



New York State West Youth Soccer Association
Board of Directors Meeting
March 17, 2002

The Board of Directors of the New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA) held their March meeting in Corning, New York, on Sunday, March 17, 2002. President Buiniskis called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

1. Roll Call:

Present: Anthony Buiniskis, President
Karl Krech, 2nd Vice President
Suzanne Messina, Secretary
Tim Mellander, Registrar
Gary Acker, Risk Management Coordinator
Larry Evarts, Recreation Director/TOP Soccer
Millie Blaakman, ODP Administrator

District Commissioners:
Roger Best, Rochester
Sandy Ostebo, Twin Tiers
Bob Sokolinsky, Binghamton
Matt Dimas, Southern Tier

Office Staff:
Dan Watson, Operations Manager
Donna Mizerak, Bookkeeper

Absent:
John Galli, 1st Vice President & Cup Administrator
John Pecchia, Treasurer
Roger Jank, Buffalo District Commissioner
Kevin Perrigo, Syracuse District Commissioner
Glen Buckley, State Director of Coaching
William Fahey, SYRA

2. Meeting Minutes:

On a motion by Sandy, seconded by Karl, and unanimously approved by all, the January meeting minutes will be reviewed by all and corrections will be sent to Sue no later than Wednesday, March 20. The corrections will be made and sent to Tim for publication on the New York State West Web Page. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Financial Report:

- a. A copy of the Financial Report was distributed. Tony Buiniskis requested that the Financial Reports be distributed in advance of Board of Director Meetings so that everyone has an opportunity to review them before the meeting. Careful review of the records is necessary, as they are the financial reports of the organization as a whole.
- b. Tony requests that everyone check the Financial Reports for overruns that may have occurred.
- c. Under website, the Demosphere contract for this year was \$11,000.
- d. Right now, only a few individuals—Tony Buiniskis, John Galli, and John Pecchia can receive an actual backup of the program.
- e. Financially, we appear to be doing well.



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- f. Under State Cup miscellaneous, there is an amount we sent to Region I for all age divisions that we entered in the Snicker's State Cup. This resulted in a Regional Fee of \$200.
- g. Donna will review what should go under a different category in the Financial Report. Since it is already in our budget under National/Regional entries, it should not be under ODP.
- h. Action Item for Dan and Donna for next meeting—send the Financial Statements in advance to be reviewed for Board of Director's Meetings.

4. Communications:

- a. A letter arrived this week from Steve Hel (of the Valley Junior Athletic Association a recreation program, comprised of 450 children. The organization is requesting affiliation with New York State West. A copy of the letter of request, along with the registration forms, was given to Sandy Ostebo. The Club would like to meet the requirements of the affiliation process in the spring so that they will be able to register players to play this fall. The club is asking for assistance at this time in developing by-laws. Sandy Ostebo will assist the club in the development of their by-laws. Sandy pointed out that New York State West does not have a standard template for developing by-laws, but the New York State West By-laws are an excellent guide for clubs to follow when developing their own by-laws. Sandy sends sample by-laws to clubs who are in the process of trying to develop their own by-laws. Sandy Ostebo also indicated that he was told in Atlanta that the National Organization hopes to have a by-laws' template developed shortly for State organizations to use. Tim made a motion to grant the membership request of the Valley Junior Athletic Association upon development of appropriate club by-laws. Larry Evarts seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- b. Sandy Ostebo has a club in his District with the same situation as the Valley Junior Athletic Association. The Campbell-Savona Soccer Association has not registered players in three years and does not have up-to-date by-laws. Sandy Ostebo made the motion that New York State West accept the Campbell-Savona Soccer Association as Club 615 pending approval of their by-laws. Roger Best seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The Campbell-Savona Soccer Club has been granted provisional membership with permanent membership dependent upon submission of up-to-date club by-laws.
- c. Tony noted that we all have a copy of the Syracuse-area article—"Coach Earns National Honor." Roger Best asked the Rochester paper to print the article, but they indicated that they do not publish "club news". It was suggested that Tony approach Irene Galgon from the Syracuse newspaper to see if she would like to be a contributor to our web page.
- d. Larry Evarts requests that he be sent the correct names and addresses of club presidents for the files.

5. Board Communications:

- a. As of today, March 17, John Galli has stepped down as 1st Vice President of the NYSWYSA. Work and family commitments prevent him from giving the time to the organization that is necessary. Consequently, in his best interest and that of the organization, John Galli is resigning effective immediately.
- b. Karl Krech made a motion that John Galli's resignation be accepted and that John be recognized for his numerous contributions to New York State West. The motion was seconded by Gary Acker and unanimously approved. Tim Mellander will gather pictures and put together an article for the web page
- c. Karl Krech nominated Gary Acker to fill John Galli's vacated position of 1st Vice President and Cup Chairperson of NYSWYSA. Larry Evarts seconded the motion. Gary was unanimously approved to serve as the new 1st Vice President and Cup Chairperson of NYSWYSA.
- d. Discussion ensued regarding the "conflict of interest" created by Gary holding the position of Sub Regional Director and serving as 1st Vice President of NYSWYSA. It was decided that Gary will have to contact Bob Palmiero regarding his resignation as Sub Regional Director. Gary will continue as Sub Regional Director, as well as serve in his newly-elected position of 1st Vice President and Cup Chairman NYSWYSA on an interim basis until a replacement has been put in



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- place for the position. Gary will attempt to find a replacement for the position of Risk Management Coordinator, but he will continue to serve in that position until a suitable replacement has been appointed to complete the remainder of his term.
- e. By-Law Changes. Sandy Ostebo sent everyone on the Board of Directors copies of proposals on Article 2—Membership. Most members of the Board of Directors responded with their views regarding the proposed changes. Comments included correction of a spelling error and a recommendation that notification to clubs that they are being dropped be sent Certified Mail/Return Receipt Requested rather than being sent via First Class Mail. Sandy Ostebo will send out corrections to all members. Sandy motioned that Article 2—Membership—be accepted upon completion of the two corrections. Millie Blaakman seconded the motion. The motion was on the table for 30 days and will be voted on at the next NYSWYSA Board of Director’s meeting. Dan Watson must send a copy of the proposed changes must be sent to all of the members and to each club. The proposed changes will be sent to Tim Mellander to be posted on the NYSWYSA Web Site and then will be replaced with the corrected by-laws once they are approved.
 - f. Karl is writing a letter to 7 or 8 administrative Travel League Presidents regarding non-affiliation with NYSWYSA because of the difficulties with Buffalo District Administrative Travel Leagues. Discussion followed regarding whether these by-law changes affect the following organizations under USSF Rule 13: Upstate Premier League (which is actually an affiliate of the North American Soccer League), Rochester District Youth Soccer League, Wayne Finger Lakes Soccer League, Central New York, Broome County Soccer Association, Tompkins County Fall Soccer, Southern Tier Travel, and Twin Tiers Soccer League. This rule will impact all of the leagues, because they are all affiliates of the NYSWYSA. If it is within a league’s by-laws that it is a “select” league with criteria for entry, it is within its rights to reject teams. Otherwise, it must accept teams that apply. Because we are obligated to do this, clubs should be sent a letter from Karl requesting that they submit their by-laws to him. Sandy Ostebo pointed out that a policy had been approved requiring every club had to have their by-laws amended and approved. Sandy suggested that it is time, with the assistance of the State Office, to determine which clubs have submitted their amended by-laws. Many clubs are not complying with New York State West and USSF. After determining which clubs do not have by-laws, Karl will send a letter to the leagues outlining the amendments and requesting that they comply. Some will not have the amendments because they did not know they need them. Sandy Ostebo requested that the District Commissioners start checking on which clubs have amended by-laws and which do not. Once we have a sample, we can provide it to those clubs. Gary Acker indicated that Dan has copies of the Federation By-Laws, but we do not have copies of the USYSA By-Laws. Clubs that were present at the AGM received information; others may not. Sandy will get together with Dan to take care of this.
 - g. Tony observed that many documents go out of our State Office and District Offices tied to advertising, etc. It would be best if any documents that go from the NYSWYSA are sent on the proper stationery. Our stationery promotes the organization; so our documents should be sent out on NYSWYSA stationery. Communications should be personalized as much as possible and sent out on “original” stationery rather than copies. New York State West is headed toward becoming an “A” State, so we need to be sure our correspondence is always professional looking and sounding in nature. Karl suggested that we discard all of our out-of-date stationery and only current information stationery should be used. Discussed leaving the sponsors off of stationery to avoid waste when sponsors are no longer affiliated, such as American Playground, Avis, Days Inn, Nokia, Kellogg’s, V-8 Splash, and Pillsbury. Tim has developed a template that will have only current sponsors that can be downloaded so that all Board Members will have access to the letterhead with the most current information at all times.
 - h. As of September 1, 2002, we will no longer have a newspaper. Dan visited Ohio South, which produces its own newsletter. He looked at their equipment and operations to determine what could be utilized by New York State West. They have a risograph machine that allows them to print in different colors.



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6. Good of the Game:

- a. On April 4, 1982, when NYSWYSA came into existence, 7 or 8 people were involved in the development of the organization. Names mentioned were Bob Downey and Jack Hayward. A suggestion was made that we invite them to the AGM to recognize the 20th anniversary and perhaps have an article in the program about how we have progressed. Tim would be willing to pursue this if someone can give him names of individuals to contact. Roger Best indicated that he would try to find information and contact them to gather any observations regarding the then and now of the organization.
- b. On February 20, NYSWYSA closed the book on a three-plus month of continuing dialog with the Buffalo and Western New York Junior Soccer League in terms of reaching an agreement that they change their by-laws. Their by-laws now put them in compliance with both USSF and The NYSWYSA rules and regulations.
- c. Kevin has worked on an indoor policy, and has concluded that New York State West should probably discuss divorcing themselves from indoor regulation. A discussion of this issue will take place at a later meeting.

7. State Cup and President's Cup:

- a. State Cup will be held at West Seneca, New York, May 31 to June 2. Gary will get together with John Galli to determine where we stand regarding the contracts for the fields, etc., so that Gary can take over the remainder of the planning.
- b. T-shirts Order: They need to be ordered, and work must be done with the National Organization on the new logo for its T-shirts. The T-shirts will be worn at the opening ceremonies at the Regional's Parade of States. Tony has a standard format for the logo.
- c. Rules for Snicker's State Cup: The National Rules state that the Snicker's State Cup Roster should be nine players common to their League Roster. A team Has a League Roster and a Snicker's Roster, with which they play in the Snicker's State Cup; and the League Roster and the Snicker's State Cup Roster do not have to be the same. Over the past several years, we have had several different rules. Since Region I follows the rule that the roster must be the same for League Play and Cup play, it was determined that it would be best to stay with that rule for the State Cup. Gary will e-mail the rules to the Board of Directors for review and would appreciate feedback within 48 hours.
- d. Region I Director's League: A communication from Adele indicates that Bob Palmiero states that Permission to Play in a League Outside NYSW Form is not required for the Region I Director's League play.
- e. Regional Cup: Will be begin on Friday, June 28, and end on July 3, at Ft. Niagara. Opening ceremonies will be held at the University of Buffalo in Amherst. A number of rooms have already been booked for the State Association.
- f. President's Cup will be held June 8 and 9 at SUNY Binghamton. Gary will acquire the rules from John. The President's Cup should be reviewed to determine whether we should continue to sponsor that tournament. It was canceled due to low numbers last year. Wherever the President's Cup is held, that location has the most teams who participate.

8. ODP:

- a. All information is included in the packets provided by Millie, which includes data regarding last year's figures. ODP is going well and attendance has been good. The report is in the same report format as the report presented at the July Board of Director's Meeting last year. Numbers are down from last year's winter pool. We are sending the '86 and '87 groups to compete regionally at a "soccer scramble" in Delaware on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The Coaching Staff is working well with the managers to see that Mille gets information in on time to Region I. All will



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- have notebooks with up-to-date information. Program for 19s—Boys have 11—four outdoor sessions; Girls have 23—9 outdoor sessions. U19 girls participated in a friendly at Syracuse University and made it to the semi-final round. A letter will be mailed to participants with regard to Region I semi-finals being scheduled the same week as the mini-camp.
- b. ODP wants to have friendly matches with teams from Canada. Tim advised that Permission to Travel and Host Forms belong to US Youth Soccer, not USSF, so they may not care, but NYSWYSA should abide by the established Youth Travel and Hosting Policy. The Canadian soccer club will need authorized documentation from NYSWSA regarding this event. Millie has the form completed and Dan will orchestrate through the proper authorities to secure permission and forward to the Canadian club.
 - c. On Sunday, April 28, ODP is hosting it's second player Enrichment Program for all state pool players at St. John Fischer College. One of the sessions will be given by Tom Goodman on player development, similar to what he presented in Atlanta, and another will be given by a nutritionist, who will focus solely on nutrition. John Pecchia has proposed the idea of exhibition games between the two oldest groups of the 85s and 86s and would contact college coaches from around the state.
 - d. Discussed a club in the South Tier District that claims to be affiliated with New York State West. In actuality, this club is not registered. The matter will be investigated further to determine what the hometown newspaper so that New York State West can take out an ad to let people know that the club in question IS NOT affiliated with New York State West.

9. Registrar:

- a. The Paid Registrations Report was corrected on March 14, because it was missing some pages. Reviewed the graph on page 3, which indicates that we are sliding a little bit below our target. The registrations jumped in February, when many were registered in the Syracuse District. We are still behind in registrations. Roger and Larry will remind Rochester District Clubs that this has to be done. Tim will be putting the listing on the web page of all our clubs and leagues. The ones who have links to their club or league web sites will be highlighted. Tim does not get feedback on whether lists are correct or not. It is difficult to tell which organizations are leagues or clubs. Until he gets feedback and can understand which organizations are clubs and which are leagues, he cannot develop this web page. There are concerns regarding the number of paid registrations versus the number of people listed with the clubs via computerized registration. Others get their registrations turned in, but do not pay New York State West. District Commissioners are asked to review the list and pursue clubs that are behind. The paid registrations are from Terri's report from the State Office to Tim. Tim updates his computerized list to reflect the most current data, and it report reflects the latest information. Both reports reflect that some clubs have no paid registrations year to date. This information can be extrapolated by month—how many have paid and how many are listed, year to date—so commissioners can review it to see which clubs they need to pursue. The District Commissioners were asked to pursue this as soon as possible. It was discussed having this generate from the State Office by sending a letter indicating that the players have to be registered and their fees paid for insurance purposes and to ask what we can do to assist in providing this data. If we have the data, but no money, we can send a letter to the club asking for the money. Two different letters need to be sent—one for the collection of registration data, and one for lack of payment for registrations—based on Tim's and Terri's information. We need a procedure from start to finish that is laid out according to what will be done and who will be notified. We do have a policy that goes into effect next year that will start the procedure. If we can move to an on-line, centralized registration program, the district commissioners do not need to be involved. ACTION ITEM—Donna needs to send authorization forms for approval to Gary Acker.



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10. Recreation/TOPS Soccer:

- a. Report is in handouts.
- b. Chevy Recreational Cup is on line. Larry is working on getting some advertising materials from Bob Johnson Chevrolet so they can put it in their programs.
- c. The Tide America Cup is on schedule with no apparent problems. The Irondequoit Soccer Club has supplied a name for the Tide Equipment. The contact person talked with Larry on Saturday, March 16, so that is all set as well.
- d. There has been a change at Octogon in marketing. Larry met with Charlotte Moran at the Adidas Workshop, where they discussed both the Chevy Cup and the Tide Cup. Charlotte is currently the US Youth Region 1 Marketing representative for Octogon.
- e. Larry will be meeting with the East Rochester Recreational Club on Monday, March 19, at 7:30 a.m., to give them the free handouts and books. They want to talk about Youth Module Coaching Courses. Plans to bring up a May 4 Youth coaching course.
- f. Recreational Award of the Year: Larry left two messages for Linda Lovejoy at Wegman's, but she has not yet returned Larry's calls. Odell has said that he will contact Linda Lovejoy if Larry has not heard from her within the week, as he also works for Wegman's.
- g. Larry will do a mailing to all of the Recreation Clubs for the May 4 Recreational Workshop, along with the 39 coaches' names that Larry had from last year, to ask them to register. As part of that program, Jim St. George, with the Rochester Raging Rhinos is to obtain reduced tickets for the opening night for the workshop participants. They will list the NYSWYSA's workshop on the big board at Frontier Field. Discussed incorporating a goalkeeping clinic with Glen. Larry also wants to include another TOPS Soccer event. Also looking at a U-12 session at the workshop.
- h. Larry is planning to hold a Recreational Meeting on April 27.
- i. Larry would like to take the \$2,000 from the Recreational Budget (See item "v" below).
- j. Larry met with Senator Richard Dollinger's secretary on February 11. On February 20, Larry received a call from Mel, the Chief of Staff. Larry will be setting up a meeting with him some time late in the spring, or when the State Budget has passed. Larry indicated to the Senator's Secretary that he would be willing to take less than the amount originally applied for. Mel was encouraging regarding this funding, so Larry is anticipating being able to arrange a meeting with the Senator.
- k. The USYSA Youth TOPS Soccer Grant Application is filled out and was sent to the National office. Larry has not yet heard anything back on that application.
- l. TOPS Soccer Night with the Rhinos has been set up through Jim St. George on June 14. They are working together to do a TV and newspaper promotion of this event.
- m. Larry will be holding a TOPS Soccer Committee Meeting on April 6 in Corning from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
- n. There has been a change in the Buffalo personnel. Suzanne has stepped down, and she will mail Larry a new contact name on Monday.
- o. TOPS Soccer Grant Money for Binghamton shows a deficit. Bob Otto graciously agreed to write a check to cover the deficit.
- p. As of March 1, 2002, Larry will receive all requests for the TOPS Soccer money by District. After the money is sent to the Office, Larry will explain the system to all involved at the TOPS Soccer Meeting. This will apprise Larry of the balance of each district and how timely a manner in which the bills are paid. This was set up because Larry discovered one of the TOPS Soccer bills had not been paid for three years, so he is eliminating the possibility of that occurring in the future.
- q. Larry will be setting up a small committee within the next two weeks in Rochester for the TOPS Soccer Program. Potential Rochester participants appear to be very enthusiastic about this program.
- r. Larry has also received a call from Dr. DeSue from Buffalo, but he has not heard anything further.
- s. Larry talked with a couple of representatives of Uniroyal Tire, and sent one of those representatives of all Dunn Tires within New York State West.



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- t. Larry also talked with John Taylor, who works with Dunn Tire, to set up additional districts that can receive free equipment.
- u. Larry purchased a better flash attachment for our camera. When the camera needs to be repaired, Larry can just drop it off, and he'll be sure it is returned in a timely manner.
- v. Peggy Neason is going to set up a workshop sometime within the next two or three months in Pittsburgh at one of the universities at no cost to the coaches. She will use some of her grant money to fund the workshop.
- w. Larry would like to propose that \$2000 be taken from Recreation Fund to pay for the two gentlemen coming to do the Recreational Workshop and the Youth Module Course on May 4. Karl made a motion for the funds to be taken from the Recreational Fund, which was seconded by Matt and unanimously approved.
- x. Southern California registers Recreational Players—they are actually issued a Player Pass. This could act as an insurance card. Tim pointed out that you would then have to charge those players the same amount of money that you charge a travel Player. A discussion took place regarding the additional quantity of work this would generate and the possibility that Dan could help from the State Office. Must first accumulate the data and then decide how to produce it.

11 President's Remarks

- a. Larry and Jerome Underwood from the Rochester area (Flower City Soccer League) will be attending a Soccer Start Summit on April 12-14. They are being fully funded by U.S. Youth Soccer.
- b. Tony clarified that setting up TOPS Soccer programs within the Districts does not allow the Districts to have their own moneys but that each TOPS Soccer Administrator in the district must have all expenses approved by Larry in advance of moneys being paid out.

12. Web Page Report

- a. URL Statistics for February showed 17,271 unique user sessions.
- b. The Insurance Forms are now available on the Web Page.
- c. The outline of the medical coverage and the disability is listed on the Web Page.
- d. The Snicker's State and President Cup Forms are available in PDF format on the Web Page.
- e. Reviewed screen shots from NSCAA site where e-mail addresses can be collected for a newsletter service. We can incorporate that into our Web Site or utilize for an electronic newsletter.
- f. Tim would like to put a complete list of our clubs and affiliates on the web page once we can figure out who's who.

13. Executive Session

14. Office Report

- a. A copy of the office update was distributed.
- b. Dan traveled to Ohio South to tour their office set up. Currently compiling a write-up of the visit.
- c. The Ohio South Director, Jim Martella, has found a program that will complete bulk mailings by e-mail that he can take from his Access databases to be sent out. This would work for event promotions, etc.
- d. Ohio State generates a great deal of revenue through camps that they run and mailings that they do for tournaments.
- e. The Risk Management paper work for Ohio South is completed by the Ohio South State Office.
- f. The Ohio State Office also recommends database, e-mail newsletters.
- g. Chris Galli has completed some installation tasks to enable the Office to have information sent right to their printer. That capability should exist shortly. The software will have been installed on the sending computer as well.
- h. Discussions took place regarding the need for a Master Calendar at the State Office to track all events to be sure the "big picture" is always available.



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- i. Discussions took place regarding the utilization of part-time personnel to complete work during busier time frames.
- j. Sandy suggests that the organization has grown to the extent that an Executive Director is needed. The work has increased to the point where the Officers cannot complete the work in a timely manner. This individual could solicit grants, review rules, obtain legal interpretations, etc.

15. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 21, at 10 a.m., at the New York State West Office in Corning.

16 Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made by Karl Krech, seconded by Gary Acker at 2:15 p.m., and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Messina
Secretary