



“Soccer for Life”
2024 February AGM League Meeting
February 13, 2024
Virtual

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 1 team contact can cast a vote if more than 1 are present at the meeting*

Meeting called to order at 7:03.

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of August 2023 meeting minutes

Move to accept by Dick, second Joe D. So moved.

3. Reports from the Board/field:

A. President (Becca Brooke)

Becca reviewed dates on the calendar based on last year’s calendar (no proposed calendar distributed).

Dick: let’s take a vote on June 19 and July 3 while we have everyone on the call. Summer season is 14 games (7 weeks). Historically the 7/4 game observed is not played. This year the new federal holiday on June 19 falls on a Wednesday.

Rose: do we want to vote on it every year? Or do we want to have a rule that we observe? Do we want to wait until it rolls around to a Monday?

Motion to play the Wednesday game on June 19 and recorded on the Summer calendar.

Lisa Z first, Dick seconded. All in favor.

B. Vice President (Liz McQuilkin)

The is not a lot to report as VP. In the past Liz has come to report about the Amateur Cup. USASA has announced that the winner of regionals will get all expenses paid trip to finals. That includes everything. MA will host a state cup again. If we can win regionals again, they will get us to Chicago and home for all expenses paid trip!

C. Secretary (Tricia Carroll)-

Please let us know if you need to update contact info on the website for your team. This is the information we use to send out meeting information.

D. Treasurer Report/financial Update (Jim Livingston)

There is a surplus this year because we budgeted for 3 items and did not spend for those. We will spend down this year to break even. The team overhead charge will be less this year. Targeting to get down to 15k by the end of the year.

E. Divisional Directors:

i. Division 1 (Peter Counsell)

Nice to have 8 teams and all 8 teams are coming back in the Fall. With Suburban Lightning going year-round, we need to figure out a solution for the Summer. We are down 2 teams. Would competing with other leagues help? Not sure what the answer. We have 10 for summer as of now.

ii. Division 2 (Patti DiNeno)

- 2A schedules have been released. 2B schedules are being worked on now. There is a new team in 2A, Lowell United.
- Please remember to pay your deposit.

iii. Division 3 (Jeanene Vounatsos)-

- Right now we have 15 teams in D3 but we need to make decision on how to break them up. We are going to discuss after the meeting. We have an odd number of teams no matter what. Some division will need to have a bye.
- Please pay deposits if you haven't already done so.
- D3 teams, do you still want to do 1x week for Summer? Once the groupings are sorted, we will get to Dick for scheduling.

F. New Player Coordinator/Game Scheduler (Dick Fischman)-

- Check out the new player list, Dick has send about 40 new players. If you've added someone, let Dick know so he can take them out of circulation. A lot o the list seem like good players.
- Dick needs fields! Let him know as soon as possible as well as game time. It is to your advantage if he can assign referees as soon as possible.
- Email Dick if you cannot login to the website. And please keep your team contact info updated.

G. Referee Assignor (Joe D'Amico)-

- This is a repeat of last meeting: The sooner teams secure fields, the sooner he can assign referees. Referees would like to know locations.

- We're still seeing no shirts with numbers or even matching shirts. "Look good, play good."
Becca- it is in the rules to have a matching shirt and number. Speaking on behalf of referees, this makes it easier to play but it's also in the rule book.

There are links on the Mass Soccer website for 10% discount with WeGotGoccer:

WeGotSoccer.com | [Soccer Shoes, Equipment and Apparel](#). Peter's new nephew is an executive there and might be able to get us discounts!

Harry: speaking as a coach, if the player goes to a game without a number, they cannot play. At minimum, they need to tape a number on the shirt. We need to enforce this rule.

Lisa: does it say in our bylaws that we can't play? Let's be clear on what is in the bylaws.

(reviewed rules) Does not need to be the same jersey.

Joe (in response to Harry)- let the player play without a number. If they cause a problem during the game, that's a different issue but hasn't happened yet.

If it's a team with multiple missing jerseys without numbers and repeated offenses, that is another issue.

Can we find a vendor that can order single uniforms? It's cheaper to order in bulk. The good thing about ordering from WGS is that they have the templates after the initial order that makes individual orders easier.

- Can we get a clarification on fitness watches?

This is a slippery slope and usually referee dependent. At minimum, they need to be covered. If a referee does feel it is a safety concern, we need to listen to the referee. Can we even say as a league? What about wedding rings? (Joe) I do not think those should be worn. Fitness watches have a benefit. There is no benefit to wearing jewelry on the field.

Becca: we need to comply with the ref's wishes. This is not part of the rules of the game. As long as the ref is ok with it and covered, the league is ok with it for now. We can make a ruling on this in the future.

- Do we want to allow more flexibility based on the division?

We allow 30 players on the roster.

Age restrictions:

Ignore the O40 language for now.

When we send this, will propose wording "end of calendar year" to capture graduating senior going to college turning 18 that year. HOWEVER, if you allow someone on the team that is 17, you will need to comply with Safe Sports. You will still need to have a parent waiver to participate.

(Lots of discussions around safe sport.)

Would having it in the "calendar year" contradict Safe Sport?

Dick: there is no way everyone is going to do Safe Sport. Just make it 18 and move it along.

Pat: having seniors on the team is helpful for their development.

Lisa: its not about being helpful, it's a liability. If you want all of your players to play Safe Sport, that's unrealistic.

We don't have a choice. Safe Sport is a law and we can't go against that.

Liz: the definition of Safe Sport is that you have to have consistent interaction with that player so just that player's team and coach. This is coming up over and over because of this small age group of 17 years. Remain being open to allowing a 17 yo but the team needs to understand the requirements of the Safe Sports requirements.

We need a majority to get this closed out.

H. USASA and Mass Soccer Update (Liz & Lisa Zagura)

I. Field Committee (*Dee Woolley*)

Teams that don't have an approved field, please get that into Dee and Jim so they can go out and walk the field so they can add to the approved list. If you have an approved field that needs reevaluation, please let us know.

J. Competition Committee (Rose Frank) no update

K. Outreach Director/social media- no update

4. New Business:

A. U17 Age Restrictions and other rule clarifications

Dual rostering -conflicting rules, see attached language and proposed wording. Allowing a player to switch to a team more appropriate for their skill level. This is not intended for players to be switching around through the season.

Division 3- has lent out subs to other teams. If we change to be only once, this wouldn't be beneficial for D3 as lending players would avoid a forfeit.

5. Open discussion

A. Peter: As a league, hoping we can get involved with a pro team. We need to support Women's Pro Soccer. We as a league need to get behind it.

Becca: more to come on what that means to us as a league.

Meetings on renovation of White Stadium in Franklin Park. Trying to pair with the community. I know a lot of people are trying to get involved. It is coming.

Open invitation, if you are involved in something, please let us know so we can help support it.

B. Talk about potential of skills clinic. We will continue to try and work with that. May not be suitable for everyone based on time or location

- C. Potential on 4 season league. This is very new ideation, but want to consider going forward in support of the league.
- D. Funds not allocated and want to potentially commit to marketing. We are competing with other leagues that are businesses and have the funds to support it. They take a lot of the female players. There is a new WPSL team coming to Merrimac Valley. We want to make sure our name is prominent. If anyone is knowledgeable in marketing, please help us out. Or anyone on your teams.
- E. If a ref doesn't show up, what is the protocol? And do the teams get a discount? They found out that the ref was never assigned.
US Officials has the contact information for those assigned games. You should be checking all games on the US Officials list prior to the game and that's a mutual responsibility for both teams. This seems to be an issue.
Helpful tip: To help during season put your ref info in your note section in TeamSnap for easy access. Get your Team Snap renewal through your Mass Soccer account!
- F. Lisa: There is a thriving O50 team in the Acton Teamworks. Also crop of Old Colony players. We are soliciting the league president on getting some of the older players over.

6. Elections:

A. Vice President

Jeanene nominates Liz McQuilkin, Peter seconds. None opposed.

(If anyone interested in getting involved, let Liz know and she can help you get involved. She'd like to step down at the next cycle).

Can we get out job descriptions for our formal and informal positions on the Board? We will put that together and share that with the league so people can get more involved!

B. Secretary

Liz nominates Tricia Carroll, Jeanene seconds. None opposed.

Division Directors

C. Division 1:

Liz nominates Peter Counsel, Dee seconds. None opposed.

D. Division 2:

We'd love to have a help with D2. Patti would like to step down after this season.

Liz nominates Patti DiNeno, Dee seconds. None opposed.

E. Division 3:

Jeanene: would like to roll off eventually. Reach out to Jeanene if you have interest.

Joe nominates Jeanene Vounatsos, Peter seconds. None opposed.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned: 8:36