



New York State West Youth Soccer Association
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
November 21, 2004

The New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on November 21, 2004 at the Henrietta Holiday Inn (Holidome) in Rochester, NY. Acting President Bob Sokolinsky called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM and led the meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

1. Introductions:

President Sokolinsky introduced special guests Region 1 Director Robert Palmeiro and US Youth Soccer Secretary & past NYSWYSA President Tony Buiniskis, NYSWYSA State Director of Coaching (SDC) Glen Buckley, NYSWYSA Executive Director Omer Doron, State Referee Administrator Curt Hamlin, State Youth Referee Administrator Bill Fahey, Full90 Sports, Inc. President Jeff Skeen and the following attending NYSWYSA Board Members:

- Susan Gurak – Treasurer
- Matt Dimas - 2nd Vice President, Southern Tier District Commissioner, Adjudication Committee & Audit Committee Chairman
- Teresa Doermer - TOP Soccer Director
- Larry Evarts - Recreation Soccer & Soccer Start Director
- Tim Mellander - Registrar & Data Base/Web Site Management Director
- Kevin Arnold – Binghamton District Commissioner
- Roger Jank - Buffalo District Commissioner & Indoor Soccer Director
- Roger Best - Rochester District Commissioner & Meeting Scribe
- Kevin Perrigo - Syracuse District Commissioner
- Dan Watson - Twin Tiers District Commissioner, Risk Management Director & State Office Operations Manager

After the introductions, Tony Buiniskis gave a brief farewell speech to the NYSWYSA Membership. On behalf of himself and his wife, he thanked the Member Clubs & Leagues and the NYSWYSA Board of Directors (BOD) for their support during his long tenure as the NYSWYSA President.

Region 1 Director Bob Palmeiro gave a brief speech pointing out that Region 1 is the largest of the four regions in the US Youth Soccer Association 1.2 million out of the total of 3.2 million players. He discussed the competitive leagues in Region 1 and the recent change in the Travel Policy in Region 1, specifically that Permission to Travel Papers are no longer required for travel within Region 1, except to the states of New Jersey and Connecticut.

President Sokolinsky briefly discussed the NYSWYSA Annual Awards Dinner held the previous evening at which volunteers were recognized for their exemplary service, and youth players and referees were recognized for their accomplishments. Bob also requested to move the NYSWYSA Budget Review to the Treasurer's Report, which was approved by the membership.

2. Roll Call:

The Meeting Scribe conducted a Roll Call of the membership, which was accomplished by calling out the names of the Member Clubs and Leagues not in attendance per the meeting signup sheet. It was determined that a quorum was present to conduct business.

3. Approval of the November 23, 2003 NYSWYSA AGM Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to approve the November 23, 2003 NYSWYSA AGM Minutes. A request was made to correct the spelling of the past NYSWYSA Treasurer's name John Pecchia in Item 4 of the minutes. Bob Sokolinsky then called to question the motion and it was carried with no negative vote thereby approving the minutes with the requested modification.



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4. Reports:

• **President:**

Bob Sokolinsky spoke briefly on the following topics:

- The many programs offered by the NYSWYSA to its membership.
- The continued healthy financial condition of the NYSWYSA.
- The rollout of RosterPro, the online registration system.
- The change in the Travel Policy within Region 1 previously mentioned by Bob Palmeiro.
- The Online Library established by Omer Doron, which is the first of its kind in the country.
- The Online FA Coaching Course (psychology) established by SDC Glen Buckley.
- The NYSWYSA Marketing Book put together by Omer Doron and the NYSWYSA State Office Staff.
- The new “Bad Standing Policy” established by the NYSWYSA BOD at the request of member clubs.
- The loss of Chevrolet as a National Sponsor, which will result in the loss of SDC Glen Buckley’s vehicle. Region 1 may provide money to its member State Associations toward the purchase of a vehicle.
- The following NYSWYSA BOD appointments, which occurred over the past few months:
 - Sandy Ostebo was appointed as President effective January 1, 2005.
 - Susan Gurak was appointed Treasurer replacing John Pecchia.
 - Dave Matthews was appointed ODP Administrator.
 - Dan Watson was appointed Twin Tiers District Commissioner replacing Sandy Ostebo.
 - Kevin Arnold was appointed Binghamton District Commissioner replacing Shane Cook.
 - Matt Dimas was appointed 2nd Vice President replacing Bob Sokolinsky.
 - Larry Evarts was appointed Top Soccer Director replacing Teresa Doermer who will continue to act as coordinator for the districts. It was stressed that the member clubs should promote this program within its ranks.
- The NYSWYSA State Cup Competition citing that although none of the NYSWYSA teams won any of the age divisions at the Regional Tournament, some were runners up.
- The Olympic Development Program (ODP), which has moved forward and is improving thanks to the efforts of Glen Buckley and his Coaching and Administrative Staff. More of the State Association players are looked at for the Regional Pool, but the goal is to have more players advance.
- The successful Academy created and established by Glen Buckley.
- The successful November 20, 2004 NYSWYSA Workshop at which more attendees are wanted. Volunteers from the membership are wanted for a committee, which is being established to obtain and develop fresh ideas about the content of future workshops.

• **Adjudication Committee Chairman:**

Matt Dimas, the Adjudication Committee Chairman, provided an Adjudication Committee Report prior to the meeting, a copy of which was included in the NYSWYSA AGM Meeting Informational Packet.

• **State Director of Coaching & ODP:**

SDC Glen Buckley stated that many strides have been made since he was introduced at the NYSWYSA AGM 5 years ago, but not without bumps along the way. During this timeframe, nearly 5000 coaches have taken educational courses and he is pleased with the number of course requests that he continues to receive. Glen announced that the NYSWYSA has been selected to host a “C” License Course from April 30 – May 8, 2005 at the NY Chiropractic College at a cost of \$795. More information on the 9-day course will be posted on the NYSWYSA Website.

Glen said that the ODP continues to grow and people are more impressed by the program. He stressed that more indoor facilities are needed for training beyond those at West Seneca, Cortland and Rochester. In the past 2 years, Glen said that he received calls from parents complaining about conflicts with ODP such as State Cup, so he has cut back on the program for coming year. Glen requested the member clubs to



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support the program and contact any coaches that schedule events in conflict with ODP events. The dates for ODP events such as practices have been set so they can be worked around to avoid putting a child in a situation where he has to choose between a club and ODP event.

At this point, Bob Escobar from the Syracuse Blitz S. C. asked Glen if he could make the program more affordable for players? Glen estimated that 70% of the better players are participating in the ODP and he is looking to reduce the cost, which is \$330-\$350/player at the State Level and \$800-\$900 at the Regional Level. It is up to the clubs whether they want to provide support to a player. Glen related that he has tried to get clubs and leagues together to discuss topics such as this.

Curt Regruit, the President of the Penfield Rangers S. C., asked if State Association money, based on the profits that have been accrued, could be used to help with the cost? Glen said this question would have to be discussed off line.

Glen closed his report with 2 proposed changes for consideration by the membership. The first was concerning "Small Sided Games", specifically, the number of players on the field in the U-12 Age Division. He reported that 30 State Associations are now playing 8 vs. 8 or 9 vs. 9 in this age division and he is looking for feedback and to start dialogue on this change in the NYSWYSA.

The second change is for the membership to consider Club Registration vs. Team Registration for players. Once again, he is looking for feedback with the hope to implement these proposed changes in 2006 with approval of the membership.

• **Registrar & Data Base/Web Site Management Director:**

Registrar & Data Base/Web Site Management Director Tim Mellander spoke of the rollout the RosterPro online registration program that was been used by 200 member clubs. New features include a statewide search for player duplicates, E-Mail Broadcasting and the ability to have data downloaded back to clubs. Tim also mentioned that the NYSWYSA Website that receives an average of 20,000 hits per month with the peak activity occurring in May, June and July.

The Rush Henrietta S. C. asked the question "How are delays in the approval of Risk Management handled?" Risk Management Director Dan Watson explained that delays only occur when required information is lacking or a person is questionable. He added that if a person is denied a Risk Management Pass, that person could appeal the decision per the procedure specified in the NYSWYSA Adjudication Manual.

• **Recreation Soccer & Soccer Start Director:**

Recreation Soccer & Soccer Start Director Larry Evarts provided a Recreation Soccer/Soccer Start Report prior to the meeting, a copy of which was included in the NYSWYSA AGM Meeting Informational Packet. He expressed his disappointment in the number of Recreational Soccer Coaches submitted for the NYSWYSA Coach of the Year Awards. He informed the meeting attendees that funds are available for Recreational Soccer and a DVD for new Recreational Soccer Coaches will be available next year. Tony Buiniskis added that the DVD would be available at the US Youth Soccer Workshop in February 2005 at a cost of \$3.00.

Bob Palmeiro stated that Kohl's would replace Tide as the sponsor of the America Cup for recreational teams and a \$500 Grant is available for Soccer Start programs such as Flower City in the Rochester District.



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• **Top Soccer Director:**

Top Soccer Director Teresa Doermer provided a Top Soccer Report prior to the meeting, a copy of which was included in the NYSWYSA AGM Meeting Informational Packet. She explained that the Top Soccer Program is for players ages 5 – 19 with 160 now participating in 4 programs across the NYSWYSA. However, this only represents approximately 1% of the eligible players. Teresa said that help is needed to spread the word and advertise this program. Many volunteers are also needed because the best volunteer to player ratio for the most positive experience for the players is 1:1. Teresa also mentioned that 7 Top Soccer Coaches attended the Youth Module held at the November 20, 2005 NYSWYSA Workshop.

• **Executive Director:**

Executive Director Omer Doron provided reports prior to the meeting, copies of which were included in the NYSWYSA AGM Meeting Informational Packet. Omer said that his first year has been interesting and challenging. He requested the membership to look at the newly created Online Library on the NYSWYSA Website and provide him with feedback.

• **Risk Management Director & State Office Operations Manager:**

Risk Management Director & State Office Operations Manager Dan Watson informed the meeting attendees that 4500 two-year Risk Management Passes have been processed and that a background check is performed on everyone. He said that the approved NYSWYSA Tournaments should be on the NYSWYSA Website if they were received by November 1, 2004. Dan encouraged everyone to look over the new Coaches' Handbook and would welcome any feedback.

• **Treasurer:**

Treasurer Susan Gurak provided a NYSWYSA Financial Report for the Fiscal Year 2004, Accountants' Review Report and a Proposed 2005 NYSWYSA Budget & Narrative prior to the meeting, copies of which were included in the NYSWYSA AGM Meeting Informational Packet. Susan Gurak presented an overview that included a condensed NYSWYSA Financial Report for 2004 and the Narrative for the Proposed NYSWYSA 2005 Budget. A motion was made and seconded from the floor to approve the Proposed NYSWYSA 2005 Budget as presented, which was carried.

5. New Business:

• **Bylaws Update:**

President Bob Sokolinsky informed the meeting attendees that the NYSWYSA BOD recently approved the update to the NYSWYSA Bylaws, a copy of which was included in the NYSWYSA AGM Meeting Informational Packet. These updated bylaws are now on the NYSWYSA Website and any input on them would be welcomed and should be directed to Matt Dimas.

• **New President Appointment:**

President Bob Sokolinsky briefly discussed the appointment of past Twin Tiers District Commissioner, ODP Administrator and Interim Executive Director Sandy Ostebo to replace him as President, effective January 1, 2005. He said that if anyone has any issues, they should contact Sandy so he can work toward their resolution.

• **Election of Officers:**

NYSWYSA Nominating Committee Chairman Roger Best reported that there was only one candidate for each of the two open positions (1st Vice President & Treasurer) on the NYSWYSA BOD. However, the NYSWYSA Nominating Committee considered both candidates to be well suitable and qualified for the positions, and recommended Michael S. Radecke from the Buffalo District for NYSWYSA 1st Vice President and Susan Gurak from the Rochester District for NYSWYSA Treasurer.



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Since Susan Gurak was the only candidate for NYSWYSA Treasurer and Mike Radecke was the only candidate for NYSWYSA 1st Vice President, they were both elected by acclamation to the respective positions for two year terms.

• **Full90 Headgear Issue and Statement:**

President Bob Sokolinsky reviewed the chronicle of events regarding the Full90 Sports, Inc. Issue:

- The original proposal from Full90 Sports, Inc. was approved by the NYSWYSA BOD @ the September 18, 2004 NYSWYSA BOD Meeting.
- It was determined that the vote taken @ the September 18, 2004 NYSWYSA BOD Meeting was improper and a mistake had been made.
- The media reported the decision, some information was correct and some was wrong.
- Past President Gary Acker worked with the lawyers and Full90 Sports, Inc, to resolve the issue, but resigned as NYSWYSA President for health reasons.
- Bob Sokolinsky worked with the lawyers & Full90 Sports, Inc. to come up with the mutually agreed upon “Full90 Statement”, which was distributed and read to the membership.

Rochester District Youth Soccer League President Gary Levine asked what financial considerations were offered to the NYSWYSA in the original proposal that was approved and whether there is a contract in effect? Bob Sokolinsky said that there was a contract in place, but could not divulge the financials. When Gary directed the question about financial considerations to Jeff Skeen from Full90 Sports, Inc., he would not provide the requested information because negotiations were still ongoing with the NYSWYSA.

Rochester Jr. Rhinos S. C. President Jim Mort expressed concern that the new statement puts the responsibility of investigating headgear on the clubs. He recommended that the statement be modified to put the responsibility on the parents, not the clubs. At this point, Bob Palmeiro stated that State Associations cannot mandate the use of headgear, and quoted the following position statement on padded headgear that was issued at the November 13, 2004 US Soccer Board of Directors’ Meeting: **“USSF adopted the position that no member can mandate the use of any headgear or helmet.”**

A motion was then made and seconded from the floor to modify the wording of the “Full90 Statement” so that the responsibility of investigating headgear is placed on the parents, not the clubs. The motion was carried by the membership.

Curt Regruit, the President of the Penfield Rangers S. C., recommended the “Full90 Statement” that was distributed at the meeting should be returned. The meeting attendees agreed with and abided by the recommendation.

6. Adjournment:

President Bob Sokolinsky thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 12:16 PM.