1. **Commissioner (Sanjay Nayar)**
   - Roll Call
   - Congrats to season winners
     - Premier Playoffs: FC Benchwarmers / Regular Season: Conquistadors
     - 1st Division Playoffs: Mall Rats / Regular Season: Washington Wanderers
     - 2nd Division Playoffs and Regular Season: Hoover FC
     - 3rd Division Playoffs: Capital Crew / Regular Season: Tsunami Naranja
   - E-mail as primary means of communication ([ccsl_teams@yahooogroups.com](mailto:ccsl_teams@yahooogroups.com))
     - Each team must have more than one team member on the distribution list
     - Yahoo group is our main way of communicating so if you are not in the group, email Sanjay.
   - No games on Easter or Memorial Day Weekend
   - Weather Hot Line (703-229-1705) – Call the hotline if it’s at all questionable as the fields don’t drain as quickly as you’d think.
   - Field equipment
     - Missing team equipment and process review – every team should have a set of 2 corner flags, net, net bag, Velcro straps, and stakes. If you don’t have all of those things or they are not in good shape, email Sanjay in the next 2 days to let him know what you’re missing.
     - Process review: First team of the day brings the equipment, some fields require nets, some don’t – bring everything to every game anyway. Next 2 teams show up and give their equipment to the teams who just played. Last teams to play take the equipment from the field.
     - If a team forgets their equipment, you can take the equipment off the field even though another game is supposed to happen. It is the forgetful team’s problem.
   - Season starts Sunday, Mar 29th, Makeup date June 6th, Playoffs to hopefully start June 13th weekend
   - Field Permit Status
     - We are looking solid in terms of fields – Trinity, St. Stephens (must put LAX goals back at the end of the day), GMHS, Arlington Fields, Marina, the mall. Marina and Mall are our fall back fields.
     - Captains also keeping copies of permits – Sanjay sending electronic copies of permits to the captains. Captains should print and keep in soccer bag so that they can show them if anyone is on the field and shouldn’t be or if someone asks for them.
     - Treatment of fields – leave the fields how you found them. Don’t bring dogs to Trinity. Don’t pee in the woods.
   - DC United Partnership
     - Launching new website March 18th.
     - With every ticket that you purchase through CCSL website, we get a little kickback for the league. In Dec, we got a couple hundred dollars back from DC United for ticket sales.
     - Home opener on Sat March 28th vs Chicago Fire – big rivalry, great opener
     - Hosting 3 double headers with Freedom – May 23rd, June 13th, and July 18th – get to see 2 games for the price of 1!
     - Currently trying to get a new stadium in PG County, but getting a lot of opposition to it. We need people to email PG county gov to let them know that you want to
go to games and that it’ll boost the MD economy. We are in dire need of a new stadium.

- **Washington Freedom Partnership**
  - Freedom – new team coming to town – Washington Freedom starting March 29th on the road vs LA Soul. Home opener April 11th. Playing through August. Right now, 7 teams in the league, will be 10 next year. Many home games at Germantown soccerplex – others are at RFK for DC United double headers.
  - There will be tailgating at Germantown, MD.
  - They will have a similar website with similar kickback for CCSL when people purchase tickets through the CCSL site.

- **Exec Committee Position Needs** – we are all volunteers here, and we need some new blood, new faces. Contact Sanjay if you or someone you know might be interested in helping with the league.
  - This is a nice resume builder
  - Treasurer – When Cara took over, things were a bit of a mess, but she’s gotten the league back into good standing. The job is just paying refs, paying for the fields, smaller incidentals along the way. The role requires being organized and getting checks cut, depositing the checks and following up on fines when they are due. It’s a good way to get to know other teams, other people.
    - Cara is moving on up as she is now the state association treasurer and won’t have time to do both.
  - We do have other positions open, so let us know if you’re interested.
  - **Summer League?** – Unless someone steps up in this meeting or in the next week, we won’t have summer league. The fields are easy to get, we have a ref assignor. It’s very easy. Find out which teams want to join, get them registered. The fields are there for us to take. We do have a volunteer for summer league!!!

2. **Vice Commissioner (Jim Sadowski)**
   - **Update on MDCVSA happenings** - online registration and Player Pass requirement update – we will have phased rollout of it starting this spring in VA Beach. We’ve talked about having CCSL summer league go this way. This will provide you with a player pass that we hope will eventually get you discounts on things as it becomes bigger. [www.mdcvsa.org](http://www.mdcvsa.org)
   - This league serves as a model for other leagues throughout the country. We now have representation across the board.
   - **Update on USASA happenings** – shift from mainly a men’s premier elite organization to a recreational, coed, women’s organization. State association leaders have been instrumental in pushing this forward.
     - You are all members of USASA – part of your team dues go to USASA
     - They hold tournaments
     - If you are injured, there is extra insurance that is provided to you by USASA
   - Coed cup in October 23-25 – in Dallas TX again. Thanks to Ramon and the Mallrats for sending a team down this past year. The competition in the premier division was absolutely great. There will be a division for everyone next year. We do need to show the organization that we support it. You can bring players from any CCSL team to go down, so it doesn’t just have to be your team.
   - DC United – please forward the email about the new stadium to your players. They do need support in sending emails to the PG County folks.
   - Thanks to the Exec Committee for all of the work that they do.
   - We want to be the best, be transparent, fair and fun. Turn in rosters when you’re supposed to, don’t bring in ringers, etc.
     - 0 disciplinary complaints this past season. Great job!!
   - **Final note: Player passes** – as you may remember from Fall 2008 meeting, we had a healthy discussion around player passes, but we will not be discussing it tonight. The
state association’s decision means that it will be happening eventually and we don’t yet have our ducks in a row. We need to discuss how this will play out in the league. We’ll discuss this in Fall 2009 when we find out more about what needs to be done and we have a recommendation.

3. VP for Scheduling (Lou Chinchilla)
   - Scheduling requests rules
     - Any scheduling requests need to be sent in by midnight tonight. After midnight tonight, if he can do it, he’ll try, but he won’t move heaven and earth to make it happen.
   - Rescheduling guidelines
     - If you know before Wed that your team can’t field a team on Sunday, we’ll do our best to accommodate you. Please try to make the game as scheduled because when we reschedule, we need to pay for another field and we end up with a game in schedule for the referees.
   - **Full Season Schedule will be completed by March 22nd.**

4. Treasurer (Cara Rooney)
   - Team fees $1650. Please don’t make me chase you down for your check ;-) – please make it out to CCSL and write Team Name in the Memo line.
   - **Checks will be cashed on April 10.** (Cara will try to remember to send out reminder to the captains before she cashes the checks)
   - Overview of league finances - We have a little bit of a reserve at this point. We have a “field fund” – we don’t have a field. The idea is that the league would purchase a field or fund the creation of a field. We take $100 from each team’s dues and put it into the field fund. When we are short, we borrow from the field fund, when we are over, we put the money back into it. We are at about $35,000. If you have ideas about land to buy, what to invest in, etc, let us know.
   - Referee Fines – if you don’t provide a referee for 5 games, you pay a fine.
   - Forfeit fine. CCSL does have a forfeit rule (fine of $200) and will be enforcing this if you do not notify us a forfeit by Wednesday at 5PM. – collected 1 forfeit fine last year. We collect the fee to pay for the fields and refs since we often have to pay them anyway in the event of a forfeit. Everyone deserves to play the games they’ve paid to play.
   - Referees were paid twice as planned during spring season and this will continue moving forward.
   - Cara’s last season as Treasurer – Need to find a replacement. Happy to help whoever takes over. Cara has enjoyed working with this league and plans to continue as captain.
   - Summer league – has helped us make money so that we can pay for the nicer fields in the fall/spring

5. VPs for Registration (Jennifer Roberts)
   - Rosters will be due by the 4th week of the season – April 19th
     - Div 3 can have 30 players on roster. D2-Premier has 25 roster spots. Can add up to 5 more players at $25 each. Checks must be made out to CCSL and given to Cara, when you turn in your final roster.
   - If you don’t bring your roster to the game, you don’t play. If you don’t send in your finalized roster by the 4th week, no playing from the 5th week onwards
   - Acceptable Roster form will be emailed out to everyone, but it is also posted on the documents portion of the website.
   - Posting rosters to the website – You can easily enter your players’ names onto the website and print that roster form out to bring to games
• Online registration comment from a captain: it would be great if captains could have input
• Player passes can be made for tournaments – email Jennifer – player passes are $5 each.
• Please review the contact info that Jennifer has for everyone before you leave today.

6. Recording Secretary (Suzy Hebert)
• Meeting Minutes – any issues with last meeting’s minutes? None raised.
• Constitution changes and where to find documents – From the home page, there is a link on the column on the left and in the row of boxes at the top that says “Documents” – this link will take you to the Constitution and other documents that you may need.

7. Web Site Guru (Rich Wickersham)
• Online Roster Updating Demo
  - You can use the website to send emails to your team, post team events, etc.
  - You can update your roster on the site and keep track of your goal scorers.
  - rich.wickersham@gmail.com
  - This does not take the place of submitting your roster to Jennifer.

8. Field Management (TBD)
• Dan Driscoll is moving on from his position of Field Management. He’s been very involved in working for City FC.
• John … will be taking on this role.
• Field opportunities – if you see a field that you think might be a good idea, contact Sanjay. It can be a good field or a place for a good field or a bad field that could become a good field.
• Trinity – there were a few weeks when the field house was closed. What should we do in that case? Go across the street to the businesses over there or hold it. If this becomes a big issue, please let us know.

9. Discipline Committee (Chief Justice Jon DeNunzio)
• Who we are and what we do – includes Jon and 2 other volunteers. Monitor ref reports. Investigate reports for incidents where extra sanctions might be necessary. If Jon investigates, they solicit testimony via email. They take all of the testimony they can get. They want to be as fair as they can be. They pass recommendation for sanction to Sanjay and he makes final decision. Base decisions on league, national, state precedents. Last season, no incidents.
• The “no jackass rule” – as a captain, you need to keep your team “jackass” under control. When there is an incident, it’s up to you as captains to pull your team back together and take control of your team. When it escalates, you need to be the calmer head.
• No Dogs/No peeing at Trinity

10. VP for Referees/Assignor (Jesse Rosenthal)
• Newest National referee – Jim Sadowski- congrats Jim!
• Reminder that each team must submit a referee
  - Each team should have already emailed Jesse (globalprisms@yahoo.com) with name of their designated referee(s)
  - Missing referee representatives for a bunch of teams – please contact Jesse to let him know who your team ref is.
• Increased Referee Rates - $55 per match for Center Ref, $40 per match for Asst Ref – usually games can be scheduled right before or after your game.
• Rosters must be brought to each game. If there is a question as to whether an ineligible player is playing, then we’ll investigate afterward.
Captain asked how we prevent non-rostered players from playing. – right now, we’re on the honor system. We expect captains to police this.

- In order to be assigned to games, referees need to belong to the YahooGroup (CCSL Refs) AND respond by each deadline in order to get games.
- Reminder about jewelry - unless it’s a medical bracelet - which must be taped down, it doesn’t belong on the field.
- Reminder about braces - Knee braces must be worn with safety sleeves - no hard plastic or metal edges protruding from them (neoprene or Velcro secured available from every brace manufacturer)
- New referee clinic dates - at Greenstein Delorme and Luchs in Washington DC - 4/1, 4/7, 4/8 and 4/9; each night must be attended from 6:30-9:30 PM.
  - For new refs, we will reimburse the cert fees after you ref 10 games in the upcoming season.
  - Recertification courses are running short right now. If you sign up for the new referee clinic with Tom Frank, you can attend that one and get recertified. Email Jesse to take advantage of this option if you need to.
- Constructive referee feedback always welcome via email

11. Social Committee Report (Matt …)
   - League Happy Hours
   - DC United/Freedom Tailgates – Sean Hooper from DC United
   - Other Social Ideas – let us know if you have ideas
     - Mention free food and free beer first when it is free! More people will come.
   - Need to fill position

12. New Business (see below for discussion items)

13. Collection of Team Fees

14. Adjournment

**New Business:**

1. **Promotion/Relegation**

   Article XII/Section III: All possible promotions and relegations will be discussed at the pre-season meeting. Within each division, the regular season winner and the playoff winner will be the first two teams to be considered for promotion. If these teams are the same, the second-place regular season will be second in line to be considered for promotion. The two lowest-ranked teams within a division, based on the regular season record, will be the first teams considered for relegation.

   1. Eligible for promotion to Premier Division (Mall Rats, Wash Wanderers)
   2. Eligible for relegation to First Division (Spicy Walrus, Backdraft)
   3. Eligible for promotion to First Division (Hoover FC, DC Divided)
   4. Eligible for relegation to Second Division (Little Urban Acheivers, Gang Green)
5. Eligible for promotion to Second Division (Capital Crew will move up, Tsunami Naranja stays in D3 because we need to have 9 teams in each div and 2 teams in D3 are combining.)
   “After meeting adjournment, a decision was made to play with 10 teams in Div 2 and 8 teams in Div 3 for this season due to the late notice for this season.
6. Eligible for relegation to Third Division (Far Post, Funkytown)

2. Repeal of Referee Fine Prorating Rule

Current Referee Fine Rule:

For teams that do not provide a referee, they will pay a $500 fine pro-rated based on the number of games for which they did provide an available referee. For example, if a team provided a ref for 3 games, then the team would be fined $200. Fine will be collected within 6 weeks of the end of the season.

Proposed change to Rule:

For teams that do not provide a referee who officiates 5 CCSL games per season, that team is liable for a $500 fine within 6 weeks of the last week of the season.

Rationale for Rule Change:

- A full fine of $500 incentivizes teams to provide referees. Current trends indicate increased reliance upon referees from outside the player pool to fully cover games, which mitigates the benefits of player referees. Continuing/Increasing that reliance will cause pressure to raise referee fees/costs to maintain market preference of good referees.
- The existing prorated fine system lowers the opportunity cost for a player referee to opt out of assignments – and puts league games at risk of insufficient assignments.
- The Referee Assignor takes any and all emails noting referee availability into account when assessing what teams are required to pay the fine because they did not make the necessary 5 game requirement and/or did not make themselves available to ref. So, the original reason for this rule change (that one team provided a referee for 4 games but not the 5th) would have been mitigated had the referee emailed availability to the Assignor.
- Availability of referees is tracked alongside match assignments when fines are assessed, not just completed assignments. For example, if a referee provides availability but is not assigned because of rainout or surplus of available referees, her team earns a credit as if she had officiated the game.
- Also, this rule requires additional effort for the Referee Assignor and Treasurer in determining what the fine will be for each team. The Treasurer position is unpaid and as volunteers the more difficult rules are to implement, the more time it takes for those volunteers. As it is, we have trouble getting folks to stop up and help the league, adding more bureaucracy does not improve our ability to recruit helpers.

Exec Committee Recommendation: For the Proposal

Discussion

- Question – if you want to incentivize teams to provide a player ref, how does a $500 fine do this? Jesse notes that we don’t want the money. The point is to encourage participation in the ref program. This person can help your players understand the rules and mediate disagreements. There are only 2 teams who provide a ref who is not on their rosters.
• Furthermore, the percentage of refs from outside the league increased rather significantly last session which means that we have more competition for getting the refs.
• The point of a larger fine that is not prorated is to make teams rethink not providing a ref for 5 games during the season.
• Are there any alternative punitive measures that have been discussed?
• The money goes toward free assessments for refs who want to move up in grade, to pay for new refs who take the course and ref 10 games in a season, and happy hours for refs to discuss the game.
• Motion to vote on rule change carries unopposed
• Vote for the rule change as written – show of hands – 19 in favor – passes.

3. **Injury Replacement**

   **Current Rule:**
   
   Teams are currently locked down for rosters as of submission in the 4th week of the season. No changes are allowed after that time without exception.

   **Proposed Rule Change:**
   
   Allow each team to have one injury replacement during the season. If a player is injured and unable to play for the remainder of the season, an opportunity is provided for each team to add an additional player to the roster. Some details:
   - Teams are allowed only one injury replacement
   - Proof of injury (doctors note, etc) may be required by the exec committee upon request
   - This can be only until the 6th game of the season which is counting from the start of the season for all teams and disregards bye weeks.
   - Teams will need to pay $25 for the additional registration.
   - The injured player will be removed from the roster and not allowed to play in additional games nor playoffs
     - The injured player will still be technically registered with the state association and will get all the benefits included therein

   **Rationale for Rule Change:**
   
   Often time, teams experience mid-season injuries that end a player’s season and ask to add a player after the roster freeze. In the past we have not allowed for this change. We understand that these are unique circumstances and impact teams’ abilities to field full teams and want to be amenable to this without opening the door for full scale rolling roster changes where teams can bring in ringers for key games and playoffs. It is for this reason that the 6th week cap is in place and that proof of serious injury may be required. We do not expect to invoke this, but want to maintain the ability to guard against abuse of the rule. This is not meant as a means to swap out players who originally were on a team’s roster but are now not reliable players or otherwise warranting removal.

   As a reminder, the locked rosters and exclusion of non-rostered players is as much (if not more) for insurance purposes than it is to guard against bringing in ringers. We hope that implementing this rule will allow teams who are impacted by injuries to add players in an official manner.

**Exec Committee Recommendation:** For the Proposal

**Discussion**
• Question – why 1 allowance for injury, why not 2? Answer: The fee is partly to cover the state fees for adding this person to the roster. It is to make sure that people are only using this for injuries, not for people who say they will play then don’t. We are also limiting it to 1 person because of the administrative nightmare that it causes for us. While doing the 1 can be a pain, it does give the safety valve to teams which was our intent.

• Comment: If we want this league to grow and get new blood, we should be trying to give people as much time as possible to join. The only time during which teams can recruit and people can join the league is when games are being played, therefore we should extend the time that we have to bring people into the league.

• Question: Why the 2 week window? – Answer: The window is between week 4 and week 6. Now, we have open enrollment for weeks 1-4, so we already put ourselves at risk during that time because people are not registered with the league. An extra 2 weeks for an injury roster change will give teams a little more leeway.

• Motion to vote carries unopposed
• Motion for proposal as written – carries unanimously.

4. **CCSL Constitution Amendments**

**Rational for Changes:**

Sections of the constitution needed some cleanup and tightening of policies. Please see attached for red-lined changes.

**Exec Committee Recommendation: For changes as proposed**

Article IV, Section 5
Proposed addition: The Chief Justice may also make additional appointments to a disciplinary panel, with the approval of the Commissioner, if needed under the circumstances to replace a member that cannot serve or if an expedited decision is needed.
  • Passes without objections

Article IX, Section 4
Proposed addition: Any proposed amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws must be sent to the Executive Committee at least fourteen (14) days prior to the captains meeting and then distributed to the team captains at least seven (7) days prior to the captains meeting.
  • Passes without objections

Article XIII, Section 9
Proposed addition: A slide tackle in the penalty area by a defender against an attacker will result in the award of a penalty kick and a send off (red card) if the slide tackle denied an obvious goal scoring opportunity.
  • Discussion:
    o It seems like if we are an anti-slide tackling league, it should be a direct free kick regardless of where it happens on the field.
      • Motion – to amend the amendment so that a slide tackle is punishable by a direct free kick anywhere on the field.
    o Jesse notes that the reason it is currently an indirect free kick is that there are leagues that allow slide tackling and we did not want to punish people for forgetting once that they could not slide tackle in a CCSL game.
There is a difference between sliding and slide tackling therefore, it should just be a direct free kick.

Maybe the problem is in the wording of the statement. Should we add a semi colon between penalty kick and and?

It would be easier for refs and players if it is just a direct kick — easy to apply.

If we are a no slide tackle league, we should punish by a direct free kick.

• Vote on amendment that changes the rule so that a slide tackle anywhere on the field would result in a direct free kick.
  o Amendment to new proposal fails
• Wording officially changes to: A slide tackle in the penalty area by a defender against an attacker that denies a goal scoring opportunity will result in the award of a penalty kick.
  o Motion carries – 2 opposed.

Article XIV, Section 4
Proposed addition: A player that receives a red card must leave the field area and be no closer to the field than the locker room or the parking lot. The Referees and/or Commissioner have the authority to declare a forfeit for any team that does not take steps to ensure that a sent off player from its team abides by this rule.

Friendly amendment rewording: A player that receives a red card must leave the field area and be no closer to the field than the locker room or the parking lot. The Referees have the authority to abandon the game and/or the Commissioner has the authority to declare a forfeit for any team that does not take steps to ensure that a sent off player from its team abides by this rule.
  o Passes without objections

**Exec Committee Recommendation: For the changes as proposed**

5. As there were no challenges to the recommended replacements for the Registrar and Field Marshal positions, Jennifer Roberts and John Loy were elected to those positions, respectively.