



New York State West Youth Soccer Association
Board of Directors Meeting
October 27, 2002

The Board of Directors of the New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA) held their October meeting in Corning, New York, on Sunday, October 27, 2002. President Buiniskis called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. Roll Call:

Present: Anthony Buiniskis, President
Gary Acker, 1st Vice President
Bob Sokolinsky, 2nd Vice President
Suzanne Messina, Secretary
Tim Mellander, Registrar
Teresa Doermer, Risk Management Coordinator
Larry Evarts, Recreation /TOP Soccer Director

District Commissioners:

Sandy Ostebo, Twin Tiers
Roger Jank, Buffalo
Roger Best, Rochester
Matt Dimas, Southern Tier
Shane Cook, Binghamton

Office Staff:

Sandy Ostebo, Interim Executive Director
Dan Watson, Operations Manager

Absent:

John Pecchia, Treasurer
Millie Blaakman, ODP Administrator
Glen Buckley, State Director of Coaching
Kevin Perrigo, Syracuse District Commissioner

Tony welcomed Shane Cook, who will be replacing Bob Sokolinsky as the Binghamton District Commissioner.

2. Meeting Minutes:

Approval of the September 2002 Meeting Minutes was moved to the end of the meeting to afford the BOD the opportunity to review the minutes during lunch. Corrections to the minutes were submitted at the end of the meeting and the minutes were approved with corrections.

3. Financial Report:

- a. John distributed a financial report via e-mail, which is on file at the State Office. He was unable to attend the meeting, as he was assisting with the ODP.
- b. The financial data is in order to be presented at the AGM.

4. President's Remarks:

- a. Tony Buiniskis received two checks for New York State West's (NYSW) share of the profit for 2002 Regionals in Niagara Falls. They were made out by U.S. Youth Soccer for \$28,000. The referee costs were \$5,000. NYSW elected to pay all of our referee costs, as NYSW pays the referees stipend. Our check was for \$1,559.
- b. Tony Buiniskis asked Sandy Ostebo to work with Dave Messersmith, President of US Youth Soccer, on Sectionals.
- c. Two meetings will be held in September. One was the President's meeting, where Dave Messersmith spoke. The other was the Regional Fall Meeting in Pittsburgh. Tony Buiniskis was unable to attend, but Gary Acker, Teresa Doermer, Larry Evarts, Bob Sokolinsky, Tim Mellander,



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Glen Buckley, and Millie Blaakman represented NYSW on Tony's behalf. Gary prepared a report, which is on file at the State Office.

- d. The issues of player registrations, fees paid, and information collected must be resolved so that the organization can conduct an audit. This was one of the key items highlighted in the D'Archangelo audit.
- e. The AGM is coming up within three weeks. Tony requested all information that is to go out in a pre-meeting packet be submitted to the State Office no later than noon on Friday so the packet can be mailed out by the following Monday. This will be in compliance with NYSW by-laws in terms of notification and provision of information.
- f. Tony has included a packet for the Executive Board regarding the Region I Camp. He sent the logos to Millie Blaakman. The people that were discussing it realized that the Adidas logo could be covered, so the logo can now go on either side of the shirt, depending on the location of the Adidas logo.

5. 1st Vice President, Gary Acker—State Cup

- a. Gary reported that ODP was discussed at the President's Meeting that he attended.
- b. There was a recent meeting in Chicago recently of Federation members, AYSO, SAY, and USYSA. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the open rule. There is a division between the Federation and affiliates and USYSA. The USYSA would like to start a Legal Defense Fund. Legal battles will probably appear shortly. Every State Association will be asked to put in \$100,000 per vote. NYSWYSA has five votes at the National meeting, so the organization would be required to pay \$500,000. This was discussed at the Region I meeting, and Region I voted to put up \$500 per vote per State to send into the Legal Defense fund. NYSW will have \$2,500 sent in on its behalf, and NYSW will need to send in the remaining \$2,500. U.S. Soccer guaranteed them membership in violation of rules applied to everyone else. Other rules coming out of the Federation have been at the request of small organizations that are trying to take away our members. Tony states that the organization that offers the better product will be the organization that the members stay with. Tony expressed thanks that Region I is stepping in to assist with our fees.
- c. Other items discussed at the meeting included a Rhode Island issue of open players, which hurt their entire association. The result was that some players were not insured.
- d. Gary discussed organizations, such as the AYSO, requesting information regarding our insurance, etc. and being denied this information. The goal of AYSO is to have a National Insurance Fund to offset their fees. Everyone's ratio will then be lumped together. Copies of the report were supplied to the BOD and Gary stated that he supports payment of the Legal Defense Fees.
- e. A question was raised regarding the motivation of the USSF to have affiliates under their umbrella. In theory, the affiliates have different agendas, such as recreation and travel.
- f. The Y League has changed rules. They are trying to establish a National League. Region I is in the forefront of choosing changes of that nature as well.
- g. The USYSA is in the process of sending a grievance to the USSF against the Y League and the Clubs that are being allowed to participate.
- h. Discussed organizations that limit participation for their members. U.S. Soccer has power to oversee all sporting activities in the U.S. and all programs come under them. This is why all clubs were required to submit their by-laws a couple of years ago.

6. State Director of Coaching—Glen Buckley

- a. The State Director of Coaching is attending to ODP business and was unable to attend the meeting.
- b. Glen will have a report on file at the State Office.

7. ODP—Millie Blaakman

- a. Millie Blaakman distributed a report in advance, as she is attending to ODP business.



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- b. The ODP Report is on file at the State Office.

8. TOP Soccer—Larry Evarts

- a. Larry distributed a TOP Soccer Report, which is available at the State Office.
- b. Larry indicated that Peggy has expressed a great deal of concern regarding clubs that obtain money for TOP Soccer Programs, but do not use the money for that purpose. This will be closely monitored and any Club behaving in this manner will be prosecuted.
- c. Programs in NYSW will all be run through the District, which will enable the State Association to keep track of these monies.
- d. Larry does not feel that any NYSW Clubs are involved.
- e. Tony asked that Sandy Ostebo and Larry Evarts develop a written policy regarding use of TOP Soccer money.
- f. U.S. Soccer will be checking with the State Associations before distributing any funds in the future.
- g. The Tide American Cup and the Chevy Cup will get off the ground next month.
- h. Larry Evarts made a motion that the \$2,000 of the \$5,000 Tide America Cup money be spent on equipment.
- i. Terry Doermer seconded the motion.
- j. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Risk Management—Teresa Doermer

- a. Teresa reviewed the Risk Management Forms and Risk Management Procedures in some other States.
- b. Teresa discussed the viability of on-line submission because of the legalities involved in accepting an on-line signature. Tim Mellander investigated this issue with Bender, Down and Daud and was told that the signature must appear two times to make the signature legally binding.
- c. Teresa indicated that the process followed with the forms has been going smoothly, other than finding that some people are still using the old version of the form.
- d. The biggest hold up in reviewing the forms is to determine whether it is for a coach, manager, or volunteer, because only coaches and managers are charged the \$5 renewal fee.
- e. Sandy suggested that the passes be valid from September to September to alleviate the paperwork nightmare tracking the passes.
- f. Tim is checking on the effort involved in generating a report of Risk Management Data with Logical Solutions.
- g. The turn-around time on the passes is good at this point.
- h. Volunteer Select is the agency NYSW agency is utilizing to complete background checks.
- i. Larry Evarts made the motion that the office be able to go into Volunteer Select to save time.
- j. Matt Dimas seconded the motion.
- k. The motion passed unanimously.
- l. Recreation Coaches will be paying the \$5 fee for their passes.
- m. The goal is to run background checks on 50% of the disclosure forms that are submitted.
- n. Fran Seplar is set for the AGM.
- o. The discussion indicated that the NYSW Risk Management Policy is tighter than those of other areas.

10. Registration—Tim Mellander

- a. Tim distributed the Registrar's Report, which is on file at the State Office.
- b. Tim revisited the fact that District Commissioners are responsible for tracking collection of Player Registration Data/Fees.
- c. Discussed the differences between collection of registration data from District to District and determined that the process is driven by the numbers with the individual districts. The most complex district appears to be Rochester.



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- d. Since our State Association depends on the Registration Fees to survive, it is imperative that this issue is resolved.
- e. Tim is trying to make the registration process consistent across the State Association.
- f. Other State Associations have four or five registrars, who work with the State Office.
- g. Tony requested that Tim contact the Rochester Jr. Rhinos S.C. President, Jim Mort, to help sort out the issues in the Rochester area.

11. Web Page Information—Tim Mellander

- a. Tim mailed his report to BOD members for review. A copy is on file at the State Office.
- b. Tim indicated that the deadline for registration may need to be delayed a little bit, as the on-line registration form will not be available for a while.
- c. Micah Mellander will demonstrate how registration can be done on line.
- d. Sandy Ostebo made a motion that registration on line be a valid team registration.
- e. Larry Evarts seconded the motion.
- f. The motion passed unanimously.

12. State Office—Sandy Ostebo

- a. A report was distributed to the BOD .
- b. Discussed a new committee to review policies and procedures of NYS West.
- c. Sandy invited everyone to tour the “new” office.

13. Old Business

- a. Bob Sokolinsky sent out a report regarding deadlines, which appears on the Region I website.
- b. Bob Sokolinsky distributed a list of the Award Winners for the AGM Dinner.
- c. Special Awards will be given to the National Champions—The Rochester Junior Rhinos BU-15 Elite.
- d. Players from the Region I Pool have been identified and invited to the dinner.
- e. Glen Buckley will be handling the remaining awards.
- f. The original members of the NYSW BOD that have been located have been invited to the AGM Dinner to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the State Association.
- g. The photographer is set up for the AGM.
- h. The Keynote Speaker will be Sue Ryan, Head Women’s Coach of Stony Brook and Region I ODP Girls’ Head Coach.
- i. Glen Buckley will be the Master of Ceremonies.
- j. Bob Sokolinsky will handle equipment for the dinner.
- k. The Soccer Fest Program is pretty much complete. A Rochester Raging Rhino player will be available to sign autographs on Saturday, and the Rochester Raging Rhinos will bring a portable kick goal.
- l. The Rochester Raging Rhinos player will be there from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.
- m. Larry Evarts will e-mail the player’s name this week.
- n. Terry Raeder and Donna Mizerak will not be present at the dinner or meeting.
- o. 20 vendors are confirmed for the AGM and another five or six joined later.
- p. The dress code for the weekend is the button-down shirts Friday and Saturday and appropriate civilian attire for Saturday night and Sunday.

14. New Business

- a. A new registration program is available from DEMOSPHERE. Sandy Ostebo worked on rewriting the contractual proposal. One is for a DIN Number and the other is for a Roster-Pro System—a registration-type program. He has been working with Dan Mulligan from DEMOSPHERE, who has confirmed that the current program that Virginia is using cannot do what we want it to do. It may be best to pursue an agreement with Eastern PA, as the needs of



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Eastern PA and Western NY are very similar. Sandy will continue to pursue this issue throughout the coming week. The program should be up and running as of next year, so everything should be ready to roll by the summer.

- b. NYSW will use Logical Solutions for the remainder of this year.
- c. DEMOSPHERE wants to be the national supplier, so NYSW should be able arrange the program to fit the organizational needs.
- d. The State Association's insurance and registration policy is posted on the NYSW web site, along with information indicating that Pullen Insurance is the NYSW insurance carrier. Roger Jank requested that a couple of sentences be added to the web site to clarify when a player actually becomes insured. Sandy Ostebo will review the material to determine how the statements that exist need to be rewritten. Any comments that are sent to him will be considered when rewriting the web page statements.
- e. The player movement restrictions were discussed at length.
- f. A Women's League is being developed and will be under the wing of Tony Deccico. He would like to use this as a Women's League to the Professional Leagues. NYSW would like to come up with a team to compete in this league. The Women's League charges a \$20,000 franchise fee. NYSW can probably put this together at a very low cost. This would enable some of the NYSW players to gain entry into the Professional Women's League. This would allow some of these funds to be funneled to youth.
- g. Corrections to the meeting minutes for September were made.
- h. Gary Acker made a motion that the minutes be approved as amended and published on the web page.
- i. Roger Jank seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

15. Good of the Game

- a. A motion was made by Roger Jank to accept the Crown City Futbol Club of the Buffalo District as a member into NYSW.
- b. Sandy Ostebo seconded the motion.
- c. The motion was unanimously approved.
- d. Bob Sokolinsky, the Adjudication Chairperson, will be sending out information to the District Commissioners and Leagues to provide instruction on how to maintain control of tempers.
- e. Roger Best requested clarification of the requirements for commercial indoor facilities to become a sanctioned facility. Tony Buiniskis will look for his information and report back to the group. Sandy Ostebo will send what is currently taking place in Syracuse.
- f. Roger Jank also has paperwork regarding the sanctioning of indoor facilities, which he will forward to Roger and Sandy. Tim Mellander will also forward whatever information he has available.
- g. Sandy Ostebo sent out a reminder to all Administrative Travel Leagues that they must become members to be given a vote at the AGM. Four leagues have submitted the paperwork to apply for membership in the organization.
- h. Sandy Ostebo made a motion that these four leagues be accepted as Associate Members of NYSW. They are North American Soccer Association, Buffalo and Western New York Junior Soccer League, Tompkins County Soccer League, and Broome County Soccer Association.
- i. Bob Sokolinsky seconded the motion to accept these leagues as associate members of NYS West.
- j. The motion was unanimously approved.
- k. The Adidas Workshop will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, Thursday – Sunday, February 6 – 9, 2003. The Region I meeting is on Friday, February 7.
- l. Tony Buiniskis indicated he will no longer accept an administrator's stipend, as the Interim Executive Director's position is enabling the work he previously handled to be done within the State Office.

16. Adjournment:

The motion to adjourn was made by Roger Jank, seconded by Gary Acker at 2:06 p.m., and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



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Suzanne Messina
Secretary