



Washington State Youth Soccer Association • WSYSA

500 S. 336th Street, Suite #100 · Federal Way, Washington 98003-6389
PHONE (253) 4-SOCCER · FAX (253) 925-1830 · www.wsysa.com

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Dave Schumacher
Coaching Director

Brenda N. Heintz
Office Manager

WSYSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING September 29, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

Doug Andreassen called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at WSYSA Headquarters at 9:15 am.

ROLL CALL

Present:

President Doug Andreassen
1st VP Brian Lawler
VP Competition Gail Zimbelman
VP Development Mike Margolies (left at 11:20 am)
VP Recreation Bryan Vasbinder
Secretary Cynthia Spencer
Treasurer George Maitland
District 1 Alternate Comm. Ron Lambalot
District 2 Comm. Shari Tumey
District 3 Comm. Stu Snow
District 4 Comm. Laurie Myers
District 5 Comm. Todd Benner
District 6 Comm. Mike Terris
District 7 Comm. Ken Phillipson
WSYSA Exec Dir Todd McGann

2nd VP Ryan Shannon (arrived at 9:50 am)

Credentialed Staff and Guests

Dave Schumacher, WSYSA Coaching Director

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Aug 24 BoD Mtg

- Accepted with following corrections:
 - Change "Top Soccer" to "Soccer Start" when discussing diversity committee
 - Add Olympia as second location for Presidents Cup playoffs.

AGENDA / COMMUNICATIONS

Cynthia Spencer reminded the Board that cutoff for proposed Rule Changes are due by tomorrow (Sept. 30). So far only two proposals have been received. Board members indicated more are in draft and will be submitted.

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REPORTS

VP Development's Report

Mike Margolis reported that WSYSA has been asked to host a DOC clinic in the spring. Agenda is being reviewed and considered.

Frank Smoll clinics on parent education relating to soccer have been well received. Covered by Everett Herald and full hour-long radio discussion on the Dave Ross Show and KOMO.

VP - Competition's Report

Gail Zimbelman reported that the State Cup committee met. StarFire is booked for the fall league cups. The Committee is still working on dates for the girls (spring) league.

Laurie Myers requested all notices be copied to the District Commissioners so that pressure can be asserted to assure representation at meetings.

VP Recreation's Report

Bryan Vasbinder announced that Presidents Cup pins arrived and plans for the play-offs are well underway. Pins were distributed to the Board.

1st VP Admin's Report

Brian Lawler reported on record retention policies and indicated that WSYSA would be updating its policies.

2nd VP Admin's Report

Ryan reported meeting with staff to progress on sponsorship and marketing plans.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

AGM Update

Doug reported that notice was sent to Dale Warren of the Board's decision to sanction him for Ethics violations. No response has been received so far.

Soccer Summit

Dave Schumacher reported on the outcomes of the breakout sessions held on the second day with the competitive clubs. The action points include:

- **New Competitive Calendar** – proposed revisions to soccer calendar with fall and spring league play for PDL and state leagues
 - Tryouts end of June
 - Shorter fall league for HS boys & PDL
 - No league in December or January
 - Boys state cups in Feb (ending before HS soccer starts)
 - Spring league for HS girls and PDL (Feb – April)
 - Girls HS, PDL and BU19 state cups in April / May

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Dave highlighted the huge volume of changes that would be needed to implement this type of change. A committee was appointed to come up with recommendations for October BoD meeting on how to achieve the recommendations. **Committee: Dave Schumacher (chair), Mike Margolis, Gail Zimbelman, Bryan Vasbinder and Laurie Myers.**

Concerns addressed to the committee:

- tournaments,
 - danger of losing recreational players from system
 - field availability in spring (how many matches would be played in spring).
 - Matching number of games played in fall and spring seasons.
- **Club Pass** – Ability to move players between teams to encourage player development. Breakout session agreed an outline of what was desired. A pilot program allowing PDL to test the program this fall was approved by the Board of Directors following the meeting to be administered by the PDL Committee. Dave indicated that there were varying interpretations of the program which have been addressed. Program allows players to play up a year or move between an A team and a B team at own age level. Discussions were held with Idaho YSA who implemented a player pass program several years ago (and reports that there are abuses).
 - **Disciplinary** – Clubs want coaches or Directors of Coaching to be included on Disciplinary (review) Committees and want hearings for red cards prior to suspensions. Bernie James was nominated by the group to be a permanent member of the standing committee.
 - **Player/Parent Contract** – Group concern that there needs to be a contract between players and clubs to settle financial obligations before can transfer to new clubs. Discussion ensued concerning the appropriate role of the state association and local associations. Clubs want WSYSA to help enforce by not allowing transfers if contract obligations are outstanding. Brian Lawler agreed to determine how US Youth Soccer rules apply. Dave Schumacher was tasked to work with the associations to come up with a common contract to be used by clubs with “teeth” to enforce payment of outstanding fees to departed club.
 - **Recreational Session** – Ken Phillipson expressed his district’s frustration that the recreational session kept drifting into select soccer, rather than focusing on recreational soccer. Doug agreed and indicated a proposed another session for recreational play (on agenda under New Business).

Doug announced the intent to hold another premier summit in January for competitive clubs (timed to coincide with the Council meeting) to continue the discussions started already and update the clubs / associations on how WSYSA is responding.

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Scholarships

Todd announced there'd be almost no feedback on the proposal so moving forward to implement the plan as distributed.

Reports

July 2007 Financials

George Maitland distributed draft annual financial statements and reported that refunds for liability insurance will be offset against funds owed WSYSA from the associations. Ron requested that despite offset, efforts still be made to resolve issues with Associations regarding amounts owed. The Finance Committee is drafting the 2007-08 budget, which will be presented to the Board in November.

Diversity Committee

Doug reported that the Committee is actively meeting and is working to develop plans for implementing into the community. Intent is to pierce the wider community, not just Latino populations (albeit starting there because the Latino community approached WSYSA asking for support). Committee members are attending district / association meetings to spread the word and build support for Soccer Start.

Doug reported on problems witnessed with specific teams and coaches of blatant discrimination (against Latinos and Jews). Mike Margolis indicated that referees need to be educated / mentored as well so players from all backgrounds will be equally accepted on the field.

Rules Reivew

Stu Snow indicated that his personal schedule has prevented him from proceeding on the review / recommendations for rules overhaul. Ron Lambalot agreed to step in and work on this.

NEW BUSINESS

State Cup Dates - Zimbelman

Gail distributed proposed dates for the state cups playoffs. Dates for all but spring tournaments will be finalized and posted to the website next week.

Shari told the Board that a District 2 parent compiled a list of holidays observed by top 20 school districts in the state to determine which school breaks were commonly shared. A copy was given to Gail to consider before finalizing state tournament dates.

Discussion centered on whether rule changes were needed to implement a separate U11 tournament.

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Spokane Summit - Andreassen

Plans set for a one-day Eastern Washington summit on Nov. 10 in Spokane. Todd, Doug and Dave Schumacher will represent WSYSA at the Summit, and also have separate meetings with local associations. Expecting 70 people to participate.

Recreation Summit - Andreassen

Doug shared frustration that the recreation player issues were eclipsed by select and competitive issues (in part due to who attended the session). He proposed a separate summit for next summer (as recreational clubs reorganize for fall season) that exclusively focuses on recreational players / teams / clubs. Dave Schumacher requested the district associations solicit concerns and recommendations from their membership prior to the next summit to elicit what they want and set the agenda.

Director of Coaching Review - Margolies

Mike Margolis and Todd McGann are developing goals and objectives for Dave to achieve in the coming year. Plan to bring those to the Board at next meeting.

Staff - McGann

Todd announced that Amie Wallsmith has joined WSYSA as Marketing Events Coordinator and shared her previous soccer and marketing background.

Two staff members are leaving for personal reasons (both on good terms): Jake Henak was offered more money than WSYSA can afford but will continue on a contract basis short term for programming (will also hire an outside contracting firm to maintain the network and start search for IT), and Julie Pursella is moving to a job closer to home but up-to-date on risk management (fall season peak was completed using one staff person and a volunteer).

Sale of Mailing Labels - McGann

Todd distributed the current WSYSA Mailing Label Policy and asked for feedback from the board on proposed updates. Current rates for selling mailing labels is 5 cents / label for members and 10 cents / label for commercial companies or organizations, which were set in 2002.

Todd recommended we raise rates and tie sale of mailing labels to sponsorships and/or advertisement in *PlayOn*. Aware that others charge more (Lance Armstrong Foundation charges 25 cents / label). Ryan confirmed that market rate is around 25 cents / label.

Discussion ensued on concern about members information provided for marketing purposes if individuals have "opted out" or are listed on national "do not mail" lists. Todd recommended selling mailing labels through a bonded mailing warehouse that will scrub the list against the national registry.

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Shari proposed we increase rates to 10 cents for members and 25 cents for others and accept Todd's recommended updates (section 4). Motion was amended to require that all sales of labels be accomplished through a bonded mail warehouse.

Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Medical Play Down – Vasbinder

Bryan Vasbinder shared a proposed policy that would allow teams entering the Presidents Cup to roster an above-age player (no more than one year) who is playing down due to medical reasons. Local districts and associations currently allow medical play-downs, therefore this policy would keep teams intact playing at league age levels.

Motion was made and seconded to accept this policy for Presidents Cup and recreational play only. ***Motion passed unanimously.*** Todd agreed to reformat as a formal policy.

Bonzi – Completion and RMA Access

Clarification was made that Bonzi contract covers five years (with 90-day cancellation). Discussion ensued about functionality regarding Scheduler (working with Ken and Bonzi on specifics) and other elements that need refinement, including disciplinary. Todd announced that one final three holdouts is now joining Bonzi (Whatcom) so only two left.

Todd confirmed for that all members have access to Bonzi list individuals with RMA approval. (Can provide to non-members by spreadsheet or log-on as needed.)

Membership IDs

District Commissioners requested clarification how membership passes are supposed to be used. Confusion is arising vs player cards. Laurie recommended an instruction sheet for how to distribute and use, as well as distributing laminating sleeves (or arranging lower cost options for laminating on a statewide level).

Open Committee Chairs

District Commissioners requested an update of open slots. Doug announced that Valerie Mueller is Soccer Fair chair. Brian Lawler indicated that the position of State Registrar, who Chairs the State Registration Committee, may no longer be necessary, so he is waiting before making an appointment. Possibly staff can handle the position with oversight from the 1st VP Administration.

Presidents Cup Rule Change

Bryan Vasbinder proposed rule changes for 2007 Presidents Cup to delete Section 606.B.1. (b) to strike line (2) and line (4) to allow new tournament format (single weekend). ***Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

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Players on Two Teams

Commissioners shared concerns arising from parents trying to roster their children to two teams (fall and spring), including having girls play on boys teams and district teams in fall and CYL teams in spring. Concern of the Board in moving the high-school age girls was to protect players from injuries due to overplay (high school and league).

Extensive discussion ensued how to prevent players from transferring out of spring leagues to play in fall and then transferring back. Agreed that a press release / directive will be issued from WSYSA to reiterate the intent of the change and that players cannot play both fall and spring season.

Disciplinary Rule Changes

Shari Tumey provided feedback to the Board that after three weeks of the fall season, there is concern that automatic suspensions for more than a single week should have hearings so a rule change will be submitted.

Referees & player passes

Laurie Myers reported that District IV published instructions to referees on how to deal with the new player ID cards. Upon request from the Board, she agreed to share this with other Districts and referee associations.

Inter-District Leagues

Shari Tumey moved to sanction the Inter-District Leagues (IDLs). Motion was seconded by Ron Lambalot. Doug and Todd clarified that the leagues are properly registered under WSYSA and sanctioned by local districts, therefore eligible for insurance coverage. Sanctioning is needed to make them eligible to play in Championship Cup, which feeds into national championships. Laurie Myers moved to table the motion to allow Doug to continue on-going discussions with the PDL. Seconded by Cynthia Spencer. Motion to table was approved with one nay vote.

GENERAL – FOR THE GOOD OF THE GAME

Laurie Myers announced that District 4 is providing Board training to local associations and offered to share the documentation.

Doug shared that he and Todd are moving forward with a number of initiatives.

- **Seattle will be granted an MLS expansion team for 2009** without a designated soccer specific stadium. Formal announcements expected mid-October. Will have major interaction with youth soccer.
- **PDL concerns** primarily come from PDL parents with issues related to scheduling (biggest), disciplinary (lack of feedback) and administration (how to get info).
- **Travel papers** – Bonzi travel papers (Etravel) are up and running smoothly. Todd cautioned that international travel papers can be completed on-line and then printed and sent in because they require national approval.

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- Mike Terris announced Gonzaga University men's team defeated the #1 ranked national team Santa Barbara.
- Gov. Gregoire signed a proclamation declaring September as Washington Youth Soccer Month. Group of players from District 7 went with Todd to meet the Governor for the signing.
- **See Through the Smoke campaign:** Number of teams participating this year has doubled last year (>800 teams).

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia J. Spencer
WSYSA Secretary

ADDENDUM: Proposed dates for the state cups playoffs (schedule from Gail Zimbelman)



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