

**UTAH YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

July 17, 2003

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Utah Youth Soccer Association was called to order by President Paul C. Burke at 7:30 p.m. at the State Office of the Utah Youth Soccer Association in Salt Lake City, Utah. The following Board members were present:

Paul C. Burke, President
Scott Maxfield, Vice President
Jodi Wells, Secretary
Tom Borrowman, Treasurer
David Malchenson, Boys Competition Director
Debbie Haycock, Girls Competition Director
Bruce Cuppett, Director of Development
Jim Clark, State Youth Referee Administrator
Arnold Wilcox, Chairman of District 1 (Salt Lake City)
John Lowery, Chairman of District 3 (Sandy/Draper)
Dave Mills, Chairman of District 4 (Weber County)
Mike Tate, Chairman of District 5 (Utah County)
Peter Unwin, Chairman of District 6 (Davis County)
Richard Messenger, Past President

Also present were Scott Harward (Executive Director), Linda Kay Messenger (Rules Committee Chair), Teresa Ortiz (State Cup Chair), Leisa Vineyard (Programs Manager), and Richard Yoder (Discipline Committee Chairman).

Board members who were excused or absent included Bill Patterson (District 2 Chairman) and Delon Brower (District 7 Chairman).

WELCOME

President Paul C. Burke welcomed all those in attendance at the meeting. Burke also congratulated the Utah soccer community for successfully hosting the Women's National Team during its first-ever appearance in Utah. On June 14, 2003, the U.S. Women's National Team defeated Ireland at Rice-Eccles Stadium before an announced crowd just shy of 20,000.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MEETING RULES

A motion was made by John Lowery and then seconded to adopt the meeting agenda and meeting rules. This motion passed.

REPORT FROM THE FINANCIAL COMMITTEES AND TREASURER

Treasurer Tom Borrowman stated that the Audit Committee met on Friday, July 11, 2003. Borrowman reported that the Audit Committee elected to retain last year's auditor. Borrowman also reported that Mike Tate will serve as the Chairman of the Budget Committee, which is slated to meet on either August 7th or 9th.

Treasurer Tom Borrowman reported that the Association continues to maintain a positive balance sheet for the current fiscal year. Borrowman said that he is projecting a slight surplus on what had been budgeted as a break-even year.

REPORT FROM OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Teresa Ortiz reported that ODP has reached the last week of region camp. The highlight thus far for Utah teams was the victory by the '88's over Cal South, the usual rulers of Region IV.

Director of Development Bruce Cuppett reported that Technical Director Greg Maas is in Moscow for the Utah-Moscow Summer Games with a U18 boys and a U18 girls team. These teams are part of a 300-athlete contingent from Utah. Most Utah teams in other sports have been slaughtered by their Russian counterparts. The Utah girls' soccer team, however, has been victorious, and the boys' soccer team has played competitively.

Cuppett also reported on the National Youth Module coaching course that is scheduled from July 22 through July 27th. There are currently twenty registrants for the course. Cuppett thanked the district chairmen for their support of the course, and stated that the greatest remaining need is for young players to participate in the demonstrations.

REPORT FROM STATE CUP COMMITTEE

State Cup Chair Teresa Ortiz announced that the dates for the fall portion of State Cup have been set. The tournament for U16, U17, and U18 boys will be held from October 2-11, 2003. The application deadline is August 11, 2003, and a meeting to set the seeding and alignment is scheduled for September 11, 2003. Ortiz also reported that a mailing will go out to coaches with notice of the entry deadline.

POINT OF ORDER

Richard Messenger offered a clarification to confirm that teams will be allowed only three transfers during the 2003-04 seasonal year. Messenger reported that a proposal at the national level to permit five transfers had not been enacted.

OLD BUSINESS

PROPOSAL TO SET STATE CUP ENTRY FEE FOR 2004 COMPETITION AT \$500

Motion was made by Bruce Cuppett and then seconded to set the State Cup Entry Fee for 2004 Competition at \$500. This proposal was defeated at the last Board meeting but was revisited at the request of State Cup Chair Teresa Ortiz, who was absent from the previous meeting. Ortiz proposed the increase to ensure the financial solvency of the tournament. Ortiz also hoped that a higher entrance fee would be seen by teams as an investment that would encourage them to play all scheduled games in the tournament. During the spring 2003 competition, Ortiz reported, one team dropped out right before the tournament started and three other teams withdrew in the middle of the competition. These withdrawals during pool play had the potential to compromise the integrity and consistency of the competition.

District 6 Chairman Peter Unwin asked rhetorically the entry fee needed to be raised to make the rules of the competition work. District 1 Chairman Arnold Wilcox stated that the member organizations in his district were opposed to both the proposed fee increase and the bond proposed previously.

Director of Development Bruce Cuppett expressed support for changes that would further define State Cup as a premier tournament. Cuppett was troubled by the number of lopsided games in certain age-groups in this spring. Girls Competition Director Debbie Haycock concurred that State Cup needs to be viewed as a premier event. Boys Competition Director David Malchenson commented that the \$350 entry fee for the 2003 State Cup was a bargain.

Vice President Scott Maxfield agreed that an increase in the entry fee might be necessary, but urged the Board to set the fee at a level so that State Cup will remain accessible. Motion was then made by Richard Messenger to amend the main motion to set the entry fee for the 2004 State Cup at \$400. The amendment was seconded and adopted, as was the underlying motion as amended. Consequently, the entry fee for the 2004 State Cup tournament will be \$400.

NEW BUSINESS

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Motion was made by Richard Messenger and then seconded to adopt the following policy to govern conflicts of interest involving Board members and State Officers:

COMPENSATION TO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

No Member of Utah Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors or State Officer as defined in Bylaw 2:02:01 may—

- (1) Receive compensation (except for reimbursement for expenses) for services as an officer or director;
- (2) Hold a second elected office with USYSA, or an office in any Organization Member of USYSA or the Federation; or
- (3) Be a paid employee of, or receive compensation (except reimbursement for expenses) from Utah Youth Soccer Association, any of its member organizations or programs, USYSA, any Organization Member of USYSA, or the Federation.

Messenger stated that this policy is modeled upon rules adopted by other state associations to avoid conflicts of interest and to increase membership confidence in the independence and fidelity of Board members. Messenger explained that it is vital for members to know that Board of Directors acts in the interest of the association as a whole, not the self-interest of its members.

District 5 Chairman Mike Tate inquired of the sponsor whether his concurrent membership on the Board and his paid position as a club president would be incompatible under the proposed policy. Messenger responded in the affirmative. Messenger explained that the policy would prohibit any Board member from receiving compensation from the association directly or any member organization.

Tate then expressed opposition to the proposed policy because he believes that the compensation he receives from his club is not related to his performance on the state association's Board of Directors. Tate also ventured that the adoption of the proposed policy would disqualify a majority of the Board's current members.

District 4 Chairman David Mills stated that, under a narrow reading of the proposed policy, no referee could sit on the Board because referees are compensated for their officiating by members of the association. State Youth Referee Administrator Jim Clark disagreed, stating that referees are governed by a different code of ethics. Bruce Cuppett also expressed opposition to the proposed policy. Cuppett stated that he believed the perceived problem could be solved by adopting a policy that would require Board members to recuse themselves from any vote in which they might have a self-interest.

Messenger expressed wonder at the present generation. He shared his belief that the previous generation was either more generous with its time or more foolish by failing to get paid for its efforts. Messenger stated his belief that the increasing cost of soccer is a product of a decline in voluntarism.

President Paul C. Burke intervened to end the discussion pursuant to the adopted meeting rules. Motion was made by Peter Unwin, seconded, and passed by more than two-thirds vote to suspend the meeting rules to permit additional discussion on the proposed conflicts of interest policy.

Discipline Committee Chairman Richard Yoder picked up on Cuppett's suggestion regarding recusal. Yoder stated that the association already has such a policy because the association's meetings are governed by Robert's Rules of Order, which requires a self-interested member to excuse himself from a vote on any matter.

Tate then voiced further opposition to the proposed policy, which he believed would deprive paid coaches of the opportunity to serve on the Board. Boys Competition Director David Malchenson confirmed that the proposed policy would disqualify him since he receives some compensation for coaching from the Firebirds club.

District 1 Chairman Arnold Wilcox lamented the increasing need to pay for services previously rendered by volunteers. Wilcox surmised that this issue has arisen because of the growing need to pay individuals to

do thankless jobs. Wilcox encouraged the Board to craft a policy that would permit compensation for tasks performed by Board members when volunteers are unavailable.

President Paul C. Burke encouraged the Board to take some dispositive action on this current proposal in order to continue with the business meeting. Vice President Scott Maxfield acknowledged that there is a need to continue developing a conflict of interest policy because there is a perception in the soccer community that there are representatives from specific clubs who have a conflict of interest. Maxfield then moved to table the proposal until the next meeting. This motion to table was seconded and approved.

PROPOSALS TO CLARIFY OR CORRECT EXISTING POLICIES

Rules Committee Chair Linda Kay Messenger presented to the Board a series of proposals meant to clarify or correct existing policies. Ms. Messenger began by soliciting a motion to eliminate Policy 6:02:02 with its list of Registration Dates. After such a motion was made and seconded, Richard Yoder said that the policy should be eliminated because it is useless since it does not contain any actual dates, only a series of registration milestones. Other members of the Board, including Debbie Haycock and Richard Messenger, responded that the list is inherently useful as a checklist. Motion was made by David Malchenson to refer this policy proposal back to the Rules Committee. The motion of reference was seconded and approved.

Ms. Messenger then solicited a motion to change Policy 6:02:02 regarding Coaches Qualifications and Certification to permit a waiver to be granted to coaches with a NSCAA State diploma. Such a motion was made, seconded, and approved with one negative vote.

Ms. Messenger next requested a motion to change Policy 9:03:01 regarding Tournament Formats. Motion was made and seconded to revise the policy to state that “No more than a total of three games may be scheduled in any tournament within a 72 hour period to assure adequate rest is available and safety of the players is impaired.” After Richard Yoder explained that this proposal is meant to protect players from overuse, District 6 Chairman Peter Unwin questioned the wisdom of this proposal because many tournaments need to schedule four games over two days. District 5 Chairman Mike Tate expressed a desire to obtain feedback on this proposal from his board before voting on this prospective policy change.

President Paul C. Burke expressed concern that this proposal is substantive in nature and not merely housekeeping. Motion was then made, seconded, and approved to table this proposal as well as the additional proposals that had been distributed by the Rules Committee at the meeting.

PROPOSAL TO IMPLEMENT E-TRAVEL PROGRAM

Executive Director Scott Harward and Programs Manager Leisa Vineyard made a presentation to demonstrate the E-Travel system that has been developed by the Association. The system would allow members of the association to obtain travel papers through a completely online system at www.utahyouthsoccer.net/etravel.html.

Rules Committee Chair Linda Kay Messenger responded to an inquiry from the chair that the Board would need to suspend policy 12:04:01 to implement the E-Travel system. Motion was then made by Bruce Cuppett to suspend policy 12:04:01 and to replace it with the following Travel Policy:

TRAVEL POLICY

Any UYSA team in good standing may obtain permission from UYSA to participate in matches within the United States in states other than Utah, provided that the matches are hosted by a member of the U.S. Soccer Federation. A team wishing to travel within the United States must submit a timely application and pay any required fees in accordance with procedures made available on UYSA’s website.

After this motion was seconded, Vineyard responded to a question and confirmed that the introduction of the E-Travel system would require the suspension of the existing \$10 fee for travel papers. Vineyard explained that the cost of collecting the fee online is prohibitive, and requiring teams to submit the fee to the State Office would defeat the purpose of the E-Travel system by causing the same inconvenience that

this program is meant to end. Vineyard recommended that the Board suspend the travel fee as a way of providing greater value for membership in the association.

President Paul C. Burke confirmed that other state associations have implemented E-Travel systems without incident or problem. Vineyard confirmed that other state associations have successfully introduced similar E-Travel programs.

Rules Committee Chair Linda Kay Messenger then stated that 12:04:01 is a policy and not a bylaw. Motion to amend the main motion to change the reference from a policy to a bylaw was made, seconded, and approved. The main motion to approve the Travel Policy was then passed.

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH FINANCIAL HARDSHIP PROGRAM

Motion was made and seconded to rescind the existing policy regarding waiver of fees and to replace it with a program under which the state association would waive its registration fee for any player who is eligible to receive a free school lunch.

Richard Messenger distributed information to the Board indicating that a large number of Utah schoolchildren are eligible for a free or reduced-cost school lunch. Messenger expressed concern that, if enacted, this proposal could lead to a large influx of impoverished players into the association. Messenger also reported that information about whether a student receives a free school lunch is not made public.

Girls Competition Director Debbie Haycock expressed concern about administering a fee-waiver program. District 6 Chairman Peter Unwin expressed concern about the number of players who would be eligible for financial assistance under the proposal. Unwin also stated that issues of financial hardship can be addressed at the district level.

President Paul C. Burke agreed that this proposal should be tabled so that a system of administration can be developed for a fee-waiver program. But Burke first expressed his commitment to adopting and implementing a program to assist players with limited financial means. Burke stated that the Utah Youth Soccer Association has an obligation to offer soccer opportunities to all young soccer players, regardless of their background or ability to pay. The Association's mission is to provide the children of Utah with universal access to the world's game. Though Burke agreed that the Board must be prudent in its management of the Association's financial affairs, Burke challenged the Association to find ways to enable new players to flood into the Association. Burke urged leagues and districts to assist as many players as possible, but then said that the state association must share in the responsibility to serve children with limited financial means.

Vice President Scott Maxfield then moved to table the proposal until a future meeting. This motion to table was seconded and passed.

PROPOSAL TO MODIFY STATE CUP POLICIES

Motion was made and seconded to accept the following change to subparagraph 2 of the State Cup policy concerning the form of the competition.

POLICY: FORM OF COMPETITION

2. For all games beyond preliminary rounds, tie games will play overtime periods. If the game is still tied after overtime, FIFA rules for kicks from the penalty mark will determine the winner.

State Cup Chair Teresa Ortiz recommended this change to clarify the rule. State Youth Referee Administrator Jim Clark then moved to amend this proposal to state that overtime would end upon the scoring of the first goal, the so-called "Golden Goal." After this motion to amend was seconded, Girls Competition Director Debbie Haycock expressed some opposition to the proposed amendment because the term "Golden Goal" is not universally understood. Ortiz suggested that

the addition of explanatory language to the rule might address this concern. A friendly amendment was then accepted. The Board then voted to approve the following policy statement:

POLICY: FORM OF COMPETITION

2. For all games beyond preliminary rounds, tie games will play overtime periods. During overtime, FIFA Golden Goal procedures shall be followed whereby the team that scores the first goal is declared the winner. If a game is still tied after overtime, FIFA rules for kicks from the penalty mark will determine the winner.

Further motion was then made and seconded to accept the following as subparagraph 3 of the State Cup policy concerning the form of the competition:

POLICY: FORM OF COMPETITION

3. Teams will be awarded points for games during the preliminary rounds as follows:
3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss.

Ties in points during the preliminary rounds shall be resolved using the following tie-breaker sequence:

- a) Head-to-Head
- b) Goal Differential (goals scored minus goals allowed to a maximum differential of 4 per game)
- c) Least goals allowed
- d) Most goals scored (to a maximum of 4 per game)
- e) Shut-out victories (forfeits not counting)
- f) FIFA kicks from the penalty mark.

If more than two teams are tied at the end of a preliminary round, the tiebreaker procedure will be used to either advance or eliminate one team. The remaining teams will then be compared, beginning again with step (a) to determine the ultimate placement.

State Cup Chair Teresa Ortiz recommended this format to more clearly define the tie-breaker format during the preliminary rounds. Boys Competition Director David Malchenson and Richard Messenger then observed that ambiguity remained in this proposal because it is unclear whether the procedure is to be used to eliminate or advance a team. Friendly amendment was then accepted to strike the word "either" and the phrase "or eliminated." The Board then voted to approve the following policy statement:

POLICY: FORM OF COMPETITION

3. Teams will be awarded points for games during the preliminary rounds as follows:
3 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss.

Ties in points during the preliminary rounds shall be resolved using the following tie-breaker sequence:

- a) Head-to-Head
- b) Goal Differential (goals scored minus goals allowed to a maximum differential of 4 per game)
- c) Least goals allowed
- d) Most goals scored (to a maximum of 4 per game)
- e) Shut-out victories (forfeits not counting)
- f) FIFA kicks from the penalty mark.

If more than two teams are tied at the end of a preliminary round, the tiebreaker procedure will be used to advance one team. The remaining teams will then be compared, beginning again with step (a) to determine the ultimate placement.

DISCUSSION OF STATE CUP RULES FOR 2004 COMPETITION

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to substitute the following statement as the first paragraph of the administrative section of the State Cup Rules proposed for 2004:

The entire UTAH YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION State Cup competition shall be under the jurisdiction of the State Cup Committee as authorized by the Board of Directors of the UTAH YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION. Any matter not provided for under these rules may be determined by the Board of Directors and the decision of the Board of Directors is final.

Further motion was made and seconded to substitute the following as paragraph number 4 in the administrative section:

Each District Chairman shall appoint one Cup committee representative for that District. The representative from each District is subject to approval by State Cup Chairman.

District 3 Chairperson John Lowery expressed concern that the proposed right of ratification by the State Cup Chair would effectively trump the District Chairs' power of appointment. After further discussion of this concern, this motion was passed.

Before further discussion could begin on additional changes proposed for 2004 as compared to the State Cup Rules for 2003, the Chair made inquiry to the Rules Committee Chair whether the State Cup rules needed to be adopted during this meeting. Rules Chair Linda Kay Messenger responded that the State Cup rules need only be ratified in time to be distributed to coaches before the beginning of the fall competition. Richard Messenger then stated that, in any event, the rules from 2003 would remain in effect for 2004 absent any action by the Board.

A motion of reference was then made, seconded, and approved to instruct the Rules Committee and the State Cup Chair to prepare and present a complete set of rules for the 2004 State Cup Competition at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

CONSIDERATION OF CLUB APPLICATION FOR UYSA AFFILIATION

Executive Director Scott Harward reported that the State Office had received materials from two clubs seeking affiliation with the association. Harward reported that the application from Utah Blitz FC was complete but the application of Utah Avalanche is currently incomplete for lack of information about its tax-exempt status.

Motion was made by John Lowery to accept the application of Utah Blitz FC for affiliation. This motion was seconded and passed.

POINT OF ORDER

Motion was made, seconded, and passed without dissent to suspend the rules to permit Program Manager Leisa Vineyard to report on a couple of matters.

ON-LINE TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING APPLICATION

Leisa Vineyard reported that member organizations may now apply online for tournament sanctioning. With the exception of the application fee, which must still be sent to the State Office, the entire application can be completed on the Association's website, www.utahyouthsoccer.net.

SCHEDULE FOR FALL SEASON OF STATE COMPETITION LEAGUE

Leisa Vineyard also reported on her preliminary efforts to develop the fall schedule for the State Competition League. Vineyard reported on plans to release a matrix showing when each age group and division is expected to play. Bruce Cuppett suggested that these preliminary schedules should be reviewed, particularly in the younger age groups, to make sure the timing is sensible from a player development vantage. Jim Clark, State Youth Referee Administrator, suggested that older players should

be scheduled early in the morning on Saturday so as not to conflict with adult amateur matches. More quality referees would then be willing and available to officiate advanced youth matches.

ON LINE REFEREE REPORT

Leisa Vineyard also reported on efforts to develop an online system for the submission of referee match reports. Vineyard stated that the online system is expected to be implemented for the fall season of the State Competition League.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved at 9:55 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Utah Youth Soccer Association is scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will be hosted by District 5 in Utah County.

**These draft minutes were prepared by Secretary Jodi Wells.
Please direct any corrections or clarifications to ewells@networld.com.**