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Washington Youth Soccer
500 S. 336th Street, Suite #100
Federal Way, WA 98003-6389

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Washington Youth Soccer Office

Terry Fisher
CEO

Annual General Meeting

May 18, 2013
Embassy Suites Seattle-Tacoma International Airport
15920 W Valley Hwy ● Seattle, WA 98188

Meeting called to order at 9:04 AM – Board of Directors President Doug Andreassen

Roll Call – Board of Directors Vice President Bill Hurme

Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2013 Annual Player Fee Meeting – Motion to approve minutes – approved as presented, no abstentions

Board of Directors Election

Five candidates are presented – Wayne Jensen, Chris Wood, Daren Mancini, Exequiel Soltero and Mark Schuur. Council casts ballots – legal council and staff members leave room to count ballots.

Risk Management Update

Terry Fisher, WA Youth Soccer CEO – Explains importance of switching to a national background check and that there will be a Registrar Summit on June 8th to further discuss the process and everyone's concerns. WA Youth Soccer has reached out to the various registration platforms about the need to create a centralized base that will be accessible to all systems, and Affinity Sports has been chosen. All vendors have been given the option to write APIs, but Bonzi and Korrio have chosen not to write them.

Mark Skeen, Affinity Sports President – Explains that Affinity is not conducting the actual check, but creating a centralized database that will be available to the people who need access to it. Backgroundchecks.com is a preferred choice by many states, due to the flexibility of running reports and who gets to look at them. All registrars will have access to the Affinity System. At least 95% to 98% of all applications are approved from the get-go, with only a handful getting placed in pending. WA Youth Soccer will monitor those put into pending, and they will have access to the report on that individual and will either reject or approve that individual.

Mike Todd, District 1 Commissioner – Comments that we need to be aware of cost control, making sure we are only providing background checks to those who will be volunteers and not unnecessarily clearing people.

Terry Fisher, WA Youth Soccer CEO – Clarifies that on July 15th everyone will be wiped from the system and volunteers will need to apply for a background check. The background check will last 1 year, July 15th, 2013 to July 14th, 2014.

Lance Calloway, Whatcom County Youth Soccer Association MAR – Clarifies that if their vendor doesn't create an API, there will be something that doesn't create a lot of work for the registrar or state. Mark Skeen, Affinity Sports President, responds that it is

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possible to batch entry the data, which could potentially be time consuming but Affinity is willing to do it, although an API is the best solution.

Lance Calloway, Whatcom County Youth Soccer Association MAR – Requests that information is sent to the Association in order to help convince the vendor why an API is needed. Chet Morrish, Thurston County Youth Soccer Association MAR requests this as well, emphasizing Bonzi and Korrio's refusal to take player safety seriously.

Tom Ament, WA Youth Soccer Secretary – Comments that as an organization we need to have one or two options to fit the different business models of different associations. Urges associations to talk to Korrio and Bonzi now so they feel the pressure to take action, as it is a critical step.

Referees

Will Niccolls, WA Youth Soccer Referee Program Director – Referees and background checks will be discussed later on in the meeting.

Doug Andreassen, WA Youth Soccer President – The State Referee Committee (SRC) voted on May 7, 2013 to not run background checks. It is our position that any referee wanting to ref in any WA Youth Soccer sanctioned event must complete a background check and be risk management approved before being assigned to a game.

Recreation/Select Update – Presented by Brian Curl, WA Youth Soccer Select Sub Committee Chair

Highlights of select program successes: Select teams winning finals and a number of select teams progressing to semifinals of Founders Cup and Challenge Cup, and many Select clubs have developed strong and productive partnerships with Recreational and Regional Clubs. Examples: PacNW and Kent United, and Eastside FC and Eastside Youth Soccer Association's Select clubs.

Current landscape of select leagues: Portland Metro League, South Counties Soccer League, North Puget Sound League, District 6 League. The challenge is pathways for both players and teams. The Select Sub Committee is identifying successful models.

Youth Super League is a recommended next step. The recommendation is for select leagues to come together to form a steering committee to serve top select teams across the state. This only serves a portion of the select population – the top tier of select. This recommendation was approved by the Soccer Operations Committee (SOC). There hasn't been a specific league structure that has been recommended.

Ray Moffatte, Tacoma Pierce County Junior Soccer Association President – Asks about the Super League and with this format if the first step will be to get people to find comfort in playing in select leagues in their own areas, e.g. play in your area to get to that league.

Brian Curl, WA Youth Soccer Select Sub Committee Chair – There are 2 key goals: like vs. like competition and reasonable cost. Part of that is keeping the travel component reasonable. Ideally, we can find like vs. like competition in a geographic area that makes sense.

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TOPSoccer

Information was provided to all present about the TOPSoccer program and how it can be implemented in the different Associations. This is an incredible opportunity, not only for all kids to play soccer, but also to bring the Association and parents, players, etc. together and learn how to work together and take the focus off of themselves for a minute. It is a humbling and moving program to be a part of.

Referees – Presented by Will Niccolls, WA Youth Soccer Referee Program Director

The overall conversation is the business risk to dealing with a referee group. Are we doing business legally with the referee group?

Things to keep in mind:

- Minor work permits are required if employing people under 18.
- Insurance – Are your referee associations insuring themselves?
- Are you sending checks directly to referees? If so are you paying taxes? In any cases you become the employer then you have a litany of taxes, etc.
- Concussion training – Are your refs trained? If not, you may be sued in case of lawsuit and injury.
- RMA clearance – If you have a referee not cleared reffing one of your games, whose fault is that?
- Are you aligned with USSF Policy 531-1 Sect. 7 – Registered Assignors. US Soccer registered game officials have to align the games. Only $10 for a 4 hour clinic to become an official assignor.

We are working on the creation of a standalone separate entity with the Board of Directors (BOD): Washington Soccer Referees. We are moving forward with a standalone referee assignment platform for anyone who wants to use it. Our goal is to be legal, transparent, and accountable for our business. You can choose who to do business with, but we will be interfacing with Arbiter.

Lance Calloway, Whatcom County Youth Soccer Association MAR – Poses questions about local assignors and whether the Soccer Referee Committee (SRC) will continue to exist.

Will Niccolls, WA Youth Soccer Referee Program Director – Responds that with 15,000 games there is no way one person can do that, so local assignors will assign the local games. The only change being requested is the system – use Arbiter vs. local system to ensure everything is legal. The Soccer Referee Committee (SRC) will be doing clinics. They have been doing registration with a Chicago platform and there were a lot of technology problems. There were many months where there was no website.

MAC Committee Update – Presented by Jan Phillips, WA Youth Soccer Board Member & MAC Committee

Jan Phillips, WA Youth Soccer Board Member & MAC Committee – Comments that the MAC Committee has put together what they think are the best practices of running an organization. Minimum with references association bylaws. Ex: Tax forms.

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Board Discussion – Fiduciary Responsibilities – Presented by Yolanka Wulff and Judy Andrews, WA Youth Soccer Legal Council

We want to discuss fiduciary responsibility of directors so we can review and you can review with your boards what is necessary to comply with state law. This is on the agenda due to recent incidents involving embezzlement.

Yolanka Wulff, WA Youth Soccer Legal Council – What it means to serve on a nonprofit and 501(c)3 board: Every Association in the state is a nonprofit corporation, meaning that you have a certain tax exemption under IRS law. As a board member of a nonprofit, you take off every other hat you wear when you function on the board at that time. Decisions must be made that are the in the best interest of the Association, not your Club, not your kid, and not your friend's business that is contracted with your Association. That is your legal responsibility as a board member. If you can't meet that, you need to step off of the board.

Judy Andrews, WA Youth Soccer Legal Council – One of those duties is to exercise care, making sure you get financial statements, receive sufficient answers to any questions about those, and that your Association has internal controls so all financial responsibilities are not held by one person, etc. The Secretary of State has a great document with recommendations and examples.

Ray Moffatte, Tacoma Pierce County Junior Soccer Association – Comments that there are Clubs who have teams who openly play for WA Youth Soccer and U.S. Club, and they are not wearing just one hat and are open about that. They are not held to the same guidelines.

Tom Ament, WA Youth Soccer Secretary – Responds that wherever they are playing with their kids, they are probably still a 501(c)3. When they are promoting non-WA Youth Soccer programming the cases are unique. If you are in that situation you should engage with the office and the board and they will help with a constructive approach.

Patrick Madden, WA Youth Soccer Board Member – Makes the suggestion that Associations adopt a standard saying none can participate in an Association game if the referees are not properly cleared. Judy Andrews, WA Youth Soccer Legal Council, supports this and recommends having a policy because if something happens, everyone will be sued.

Yolanka Wulff, WA Youth Soccer Legal Council – Emphasizes that every Association in the state is a member of WA Youth Soccer, participating in the governance of the State, therefore this is a legal relationship. WA Youth Soccer does not have that same relationship with Clubs, but Associations may have this legal relationship with their Clubs depending on structure. It is difficult to find enough volunteers oftentimes, and everyone present wears more than one hat, but it is important to remember that when you are sitting on your Association board, your task is to be the administrative and coordinating body for WA Youth Soccer in your area which is a different role than you might have if you participate on your Club board.

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Board of Directors Elections Results

Doug Andreassen, WA Youth Soccer President – All candidates are elected to the WA Youth Soccer Board of Directors: Wayne Jensen, Chris Wood, Exequiel Soltero, Mark Schuur, and Daren Mancini.

Non-Returning Board Members

Silvia Young and Jan Phillips are not returning as board members.

Doug Andreassen, WA Youth Soccer President – Thanks Jan and Sylvia for their extensive contributions, and for all that they have done for the board and their communities.

Good of the Game

Lance Calloway, Whatcom County Youth Soccer Association MAR – Acknowledges Ray Moffatte for his accomplishment on becoming a national assistant referee.

Perry Woodford, District 3 Commissioner – Acknowledges staff members Matt Moran and Ron Witherup for all of their hard work at the State Cup weekends.

Matt Moran, WA Youth Soccer Competition Development Manager – Notes that Perry Woodford was present for every hour of all state cups for all 6 weekends and has a heart of gold despite the goofy pants.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:37 AM