

I. **BYLAW CHANGES**

- A. No change

II. **RULE CHANGES**

- A. Revised **Rule 8a — Postponements: Game Cancellations** to say that Fields Commissioner (rather than Scheduler or Head commission) or her designee will cancel or postpone games as appropriate.
- B. Revised **Rule 8e — Postponements: Schedule Changes** to say that special requests for schedule changes will not be accepted after the schedule is set except for a special ruling by the Board based on unusual circumstances.
- C. Revised **Appendix A, Definitions** to include a new section that summarizes "Age Categories".
- D. Revised **Appendix A, Definitions — Divisions** from eight specific divisions to the more general definitions of Blue, Red and White.
- E. Revised **Appendix C, Duties of the Team Representative** to reflect updated policies and new sources of information (such as FWSA's website).

III. **LEAGUE UPDATE FOR JUNE 2009 – MAY 2010**

FWSA made the annual payment of \$13,000 towards its share of the 10-year loan for the turfing project at Wakefield. Done in conjunction with BRYC and NVSL, there are 7 years remaining on this \$400,000 loan.

FWSA mounted a strong appeal over the last six months to be grandfathered for Saturday daytime hours at Pine Ridge. Some years back, the County adopted a new policy stating that youth organizations would have priority during daytime hours but, until now, has allowed FWSA to continue Saturday usage at Pine Ridge. With the advent of the lighting and turfing projects at Pine Ridge, FWSA's exemption from this policy was brought into jeopardy. A team of FWSA representatives had meetings with County officials and distributed to key County representatives a package of materials documenting FWSA's contributions in development, maintenance, and improvement to the Pine Ridge fields over the past 30 years. With the appeal for grandfathering denied, plans are now being developed for a grassroots campaign in which all FWSA members will be encouraged to participate.

A new scheduling process, paired with a new request form, was initiated in the spring 2010 season. While the process has produced some mixed results, the good news is that all teams received first bye requests and most teams were scheduled for their requested weeknight/weekend splits. Some teams provided just what was asked on the request form and others provided additional information. With a season of use behind it, additional thought will need to go into improving the request form and determining how to fairly and consistently handle all the information received via this form. Friday night games continue to be an unwelcome inclusion in any team's schedule. And spring break was also a difficult scheduling week. With limited weeks of field availability, FWSA cannot afford to skip these dates and still play 10 games. The next step in this evolving process is to develop a good solution for handling scheduling challenges such as spring break, the month of August, and Friday field use.

The league's focus on recruiting new players is paying off in a big way. Leading up to the spring 2010 season, FWSA had approximately 90 inquiries about teams and/or the free soccer clinic. Of these, about 55 players were placed on teams and another 15 players joined the clinic or the Sub team. The remainder did not follow up on their initial inquiry. One new Open Division team was formed and enough over-40 players were added to complete the roster of a Grand Masters team that was in need of numerous players. Also, FWSA was able to fill out the rosters for teams needing extra numbers.

Recruitment "advertising" gained a boost this operating year with two projects. The first project, taking place in the fall of 2009, was the production of an FWSA recruiting T-shirt that was purchased by 155 players. And the second project was the spring 2010 distribution of 50 car magnets. Along with flyers, a notice placed in the NOVA newsletter, and an FWSA Meetup online site, these efforts are fueling a successful recruiting campaign.

The Subs Team concept was initiated in the spring of 2009 as a pilot program. Its two objectives were: to establish a place where potential players could try out the league; and, to help teams avoid forfeits. Through May 19th of this year, there have been over 800 message postings with nearly 90 players and team representatives involved. The feedback from participants has been generally positive although some concerns have been voiced about whether teams are using the program appropriately. And, when viewed in the light of the objectives, the program has had mixed success. The majority of the participants in the program are already FWSA players. The expected use by non league participants has not materialized in the numbers expected. Also, it is unclear that the program has reduced the number of forfeits. Following the spring 2010 season, the league will re-evaluate this program and decide whether to modify, leave as is, or completely eliminate it.

The "Free Soccer Clinic" continues to draw about 30 participants per season, with at least 8 clinic veterans joining teams for the spring 2010 season.

Beginning with the spring 2010 season, standings are now being kept for the GGM Division.

Division cross play was introduced in the fall 2009 season and took place between the Open and Masters Blue Divisions. Having received good reviews from the players involved, the program was continued in the spring 2010 season.

For the 09/10 operating year, FWSA continued its practice of maintaining permanently installed goal posts and nets as well as paying for weekly field lining. In addition, FWSA has begun paying "sitters" to monitor Pine Ridge when the fields are closed because of wet weather.

The adoption partnership with BRYC still exists (although that league is now only using the Pine Ridge fields for practices during the week) and NVCL is still sharing fields with FWSA on Saturday. Also, FWSA is sharing the rental costs for three additional porta potties with ANSL.