

Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting
February 19, 2003

Present: S. Bloom, S. Gorman, H. Blatt, J. Burrill, T. Filippetti, J. Nagle, S. Smoller, J. Gondek, M. Lamoureux, G. Cristofori.

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. A quorum was declared present.

Acceptance of January BOD minutes

John Burrill moved, seconded by Skip Gorman to accept the minutes. PASSED unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

Jim Gondek's report was submitted in advance via email, and is appended to these minutes.

Reports of Program Managers

- SYRA – Marc reported that invitations are going out to referees for MTOC. The sessions for the workshop are all set.
- Instruction – Report from Howie Blatt submitted via email and appended to these minutes.

Workshop Update

Skip Gorman reported the workshop is just about set. The coaches sessions will be run one at a time instead of doubling up. The schedule begins later in the morning than earlier planned. There are 144 attendees registered to date. There are 20 vendor tables sold to date. Jay Heaps will be the keynote speaker at the Awards Dinner Friday night. Hall of Fame inductees will be Dean Conway and Joe Cummings. Joe will also serve as emcee.

Video Project Update

John Burrill reported that the video was well received at the Adidas workshop in Indianapolis. The region 2 referee administrator used a portion of the video for his presentation. Copies were provided to the regional directors and state association presidents. Region 1 gave us \$10,000 and purchased 2000 copies. The focus now is on how to distribute the video to our leagues. *John Burrill moved we distribute 2000 copies to our leagues, Skip Gorman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

Land Sale update

Jim Gondek reported the due diligence period expired and the \$25,000 deposit is ours. We plan to close the week of March 10. Hirsch hopes to begin construction in April.

Financials

Jim Gondek reported the financial reports by programs are going out using a new format. We will be getting monthly reports by program. We currently have 135,000 players registered.

Budget Variance – Instruction-Printing

We have been running a lot more E & F courses than projected and we've run out of inventory of manuals. Jim Gondek suggested we vote to approve going over budget to print more manuals to realize a savings in total cost of printing, since the manuals can be used next year as well. *John Burrill moved, seconded by Skip Gorman to approve spending \$15,000 over budget for printing the manuals. Motion passed unanimously.*

Constitution and bylaw changes

Jim will send the text of the changes with the financial reports the end of next week. Section 300 small sided guidelines as voted by region 1 should be included in the text to be sent out.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- Nominating committee report – John Burrill reported all incumbents are running for re-election and there will be one opponent for secretary.
- USYS fee increase – Sid Bloom reported that USYS proposed at the presidents' meeting a \$.50 increase in 2004. Region 1 does not support this proposal.
- Region 1 field complexes – Bob Palmiero, region 1 director, wants to build region 1 fields at state sites. Kirkwood, DE is one designated site. Massachusetts is under consideration for an additional site.
- Field Site meeting – John Burrill suggested we have a special board meeting devoted solely to discussion of field complex to develop a plan for fund raising as well as construction. He added we should also reclarify our role as a board. The date and time for this meeting was set for Saturday, March 15 10:00 at the state office.
- Web Page – Steve Smoller requested we review alternatives when our present contract with Hammerhead comes up for renewal. Steve feels we should be getting more features for our money, the page should be more user friendly, easier to navigate, and should have a better bulletin board/forum section as other associations have..

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

Executive Director Report – January 2003

January activity within the office was relatively high, especially considering the season.

- The staff is gearing up for an expected high instructional course activity in March. We already have two weekends fully booked. Tara meets regularly with the Development Coaches to ensure that all details are coordinated.
- The office staff is prepared to support the Awards Banquet and the Workshops. Most of the office staff will be making seminar presentations at the Workshop.
- Registration for the Spring season is starting. A registration reminder packet was mailed to all organization registrars reminding them of the reporting deadlines and providing them with copies of the forms they need to submit.
- We sent Rachel Woo to a two-day Access class to make better use of office personnel in our database management. A new master data base has been created and will be the basis of future mail lists for both the newspaper and mail list requests.
- Mailing were done to all League and organization presidents providing them of the specifics of the upcoming AGM. A follow-up mailing is planned for February 21st.
- Tara, Howie Blatt, the Development Coaches and I reviewed the specifics of our three year instructional plans. It was decided to drop future ales of these plans on the basis that they are cumbersome to administer and minimize an organization's ability to respond

to changing needs in the instructional area. In lieu of the three year plans, the Development Coaches will concentrate their efforts in structuring a year long instructional development plan, and use this as a base for adjustments in future years as an organization is able to assess new coaching instruction needs.

In general areas:

- The Purchase and Sale Agreement with David Hirsh was completed. We are currently in the stage of due diligence (expires 5:00 p.m. on February 18th). After the due diligence period ends, the \$25,000 deposit is non-refundable. Subject to no termination notification from Hirsh, we plan to put the sale proposal forward at the Annual General Meeting on March 1st.
- The Video Project came to an end with a successful debut at the US Youth Soccer Workshops in Indianapolis. From all accounts, the video was the “show stopper”. Region 1 voted to reimburse Mass Youth Soccer a total of \$10,000, and they will also purchase 2,000 videos. Currently, we are designing the back cover for the video and securing cost estimates for reproduction of the video in VHS and CD format in quantity.
- The next issue of the *Free Kick* is scheduled for February. The next *Bay Stater* will be published in March and assignments will soon be handed out.
- The preliminary interviews for the Director of Coaching position are nearly done (the last will be on February 21st). The current plan is to then recommend the finalists to the Executive Committee.
- The Marketing Director position was finalized and posted. The application deadline is February 28th. We currently have more than 100 applicants.

Instruction report

- Attended the NSCAA Conference in Kansas City with our three Development Coaches. While there, two candidates that applied for the State Head Coach/Director of Coaching position were given preliminary interviews. The Development Coaches attended a variety of clinical workshops and seminars. Also while there, we were able to firm-up commitments from Tom Goodman, USYSA National Director of Coaching, and the Boston Breakers (Pia Sundhage) as presenters for our upcoming Mass Youth Soccer Workshop. Time was also spent exploring the various vendors’ interests in participating in our Mass Youth Soccer Workshop.
- In mid-January, we accomplished our goal of putting together a confirmed roster of clinical presenters for the Mass Youth Soccer Workshop. Pia Sundhage (2 floor sessions...1 of them with the Boston Breakers), Tom Goodman (1 floor session and 1 seminar), Nancy Feldman (1 floor session), and Dusan Obsjasnik (1 floor session - goalkeeping). Based upon input from the clinicians, one GU14 ODP team (Sundhage), one GU17 MAPLE team (Feldman), and one BU12 Town Travel team (Goodman), will be used as demo teams. Teams have already been arranged. Dusan Obsjasnik will be bringing in demo goalkeepers of his choosing. Thanks to all who helped us to network and build this list of advanced-level clinicians.
- The Development Coaches, Tara Pierce, Jim Gondek, and I, met on Tuesday, January 14th, to discuss the 3-Year Plan. We reviewed how the current plans were working to explore the success of the concept and the potential need for revision. In the end, we unanimously decided that the plans were too costly and too difficult to manage over lengthy 3-year periods. We discussed a revision that would use the same concept, but keep plans to a 1-year maximum. This revision will hopefully keep these plans more administratively manageable. Existing 3-Year Plans that have been pre-paid will continue to be honored as originally agreed upon.
- Regional Youth Conferences were held in Wilbraham, Pittsfield, Lowell, and Newton. The Wilbraham and Newton Conferences had 50+ coaches at each. The Wilbraham and

Pittsfield Conferences provided an opportunity to establish an increased presence in the western part of the state. I attended all of these conferences to support the development coaches, become more familiar with the membership, and to directly inform the membership of the upcoming March 1st Mass Youth Soccer Workshop. Direct feedback, from area coaches attending, was consistently positive. A new C.E.D. came onboard during our conference in Pittsfield. She has already contacted us to schedule licensing courses.

- The Instructional Program appears to be running smoothly while we seek a new State Head Coach/Director of Coaching. Jim Gondek and I met with the Instructional Staff to establish clearly defined interim roles. This was an effort to establish an interim support system, maximize communication, and minimize confusion within the program during this transitional period.
- The Instructional Staff has unanimously decided that SOCCER LINK, our newsletter to Coach Education Directors (C.E.D.s) should go electronic. Electronic distribution through e-mail attachments and a link of it's own, on the Mass Youth Soccer web site, will increase distribution and save both printing and postage costs. Folks interested in a hard copy can print the document directly from the web site. Reedswain, a current sponsor of SOCCER LINK, was contacted for their approval of this change. They fully support the new format.
- While attending the USYSA Coaches Convention in Indianapolis, two of the Development Coaches and I attended an all-day "Director of Coaches" meeting led by Tom Goodman, the new USYSA National Director of Coaching. The meeting offered a half-day mini-course in conflict management and a half-day opportunity to explore various other issues. One of those issues was an exploration of what the various states are doing with the current USYSA Youth Module Curriculum. USYSA is looking to revise that curriculum in another attempt to create a national standard for coach training. As a potential foundation for that revision, Tom Goodman is reviewing our Mass Youth Soccer coach training materials. We will be following-up on that with Tom Goodman when he attends our Mass Youth Soccer Workshop on March 1st. From group discussions with the various State Head Coach/Directors of Coaching attending that meeting, it is clear that our Instructional Program continues to be "cutting edge".
- Also while at the USYSA Convention in Indianapolis, three more State Head Coach/Director of Coaching candidates were interviewed, this time by the entire four-member search committee. The process is moving along "carefully" with the hope that we will soon be able to identify the most appropriate candidate to fill that position.

Respectfully Submitted,

Howie Blatt
Mass Youth Soccer VP of Instruction