



New York State West Youth Soccer Association
Board of Directors Meeting
September 15, 2002

The Board of Directors of the New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA) held their September meeting in Corning, New York, on Sunday, September 15, 2002. President Buiniskis called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. Roll Call:

Present: Anthony Buiniskis, President
Gary Acker, 1st Vice President
John Pecchia, Treasurer
Suzanne Messina, Secretary
Tim Mellander, Registrar
Teresa Doermer, Risk Management Coordinator
Larry Evarts, Recreation Director/TOP Soccer
Millie Blaakman, ODP Administrator
Glen Buckley, State Director of Coaching
William Fahey, SYRA

District Commissioners:

Sandy Ostebo, Twin Tiers
Bob Sokolinsky, Binghamton
Kevin Perrigo, Syracuse District Commissioner
Roger Jank, Buffalo District Commissioner

Office Staff:

Dan Watson, Operations Manager
Donna Mizerak, Bookkeeper

Guest:

Curt Hamlin

Absent:

Roger Best, Rochester
Matt Dimas, Southern Tier

2. Meeting Minutes:

Corrections were given to the minutes from last April. They will be posted to the web page.

The Referees Report will no longer be listed on the agenda, as the referee representative will only attend meetings on an as needed basis.

3. Financial Report:

- a. John Pecchia distributed the budget and discussed the most recent copy of the 2002 financial position. The actuals are through Friday, August 31, 2002. There may be more items coming in, but the numbers are probably 98 percent accurate.
- b. John indicated that all revisions that were sent to him had been made.
- c. The assets section indicates a slight jump in cash holdings this year because of an increase in net income.
- d. The liabilities section indicates that the overall financial picture of the organization has improved. Player registrations were 4,000 more than was budgeted. The insurance that was paid out for national fees was less than was budgeted. This resulted in a surplus. A contingency was budgeted for but was not utilized.
- e. The proposed budget for 2003 was distributed and discussed.



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- f. Discussed contractual agreements with sponsors. The agreements often specify ads in print media a fixed number of times per year. Sponsorship monies have decreased significantly.
- g. The AGM budget remains the same as last year's.
- h. The budget monies for State Cup will change, because the format of State Cup will change. The sponsorships for State Cup are gone. Last year's numbers were higher because of reimbursements from Region I.
- i. The elimination of President's Cup will also change budgetary figures for 2003, as shown in the report.
- j. The Coaches' Association is proving to be self-supporting. The potential offering of a USSF Youth Module by the State will impact the budget, but notification of whether or not NYSWYSA will be approved to offer the Youth Module will not take place until February.
- k. The NYSWYSA web site will be moved to a different location in the budget.
- l. Bill Fahey discussed expenditures of monies allocated for referees; such as referee flip coins, the Mom and Pop courses, polo shirts, etc.
- m. TOP Soccer shows a small deficit.
- n. We had a historical event (9/11), which caused us to delve into reserve funding. That would cover the 2003-2004 time frame, but NYSWYSA will have to raise fees to maintain our current operations for three reasons—insurance, additional staffing, and a national fee increase. We will need to inform members at the AGM that fees will have to increase from \$6 to \$7 in 2004.
- o. Roger Jank made a motion to approve the 2002-2003 budget with a transfer of funds from reserve.
- p. Larry Evarts seconded the motion.
- q. The motion was passed unanimously.
- r. Bob Sokolinsky made a motion that the fees increase from \$6 to \$7.
- s. Roger Jank seconded the motion.
- t. It was agreed that Sandy would investigate where we stand fee wise, and he would then recommend a reasonable fee increase to the group.
- u. Bob Sokolinsky amended the motion to read a fee increase of \$1 for registration and \$1 for player passes.
- v. Sandy Ostebo seconded the amendment.
- w. The amendment passed unanimously.
- x. The appropriate numbers will be adjusted in the report presented so that the information can be included in the packets that will go out for the AGM.
- y. Copies of the report are available at the State Office.

4. President's Remarks:

- a. Tony Buiniskis has sent out information regarding meetings that are coming up and requested that responses be sent to him regarding who plans on attending those meetings.
- b. The U.S. Youth Soccer meeting in Dallas is being held on September 21 and 22. Gary Acker will attend in Tony's place. One of the main topics for discussion will be the decrease in sponsorships across the country. All BOD members will receive a copy of the agenda for that meeting.
- c. An increase in fees will be necessary due to the decreases in revenue from sponsorships. In addition to the decrease in sponsorships, the financial impact of 9/11 and competition from other organizations are also impacting revenue.
- d. Some clubs in the Rochester area are expressing concern regarding the elimination of U-12s from State Cup, as well as rule changes regarding multiple rostering. The organization will stand firm on the decisions that have been made, as those changes are focused on what is best for kids rather than competition.
- e. Tony asks that everyone review the various budgets to be sure that the overall budget will be in balance.
- f. The State Office has developed a relationship with Staples. Staples has issued plastic cards for distribution to Board members for purchase of supplies so that no tax is charged, as NYSWYSA is a 501 3C tax-exempt organization.
- g. Sandy Ostebo has been on board as Interim Director for a little over two weeks. One of the benefits of his appointment is the ability to meet with a law firm in the area to review contracts.



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and how changes will benefit the organization. He has also been able to relieve Tony from some of the duties that have been somewhat overwhelming.

- h. NYSWYSA had a good year overall, with a net increase in our overall cash position.
- i. The next large NYSWYSA event will be the AGM in November.
- j. The Region I meeting will be held in October in Pittsburgh. The rooms have been reserved and travel arrangements have been made.
- k. Tony requested that members who are up for re-election in November notify him of their intentions to run or not to run. Sandy Ostebo, Bob Sokolinsky, Roger Best, and John Pecchia are up for re-election. Bob Sokolinsky indicated that he would not be running for re-election. Tony has not heard from Roger Best regarding his intentions. John Pecchia intends to run for re-election. Gary Acker's position was appointed, and he intends to run for that position. The position of 2nd Vice President that was vacated by Karl Krech is also an appointment, but the position is not up for election until next year. This position deals with issues of adjudication and office personnel.

5. State Cup—Gary Acker

- a. Gary distributed the revised format for State Cup.
- b. Gary will add an amendment to state that referees will be paid at the fields by the participating teams.
- c. A discussion took place regarding whether or not players would be allowed to play up for State Cup. The requirement for State Cup will remain that 50 percent of the team must be age appropriate.
- d. A line of the State Cup rules will be devoted to the age appropriate clause.
- e. Reviewed Gary's State Cup format and made suggestions. The corrected copy will be posted on the web.

6. State Director of Coaching—Glen Buckley

- a. Glen revisited his earlier discussion regarding offering of a "C" Licensing Course and a Youth Module Course and will notify the group as soon as he receives notification of approval.
- b. Glen indicated that he has only received two negative responses regarding elimination of U-12s from State Cup competition.
- c. Glen has also received feedback on the issue of dual rostering. The consensus seems to be that dual rostering should be that U-12 and below should be allowed to dual roster and that U-15 and above should be single rostered. Dual rostering refers to between clubs rather than within a club. Glen felt that some language should be included in the rule to allow smaller, rural areas to continue to double roster at whatever age groups necessary to form teams. Glen Buckley, Gary Acker, Tim Mellander, Roger Jank, and Roger Best will develop the wording on a dual rostering proposal and bring it back to the BOD. Gary will chair the gathering. Glen is recommending that the rule go into effect for 2003-2004.
- d. USYSA will be discussing the issue of double rostering of players, and NYSWYSA should consider following whatever guidelines USYSA develops. This issue will be voted on at the AGM.
- e. USYSA is also considering expanding the roster size to 25 players for the summer league—not the Region I Director's League that qualifies for Cup. The change is being considered to complete with the Y League. Any national roster is 22, which is why we are considering the change. Glen will report after the National Meeting.

7. ODP—Millie Blaakman

- a. John Pecchia, Millie Blaakman, and Glen Buckley have met to determine the budget for the year for ODP.
- b. Fees will be higher for facility rentals.



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- c. The 1990-year group will be expanding. Mailers went out to 6,000 1990 players, and the registration does appear to be picking up.
- d. The Coaching Staff for the year is already in place, contracts have been signed, and disclosure forms have been turned in.
- e. Tryouts for the 1989s and 1990s are at the end of September. The other age groups are in December.
- f. Millie feels that a serious marketing campaign needs to be developed for ODP, as such a small percentage of the overall soccer community actually tries out for ODP. Perhaps alternative communication channels need to be determined and pursued. Glen suggested that NYSWYSA might even want to pursue hiring a marketing person to deal with these issues.
- g. Millie Blaakman, Dan Watson, Glen Buckley, and Gary Acker will research selling of apparel, including the issue of inventory control. John Pecchia will pursue acquiring the correct paperwork for reporting of sales tax on items of apparel sold by the organization. Once the process is begun, the organization could even run an “on-line” store.

8. TOP Soccer—Larry Evarts

- a. Larry distributed a TOP Soccer report.
- b. Larry briefly discussed Soccer Start, which is in the written report available at the State Office.
- c. Larry briefly discussed an urban soccer grant that is outlined in his report.
- d. Larry discussed the “Soccer Laws” booklets that were shown at the August meeting. Bill Fahey, from the Referee’s Association, was on the presiding committee for this booklet and highly recommends the booklet.
- e. Larry briefly discussed Webster Presidential, which is included in his report. The report is available at the State Office for review.

9. Risk Management—Teresa Doermer

- a. Teresa reviewed the Risk Management forms and collected suggestions for changes. She will send out a revised copy for re-approval.
- b. Bill Fahey indicated that the referees already have background checks done by the referee association. They are covered under the Federation, and therefore not covered through NYSWYSA for insurance purposes.
- c. The forms will be available on the web page. In addition, NYSWYSA will have some copies printed.
- d. Volunteer Select—a non-profit organization—is able to provide background checks at a reasonable price.
- e. The information is available in Teresa’s handout.
- f. Bob Sokolinsky made a motion to accept the form with the suggested corrections.
- g. Larry Evarts seconded the motion.
- h. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Registration—Tim Mellander

- a. Tim distributed the Registrar’s report, which is on file at the State Office.
- b. Tim’s report is broken out by associate members.
- c. Roger Best and Roger Jank are addressing discrepancies in their data.
- d. Tim is in the process of closing the 2001-2002 database.
- e. Tim is currently seeking the data for the 2002-2003 database. Tim asks that all data indicate the years clearly.
- f. Letters will be sent to all clubs regarding receipt of registration information as of September 1 or being dropped from the books. The clubs will have 14 days to respond or be dropped.
- g. Gary Acker asks that clubs not be issued passes until they have paid their fees.



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- h. Tony asked the District Commissioners to discuss registration issues with the Club Presidents at the District meetings. The Clubs need to be informed that the data must be accurate—registrations should match monies received.

11. Web Page Information—Tim Mellander

- a. Tim distributed a handout showing web page usage, which is on file at the State Office.
- b. Tim pointed out that we currently have 473 subscribers to the NYSWYSA electronic newsletter.
- c. Information that will be available on the web includes ODP tryout information, the AGM schedule, Region I Premier League information, awards information, and other information supplied to him for publication on that site.
- d. Tim also discussed on-line registration.

12. SYRA—Bill Fahey

- a. Bill Fahey and Curt Hamlin distributed the Referee's Report, which is on file at the State Office.
- b. Bill thanked Tony for providing the referees with t-shirts.
- c. Bill reported 50 percent fewer assaults and simple assaults since having gone to non-competitive status for U-12s and below.
- d. Bill indicated that he needs to meet with Roger Best to decrease the number of tournaments held in the Rochester area, as there is not an adequate supply of referees to cover the number that now occur. The assignor must be able to certify that they can supply enough referees, which is not possible at the moment.
- e. Bill indicated that they even had a referee at the National Finals this year.
- f. Bill was asked to provide the BOD with an overview of how the mentoring program is laid out and put together.
- g. Bill would like to see more mentoring and Mom and Pop courses.
- h. Bill will submit a proposal to the Referees Association to work out something for the ODP mini-camp to provide a lower referee rate.

13. State Office—Sandy Ostebo

- a. A report was distributed for BOD members.
- b. A preliminary mailing for the AGM will go out by October 5. Board members should send an attachment to the office if they want that information to be included in the packet.
- c. The Commissioners should now all have their insurance certificates.
- d. Any changes in Club officers should be submitted to the State Office as soon as possible.
- e. USYSA has chosen NYSWYSA to test an on-line document registration. All of our tournaments should be on line by October 1.
- f. The Executive Director was charged with looking at overall staffing and what happens in the office. He has spent a great deal of time reviewing contracts that have been on file. Because of the errors in language, we are not legally bound by the contracts in some cases. One-year contracts include Demo sphere, Chevrolet, and Certified Travel. A two-year notification is necessary to back out of a contract. Reviewing insurance forms has taken up a large part of Sandy's week.

14. New Business

- a. A new registration program is available from Demo sphere. Legal counsel identified issues, so Sandy Ostebo is writing them up to present to Demo sphere.
- b. PA has an on-line process they have shared with us. We will work on moving forward with this as soon as we have all of the problems worked out.
- c. Sandy Ostebo passed out insurance information for BOD review. Insurance forms can be downloaded from the web page. We should order 250 hard copies of our forms.



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- d. A liability coverage outline is available on the web page. Sandy Ostebo asked that item number 8 be dropped—Exclusions.
- e. Coverage of amusements dividends was also dropped.
- f. A change was recommended under medical expenses from \$50 deductible to \$100 deductible. Deductions from other insurance do not affect the \$100. Refer to the left side of the page.
- g. Insured persons are covered for injury for events, which are sanctioned and approved. They are not covered if a club or team goes to a non-sanctioned event.
- h. The address will be changed to reflect the State Office only rather than the P.O. Box.
- i. If someone is interested in Fidelity coverage, a link will be available on the web site.

15. Elections/Appointments

- a. Gary Acker made a motion that Bob Sokolinsky be appointed to the position of 2nd Vice President as of October 1 to fill the position vacated by Karl Krech
- b. Larry Evarts seconded the motion.
- c. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Expense reports can now be approved on line. Receipts associated with the report must be sent to the Office following completion of the report. Sandy Ostebo will put together a memo regarding process for re-payment of expenses—what is included, what is not included, etc. Initials must be on the receipt. Using your initials and date submitted, the report would speed up the approval process.

16. Good of the Game

- a. We have received our two tapes of the Junior Rhinos National Championship games and one against PVSC Raiders from Southern California.
- b. Bob Sokolinsky made a motion to accept the Bradford Soccer Club as soon as they change their club name to a New York name. They will be meeting in New York and will work in New York. The name change must take place within one month.
- c. Roger Jank seconded the motion.
- d. The motion passed unanimously.

17. Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, October 27, at 10 a.m., at the New York State West Office in Corning.

18. Adjournment:

The motion to adjourn was made by Gary Acker, seconded by John Pecchia at 3:55 p.m., and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Messina
Secretary