Call to Order
Bob Trudeau, President of Mass Youth Soccer, called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM.

Introductions and Welcome
Bob Trudeau welcomed the membership to the AGM and took a few minutes to introduce Mass Youth Soccer board members, staff members and league presidents in attendance. Bob extended a broad-based thank you to the many parties involved in a whirlwind year of changes in the soccer community during 2015-2016.

Guest Attendees
From Bownet, Mark Botterill described the new partnership with Mass Youth and the benefits of Bownet portable goals.

From Copa America Centanario, Venue Director John Cunningham described the upcoming national tour June 3rd – 23rd whereby ten of the final sixteen teams from last World Cup will visit ten sites across the nation. The following games will be featured at Gillette Stadium:
June 10th - Chile v Bolivia
June 12th - Brazil v. Peru
June 18th - Quarterfinal match

From Affinity Sports, Account Executive Kimberly Kiledjian described the new partnership with Mass Youth.

Credential Report and Establishment of a Quorum
Bob Trudeau then asked for a credential report. The total membership represents 390 voting members (organizations), 857 votes representing organizations, leagues and board members. Attendance of 7.5% of voting members, 29 members, represents a quorum.

There were 45 member delegates present, representing 157 votes. A quorum was determined to be present to conduct business. A majority vote for the meeting was established as 79 votes, and a 2/3 majority vote was determined to be 105 votes.

Approval of the 2015 AGM Minutes
Lou Texeira moved, seconded by David Martinez, that the membership approve the minutes from the March 2015 AGM. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

Unfinished Business
No unfinished business.

Reports of Officers
Financial Report for 2014 – 2015 Fiscal Year Presentation of the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Budget

Financial Report
Derek Smith, Treasurer presented the Financial Report and reviewed the statement of activity & proposed budget. The Financial Report was divided into two segments: review of the audited report for
the fiscal year ending October 31, 2015, followed by review of the Board approved proposed budget for fiscal year 2016.

Directors’ Reports
All Directors’ reports appear in the booklets that were distributed at the registration desk.

Executive Director’s Report
The ED Report is located in the AGM booklet. In addition, Mike Borislow spoke to the membership regarding reorganization of functions within the office and field staff, as well as a new member (replacement) to the instructional staff. Mike Borislow added some additional comments about Mass Youth’s technical staff which was recognized by US Youth Soccer as having the best coaching staff in the nation. Some effort was necessary this year to bring various insurance policies up to date, including for directors, officers, crime, and liability policies. From a compliance standpoint, approximately 16,000 adults have completed adult registration, the processes for which have been enhanced as a result of coordination with DJCIS (Mass Department of Justice Criminal Information Systems).

Additionally, Mike Borislow reported on plans to centralize and audit required constitutional documents, etc.

Mike Borislow reported on US Soccer and US Youth Soccer’s changes in instructional programs. As a result of an exclusive partnership with NSCAA, Mass Youth has been able to bounce back from the resulting financial impact of the changes more quickly than some other states.

Mike Borislow also reported on the banner year for TOPSoccer and 2015 being the 25th anniversary, recognizing Ray Robinson’s efforts in this area.

With respect to the player development initiatives from US Soccer, Mike reported on a succession of consultations with US Soccer addressing the impact and tweaks/changes including goal sizes, age groupings (Mass Youth going to class year for recreational programs and club level programs going to calendar year), Recognize to Recover (“R2R”) guidelines and implementation of heading policies, etc.

Election of Officers
Bob Trudeau turned the meeting over to Mike Borislow, Mass Youth Soccer Executive Vice- President and Steve Smoller, chairperson of the Nominations Committee, who, after identifying the members of the Committee, presented the election slate to the membership.

The Nominations Committee members are:
Steve Smoller
Brad Shores
John Carver
Nancy Hart
Mike Po
Single candidate for Secretary/Clerk (Caryn Goulet)

Motion by Ted Ritchie, second by Brad Shores to nominate by acclamation Caryn Goulet.
**Director Candidates**
Dave Boloz  
David Dalrymple  
Caroline Foscato  
David Martinez  
Dana Santilli  

The first ballot was for the four open and available B-level Director positions, and the winners by majority vote were as follows:  
Dave Boloz  
David Dalrymple  
Caroline Foscato  
Dana Santilli  

For the remaining C-level Director position, motion by Lou Texeira, second by Jeff Chambers for David Martinez and approved by a voice vote.  

Prior to voting, David Amidon explained the voting procedure to the membership. In order to be elected, a candidate needed to receive a majority of the available votes at the AGM until all four positions were elected. If a position was still open, but a majority vote was not obtained by a candidate, even though their vote tally may be the highest among the remaining candidates, the candidate was not elected and a new ballot vote needed to be taken.  

Mass Youth Soccer staff acted as vote counters for the elections. The independent observers of the vote count were Nancy Hart and Brad Shores.  

Jeff Chambers moved, seconded by Ted Ritchie that the election ballots be destroyed. Motion passed on a voice vote.  

**Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws**
Next order of business was a change to Constitution 2.0 Charitable Purpose; No Discrimination as submitted via proposed version included in materials. An affirmative statement on inclusiveness is recommended to acknowledge a change consistent with US Soccer’s recently accepted By-Law 7 (“Funding”). Bob Trudeau explained the reasons for the change proposal. A motion to approve the constitution change was made by David Amidon, second by Jeff Chambers. The motion was approved by a greater than 2/3 vote.  

Next was a consideration of changes to By-Law section 7. A motion to approve the By-Law change was made by David Amidon, second by Jeff Chambers. The motion was approved by a majority vote, as recognized by the chair that greater than 79 “yes” votes were cast.  

Discussion ensued with a question of the location of fees if they no longer appear in the By-Laws. Mike Borislow indicated that fee structures would be reflected in at least two locations on the website. A request from the floor was for consistency in the name of the fee as reflected in the Treasurer’s report.  

Next was a consideration of changes to the membership fees, including inclusion of the $5 assessment. A motion to ratify and confirm the $5 risk management assessment for the 2015-2016 year and to continue into the 2016-2017 year was made by David Amidon, second by Tony Luongo (a motion that had been previously voted and approved by the Board of Directors). Discussion ensued about the minimum
state requirement for any adult 18+ to conduct a CORI, including the impact both pro and con. A call to move the question resulted in an attempt at a voice vote, the result being inconclusive, so a ballot vote was taken. The original motion was approved by a vote of 100 - 62 in favor.

The last motion was to approve $3 player membership and $5 adult membership fee increases for the 2017-2018 year by David Amidon, second by Lou Texeira. David explained that there has not been player and/or adult membership fee increases in more than sixteen years. He further explained the need to cover increases in operating costs, to cover risk management initiatives and compliance, noting that the organization is currently operating on a waiver of our loan covenant due to revenue shortfalls. The motion was approved by a greater than 2/3 vote.

**New Business**

During vote counting, Mass Youth Soccer Technical Director Ian Mulliner explained the recent changes in US Youth Soccer coaching course offerings and the new National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) course offerings through Mass Youth Soccer.

**Good of the Game**

As a gift of appreciation for his many years of service to Mass Youth Soccer and his leadership as Past President of the Association, National Chair for TOPSoccer Ray Robinson was recognized.

**Adjournment**

Bob Trudeau thanked the membership for their attendance and participation in the 2016 Mass Youth Soccer AGM. Bob noted that Mass Youth Soccer is held in high regard both at the regional and national level, and it is only through strong and vigorous membership participation that the Association can sustain that status. Bob requested a motion to adjourn, so moved by Jeff Chamber, seconded by Ted Ritchie. Motion approved by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1: 45PM. Respectfully submitted,

*Caryn Goulet*

Caryn Goulet  
Secretary/Clerk  
Mass Youth Soccer Association
CURRENT

2. PURPOSE

2.01….Charitable Purpose; No Discrimination.

Mass Youth Soccer is organized to develop, promote, and administer the game of soccer, among youth (boys and girls under nineteen years of age) within Massachusetts for the benefit and development of all youth as young men and women as the higher and greater purpose of youth soccer and not just as players.

Each Mass Youth Soccer member Organization and League shall offer a soccer program, without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin.

PROPOSED

2. PURPOSE

2.01….Charitable Purpose; No Discrimination.

Mass Youth Soccer is organized to develop, promote, and administer the game of soccer, among youth (boys and girls under nineteen years of age) within Massachusetts for the benefit and development of all youth as young men and women as the higher and greater purpose of youth soccer and not just as players.

Each Mass Youth Soccer member Organization and League shall offer a soccer program, without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or national origin.

For the purposes of registration on gender-based amateur teams, a player may register with the gender team with which the player identifies, and confirmation sufficient for guaranteeing access shall be satisfied by documentation or evidence that shows the stated gender is sincerely held, and part of a person’s core identity. Documentation satisfying the herein stated standard includes, but is not limited to, government-issued documentation or documentation prepared by a health care provider, counselor, or other qualified professional not related to the player.
RATIONALE

Inclusiveness all about treating and accepting people from different backgrounds with equality. Within youth sports it is a process that involves providing opportunities for all children with learning, social and athletic opportunities. Its aim is to eliminate exclusion that is a consequence of negative attitudes and a lack of response to diversity in race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or national origin. Massachusetts Youth Soccer should expand its Constitution 2.01 Charitable Purpose; No Discrimination statement on inclusiveness to include sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to demonstrate our broader sense of acceptance and understanding.

The following proposal, unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors, will be put to the membership:

**Adopt a change in the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association Constitution, 2.0 Charitable Purpose; No Discrimination as submitted via the proposed version.**

A “Yes” vote cast by 2/3 of the members present and voting at the AGM is needed for this proposal to pass.
CURRENT VERSION

Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association
Proposed Bylaw Amendment
Bylaw 7. Funding

7. FUNDING

7.01. Fees.

Player and adult membership fees and payments are recommended by the Board of Directors and approved by the Members before such fees and payments can take effect. If no action or agreement is reached regarding fees or payments, the existing fees or payments shall remain in effect.

All player and adult membership fees will go to the general fund. The general fund will be used to pay: USSF/USYS membership fees; insurance costs; other appropriate services and programs to Organizations and affiliated Leagues; and general administrative costs and the costs of the Instructional and Development Programs. Financial shortfalls incurred by self-funded Mass Youth Soccer programs are also funded by the general fund. Any such shortfalls shall be repaid to the general fund in subsequent years.

7.02. Player Membership Fee.

The player fee is an annual fee and, once paid, the player is fully affiliated with Mass Youth Soccer and USSF/USYS for the seasonal year. The player fee is the sum of:

7.02.1. the fee as determined by USSF and USYS, and assessed each year to Mass Youth Soccer; and

7.02.2. $9.00 which includes the fee increase levied on September 18, 2005 of $3.00 that is specifically marked and only spent on the field development project in Lancaster and associated maintenance. The increase shall be in effect for only the period of time necessary to repay the loans associated with the field development project in Lancaster.

7.03. Adult Membership Fee.

The adult fee shall be $11.00. If, in the future, USSF and USYS increase the annual fee for adults, said increase shall automatically be added to the $11.00.

It is an annual fee and, once paid, the adult is fully affiliated with Mass Youth Soccer and USSF/USYS for the seasonal year, subject to complying with applicable provisions of the CORI registration policy.

All volunteers and adults compensated by an Organization or affiliated League must be affiliated including, but not limited to, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, administrators, helpers, and in-house referees. Non-affiliated individuals may not perform any role in an affiliated program.
PROPOSED VERSION

7. FUNDING

7.01. Fees.

As of December 31, 2015 player and adult membership fees have been established at $9.00 and $11.00, respectively. Any subsequent changes to such fees shall be adopted by the Board of Directors and approved by the Members before such changed fees take effect. For clarity, the existing fees shall remain in effect pending any changes adopted and approved as provided in this paragraph.

All player and adult membership fees will go to the general fund. The general fund will be used to pay: USSF/USYS membership fees; insurance costs; other appropriate services and programs to Organizations and affiliated Leagues; and general administrative costs and the costs of the Instructional and Development Programs. Financial shortfalls incurred by self-funded Mass Youth Soccer programs are also funded by the general fund. Any such shortfalls shall be repaid to the general fund in subsequent years.

7.02. Player Membership Fee.

The player membership fee is an annual fee and, once paid, the player is fully affiliated with Mass Youth Soccer and USSF/USYS for the seasonal year, subject to complying with all applicable provisions of the annual player registration. The player membership fee is the sum of:

7.02.1. the player membership fee charged to member associations by each of USSF and USYS, and assessed each year to Mass Youth Soccer, plus

7.02.2. the player membership fee as adopted by the Board of Directors and approved by the Members of $3.00 of which is specifically reserved for the Progin Park (Lancaster) field development project costs and associated maintenance.

7.03. Adult Membership Fee.

The adult membership fee is an annual fee and, once paid, the adult is fully affiliated with Massachusetts Youth Soccer and USSF/USYS for the seasonal year, subject to complying with all applicable provisions of the annual adult registration and CORI submission policies. The adult membership fee is the sum of:

7.03.1. the adult membership fee charged to member associations by each of USSF and USYS, and assessed each year to Massachusetts Youth Soccer, plus

7.03.2. the adult membership fee as adopted by the Board of Directors and approved by the Members.

All volunteers and adults compensated by an Organization or affiliated League must be affiliated including, but not limited to, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, administrators, helpers, and in-house referees. Non-affiliated individuals may not perform any role in an affiliated program.
RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED AMENDMENT
Currently the process of making any changes to player and adult membership fees calls for a change to the Mass Youth Soccer bylaws. This requires an amendment approved by the Board of Directors and adopted by a majority vote of the Members. It is the desire of the amendment submitter to treat setting of membership fees as a matter separate, and not requiring an amendment of the Mass Youth Soccer bylaws. If accepted, the proposed revised language will require an identical process for changing membership fees (i.e. approval of the Board of Directors and adoption by the majority vote of the Members) without requiring an amendment to the bylaws.
Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association
Player Fee Proposal – 2016 AGM

Beginning in April 2015, a series of meetings with all member Leagues and presentation at a League Committee meeting were conducted regarding the state of Mass Youth Soccer’s finances generally, and its risk management responsibilities and practices in particular. The focus of the meetings and presentation was on the risk and challenges of providing youth soccer benefits in a responsible manner and the cost of providing these services.

Topics and issues addressed include:

Players:
- Health and Wellness
- Fitness protocols
- Injuries
- Concussions
- Baseline Testing
- Return to Play Protocols
- Nutrition
- Equipment

Risk Management Landscape:
- Constantly Changing and becoming more Demanding
- Coaches
- CORI, SORI, Background Checks
- Education/Development
- Licenses/Diplomas
- Accreditations

Insurance:
- Member Benefits
- Excess Medical
- General Liability
- Directors and Officers
- Crime
- Cyber
- Accident, Death and Dismemberment

An historical review of the Mass Youth Soccer risk management programs and related finances and budgets was conducted, resulting in a conclusion that the adequacy of our current fee structure is inadequate, within this changing environment. To summarize: Player membership fees have not increased in 15 years, while the cost of providing services during that same period has increased some 3.5% - a greater rate than that of the CPI/COLA average (2.18%) for the same period.

The cost of maintaining salaries, insurance, technology, complimentary programming, buildings and facilities have increased at higher rates. Using a conservative 3% costs increase rate and the “net” $6 player membership fee (i.e., $11, less the $3 field fund, and less $1 each to USSF and USYS), today’s actual player total membership fee should be $14 (or more).

As a result, the Board of Directors recently approved a $5 risk management assessment per registered adult. This assessment is paying for the new ShareView database system, some of the increases in insurance costs, increased costs in managing the CORI process, and other programs in development that will strengthen our risk management initiatives.

An increase in player membership fees will have a substantial and positive impact on the Mass Youth Soccer finances, in a number of ways. It will allow us to continue to further strengthen our insurance program. With the coming changes resulting from the new concussion mandates and protocols, we have already learned that our insurance premiums will increase to meet and prepare for an expected increase in associated claims. In addition, the increased player membership fees will improve our overall financial strength as we continue to manage our debt and deal with increasing expenses.
Overall, the need to raise both our adult and player membership fees above the levels set 15 years ago is long overdue.

Accordingly, the Board of Directors and Leagues Committee have largely adopted support of a fee increase. The following proposal will be put to the membership:

Proposal to increase the annual player membership fee, pursuant to Bylaw 7.02.2, to be voted on by the Mass Youth Soccer membership at the 2016 Annual General Meeting. A “Yes” vote will authorize an increase in the annual player membership fee by $3, such increase to become effective with the 2017/2018 seasonal (soccer) year.

A “Yes” vote cast by a majority of the members present and voting at the AGM is needed for this proposal to pass.

For clarity: If the prior proposal for an amendment to Bylaw sections 7.02.2 and 7.03 does not pass, then the above proposal on a change to the annual player membership fee will be entertained as a proposed amendment to Bylaw section 7.02.2., to be properly worded based on the method voted in, if so voted by a majority vote