

WASHINGTON YOUTH SOCCER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 15, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

Doug Andreassen called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at Washington Youth Soccer office at 9:03 am.

ROLL CALL

Present:

President Doug Andreassen
VP Competition Gail Zimbelman
VP Development Mike Margolies
VP Recreation Bryan Vasbinder
Secretary Cynthia Spencer
Treasurer George Maitland
District 1 Comm. Jan Phillips
District 2 Comm. Shari Tumey
District 3 Comm. Stu Snow
District 4 Comm. Laurie Myers (by phone)
District 6 Alternate Comm. John Wright
District 7 Comm. Ken Phillipson
Washington Youth Soccer Exec Dir Todd McGann

Excused:

1st VP Brian Lawler
District 5 Alt. Comm. Troy Macxy

Absent:

2nd VP Ryan Shannon

Credential (Guests)

Coaching Director Dave Schumacher
Office Manager Brenda Heintz

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jan. 25 BoD Mtg

- Approved as submitted.

AGENDA / COMMUNICATIONS

US Youth Soccer instructed that padding on goals is not approved. Therefore if there is padding on goals, it should be removed prior to sanctioned play.

REPORTS

VP - Competition's Report

Gail reported that Champion Cup finished successfully. Girls season is continuing and entering the 2nd half round.

Discussion continued with feedback about the venue. Overall positive comments, with concerns about paid parking (and lack of parking). Concerns were voiced about use of a second field not having sufficient seating. Doug promised further improvements next year as we grow from the experience.

VP Recreation's Report

Two recreational summits planned March 29 in Bellingham at the Whatcom Educational Center on Holly St. (preceeded by TopSoccer Jamboree at Whatcom Indoor Sportsplex) and May 3 at the Red Lion in Kelso. These are focused to obtain local input from recreational coaches and clubs but open to all interested parties.

April 4-6 we are hosting the Region IV TopSoccer Symposium at Starfire. Bryan asked Laurie to organize a District IV TopSoccer jamboree.

Ken Philipson asked whether there were plans to move the President's Cup for high school age girls to spring as local districts are now hosting spring leagues. Input was provided from the District Commissioners regarding spring vs fall leagues.

Secretary's Report

Cynthia announced that the proposed bylaw changes submitted by Steve Scranton were withdrawn until such time as the Board is ready to consider an overhaul of the rules.

Copies of all proposed Rules changes were emailed to the Board. The only submissions received were from Brian Lawler dealing with Ethics and Disciplinary.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Membership/Player Cards

Jan Philips shared that her District supports membership cards over player cards. In their opinion, the administrative burden placed on teams and referees for player cards is too high. Distribution of the membership cards is a major hurdle, dependent on the timing of receipt by the associations or clubs.

Doug responded that the office is investigating use of hard plastic membership cards that would include player photos. Photos are key to effective use because it positively identifies the individual as age appropriate and covered by WASHINGTON YOUTH SOCCER insurance.

Shari and Ken both voiced concern regarding the timing of issuance, especially related to cutoff for registration and assignment to teams. Ken recommended waiting until US Youth requires implementation, delaying the burden until it's mandated to use player cards and establish a process for implementation. Stu agreed with Ken and Shari, expressing concern about agreeing with this before we know the process of implementing it.

It was proposed and seconded to adopt membership cards, then tabled until the next meeting pending distribution of an implementation plan that can be shared with the District Boards. Doug accepted responsibility for developing a plan.

Registrar Certification

Doug announced plans for an educational session at Soccer Palooza to certify association registrars, followed training sessions in local districts to train club registrars. The association registrars will then be expected to help train their club registrars (with help from the state). To start, only association registrars will require certification. Ultimately club registrars will be expected to obtain certification. Already Mary and Brenda have visited some of the associations to train volunteers and office staffs.

Ken raised concerns about registering players for multiple seasons who might be assigned to different teams for each season. Since our rules don't anticipate this scenario for recreational players, the rules need to be reconsidered and modified to accommodate.

REPORTS

George Maitland presented the February 2008 financials, and announced that all insurance rebates have been paid. Jan requested that the player count be reported when the insurance checks are paid out. Todd clarified that the insurance refunds related to 2006-07 so were based on player counts for that year (as opposed to the 2007-08 player counts which will be used for AGM voting).

George announced plans to provide feedback to the program directors regarding their budgeted expenses and performance against budget. Doug explained the desire for more transparency and accountability in the budget process so that volunteers understand their responsibility to help manage costs of program delivery.

PROPOSALS

Policies submitted by Risk Management Committee were reviewed by the Executive Board last night.

- **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** Brian Lawler will redraft to reflect concerns expressed by the Ex BoD.
- **Drug and Alcohol Policy:** Brian Lawler agreed to review the USSF rules to ensure the proposed policy is consistent with USSF requirements.
- **Hall of Fame Policy:** Housekeeping changes were made to update the policy that was written in 2001.
 - **Moved and seconded to adopt the revised policy (with typo corrections). Passed unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

- **Field Development Application** **Maitland/McGann**
George presented a request from Bainbridge Island Youth Soccer Club for an interest-free \$250,000 loan from WASHINGTON YOUTH SOCCER for field development. Total cost of the project is \$1.5 million, of which the only funds borrowed would be this loan. The loan application included detail of fundraising and other sources of funds, plus expectations for funds available to repay the loan.

The Budget & Finance Committee recommended loaning \$75,000. The Executive Board recommended granting a loan of \$250,000 with 3% interest, payable at the same dollar amount as proposed (therefore stretching out repayment over a longer period to accommodate interest charges).

Discussion ensued regarding how much of the field development funds this would take and the level of interest from other areas to fund further projects. Doug and George responded that other areas have asked about the program and funds available but not yet submitted proposals. Concerns were expressed by the Commissioners regarding the amount of the proposal (as a percentage of the designated field development funds) and the amounts available for further projects.

George responded that the organization is strong and currently has \$2 million in assets which should be used for the benefit of our players. The amount currently allocated to field development could responsibly be increased without risk to the organization. Support of this proposal would show the entire WASHINGTON YOUTH SOCCER organization that we are committed to helping the membership.

Motion was made & seconded to grant the \$250,000 loan at the terms recommended by the Executive Board. Discussion ensued regarding specifics of the application and other funding. Voting: **Motion passed** with one nay (Stu Snow) and one abstention (Ken Phillipson).

- **Black Hills Membership**

Andreassen/McGann

Black Hills Community Soccer Complex (BHSCS) has applied for Associate membership in WASHINGTON YOUTH SOCCER under Article VI, Section 2(c). According to the bylaws, this category of membership is for organizations formed to advance a particular aspect of soccer (such as coaching or refereeing) but not responsible for recruiting, training, fielding and funding of soccer players. Associate membership is non-charted, non-voting affiliations to allow limited benefits.

BHSCS was organized by key volunteers from multiple soccer organizations in Lewis. BHSCS purchased land in the Olympia area and is developing it into a multi-field soccer complex. It is a not-for-profit organization with IRC S. 501(c)(3) status. Desire for WASHINGTON YOUTH SOCCER membership is to allow the group to apply for field development funds.

It was moved and seconded to accept BHSCS as an associate member. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Spokane Valley Tryouts**

McGann

Spokane Valley Junior Soccer Association (SpVJSA) knowingly violated the Washington Youth Soccer tryout policy. As a result, the Executive Board placed association president Scott Smits on immediate indefinite suspension and revoked sanctioning of all tournaments hosted by SpVJSA. A hearing will be held at 7 pm April 4 at Washington Youth Soccer headquarters by the Executive Board to meet with the SpVJSA Board and determine whether appropriate resolution can be made (and thereby re-sanction of the tournaments).

- **5 Transfer Rule**

Zimbelman

Gail described the situation encountered with Spring season girls teams that are struggling to field teams. Due to the 1st year transition, several teams folded prior to league season, although may have played in preseason tournaments. Several teams requested addition of more than the three players allowed under current transfer rules during league play (US Youth allows five transfers for tournament play). The need for transfers results from fact that some teams folded and some leagues folded due to insufficient number of teams.

Discussion ensued about the number of teams impacted (how many folded or are at risk of missing matches due to low player counts). Desire was voiced to ensure girls can play soccer, not facilitate recruiting between teams. Recommendation was made to provide a variance for state office to approve roster changes mid-season, rather than a rule change.

It was moved and seconded to allow the Director of Competition and Director of Development to review and approve variances for girls high school league play during Spring 2008 season. The motion was amended to provide that players can only be transferred from rostered teams that have not participated in league play for the 2007-08 season. **Motion (as amended) passed unanimously.**

- **Annual Reports**

Andreassen/McGann

Todd reminded the Board that annual reports are overdue. A list of missing reports was distributed. Todd requested District Commissioners and Board members assist the state office in reminding associations and committee chairs to submit reports.

- **Staff Report**

McGann

New position created to hire Darren Sawatzky as youth development director in coordination with the new MLS team (who is picking up the majority of the cost). Excited about the opportunities this will provide for Washington Youth Soccer players.

IT director/webmaster is moving offsite. Outsourcing this function gives Washington Youth Soccer more backup and reduces reliance on a single individual to support this important function.

Brenda is shifting position from office manager to assistant to the director, which will support Todd with email and correspondence as he travels.

- **SoccerPalooza/Dinner/Tables**

Andreassen

First table for each district is complementary to host "Of the Year" nominees. State office needs districts to register their tables.

Keynote speaker is Joe Roth, co-owner of the MLS team. Other attendees will include Adrian Hanauer, co-owner of the MLS team.

SoccerPalooza is dramatically revamped from prior years to make it more fun and exciting. Major participation will be provided from the MLS team and Sounders. The website is updated with each announcement. Todd asked the Board to help get the word out that SoccerPalooza shouldn't be missed.

Seminars will include an ODP session on what to expect, etc. A tentative workshop list was shared with the Board. Sessions will be provided for Referees, Administrators, Parents and Parents & Coaches.

A session also is tentatively planned to meet the candidates for the Board.

The Board entered Executive Session to discuss attendance by Board Members.

- **District 5 Boundary Change** **Andreassen/Vasbinder**
Bryan reported that three clubs in the Vancouver area have merged to assure viability. As a result the club crosses association boundaries, so requested shift of the boundaries. Both associations agreed. District 5 Board recommended it be approved. Discussion ensued regarding state league slots tied to associations.

Motion made and accepted to accept the Boundary change. Motion passed unanimously.
- **“Of the Years”** **Andreassen**
The Executive Board votes for awards. Commissioners agreed that they do not want to know who won until the dinner.
- **Hall of Fame** **Andreassen**
Hall of Fame Committee and Executive Board nominated the following individuals be voted into the Hall of Fame:
 - Jimmy “Jimmy Mac” McCallister
 - Dave Painton
Both individual’s long and impressive soccer credentials, including dedicated service to Washington Youth Soccer, were shared with the Board.

Moved and seconded to enshrine both in Washington Youth Soccer’s Hall of Fame. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Life Member Awards**
Nominees for Life Member awards were requested. Up to two per year are allowed per WASHINGTON YOUTH SOCCER policies.

The following individuals were nominated and approved for Life Member award:
 - David “Tank” Marincovich
 - Marty Torres
- **President Award** **Andreassen**
The Executive Board approves President’s nominees. Commissioners agreed that they do not want to know who won until the dinner.
- **Risk Management** **Andreassen**
- **Commissioners**
 - **District 1:** Jan told the Board that Mike Margolies and Dave Schumacher attended a District 1 meeting and shared their opinions about competitive

leagues. The meeting was very candid and worthwhile. She requested a future meeting to discuss recreational issues when Bryan can attend.

- **District 2:** Shari asked about transition plans for the PDL. Doug indicated he plans to sit down with Todd Lincoln next week to develop a plan that will be brought to the Board for approval.
- **Girls State Cups:** Discussion centered around seating of teams into the state cups. Todd and Gail will work together to implement the Board vote from July 2007 (including league relegation/elevation play) and LPTs.
- **Recreational Retreat:** Commissioners requested holding a one-day retreat to discussion recreational player and club issues.
- **Girls Spring League**
Bryan Vasbinder shared an email with the Board regarding problems with fielding teams over spring break. Input is that the timing of matches over spring breaks will require forfeiture due to shortage of available players. Division play for the second half of the season is dependent on ranking after the first half, therefore scheduling wasn't known. Consensus of the Board was that most team are equally impacted and can field short teams. Transition year isn't perfect.
- **BOD Retreat(s)**
Doug announced a 1-day BOD retreat for late spring in the Seattle area to review rules overhaul, plus other topics as desired by the Board (PDL transition, MSL development league, etc.)

A second 1-day BOD retreat can be planned to address recreation play issues.

- **Departing BOD Members**
Two (or more) members of the BOD are retiring: Brian Lawler as 1st VP Admin and Shari Tumey as District 2 Commissioner.
- **Diversity Meeting**
Our Diversity committee met with Dr. Chachon and Kevin Scribner to discuss best practices in meeting the needs of our multicultural community. Very good meeting that will help Washington Youth Soccer focus and be impactful.

GENERAL – FOR THE GOOD OF THE GAME

- Todd shared a video compilation of play from Championship Cup that will be shown at our annual awards dinner.
- Shari (retiring after 8 years on the Board) shared thoughts of where the organization should move and her satisfaction in working with the board and the directions the Washington Youth Soccer is moving. The Board thanked Shari for her dedicated service, and Dave Schumacher informed her that she's already being nominated for Idaho's board.

- Ken announced that District 7 spring league went from 15 to 79 teams this year. New this year is a HS girls league with 9 teams that are not age specific (all HS players).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia J. Spencer
Washington Youth Soccer Secretary