



**“Soccer for Life”**  
**2024 August League Meeting**  
**August 13, 2024**  
**Wayland, MA**

**Housekeeping items:**

- *Imperative we have valid email from all teams*
- *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 7:08

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Approval of February 2024 meeting minutes**
3. **Reports from the Board/field:**
  - a. **President (Becca Brooke)** (comments in new business)
  - b. **Vice President (Liz McQuilkin)** (comments in USASA & Mass Soccer)
  - c. **Secretary (Tricia Carroll)**- please keep team contacts updated online **AND** on US Officials
  - d. **Treasurer Report/financial Update (Jim Livingston)**
    - Refer to Treasurers Report for cash balance as of 8/12. Balance went up by 3k but still waiting on some bills to pay.
    - Jim is happy to take Fall deposits or summer balances tonight.
  - e. **Divisional Directors:**
    - i. **Division 1 (Peter Counsell)**

Garden City beat Sidekicks, 1-0. It was a tough game. The goal was scored in the first minute and both teams battled it out ‘til the end.
    - ii. **Division 2 (Patti DiNeno)**

2B Vikings were the winner of a fantastic game. The game went into extra time. Goal was scored in last minute of the 2<sup>nd</sup> extra time.

In 2A, Mill City beat Classic Crush 2-1. It was a nice, high-quality game.

**iii. Division 3 (Jeanene Vounatsos)**

Would like to get more teams. Only 5 teams this summer 1x week. Can't have strong D2 teams playing D3 teams. Season was fine but would like to get some more teams in the mix. Teams did use players from other teams.

**f. New Player Coordinator/Game Scheduler (Dick Fischman)**

**New players:** Dick has been getting a ton of new players. **IF YOU PUT SOMEONE ON YOUR ROSTER, TELL DICK.**

*Comment: A lot of the players say they want to play but they don't. Most times they ghost you after mentioning the MA ID requirement. This is actually a good thing- managers used to have to pay the insurance fee. Keep in mind, players under 23 are free the first year.*

We are always looking to keep this league going, so talk to your friends. Sometimes we just need a manager to bring together some of these players looking to play and we'd be able to form a new team.

**Scheduling:** Dick has completed schedules for divisions 2A, 2B, 3A. Dick needs some additional time to work on 3B. His biggest issue is D1- it's a challenge because there needs to be a crossover. There are also 8 teams field sharing in Waltham. 9 teams in D1- we will extend the season by 1 week and each team will have a bye. Mavericks will stay in D1.

If we have 8 teams using Waltham, we should just pair off next season to make it easier. Vikings and Diamonds are field sharing at Gonzalez at 10:30. Rustcraft is not lined. Can Soccer Sistas play at 12 in Dedham? Yes, not a problem.

You're all great resource for each when looking for fields. We'll think of a way to leverage each other for this going forward.

**g. Referee Assignor (Joe D'Amico)**

- This Summer Joe managed to recruit 8 new refs, 6 that were female. Females are young and in demand. OTH league pulls from a lot of our refs and is our direct competition. EMWSL presents a good quality game and good environment to develop a ref's skills.
- Talk to your teammates about being a ref (players are the best refs). There is a massive ref shortage in Massachusetts.
- What does it take to be a Ref? Age requirement is 14 yo at the time course is taken. USSF Certification is what we use. 2-hour course, 2 modules you need to take annually, 50 question multiple choice test. Send in dues and you are renewed.
- Teams need to wear uniforms. At least the same color, duplicate numbers they can play with.

- Thanks to Joe on behalf of the league on recruiting the new refs. They were much better and provided the effort required for a women's game.

#### **h. USASA and Mass Soccer Update (Liz)**

Women's Amateur Cup:

Sidekicks went to Regionals this year. It came down to 1 goal in the final 3 minutes of the game.

Kudos for representing EMWSL so well.

If you win Regionals in the Amateur Cup, you go to final 4 and the trip is 100% paid!

We're looking for the next year's upcoming tournament and trying to best fit it into our season. Liz would love more teams represented.

Old Colony, Central Mass, Western Mass, EMWSL- thinking about having a Champions Cup to find an All-Star team.

Soccer Fest Update:

We went down to Greensboro, NC to play in the USASA Soccer Fest (formerly the Veterans Cup).

O40, O55 Mass Spirit won gold and O70 Breakers won Gold!

Other good placements: Breakers 55 Semis, 60s Semi, 65 Silver, Mass Spirit 30s Semi

We had a great presence in a national tourney.

Potential Pacific NW location next year (maybe Washington/Seattle)- TBD

#### **a. Field Committee (Dee Wooley)**

Managers need to make sure you have a field. Field needs to be playable. Try to get out and walk it before the season and make sure nets are in place.

If you're having issues with fields, Dee or a board member will go out and check the field.

We have an approved field list on the website. Don't assume if it's on there that it's ok- make sure you check it. Towns sometimes change the fields and the size is not regulation.

#### **b. Competition Committee (Rose Frank)**

Ahead of each season, we look at the divisions and placement of teams. We don't do relegation and promotion right now but do try to take input from the league/team and then reviewed by the Comp Committee. The goal is to have a competitive but enjoyable experience.

#### **c. Outreach Director/social media (Sabrina/Juice)**

We are really trying to have more of a presence on social media. Please post, tag or give to someone on the board to post for you.

IG: @emasswsl

#### **4. New Business:**

- a. SquadLocker- we ordered our Summer prizes (champions hats). Hat provided for those in attendance at the meeting. They are giving us an opportunity to create a store for the league with our logo on it.

Potential to use it for your team by loading any logo. Your team members can go on and buy a shirt themselves. It's great as the manager not having to collect sizes, money and carry around a bag of uniforms.

This is not set up to be a fundraiser but there is 2% of the sales that go back to the league.

We will share the info soon We are experimenting with it now. We'd have to log emails to create the store. We will organize a bit and get back to you.

Fun Fact: does anyone know who the player is on our logo? That is Kathy Councill, Peter Counsell's (D1 Registrar) wife and she is a long time player in the league.

- b. Wayland Youth Soccer Showcase Match vs. The Boston Dream Soccer Association- long time player has asked us to do a clinic with Boston Dream. They will run the clinic and we will put together an all-star team to play Boston Dream. Hoping to promote our league in the community. Will reach out in the next few weeks to put a team together.

Great opportunity for promotion as there will be high school kids there and they'll see we're here and the league is out there and available to them when they get older. Also, there may be parents of the kids that may be interested in joining.

Dick: one of our D1 teams has a bye that weekend. We should have that team play in the game and that would be a wonderful way for that team to get a game in that weekend.

- c. Age-restricted Division – 35+ (or 40+)- going ahead with building in age groupings in D3. We're hoping if we put it in place, more teams will join (Suburban expressed interest). We're excited for this to happen.

3B will be set up with 2 groups of 4 teams (8 total). Stowe and the 3 Breakers teams will be in the age restricted group. The 2 groups would have a cross-over.

3B1: Charles River, Militia, Valkyrie, Lexpressas

3B2 (Age Restricted): Stowe, 3 Breakers

There may be a couple players that are under the age restriction. We might want to play a season and see how the transition goes.

- d. Vote on age restrictions to update bylaws- continuation of vote introduced at the February meeting.

This is to avoid Safe Sport requirement.

Dick motions for minimum age of 18 for all divisions.

Lisa Z seconds. All in favor, none opposed.

*Motion carries*

## 5. Open discussion

- Can we work on having clinics to help with injury prevention?  
Lisa- can we send out the exercises and protocols videos? We created these back during Covid. These videos give skills, stretches and isometrics to help reduce injuries.  
The study was based on ages 15-35, reduces likelihood of ACL injuries by 70%.

Soccer Sistas team representative is a PT locally (in Wayland) that runs an ACL prevention clinic. She is happy to be a resource for teams and is willing to put on clinics for your team if desired. We will send out video information and provide additional contact info on the ACL clinic.

- Remote meeting discussion.

Would a Monday/Wednesday be better because that's what we're used to? Do we add to the end of the season so it's one additional day tacked on the end of the season?

Pros to in person: benefit to being in person and having spontaneous interaction. Conversation that happened at tonight's meeting wouldn't have happened virtually.

Cons to in-person: distance to travel and commute time, hard during the Summer to make it work with vacations

Can we take this as a vote?

Liz: Who would be in favor to having 1 in-person meeting, annually? *Majority hands raised*

Discussion on in-person in February or August? February runs the risk of bad weather but doesn't interfere with vacations. February is also the AGM.

Liz: Raise your hand if you would like a February in-person meeting. *Majority hands raised*

## 6. Elections:

**Per our By-Laws, elections are at the AGM meetings in February. For 2025, the following positions are up for election:**

- **President**
- **Treasurer**
- **Referee Assignor**
- **New Player Coordinator**
- **Game Scheduler**

**\*\*We have an off-cycle resignation from Division 2 Director – potential candidates, pls step up!\*\***

Bylaw Section 3.05: Any newly created Directorship resulting from an increase in the authorized number of Directors and any vacancies occurring in the Board, may be filled by the affirmative votes of a majority of the remaining Directors, although less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining Director and shall not be filled by the members

## 7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:28