

**“Soccer for Life”**

**2022 August League Meeting Agenda**

**August 9, 2023, via Zoom**

**Housekeeping items:**

* *Imperative we have valid email from all teams*
* *Please ensure you are muted at all times unless speaking*
* *For items requiring a vote, only one team contact can cast a vote if more than one representative is on the call*

Meeting called to order, 7:05 P.M. by Dee Woolley.

1. **Roll Call** (Tricia)
2. **Approval of Feb 2022 meeting minutes**

*Motioned to approve February 2022 meeting minutes, seconded, all in favor.*

Motion carries.

1. **Reports from the Board/field**:
   1. **President- *Dee Woolley***

* The seasons went well. Summer is wrapping up. 1x week overall was well received. We need to tweak the competition vs. geography, but we had mostly positive feedback.

(Jeanene) This was a great format. If there are more teams that want to join, that would be great. Maybe we can get teams that don’t normally play Summer.

We can look at this again in the winter.

* Competition committee will continue to work on the balance between geography and skills. Managers need to have a good feel for their team’s level of play.

* Great jobs by the teams that participated in Soccer Fest. We had 2 Mass Spirit teams and 4 Breakers teams. Nice job to all!

* We now have director and officer insurance for all board members. This has been in place since May and will be in effect until next May. This is reflected in the budget.

* Welcome to the new teams: Foot Fairies (summer) and Mansfield and Wayland for the Fall.

* Please make sure your rosters are robust. Pick up players when you can from the new player questionnaires.

* Justine Oppenheim and Rebecca Brooks are engaging with local colleges to let teams know we are here. They have a lot of contacts. We will be working on that this coming year.

* Calendar: proposed calendar is based off this year’s calendar. Summer season we tend to tweak as we go along. It helps to have concrete dates listed out there. Any issues with the Calendar, please let us know. Playoffs subject to divisions.

Winter meeting is currently scheduled on Valentine’s Day. Can we move to the 7th? We will amend changes to AGM on the 7th.

*Motioned to amend calendar to change the date of the AGM to February 7, 2023. Seconded.*

*Motion carries.*

We will make the change and get posted on the website. Keep an eye on the calendar for specific dates.

* Sportsmanship: there has been a disturbing trend of poor sportsmanship from both coaches and team leaders. Players are escalating against one another, verbally and physically, and they are disrespecting referees. In 35 years of play, I have not seen this type of behavior. In one case, police could have been involved. This cannot continue. Players will be suspended.

Managers and coaches that are verbally abusing their players on/off the field need to curb this trend. Team leadership at all levels need to make sure their players play. Let them play the game. Leave the baggage on the sideline. Cheering in a positive manager. I do not want to have this conversation again.

(Lisa Z)- when we play, we don’t expect to hear derogatory comments from coaches. It’s about women and playing soccer. We should be growing in players but can’t imagine people witnessing these actions would want to participate in this league.

* 1. **Vice President- Liz**

Lisa and Dee, kudos for addressing this important issue.

Soccer Fest:

Mass Spirit & Breakers- great across the board. O70 Breakers brought home the gold!! There was a great report on WBZ last weekend about a Milford player. Go have a listen.

Women’s Amateur Cup:

We are working hard at the national and state level to have the Amateur Cup. Trying to figure out the best time for the tourney. The goal is to have the champion from MA to represent us at the regionals, which would be needed by late June. Should be on the map for our amateur and open level.

Boston Dream:

Working with them and the South End Soccer Youth Group re: putting on a clinic for the SES girls Sept/Oct on a Saturday. Looking for volunteers and players. Reach out to Liz or Dee.

* 1. **Secretary- *Tricia Carroll***

No update.

* 1. **Treasurer Report/financial Update*- Jim Livingston***

Distributed a summary report in the mid-year meeting.

2 figures to focus on today: started with under 12k in cash, we are at 17k as of yesterday. We have a target of 12k for the remainder of the year. We historically carried a large balance and decided to run this down a bit.

Thank you to team managers and Division Directors for chasing down outstanding invoices. We are 95% paid at this point.

* 1. **Field Committee- *Dee***

Any teams changing fields, you need to have a league approved field. If the condition is poor, you need to let us know so we can have someone check on it. We’d love to have another person or two to check out some fields. We want to hear about bad fields ahead of time, so teams have time to find another field.

* 1. **New Player Coordinator/Game Scheduler- *Dick***

Please let Dick know when you pick up a player, so they don’t continue to get reach outs from other teams.

We are waiting to put D2 and D3 brackets together. Trying to get the info to Joe to schedule referees as soon as possible.

* 1. **USASA and Mass Soccer Update- *Lisa Z***

MA Soccer:

Take a look at [mass-soccer.org](http://mass-soccer.org). By signing up with MA Soccer, you are eligible for discounts (AVIS, Team Snap, Dicks Sporting Goods, etc.). It also provides information on tournaments, members and representation. The more representation we have, the better chance we have of hosting tournaments, etc.

* 1. **Outreach Director/social media- *Dee***

This position is currently open. Anyone interested, let us know. We are trying to enlist people to help with social media. Some teams are good at sending pictures.

We are looking for players that can help with some of the social platforms.

* 1. **D1- *Peter***

No updates.

* 1. **D2 – *Patti***

No updates.

* 1. **D3- *Jeanene***

Jeanene wants to focus on getting Summer teams 1x week up and running. Thank you to Jeanene for working on this.

* 1. **Referee Assigner - *Joe***

Joe is proposing and increase to the referee fees by $10 to stay competitive with OTH league. We need to do this to compete with other leagues and continue to get good refs.

*Motion to raise referee fees by $10, seconded, all in favor. Motion carries.*

(Jim) when is the effective date? Can we start it in the Fall? This will be reflected in the Fall invoices.

*Motion to put the price increase in place for the Fall season, Seconded. All in favor.*

*Motion carries.*

Playoffs went well. Asked for input from teams and board on names of refs and those were the ones we chose for the games.

Joe is quick to respond to teams so please let him know if you have any issues.

1. **New Business:**
   1. **Uniform update**

We used to have a league rep at Atlantic Sportswear that gave us a really good rate but she has left that position. You can still order there but just know prices have gone up since Angel left.

Other contacts:

We Got Soccer – Team Sales

Jaime Sinno

508 802 9720

[jms@arocamsports.com](mailto:jms@arocamsports.com)

* 1. **Forfeit fees**

There has been an uptick of forfeits, given the forfeit fee is only $50. If short notice, the referee can’t get another game.

Dee proposes we increase the forfeit dee to an amount of the referee fee.

Dave- forfeit fees are part of the rules and regulations. This needs to be done at the board meeting.

(Dee) Board already discussed at their meeting this past weekend.

(Dave) forfeit fee does not cover field costs, thus, not making non-forfeiting team whole. Urges the board to reconsider the amount. Look at the average cost of a field. $100 doesn’t come close to covering the cost.

Some towns issue a credit when the game is not played, but not all towns do this. Can we consider having the forfeiting team pay for the makeup game?

The Board will take this away and discuss further. We acknowledge teams are out their field fees.

1. **Elections:**

Per our bylaws, elections are at the AGM meetings in February and for the 2023 meeting, the following positions are up for election:

* President
* Treasurer
* Referee Assigner
* New Player Coordinator
* Game Scheduler

We want everyone to start thinking about future meetings. Do we continue Zoom or come back in in person? Zoom is getting great attendance and people can chat and raise their hand. We can revisit in the future. Thanks for your input. We want to make sure we hear all opinions.

Take a look at the positions. See will be stepping down in February- she’s been 6 years in the role. We would love to have more people take part in the league. We need to get fresh blood. This is a great way to understand the ins/outs of the league. We’d gladly get you up to speed. You also don’t need to be a captain on the team. Any players can participate. Any natural leaders would be a good fit.

1. **Open Discussion**

Sidekicks are going to Nashville to rep MA in the Nationals on the 19th, 20th. Good luck and we’re rooting for you!

Breakdown of Soccer Fest by ML Dymski of the Breakers.

The Breakers sent 4 teams with 61 total players, 52 of whom were from Massachusetts.  We played a total of 21 games and had 6 wins, 9 losses and 6 ties.  Total Breakers had 42 goals for, 25 goals against, with 14 different goal scorers.

Breakers 70 came from behind in the final after losing a player to a concussion.  Final score was 4-2.  High scorers for the tournament were 70s Pam Woodworth with 10 goals and Sue Clippinger with 9.

Breakers 55 made the semi-final and lost to Mass Spirit 0-2 after being scoreless at the half.  I also sent you separately a photo of the post-game picture with the 55 players and all the other Massachusetts players watching.  Pretty impressive group!

1. **Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn, seconded, motion carries.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M.