

Northwest District of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association

September 19, 2018 Wyndham Southbury Hotel, Southbury, CT

Attendees: Kelly Gereski (Bunker Hill), Cari Boucher (Highlander), Brian Monecan (Litchfield), Laura Anderson (New Fairfield), James Bishop (New Milford), Jay Zalewski (Pomperaug), Joe Abdella (Shepaug), Tom Fitzpatrick (Sherman), Beth Lahey (Thomaston), Mark Crowe (Torrington), Corrado Perugini (Watertown), Kevin Lillie (Winchester United), Dave Brouillette (Wolcott), Ryan Chmielewski (Woodbury-Bethlehem), Christian Ayala (Impact United CT), Scott Shakley (District Registrar), Karen Puskas (Treasurer)

Not in Attendance: Brookfield, Danbury, Northwest United, Terryville

Public Comment: None

Minutes: The minutes from August's meeting have been posted on our website. If any changes need to be made, please let Corrado know.

Treasurer's Report: Karen handed out our closed out 17-18 budget and the new proposed 18-19 budget. Our bottom line has been dwindling over the past seven years as our number of players and teams have gone down. The new budget will need to be approved at our next meeting. There are three clubs with outstanding fees: Northwest United, Litchfield, New Fairfield, please submit your fees if you haven't already. Dave stated that we need to take a pause in our line item, "Club Promotions/Capital Expenditures" due to the fact that we have an unknown in Stack Sports. We are unsure if we will need to set aside money to help support clubs with Stack Sports. Also, we only had 10 clubs take advantage of the capital expenditures this past year. There are 11 clubs who said that they plan to take advantage of this money in the coming year.

Registration: Karen would like to get the team activations ready for clubs in the next couple of months. Most teams seem to be using Stack Sports at the most basic level right now, but there is a lot more that can be done with it, like registering teams. There will be some changes in our bylaws because the new system cannot handle some of our current rules regarding how you form your teams.

Eleven clubs are using Stack Sports with 89 travel teams and nine rec teams. This season we had to re-verify all of the players in the new system, we verified 1800 birth certificates this fall. If the certificate is invalid (it's too blurry, wrong birthdate, or photo of the player), there's no way to notify someone of this, so Scott has to remove the certificate. When you make a roster change, there's no way for CJSA to be notified of this. If you make a change, your roster becomes invalidated. If you do make a change, email Scott to let him know. Make sure you make a copy of your current roster before you make any changes. Eight clubs are using the legacy system with about 1400 players. We have about two thirds of our clubs/teams on the new system and one third on the old system.

There's no mechanism in Stack Sports to define or track a primary or secondary roster. Scott would like to propose to that we remove this language from our rules. A question was asked about double rostering a player, there are directions on our district website of how to do this. You will have to register the player twice.

It was asked if anyone's had trouble printing cup rosters and we are able to do this now, it was previously a problem, but seems to be fixed.

A question came up about our background checks for international coaches, it was recommended that you talk to Sue Schultz at CJSA and she will help you get them moved through the background check system.

State Report: We have a meeting scheduled with the CFO of Stack Sports to try to figure out where we're headed and whether they will be able to get us where we want to go. The problem is that Connecticut doesn't conform the way most other states do. We are trying to streamline some things to help this. We need to learn to use the new technology in a new way. The goal is to make sure that the clubs are not feeling burdened.

Dave reiterated that we need to keep working on getting our coaches educated using our license system. A reminder that the district will reimburse coaches for the fees. Please let us know if you would like to host a training, the district will reimburse you for any fees you incur. We would like to have more coaching trainings in our district.

Classic Travel: No new report

Website/Publicity: Send anything that you would like posted on the website to Karen Puskas. Karen posted events for the next six months.

Referees: At the state level, we're losing a lot of referees, so please remind your coaches to be courteous to your referees. 40% of last year's referees did not return. Coaches need to be responsible for their team's parent behavior also. Clubs are having trouble getting referees. In the event that you don't have an official assistant referee, the rules state that you can use a "club linesman" and all they can call is out of bounds, not offsides.

Disciplinary: Everything has been good so far.

Other: A few clubs have said that the residency rules are hurting the smaller clubs because they're having trouble getting enough kids to form teams. Dave asked, does anyone have an issue with A leagues have no residency rules? Most of the clubs said yes.

We had to postpone the developmental training that we were putting together. We are still pursuing this for the winter and spring. Dave wasn't confident that he had the commitment from the trainers.

For the Good of Soccer: USA vs. Peru Men's Soccer Game at Rentschler Field on Tuesday, October 16th

Tom from Sherman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be November 14th at 6:30pm. This will also be our holiday dinner. Please bring one or two volunteers with you to honor our volunteers.

Upcoming Dates:

Fall Banquet Awards – January 5th & 6th, 1pm

District Meeting – January 16th, 7:30pm

Spring League Scheduling Meeting – March 6th, 7:30pm