC Soccer Club’s U14 Boys team will have earned a spot in the 2015 State Cup tournament.

The Open Cup tournament is structured as a (Single Elimination)bracketed tournament with teams playing one match per round with the winner moving on and the loser dropping out until a final game is played resulting in an Open Cup Champion.

Proposed Modifications

The Mass Youth State Cup tournament will be kept as is with the same number of teams being selected for the noted age groups. The Open Cup will still be a pre-qualifier for the following year’s State Cup. The one modification will be that the Mass Youth Open Cup will be open to any Massachusetts based team (more than 50% Massachusetts resident’s) playing in a league based in or has games played in the state of Massachusetts. The teams may be registered with any USSF affiliated leagues/associations/organizations (i.e. USYS, US Club Soccer, AYSO, Super Y, etc.) that are in good standing with the USSF.

In order to maintain status as a State Cup pre-qualifier, the tournament is still open to any Mass Youth/USYS affiliated team in the state. The winners of the Open Cup will be granted an automatic spot in the follow year’s State Cup tournament. Below are the steps that will be used to make sure the winning team meets the qualifications for State Cup play the following year.

A. If the winning team is currently a Mass Youth/USYS affiliated team, this team:

   a. must maintain proper affiliation the following year, and
   b. must meet State Cup roster qualification criteria, and
   c. must compete in a Mass Youth sanctioned league complying with rule 221.1.4.

B. If the winning team is currently a member of another USSF affiliated organization, this team:

   a. must become properly affiliated the following year with Mass Youth/USYS (dual affiliations are permitted), and
   b. must meet State Cup roster qualification criteria, and
   c. must compete in a Mass Youth sanctioned league complying with rule 221.1.4.

C. If the winning team is currently a member of another USSF affiliated organization and this team provides timely notification it will not meet the above requirements(as noted in sections A and B) for becoming affiliated the following year, then this team will be considered to have abandoned its
automatic berth in the following year’s State Cup tournament, then:

a. the Open Cup Administrator will offer the automatic berth to the finals match runner-up, and

b. the runner-up must meet the criteria noted in section A or B of this list.

c. If the finals match runner-up also provides notification it will not meet the criteria noted in sections A or B of this list, then:

i. the Open Cup Administrator will review the semifinalist team(s) based on the following tie-breaker (meeting the criteria of sections A or B) is identified:

1. Of the losing semifinalist team(s) the first team to be offered the automatic berth in the next year’s State Cup tournament will be the team who:

a. has the highest number of goals scored in the semifinal game, or, if still tied,

b. has the lowest number of goals scored against in the semifinal game, or, if still tied,

c. has the highest number of goals scored in both the semifinal game and quarterfinal game (if played), or if still tied,

d. has the lowest number of goals scored against in both the semifinal game and quarterfinal game (if played).

e. If after “a” and “b” both teams are still tied and if one or both teams did not play a quarterfinal game, or after “a”, “b”, “c” and “d” both teams are still tied and both played quarterfinal games, and both teams consent to meeting the criteria of sections A or B, a one game playoff will be held using overtime and KFTM to determine the winner.

2. If, after exhausting the semifinalist list, no teams consent to meeting the eligibility criteria, the automatic berth will be turned back into the State Cup tournament committee and will be left open for use by the tournament selection committee’s discretion.

Why the Modifications

As many people are aware, a large contingency of Massachusetts youth soccer clubs have made the move over to US Club Soccer when the New England Premiership league became affiliated with this organization. This move has changed the landscape of soccer in Massachusetts and surrounding states. While other Mass Youth sanctioned leagues have adapted to the change, the need for Mass Youth soccer as the state’s only domiciled statewide association to also adapt has become apparent. Regardless of any one club’s national affiliation Mass Youth Soccer should be providing all soccer playing youth in the state with multiple avenues by which they can enjoy the sport from the lowest recreational to the highest competitive levels.

By opening the Open Cup to all Massachusetts league playing competitors this now demonstrates that Mass Youth Soccer is truly an inclusive association and desires to promote the sport of soccer to
all young residents in our state.

Excerpts from

US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS POLICY 2013-2014

Personal Notes in Italics

Rule 202. STATE ASSOCIATION LEVEL COMPETITION

Section 1

(a) Each State Association shall determine—

(1) which age groups, and whether boys or girls, or both, that it will conduct State Association level competitions for; and (Mass Youth Follows National Championship Age Groups)

(2) the teams that represent it for each boys and girls age group at the National Championships competitions for the region of which the State Association is a member. (Mass Youth determines these teams based on our State Championship tournament)

(b) The format for the competitions at the State Association level to determine teams representing the State Association shall be a tournament format established by the State Association. League competition may not be considered a tournament format. (Mass Youth will comply with the tournament format)

Section 2.

Prior to the competitions at the State Association level, the schedule and plans for determining the State Association representatives shall be submitted for approval to the Regional Director or the Director’s designee of that State Association’s region. (Mass Youth will provide this information as requested. Our qualifying tournaments will be in compliance)

Rule 221. TEAM ELIGIBILITY

Section 1.

The National Championships competitions shall be open to any team whose players are registered with US Youth Soccer through a State Association if the team is in compliance with all of the following requirements:

(1) The team must be comprised of properly registered and rostered youth players (as defined by US Youth Soccer). (All Mass Youth tournament qualifiers will meet this requirement)

(2) The team must be in good standing with its State Association and must be in compliance with, and has not violated, any of the bylaws and policies of US Youth Soccer. (All Mass Youth tournament qualifiers will meet this requirement)

(3) The team must be entered in the competition of the State Association in which at least 50 percent of its players are registered. (All Mass Youth tournament qualifiers will meet this requirement)

(4) The team must compete in at least a 4-team approved league during the current seasonal year in
its State Association, US Youth Soccer Regional League or US Youth Soccer National League, or with its State Association’s permission in another State Association, except for the U-19 age group for boy’s and girl’s. The league competition must consist of a minimum of one game against each of 3 different teams participating in the league. Whether participation in any amateur league shall qualify a youth team for Championship competition under this policy shall be determined by each State Association. *(All Mass Youth tournament qualifiers will meet this requirement. Mass Youth will make sure the leagues from which participants play are “approved”)*

(5) A team must demonstrate continuity of rosters between the league and every level of the National Championships competitions by maintaining a minimum of 9 players common to the roster of the team at every level of the competitions. *(All Mass Youth tournament qualifiers will meet this requirement).*
Proposed Policy on Age Limitations: (New 5.02 policy section)

- All affiliated leagues with youth players or teams playing in statewide competitions leading to regional and national competitions (e.g.: State Cup eligible teams) will adhere to the USYS and USSF promulgated age bracket definitions using the current August 1 date without exception.
- Any team or division of play in leagues eligible for the Massachusetts Tournament of Champions (MTOC) competition shall, in both the fall and spring seasons of play, adhere to the USYS and USSF promulgated age bracket definitions using the current August 1 date without exception.
- All other divisions/levels of play in leagues, tournaments, jamborees, etc. may utilize the following combinations of age and grade level for grouping players for play, subject to the stipulations and exceptions also provided below:
  - “Grade 8 or U14” as an inclusive bracket;
  - “Grade 7 or U13” as an inclusive bracket;
  - “Grade 6 or U12” as an inclusive bracket;
  - “Grade 5 or U11” as an inclusive bracket;
  - “Grade 4 or U10” as an inclusive bracket;
  - “Grade 3 or U9” as an inclusive bracket;
  - “Grade 2 or U8” as an inclusive bracket.

- **Stipulations:**
  - No player may be more than one year older than the stated soccer age bracket regardless of school grade level (e.g.: a player with a ‘soccer age’ of U15 may play on a “Grade 8 or U14” team as long as that player is in grade 8. A player with a soccer age of U16 may not play on a “Grade 8 or U14 team even if that player is in Grade 8.)
  - Any league electing to use the above grade or age determinants must adjust their player registration materials to provide notice to registrants and their parents.
  - The above age/grade level combinations are an option, and any league may elect more restrictive age groupings but may not be more restrictive than the USYS/USSF definitions.

- **Exceptions:**
  - In the event of a properly certified ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) waiver request, appropriate accommodation will be granted.
  - Intramural programs within a town may elect to group players solely by grade level/levels at their option.