

**Minutes for the
FWSA Board Meeting of March 8, 2004**

Call to Order

The Board Meeting was called to order on Monday, March 8, 2004, at 7:00 p.m., in the home of Dianne Beville, by Head Commissioner Jeny Beausoliel.

Board Members Present

Jeny Beausoliel, Cindy Beck, Dianne Beville, Keri Cassidy, Debbie Clisham, Angie Falletti, Pat Hellings, Debra Holland, Grace Lee, Debbie Reynolds, Wanda Rixon, Monica Vickers

MINUTES

Motion

To accept the minutes of the January 5, 2004 Board Meeting.

Motion carried.

REPORTS

Affiliation Committee

Wanda Rixon, a member of the Affiliation Committee (and currently Masters

Final Report

Blue Division Commissioner), presented the results of the Committee's year-long research project on the pros and cons of affiliating with the Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia Soccer Association (MDCVSA). The Committee identified three key project areas — fees, tournaments, and referees. Each member researched specific topics within these areas. [See Appendix A for the complete report.] She summarized committee findings:

Fees – Affiliating would cost each player \$16 each year; the committee questioned this added expense given that the current Board is considering online registration, at a cost to each player, and non-county dual registrants are now required to pay the out-of-county fee twice. In addition, the county has proposed a field rental fee that, if approved, will be shared by each player.

Tournaments – The Committee found no evidence that the majority of FWSA players would benefit from affiliated tournament opportunities.

Referees – Proponents of affiliation believe FWSA would be assigned better refs because credit is given for refereeing the games of an affiliated league. The Committee's research found little to support this belief. It did, however, discover that referees like working for FWSA because it is an organized league.

Miscellaneous – FWSA would have to follow FIFA rules

rather than the modified rules now followed; secondary medical insurance, while a plus for affiliation, does not provide a clear benefit to the majority of FWSA members; administrative requirements for Board members would very likely increase, particularly in regard to tournaments.

Taking all findings into consideration, the recommendation of the Committee is that the Board of FWSA decline the opportunity to affiliate with MDCVSA.

Motion

To accept the findings presented in the Report of the Affiliation Committee and to approve its recommendation.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

DC/NOVA Contact

Mary Nunley is no longer with DC/NOVA so Anita Hood is once again our point of contact for Saturday games. Paul Best is the contact for weeknight games. Anita and Paul can be reached as follows:

Anita Hood 703-780-4552

Paul Best 703-560-6880

Because this information did not become public until just after the February 9 Team Rep Meeting, Secretary Debra Holland must now print and mail new address labels to each team rep, along with instructions to cover the incorrect address on the white ref cards.

Website Recruiting

A report from Special Events Commissioner Patty Phillips on how useful the new website has been in linking teams needing players to players looking for a team was deferred until the next meeting.

Number of Players Per Team

Following up on an email thread that preceded tonight's meeting, there was a discussion on the number of players per team that resulted in no change to the current rule.

Mandatory Field Duties

Head Commissioner Beausoliel included the concept of mandatory team field duties in her HC Notes on the website and during her presentation at the February 9 Team Rep Meeting. She and Fields Commissioner Chris Nugent have emphasized the need for consistent monitoring of the Pine Ridge fields when inclement weather has necessitated closure, particularly on days when the weather has cleared up but the fields are still water-logged. While a majority of the Board agreed that Saturday monitoring is needed, it also felt making this a mandatory requirement had the potential to put the monitors in a risky situation and thus expose the league to unnecessary liability.

After lengthy discussion, the Board agreed...

- To make monitoring "recommended" rather than "mandatory".
- To suggest teams that normally would have been playing send several players to check on the fields and

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After lengthy discussion, the Board agreed...

- To make monitoring "recommended" rather than "mandatory".
- To suggest teams that normally would have been playing send several players to check on the fields and

call the police if the fields are being used. The non-emergency police phone number is posted on the field closure sign.

In addition, the Board questioned the possibility of having volunteers wear a "Pine Ridge Park Field Monitor" vest as a symbol of authority while monitoring the fields. Head Commissioner Beausoliel will discuss this idea with Park Authority representatives.

Tournament Prizes

Special Events Commissioner Phillips is taking inventory of the items left over from the 2003 tournament and will report at the next Board meeting. These items will, if of sufficient quantity, be used as the prizes for division winners of the fall 2003 season. Going forward, however, division winners should not have to wait months to receive their prizes. Head Commissioner Beausoliel suggested the Board agree on a standard prize that is both easy to acquire and relatively inexpensive when purchased in bulk. A \$4 Blockbuster gift certificate was suggested.

Grand Masters

Reviewing the February 9 Team Rep Meeting actions on team placement, Head Commissioner Beausoliel felt that the Board had not sufficiently addressed the team disparity between blue and red divisions in Grand Masters. Since then, there has been an emailed suggestion to set up a ranking system similar to a process already used in the Arlington league. Head Commissioner Beausoliel noted that she has been trying to reach the Arlington scheduler to learn how the system works. She will report her findings at the next Board meeting.

Team Movement

Grand Masters isn't the only division in which the top level has more competitive play than the Red and White levels. A lengthy discussion ensued on whether to continue following the "one up, one down" policy without regard for skill disparities or to devise a different plan for team movement.

Grand Masters Red Division Commissioner Grace Lee suggested that each age division have a competitive division and two recreational divisions. Blue level teams would be assigned to the competitive division while red and white level teams would play in the recreational divisions. The one up, one down rule would apply to the recreational divisions. The red level winner would have the option to try out the competitive division but could return to the red level at the end of a losing initial season.

Head Commissioner Beausoliel asked Grand Masters Red Division Commissioner Lee to expand upon her idea for the next Board meeting

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Fall Season Start Date

Following up on pre-Board meeting input from Fields Commissioner Nugent, Head Commissioner Beausoliel

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Fall Season Start Date continued...

Because many players take vacations around the Labor Day holiday, the Board expressed concern that such an early start would not be feasible. Masters Blue Division Commissioner Rixon suggested that players be polled to ascertain availability the last two weeks before Labor Day. This idea met with approval. Head Commissioner Beausoliel will craft an email for division commissioners to send out to team reps. The deadline for responding to the poll will be April 15.

A secondary concern is how much impact an earlier start to the season will have on the team rep meeting and the registration process.

Relaxing Age Requirements Head Commissioner Beausoliel broached the topic of making it easier for teams to move from one age division to the next when only a few players do not meet the age requirement. With little discussion, the Board decided to leave the rule as is, feeling any changes would need to be highly specific and that enforcement would be difficult.

Glasgow Fields Head Commissioner Beausoliel has learned that a new school facility is to be built where the soccer fields currently exist. Three new fields will be laid out on land now occupied by the school. No fields will be available at Glasgow during construction.

Summer Season Fields Head Commissioner Beausoliel is lobbying to get all three Poplar Tree fields assigned to FWSA for summer soccer.

New Liners The Board gave revised approval for Equipment Commissioner Pat Hellings to purchase one metal liner and three plastic liners.

Summer Soccer Equipment Commissioner Hellings announced that the registration fee will be \$20. And, in terms of planning, she believes that she needs to have the registration process completed by June 1.

Bylaw Revision Suggestions Sally Entlich (Midlife Crisis; GMB) has requested the Board consider three Bylaw changes: eliminate the word charitable (Article I, Sec 2); delete the "s" from the title of Fields Commissioner and the title of Special Projects Commissioner (Article IV, Sec 1); add a sentence to the effect that minutes of the Board shall be available

upon request (Article VI, Sec 5). [See Attachment B for the complete text of her request.]

Treasurer Cindy Beck will research the charitable definition before the Board makes any decision on the first request. With regard to the second request, the Board saw no purpose to changing the two titles because multiple fields and multiple projects are overseen by these respective positions. As to the third request, the Board opted not to revisit the issue of making minutes publicly available.

Board Positions

Fields Commissioner Nugent has requested the Board consider making the Equipment Commissioner and the Special Events Commissioner non-Board, non-voting positions. She has also proposed a new Board position of Assistant Head Commissioner.

During the discussion, the Board recognized that removing the two positions would make it possible for individuals to handle these roles for longer than the two consecutive terms allowed by the Bylaws. This change might also make it easier to recruit successors. However, these positions are felt to be important components of the official Board, providing a necessary voice, with full voting rights, in all Board discussions and decisions.

The Board, therefore, declined to pursue this course of action at this time.

The Board also made a discovery — the title of Special Events commissioner is incorrect. Per Article IV, Sec 1 of the Bylaws, this position is **actually** titled Special Projects Commissioner. Head Commissioner said this title supports the expanded role that she envisions for this position.

Equipment Commissioner Hellings then suggested adding a "Media Commissioner" as an assistant commissioner. Communicating and working with both the County and the players is becoming more crucial and more time-consuming. Masters Blue Division Commissioner Rixon commented that a previous Fields Commissioner had had a fields committee that provided backup and assistance. The discussion concluded with a decision to take the more modest step of adding a "friend of the Board."

Motion

To add an assistant fields commissioner as a non-voting "friend of the Board."

Motion carried.

Upcoming Meeting

The 2004 General Assembly meeting will take place on Thursday, May 6, 2004, beginning at 7:00 p.m., at Government Center. The agenda for this meeting includes election of officers, the Annual Report, the Treasurer's Report and a final report from the Affiliations Committee.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Debra J. Holland
Secretary