

NEW YORK STATE WEST YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING

July 2001

The Board of Directors for New York State West Youth Soccer Association ("NYSWYSA") held their July meeting in Corning, New York, on Saturday, July 28, 2001. President Buiniskis called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

I. ROLL CALL

Present - Anthony Buiniskis, President
John Galli, Vice President & Cup Administrator
Karl Krech, Second Vice President
John Pecchia, Treasurer
Millie Blaakman, Secretary/ODP Administrator
Larry Evarts, Recreation Director/TOP Soccer
Gary Acker, Risk Management
Tim Mellander, Registrar
District Commissioners:
Roger Best, Rochester
Louise Freeman, Southern Tier
Sandy Ostebo, Twin Tiers
Kevin Perrigo, Syracuse
Bob Sokolinsky, Binghamton
Staff:
Glen Buckley, Director of Coaching
Dan Watson, Operations Manager
Donna Mizerak, Bookkeeper
Guests:
Don Mulligan, Demosphere

Absent – Roger Jank, Buffalo District Commissioner
Bill Fahey, SYRA

2. MEETING MINUTES

The meeting minutes for March 2001 were reviewed and a few changes to be made were noted. Krech made a motion to approve the March 2001 meeting minutes with the changes as noted, and Ostebo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting minutes for June 2001 were reviewed and a few changes to be made were noted. Mellander made a motion to approve the June 2001 meeting minutes with the changes as noted, and Best seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. FINANCIAL REPORT – PECCHIA

Pecchia presented the 2000-2001 budget to Board Members that included the year to date actual through July 27th, 2001 and the proposed 2001-2002 budget. Based on the year to date actual for the current fiscal year, it appears that NYSW will end the year with a surplus operating income.

In presenting the budget for 2001-02, the 2000-2001 projected figures were used as a base to begin discussion. Included in the budget were the following:

- A slightly reduced insurance rate for 2001-2002. With this reduced rate, our insurance costs would be approximately the same as with a self-insured program. Based on the fees being similar, the Board agreed to stay with Bene Marc for the 2001-2002 seasonal year.

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- USSF has been granted a fee increase from \$.50 to \$1.00, USYSA remains at \$.50, making the total fee paid to our National Associations \$1.50.
- Player pass fee of \$5.00. (Increased from \$3.00 to \$5.00).
- The loss of the Pillsbury and Nokia sponsorships.
- Coaches' Pass Fee for renewal or new passes.
- Computer equipment upgrades.
- Buiniskis notified members of a USYSA proposal that was approved at AGM in July 2001. This proposal will require all Regions to charge each age group going to Nationals an administrative fee. This fee will be used to assist in reducing the USYSA's National Championship budget deficit. This is a NATIONAL fee, not a Regional fee.
- Buiniskis reported that Dick Stevens (Varsity) recommended that we look at the prospect of splitting up our newspaper distribution to perhaps three issues a year for coaches, and one issue per year for players. This would result in a cost savings and still enable us to meet our advertising commitments.

→ **Action Items:**

- All board members with responsibility for budgeted programs are to provide Pecchia with their input for the 2001-02 budget prior to August 15, 2001, including but not limited to:
 - Buiniskis for State, Regional, and National travel commitments.
 - Galli for President's Cup, Snickers State Cup.
 - Acker for Risk Management.
 - Mellander for Registration.
 - Buckley for Centers of Excellence, Coaching & Instruction
 - Sokolinsky for the AGM during SoccerFest.
 - Buckley for the Coaching Symposium held during SoccerFest.
 - Evarts for Recreation.
- Mellander and Evarts will explore prices for a LCD Projector from IBM and Kodak.
- Any board member who will require screen-printing of tee shirts must get competitive bids before proceeding.
- Buckley will provide Pecchia with a percentage estimate of his time spent on each State program so that a portion of his salary and expenses can be properly charged to each program.
- In an effort to cut back on postage and duplication expenses for Striker West, board members are reminded to send information to Hammerhead by the deadline dates. The deadline for submitting information to Hammerhead for this next issue of the Striker West is August 15th.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – BUINISKIS

1. Board Communications

Buiniskis reminded board members that while email has been an enhancement for communicating, each member must take time to review received emails before sending off responses. Make sure: (a) the email is addressed to the appropriate recipients, (b) the Subject line accurately reflects what the email is about, (c) email addresses are accurate, and (d) AOL users are reminded that the message being replied to is not attached in replies received by non-AOL users. Additionally, a phone call in some cases is more appropriate for a discussion instead of using email as the forum. Pecchia reminded members that his email address is JPPecchia@aol.com, not Jpecchia@aol.com.

2. For The Good Of The Game

Buiniskis spoke of his campaign for USYSA Vice President with Board Members. At the recent election in Atlanta, he came up three votes shy of winning the election. Evelyn Gill (NJ) won the election. She held the position of Secretary of the USYSA and her credentials made her the stronger candidate; Buiniskis enjoyed the opportunity to discuss with many state presidents and numerous other individuals sharing the same passion and issues for the sport.

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3. By-Law Changes

By-Law changes were presented and discussed in consideration for future approval. Copies of these proposed by-law changes will be distributed to the Board.

- I. Article IV Section I Management of the Corporation. The proposal is to increase the Board of Director's voting members. Additional members proposing to be added are the State Registrar, Risk Management Director, ODP Administrator, and Recreation/TOPSoccer Director. The proposal states that if a person on the Board holds more than one position, only one vote per individual is allowable, not one vote per position.
- II. Conflict of Interest. The proposed change will state that no member of this Board of Directors will be allowed to be a member of a club or soccer league, excluding a coaching position. Ostebo will have the proposed modification by August 15th.
- III. Board members need to review of the functions and activity of the Operations Council, and the concept of an Indoor Soccer Coordinator and their role/involvement with and/or on the Board.

4. General

Buiniskis stressed that the decisions made by the NYSW Board are not made to the benefit of any one club or district. Board Members are to act as a group for the betterment of all State Programs, with no hidden agenda, fostered, etc., by any particular group within the Association. As in ODP, we are asked to seriously consider the decisions we make as individuals in terms of the whole program.

It is expected that this year's AGM will be better attended than in previous years given the National fee increase and Buckley's actions and proposals. (In the way of changes to programs, rules, and regulations that could make a significant impact on the improvement of the sport for the kids in the State)

→ **Action Items:**

- Board members to provide input on the By-Laws amendments discussed to Ostebo prior to August 15, 2001.
- Ostebo to draft a proposal of the By-Law amendments and distribute to the Board by August 15, 2001 for the next meeting.

5. **STATE CUP – GALLI**

Galli presented an overview of the proposed State Cup rule changes and will work with Cup Committee members to review the proposed changes. Galli will forward finalized recommended changes to the Board for final review. Cup Committee members are Acker, Best, Mellander, and Perrigo.

The format for the Snickers State Cup play was discussed. Buckley states in his monthly report, as discussed in his For The Good of the Game meetings that he has been holding with major League and Club officials, a change in play format is requested. It has been discussed among many and a knockout format with a final's weekend is the general feeling among participants. Pecchia elaborated on a format suggestion and asked the Committee to consider the format versus the current format. The format suggested will lend support to the Region I Director's League participation as a qualifying league for Cup play. Additionally, it should be less costly in dollars and in volunteer man-hours as well.

As a separate note, Galli informed the Board that West Seneca is hosting next year's Snickers State Cup competition. Additionally, West Seneca has been advised that the fee for the field usage shall not exceed \$5,000, and that while not all fields are at the same complex, they are within one mile of each other.

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→ **Action Items:**

- Blaakman to email a model of the suggested Snickers State Cup bracketing as suggested by Pecchia, Buckley, and the attendees at the For The Good Of The Game Meetings hosted by Buckley.
- Buinskis requests District Commissioners contact the clubs in their respective districts regarding a play format change for State Cup and receive their comments in writing.
- Best will provide the Board with a copy of the letter he sends out with all approved *Application to Host* that explains how red cards are to be handled that affect teams applying to compete in Cup competition.

6. RECREATION REPORT - EVARTS

Evarts presented his report on the Recreation Programs and tournaments for this season. A copy of the report is on file. He has submitted reports to the required sponsors in order to receive the sponsorship compensation on a timely basis. Additionally, a TOPSoccer Committee Meeting will be held in Corning at the State Office next week.

Buckley and Sokolinsky commended Evarts for his efforts and progress with the Recreation clubs and communities. Buckley stated that approximately 70% of his time is spent on the Recreation level and he sees and hears first hand the positive effects of Evarts' efforts.

Evarts discussed with the Board some of the feedback on the small-sided games for their information.

7. STATE DIRECTOR OF COACHING – BUCKLEY

1. Coaching Courses

Buckley is in the process of setting up a Coaches' Symposium. Numerous requests for coaching courses this Fall are being received from five of the six districts. It was pointed out that attendance at previous youth module courses in the previous three years was tremendous and because of this response, there may have been an impact on the lack of coaching courses in the Binghamton District.

2. Licensing

The Board approved Buckley to purchase the state Coaching Program printed by USYSA that will replace the spiral books. Buckley advised that NSCAA and the Federation are trying to form a merger in the licensing of coaches in the United States. Buckley announced that as of today, the Federation for various reasons no longer employs six national staff coaches, and the Federation no longer has any National Coach to call on.

3. Centers of Excellence

Buckley has received nine requests to set up Centers of Excellence programs in West Seneca, Buffalo, Watertown, Marcellus, Syracuse, and the Southern Tier. The format for this program has been modified slightly so that if an area wants a Center in their area, they are contacting Buckley, as opposed to having one in each District. The contact then books it, and then will sell it. Sokolinsky will find a Binghamton venue.

4. SDOC Report

Of the 65 responses received to date on Buckley's report, only 4 were negative. Once Buckley replied to the authors of the negative emails about the proposed changes most thanked Glen and stated that they look forward to working with him. A copy of this report is on file at the State Office.

5. Olympic Development Program

Buckley reported that at one of the girls Regional ODP Camps, many members of the Regional Coaching Staff complemented NYSW for our teams' appearance, punctuality and tidiness of the

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program. Buckley complemented Blaakman, for a majority of the programs' success this year is due to her organization and efforts.

Buckley recognizes that all the staff can do is be fair and equitable at the beginning of the process. With thirty-four coaches on staff this year, not one has less than a D License and all have qualified for the National C level or equivalent. Half of the current coaching staff work for clubs while half are college coaches.

Buckley stressed that support from the State for ODP needs to be addressed. Roughly twelve percent of the players registered in the travel program in NYSW participate in ODP. It was pointed out that it is equally discriminating to just take care of the recreation players, as it is not to take care of the Premier players. As a State, Buckley stresses that the State should not alienate ODP, but rather recognize that we are all part of the same family. So while the State is fair and equitable to Recreation, ODP must receive the same level. The Board is requested to consider revisiting what the State is asking of our customers/membership: to include ODP (in order to be fair and equitable) OR get rid of it, which is neither practical nor viable. The proof of the success of ODP is in the statistics: ninety-seven percent of all national team players came through ODP, not college soccer. Other states feel that seventy to seventy-five percent of the best players come out for ODP, whereas in NYSW only sixty to sixty-five percent come out for ODP.

ODP Tryouts will be held on September 30th, for boys and girls born in 1988 and 1989 at four tryout centers located in Rochester (site TBD), Syracuse (Baldwinsville), Buffalo (EPIC Center), and Binghamton. Sokolinsky will secure a venue for the Tryouts in the Binghamton District. Tryouts will be staffed with members of the State Coaching Staff. Older age groups will have a tryout at an indoor facility in December (venue still being firmed up). The final pools from the end of this season will return to the indoor training sessions along with new players selected at tryouts. At the end of the winter training season, members of the State coaching staff will select a State Pool for each age group. Training session venues are scheduled based on cost, availability, logistics of travel, etc. Krech stated that he is pleased with what Buckley is saying about ODP, and the means of informing the Board of the changes in the program and the subsequent successes as well.

6. For The Good Of The Game Proposal

Attendees at For The Good of the Game Meetings continued to be those that attended the first one held this spring (officers of the 5 major leagues Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester and Binghamton, and the Upstate Premiere League as well). Added to the Leagues, clubs that are considered the Premier also attended. Buckley reiterated that this proposal came from the members that attended these meetings and are their ideas and suggestions. The request is that the State needs to step up, understand, support, and approve their requests. It has become quite evident in Buckley's travels, as well as at these meetings, that NYSW has more authority than it asserts and that the members/customers want the Board to start getting involved.

Ostebo made a motion that NYSW adopt as State Policy, proposals 1, 2 and 3, as noted in Buckley's report. Proposal 1 effective 01/01/02, Proposal 2 effective 01/01/03 and Proposal 3 effective 01/01/04. Pecchia seconded the motion.

Discussion: Buckley's suggestions for promotion and relegation across the state for premiere league soccer were reviewed. A copy of this and a diagram can be obtained by contacting Buckley. NYSW recognizes the need to draw up the rules for promotion to be a premier team (not club). The State would govern it and the Districts would implement it. Ken Vogt will meet with Glen and setting up a promotional means. The committee has asked if we govern it, they will ensure it is implemented.

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→ **ACTION ITEMS**

- Ostebo to write the proposals into Policy format and resubmit to the Board for review at the next meeting.
- The AGM mailing will include a copy of these proposals.
- Sokolinsky to secure a venue in Binghamton for September 30th ODP tryouts for players born in 1988 and 1989 and advise Blaakman of same.
- Ostebo will make modifications to the Application to Host policy and will send out to BOD and take an email vote. As part of the email there will be a reply date of 7/30/01 with our feedback.
- Ostebo to ensure the proposals as approved are included in the mailing of the packet for NYSW's AGM.

7. DEMOSPHERE INTERNATIONAL – DON MULLIGAN

Don Mulligan, with Demosphere International, presented to the Board its proposal for web site hosting and an on-line registration program, RosterPro.

Demosphere's current list of soccer customers is twenty-two including VYSA and NSCAA. Demosphere is a host to numerous other non-soccer entities. Although there will be no major changes to the design, it can be adjusted to our liking at no additional charge. The proposal includes the ability to do our own updates for current posting of information on a 120-page site. Mulligan stated that the website will meet NYSW obligations to sponsors' advertising requirements.

Mulligan touched on the registration program, RosterPro, which is in use by VYSA. NYSW determines who has access to enter team and player data.

Ostebo made a motion that NYSW give Demosphere approval to prepare and create an agreement for NYSW to review and approve. Buiniskis will be Demosphere's contact for negotiations and is granted approval to accept the proposal from Demosphere pending satisfactory contract negotiations listing points discussed such as sponsorships, advertising, percentage splits, grandfathering of existing contracts, and the cost for the website and RosterPro. The motion was seconded by Galli and was carried unanimously.

Discussion: Buiniskis reminded Board Members that over the course of the last twenty-four months, NYSW has been presented with presentations and proposals from various vendors for this service. Mellander to provide Blaakman with a copy of this list for the State records (attached).

The targeted time frame to commence Demosphere being the hosting agent is September 1, 2001.

8. REGISTRAR REPORT – MELLANDER

Mellander advised Board Members that date stamps will be purchased and sent to all District Registrars to stamp each player pass the date it is issued. In addition, the team roster will also be stamped with the date that it is generated. Mellander will prepare a policy for the use of the date stamps.

Mellander asked if we want to modify Rule 1105 Section I of the NYSWYSA Snickers State Cup Rules because indoor play does not qualify a team for Cup Play and it is not bound by the same rules. Indoor player passes are to be stamped "Indoor Only". Galli made a motion that NYSW void Section I of 1105 and comply with the National Policy and to include that U9 and U10 teams do not travel indoors. The motion was carried unanimously.

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Mellander requests the Board to consider what constitutes a Club (the minimum number of teams) and how clubs are no longer considered "active members". Ostebo will prepare a By-Law amendment for review at the next meeting.

Mellander also recommended that the Board define a date as to when player registration fees are due to the State Office. Ostebo will reissue the proposal again and feedback is due by 8/15. Acker said this might need to be deferred pending Demosphere's contract and fee proposal.

Best clarified for Mellander that it is not the Rochester District, which has eliminated dual registration, but rather it is the RDYSL through a vote of its member clubs.

→ **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Mellander will prepare a policy for the use of the date stamps.
- Ostebo will prepare a by-law amendment setting the criteria needed to be met in order to apply for membership in the Sate Association.
- Ostebo will prepare a policy draft on the date that registration player fees are due in to the State Office and feedback is required from Board members to Ostebo by August 15th.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

AGM: November 17-18, in Rochester at the Marriott Thruway. The Awards Dinner will be held the evening of 11/17. Sokolinsky is handling this event. Workshops will be held at a venue TBD and coordinated by Buckley. Buckley has been in contact with vendors from last year who wish to return. Admission to the Saturday workshops will be free to members of the Coaches' Association, and TBD for other attendees depending on the venue chosen. General admission fee is \$10. Board members are asked to brainstorm ways to increase the attendance at Saturday's venue, perhaps registration for some program, ODP winter session payments. Each club will receive one Awards' Dinner ticket free of charge. Award solicitations for the program need to get underway.

Ostebo presented two clubs for membership in the Twin Tiers District, Geneseo Girls 609 and Norge Soccer 607. On a motion by Krech to accept these two clubs into our State, Galli seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

The next meeting date for the Board of Directors is Sunday, August 26, 2001, 10 a.m. at the State Office in Corning.

Respectfully submitted,
Millie Blaakman
Secretary