

**MYSA Annual General Meeting  
March 10, 2012  
Puma Headquarters - Westford, MA**

The meeting was called to order by Ted Ritchie, president of Mass Youth Soccer, at 10:07 AM. There were 37 delegates present, representing 143 votes. A quorum was determined to be present to conduct business. Ted made welcoming remarks, introduced Mass Youth board members who were in attendance and new staff members. Ted reported on a new committee that is reviewing all aspects of soccer in Massachusetts. Members of the committee represent town soccer, leagues, and clubs. They are charged with bringing Mass Youth Soccer back to its mission and back to its roots. Ted also discussed the CORI process and current status of data.

Ted introduced Mike Singleton, executive director who also welcomed everyone and introduced Puma personnel who were present and thanked them for hosting our meeting. Mike also introduced personnel from Korrio, our registration software partner who were present.

Ted then asked for a credential report. The total membership represents 857 votes, with 450 member organizations, leagues and board members. There were 37 delegates present in the room, representing 143 votes. A majority vote requires 72 votes.

#### **Approval of last year's minutes**

It was pointed out that the year of the minutes that were approved last year was incorrect and should read "minutes from February 2010"

**Nancy Hart moved, seconded by Jeff Chamber, that we approve the minutes, as corrected, from the February 2010 AGM.** The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

#### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

#### **Reports of Officers, Directors, and SYRA**

##### **Financial Report**

Jim Gondek, our new comptroller, presented the financial report and the budget. A handout was available at registration with the reports.

**Charles Calcagni moved, seconded by Tricia Desmarais to approve the financial presentation.** Motion was approved by a voice vote.

**Tricia Desmarais moved, seconded by Sheldon Epstein to accept the budget as presented.** Motion was approved by a voice vote.

##### **Directors' Reports**

It was noted that the reports appear in the booklets that were distributed at the registration desk.

Additions to the reports were offered from the floor as follows:

Under Instruction, Ian made a few comments regarding changes the federation is making in trying to achieve more uniformity among the states in licenses and courses.

Under recreation, Nancy reminded everyone about the Kohl's Cup, Sunday, April 22 and distributed flyers for the tournament.

Under Outreach, Ray reported that Massachusetts currently has the largest TOPS program in the country. Ray feels we should have a lot more programs running in the state.

Andy Weiss spoke for the SYRA, Brian Treanor, who was absent due to the passing of his father. The report was in the meeting booklet.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Appears in the booklet. Mike Singleton highlighted a few items. He updated everyone on the CORI reporting and progress being made in the process. He commented on changes that have been made at the field complex in Lancaster and also commented on our presence on social network pages such as Facebook and Twitter.

Ted recognized the league presidents who were present at the meeting.

### **Election of officers**

Ted Ritchie turned the meeting over to Steve Smoller, chairman of the nominating committee, who, after identifying the members of the committee, presented the slate:

The committee members are: Jeff Chambers, Tricia Desmarais, John Ostrom, Kelly Shanahan, and Steve Smoller.

The following are the positions to be elected, all are unopposed:

President (three year term) – Ted Ritchie

Treasurer (three year term) – Derek Smith

Director of Olympic Development (three year term) – Jared Scarpaci

Director of National Championship (three year term) – Terri Filippetti

Director at large – District 1 (three year term) – David Martinez

Director at large - District 7 (three year term) – Tom Rivet

**Charlie Calcagni moved, seconded by Tricia Desmarais, for the secretary to cast one ballot for the uncontested candidates.** Motion passed by a voice vote.

### **Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws**

Ted Ritchie turned the meeting over to Steve Smoller, chairman of the Constitutional Review task force.

Steve explained that, during the past year, the board passed some bylaw changes that need to be ratified at this meeting. There is also a change in policy that does not need a vote, but should be reported to the membership.

A copy of the text of the bylaw changes is appended to these minutes.

**Cliff Cloutier moved, seconded by Jeff Chambers to accept the bylaw changes as amended at the meeting.** Motion passed by a voice vote.

There was a new bylaw proposed to add an advisory board. A copy of the text is appended to these minutes.

**Jeff Chambers moved, seconded by Charlie Calcagni, to approve the motion.** Motion passed by a voice vote.

The policy change involves U-8 players traveling. There was much discussion on this policy change and significant opposition from the floor and among the league presidents. The issue will be revisited by the board and the policy will most likely be reviewed and amended by the board.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Good of the Game**

Ted Ritchie thanked everyone for coming and for their input and reminded them that we are all trying to do what's best for the youth of Massachusetts

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Smoller, Executive Secretary

Addenda:

### **1. By Laws**

No proxy voting at meetings adopted at June meeting

2.04.1

proxy voting is not allowed at board meetings.

Process for voting via teleconferencing or other electronic methods adopted at July meeting

2.06.1

1. Board members must indicate to the president or his designee in advance his/her intent to vote by teleconference or other electronic methods as may become available.
2. Board members must be on the line during discussion of the issue to be voted.

3. In the instance of a ballot vote, member may, at his/her discretion, opt to text or telephone his/her vote to the person assigned to count the votes.

If this privilege is extended to any board member for any particular issue, the same opportunity must be made available to any other board members who would be unable to attend in person to vote, so long as such board member(s) follow steps 1-3 above.

Changes to nominating committee and nomination process adopted at November meeting

1.03.4 The nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) persons: Four (4) persons appointed by the President, at least two (2) of whom shall not be then-serving Directors, and one (1) person designated by the Leagues Committee, who shall not be a then-serving Director. The Nominating Committee shall designate its Chairperson from that number. The Nominating Committee shall report its slate of proposed candidates to the President and the Executive Director no later than 60 days preceding the AGM. The Executive Director shall distribute the list of nominations to every Organization, affiliated League, and Director promptly following submission of the list of nominees by the Nominating Committee. (The proposed change removed November 25 as the deadline and replaces it with 60 days).

## **2. New bylaw for advisory board**

### **5.07**

To establish an Advisory Board to provide advice, ideas, and expertise to the President and the Board about the management and direction of Mass Youth Soccer. Members of the Advisory Board will be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the President, the Executive Committee, and the executive director. The composition of the Advisory Board will give due consideration to finding and retaining individuals who want to contribute to Mass Youth Soccer's well-being and growth, and who possess skills, experience, and expertise complementary to Mass Youth Soccer's management. Advisory Board members may be invited by the President and the Executive Committee to attend Board meetings as non-voting participants and observers; In addition, each Advisory Board member shall make him [her] self available from time to time for occasional telephone calls and correspondence with the President and/or Directors, in order to convey the benefit of his/her knowledge and experience in helping such persons to govern Mass Youth Soccer's affairs. The Advisory Board members will meet as a group and/or individually with the President, the Executive Committee or their designee(s) periodically to discuss and advise on Mass Youth Soccer business.

It is expected that Advisory Board membership is voluntary. Mass Youth Soccer's indemnification provisions will be amended to include indemnification of the Advisory Board members.

## **3. U-8 Policy adopted at May meeting:**

### **2.11**

Mass Youth Soccer Technical Department, Mass League Presidents and the Mass Youth Soccer Board of Directors adopts the following exception policy:

2.11 Inter-Town/Club Play

1. Towns/Clubs with less than 60 registered U8 players (10-player rosters; 6 teams; 5+ games) may combine with (travel to) adjacent towns/clubs to enjoy inter-town/club play.
2. U8 players/teams will not be required to travel more than 20 miles.

2.11.1 Tournament Play

1. U8 teams can participate in jamboree type competitions with the following requirements:
  - No scores or standings will be kept or posted.
  - U8 players/teams will not be required to travel more than 20 miles.
  - U8 teams will not be charged fees to participate.

2.11.2 Playing Up

1. NO more than 3 of a town's/club's U8 players may play up in a town/club program.
2. U8 player has birthday on or after August 1, but will be a 3rd grader in the current school year, so player can play on a U9 or U10 team with classmates.
3. Small town/club soccer program needs additional players to have a viable U10 team, so it places strong U8 players on the team.
4. Town/club promotes dominant U8 player(s) to U10 team for spring season.

2.11.3 Playing numbers

The format for U8 game competitions should be 4v4 (no goalkeepers) per US Youth Soccer National Recommendations. 8 players to 1 ball is developmentally appropriate for these young players, who are attempting to improve their technical skills and basic decision making. The USSF technical leadership is overwhelmingly opposed to having goalkeepers at this age level. We believe that it is more developmentally important for all players in this age group (and younger) to focus on their field player skills.

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