

Mass Youth Soccer BOD Meeting
And Meeting with League Presidents
October 14, 2003

Present: S. Bloom, S. Gorman, C. Goldstein, N. Hart, T. Filippetti, J. Linnehan, J. Nagle, S. Smoller, C. Pacilio, R. Braney, M. Singleton, J. Burrill, J. Utter.
League Presidents: P. Irwin-MAPLE, Ted Ritchie-BAYS, Nick Priest-Berkshire, Bob Trudeau-Essex, Andy Page-MAYS

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. A quorum was declared present.
Sid Bloom welcomed the league presidents.

Approval of September board meeting minutes

Nancy Hart moved, seconded by Skip Gorman to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of Sale of Land and Update of Field Development Committee

Sid Bloom turned the meeting over to Paul Irwin, chair of the field development committee. Paul brought the board and league presidents up to date on the field project. He showed the redrawn plans and discussed the proposed sale of a portion of the land. John Burrill reviewed the previous attempts to sell the land or portions of it and the resulting failures. He also reviewed the sales that were completed. Paul then resumed his presentation, stating the committee is still analyzing the cost as well as the funding for the project. The present scope is for 16 fields; at least two of which would be field turf. The target is to raise approximately \$3 million from friends, family and corporate sponsors. We are removing from the table the concept of a member assessment, since the committee feels we can cover the total cost of the project from the sale of land and the proposed fund raising. Paul plans to hit the streets with his planned presentation in February and wants to complete the fund raising within a year. The target is to begin play on the fields in 2005.

Executive Director report

The report was submitted via email and is appended to these minutes. Also appended are reports from the Office Manager and Marketing Director.

Reports of Program Managers

- State Cup – report submitted via email and appended to the minutes.
- MTOC – John Linnehan reported there would be a new referee system in place. John Utter will be in charge of referees for the tournament.
- Recreation – Nancy Hart reported the Tide Cup went very well. Nancy reviewed the results of a post-tournament survey. 64 teams attended and we had to turn away 30 teams. Next year we'd like to double the size of the tournament, perhaps using two locations. Nancy is considering the last Sunday in September as a date.
- TOPS – Joe Nagle reported he worked with the Lowell group and helped with coaching and equipment issues. Acton-Boxboro has 30-40 children playing there, and the Winchester program is doing well also. Joe announced he is resigning and recommended Joe Bilicki of Winchester for the position. The Lowell group is presenting Joe with an award at their annual dinner. Sid Bloom thanked Joe for his efforts in running the TOPS program.
- ODP – Mike Singleton reported on ODP tryouts.
- SYRA – as submitted via email and appended below

Review of year end financials

Carl Goldstein explained the income statement. We currently have a surplus.

Indoor Insurance Coverage for Players Affiliated with Mass Youth

John Burrill proposed we cover our players even when they are involved with an indoor facility program. **Skip Gorman moved, seconded by John Linnehan, to provide insurance coverage to affiliated players and coaches.** Motion passed 6-0-1.

Update on New Development Coach Position

Mike Singleton reported we had approximately 25-30 applicants, which have been narrowed down to 5 finalists. They are all strong candidates. He will be interviewing these finalists within the next two weeks and hopes to make a decision shortly after.

Open Position on the Board

The at large position is open. The Executive board is evaluating the candidates and we hope to have a nomination by the November meeting.

The position of Special Projects and Outreach Programs Director is now open and candidates will be evaluated.

Bay Stater – discussion about adding 1 or 2 more issues

John Burrill suggested we consider adding back one or two editions, since the budget now indicates this would not be as difficult as we anticipated. Discussion followed regarding making these restricted issues for coaches only instead of the entire mailing list. Sid asked for the cost of a 16-page issue. John will bring the figures back to the board.

Nominations for Coach, Parent & Volunteer of the Year

John Burrill reported we are not getting many nominations for these positions. He asked the league presidents to get the word out to their members to send in nominations. John added that we currently have only four TOPS programs running in the state. John wants to add 5 more programs. He asked the league presidents to help identify communities in their leagues that are likely candidates for a TOPS program. John suggested we start recognizing a TOPS person of the year. **Skip Gorman moved, seconded by Joe Nagle, to establish the recognition.** Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Tide Cup – Nancy reported she got a lot of response for the Tide Cup from the BAYS web site. She suggested we have the leagues post our important items on their web pages.

New Business

- Donation for Lowell TOPS group – **Joe Nagle moved, seconded by John Linnehan that we donate \$1000 to the Lowell TOPS group (Kids in Disability Sports).** The purpose of the donations would be for uniforms. Motion passed 6-1.
- Special Olympics – John Linnehan asked what we've done and will do for the Special Olympics program. We have given hats and balls in the past, which was what they requested. This year, they requested water bottles and we provided them.
- National Presidents meeting – Sid Bloom reported on the recent meeting of association presidents. There will be an attempt to keep some vestiges of the WUSA alive for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Smoller,
Secretary

Addenda:

1. Report of Executive Director for October Board Meeting

This past month work continued on moving more items on line for submission. We agreed with US Youth Soccer to join the on line tournament approval, data base system. It will be ready for our organizations by mid October. We are also working on Out of State player approval forms to go on line as well

Analysis of both the 2003 & 2004 registrations submissions continue with the goal of helping every organization to submit timely and accurate data to us.

Work continues with the Criminal Records board with respect to submissions.

Work continues to streamline our financial reports and reporting.

Work has slowed a bit on our move to a new data base system, however we still are on tract to have new program up and running by mid November.

Notice has gone out to all indoor facilities with respect to possible extension of insurance coverage of indoor play. Responses from facilities has been positive so far.

Word from Adidas has been very slow coming with respect to a new contact. Sid will follow up while at Region 1 presidents' meeting.

Our contact with Active (formerly my-team) is winding down. Active has asked us to reinstate, however we have refused. Matter should be resolved within next 30 days.

Office renovations continue and should be completed within next week or so. Preparations for the Open house & special meeting are on schedule.

Both the Big Apple Festival and the Tide Cup were major successes. All the participants had a terrific time and plans have begun for next year. We most likely will combine the Big Apple with the Tide Cup and run them together.

Meeting has been planned to bring in representatives of the 4 successful Tops Soccer programs to find out what works and how we can expand this program into other communities throughout the state.

Spanish version of 'Attitudes' should be ready to ship next week. We have orders from approx. 250 already. New modified pricing structure put in place - regular version is now \$2.50 and Spanish version is \$5.00 with shipping charges added into the price.

John Burrill

2. Monthly Progress Report

Richard Braney - Office Manager

September 2003

Audit: In September we identified items that will need to be accrued for fiscal year 2003. I have also set a date to meet with Carl, Oct. 6, prior to the auditor's meeting Oct. 8.

ODP Programs:

Try-outs have been completed and Jillian will be mailing out the call backs early in October. Coach's contracts are to be mailed in October.

Insurance:

Medical Losses-Continuing to monitor losses placed with Bollinger for payment. Decision as to how to proceed with future losses, will be further discussed and a decision made by December 1, 2003.

Equipment and Crime Coverage Insurance Policies- Last year we received several calls, less than 10, from various organizations. They were inquiring as to coverage available to them for the equipment, both office and soccer equipment), buildings, as well as bonding insurance. I made an inquiry with our Insurance Agent, Gracechurch Insurance, and he has informed us that such coverage is available from Bollinger Insurance. In fact, organizations and clubs can purchase this coverage directly by accessing the web site www.bolingersoccer.com. I will be reviewing the best way to make this information known to all presidents and review such with the Executive Director. UPDATE- will prepare announcement for Free Kick in December and in the January 2004 Baystater.

REGISTRATIONS:

Registration File-With fiscal year ended we have now finalized our numbers. Players=187,875
Coaches=23,179 –

In the month of October we will continue to review the player/coach ratio for FY '03. Letters will be sent to approximately 25 clubs that appear to lower than the norm.

For FY '04, a letter/email will be sent to all clubs reminding them that the date for sending their final numbers is October 10, 2003. In addition we will be reminding those that sent a check for the estimated numbers but no disk, to do so ASAP. Lastly we will note any clubs that player/coach ration seems out of the ordinary.

Soccer Trac- We are awaiting some information from Active as to the status of their providing a software package that our clubs can use. (No change)

For the first time we have been able to place all registrations disks received, into our data base by the end of September. This is primarily due to having Rachel Woo in a full time capacity, and having the temporary person available to continue working on Kidsafe files.

Kidsafe Files:

Kidsafe Files- A temporary person will be hired in October to begin the process of inputting the information.

3. DOC Report – 10/13/2003

- Weekly Instructional Staff meetings have been focusing on final preparations for the seven “Skills Academy” locations (Byfield, Devens, Dudley, Ludlow, Pittsfield, Braintree, Fairhaven) to launch in January. Agendas for the Annual Coach Education Directors (11/22) and Annual Instructional Staff Meetings (12/6) have been finalized. Both annual meetings will be held at the Stacy Middle School in Milford MA.

- In addition to face-to-face contacts, Mike and the development coaches, continue to communicate with the membership through numerous phone calls and/or e-mails. In addition they are attending local board meetings, league meetings, and coach and parent group meetings. Programs/communities that have been using the Instructional Program staff for consultation, over this past month are Cambridge, Chelmsford, Wrentham, Grafton, Beverly, Billerica, Newton, Douglas, Wilbraham, Pittsfield, Dracut, Medford, Medfield, Middleton, Lynn, Lynnfield, Reading, N. Reading, Andover, N. Andover, Tewksbury, Pittsfield, Ludlow, Wilbraham, Haverill, Peabody, Wakefield, Wilmington, East Boston, Lowell, Methuen, Hopkinton, Hudson, Ayer, Upton, New Bedford, Fall River, Somerville, Somerset, Hampden, Taunton, Brockton, Hingham, Braintree, Westfield, West Springfield.
- Mario Prata and I will be attending a luncheon for the Portuguese community on Sunday, October 19th to thank them for their ongoing commitment and affiliation with Mass Youth Soccer. I will be representing a plaque as well as providing them with scholarship gifts for our upcoming Skills Academy, and revised Specialty Clinics.
- Specialty Clinics have been officially restructured and updated. They are now 2 hours in length and cost \$150. We have also increased topic offerings to include 21 different topics to make sure there are topics appropriate for all levels of play.
- Ray Cabral is working on creating a format in which we can instruct soccer coaching courses to PE teachers as a way of earning the needed PDP's to maintain their licensure.
- I served on the FIFA technical committee at the Women's World Cup and helped analyze teams and players for an overall FIFA summary report that will be generated after the close of the tournament.
- I continue to work on the "21st Century Player Development Manual" for towns and clubs in Massachusetts. This manual will detail everything from setting a mission statement, to board structure, to recreational program and travel program guidelines, to hiring a Director of Coaching for their association and funding the position without raising player fees. This manual will ultimately be about 70 pages and is about 40% completed currently.
- Resumes have come in for the new development coach position and interviews will begin the week of 10/20.
- ODP notification has gone out to all players. We have received a very limited number of complaints. In all honesty, I am surprised at the low number of complaints. Final call back tryouts will occur during the next two weekends (10/18 and 10/26). After these tryouts we will have final pools for winter training.

4.Report of Marketing Director- 10/14/03

First month has gone well. I am still in the process of learning different parts of the job and asking tons of questions!

Created new advertising opportunities on web site and *Free Kick*. In this process put a new advertising info page on website outlining these opportunities including ad opportunities in *The Bay Stater*. In this process,

standard stipulations and contract ad forms and marketing opportunities guide are being put on the ad info page for people to print/fill out and send into us.

Created general info brochure on Mass Youth Soccer & Member Benefits. It is to be handed out and can be modified for any event.

Governor Mitt Romney signed a proclamation for Mass Youth Soccer declaring September Mass Youth Soccer Month.

A new Holiday Inn Tournament Database is being linked to our website and run on the US Youth Soccer website. It gives clubs/organizations opportunity to fill out electronic permission to Host Tournament form and people in general a place to look up sanctioned Mass tournaments on the US Youth Soccer website. Al Cosentino is running the program and has administrative access to it online, making the process more effective and easy.

My first Issue of Free Kick was sent out last month. For next month hoping to make Free Kick logo more visually appealing and create separate logo for coach's clipboard section. Created new sections of Free Kick: Coach's clipboard (all instructional program info) and Soccer News Blurbs & Blips (all short updates/events pieces). Story list for October is as follows and **story list deadline is October 17th**:

New Holiday Inn Tournament Database

Tide Cup recap

Big Apple Tournament recap

Inspirational Soccer Novel- Dynamo

Coach's Clipboard

 Coaching Tips

 Coaching Education Course Schedule

Soccer News Blurbs & Blips

 Open House

 US Youth Soccer Workshop

Tournament Schedule

Meeting in few weeks with potential partner, CATZ (Competitive Athlete Training Zone), a speed and agility sports trainer. Hopefully see what they have to offer us as a potential future partner.

5. National Cup Director's Report – October 14, 2003

The Challenge Entry Round (19 matches) and Challenge Round I (32 matches) have been completed. Challenge Round II (16 matches) is scheduled for October 25th. Matches on the 25th are scheduled to be played at the Plymouth Dome, Bowden Fields and CRU Complex.

Application deadline for the U15s and older is December 15th.

Respectively submitted,
Terri Filippetti
National Cups Director

6. SYRA/SRA REPORT

Overview

Professionalism and progress continue to be the “buzzwords” for 2003. The Massachusetts State Referee Committee (MSRC) emphasized these points at in-service training clinics and in its own operations. The MSRC welcomed new volunteers, hosted more events, and continued to “raise the bar” of the services offered.

State Committee

Registration

Massachusetts registered 4,633 referees, 59 assessors, 143 assignors, and 32 instructors in 2003.

Staffing

John Utter assumed the role of SYRA in August. John is assisted by Brian Treanor (Watertown) and Derek Ambrozaitis (Middleboro). The core of the referee committee, Rich Frongillo (SRA), Andy Weiss (Assessment), Ed Rae (Instruction), Rob Akie (Treasurer) notched another year under their belt. Assessment and Instruction programs completed their busiest years ever and continue to expand the offerings for the future. The Committee is searching for a replacement Assignor Coordinator.

Website

The MSRC website, www.massref.net, continues to be the cornerstone of the organization. Dynamic and extensive, it is the place to get information about refereeing in the state. Jeremy Delorey (Waltham) will prove to be an exciting addition to the “web team”. Areas of the web site that will see immediate results will be course sign up and administration as well as improved real-time database capabilities.

Notables

We added over 100 registered assignors statewide. The impact to the refereeing community has been both immediate and effective. With the addition of an online database assignors have better access than ever to the pool of registered referees.

The Continuous Education Group Project enjoyed a good start with the kickoff meeting concurrent to the Mass Youth Soccer AGM in March. Subsequent meetings have proved beneficial to this select group. More events are planned to expand their horizons.

MTOC saw the initiation of a Young Referee clinic. All Young Referee of the Year candidates attended both a classroom and field session. This will continue to be a regular part of the MTOC offerings.

We had over 110 educational events across the state, ranging from Entry Level Clinics, to the Massachusetts Regional Professional clinic.

FIFA Referee Brian Hall was the featured clinician at the 2002 State Cup clinic.

The transition from Grade 11 to grade 9 has begun in earnest. Jim Livingston and Ed Rae have developed a strong “bridge” curriculum. The process will be complete Spring '04.

Finances

The MSRC approved a balanced budget for fiscal year 2004 (9/1/2003 to 8/31/2004). Responding to a \$13.5K deficit on \$151K in revenue in fiscal year 2003 (lower than the \$23K predicted deficit), the MSRC voted to introduce a \$5 administrative fee to be collected with annual registration for all referees.

Highlights from 2003

Honor Roll

MSRC held it's first annual Awards night. The event saw the following people distinguished;
Kevin Sager (Hopkinton) and Mairin Robbins (Mendon) – Young Referee of the Year Awards
Ted Carlson (Bedford) – “Spirit of the Game Award”
Jerry Morin (Salem) – Assignor of the Year
Jim Livingston (Belmont) – Instructor of the Year
Andy Rademaker (Framingham) – Assessor of the Year
Ed Shea (Fiskdale) – Adult Referee of the Year
Bob Purple (Newburyport) and Ed Rae, Jr (Westwood) – Flannery Awards

We continue to have strong representation at the highest levels of soccer. Jenn Bennett (Boxboro) and Rachel Woo (Auburndale) remain on the FIFA appointment list and were named as officials for the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup.

MLS and WUSA have a strong core of Massachusetts officials on their respective rosters. Jenn and Rachel joined Gus St. Silva (Waltham), Tom Supple (Kingston), Erich Simmons (N. Reading), Niko Bratsis (Norwood), and Claudiu Badea (Brookline) in the regular rotation of these Professional matches. Erich Simmons was one of three finalists for the WUSA Referee of the Year award.

Tournaments Appointments

Ryan Davis (Salem) was recognized for his efforts at Youth Regionals. He was appointed as a member of the Region 1 team sent to the Snickers US Youth Soccer National Championships held in July in Maryland.

Our referee crews fared very well at both the ODP Regionals and Youth Regionals.

Kara Honthumb Lange (Natick) and Russ Wolf (Newton) represented Massachusetts and Region 1 at the Premier League Regionals and Nationals.

Nick Malatesta of Worcester and Tanner Glantz of Springfield were selected to participate in the ODP ID Camp to be held at the University of Rhode Island based on their performances at ODP Regionals.

Josh Brothers (Dudley) and Sean Nally (Westminster) whistled at the US Youth Soccer Summer League Finals in Indianapolis. Both received National Finals match appointments.

Respectfully submitted,
John Utter
State Youth Referee Administrator