

UTAH YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
June 19, 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 (8:05 p.m.)  
Debbie Haycock, Girls Competition Director (7:45 p.m.)  
Jim Clark, State Youth Referee Administrator (7:55 p.m.)  
Arnold Wilcox, Chairman of District 1 (Salt Lake City) (8:05 p.m.)  
Bill Patterson, Chairman of District 2 (West Salt Lake County) (7:45 p.m.)  
John Gygi, Proxy for District 3 (Sandy/Draper)  
Dave Mills, Chairman of District 4 (Weber County)  
Mike Tate, Chairman of District 5 (Utah County) (7:55 p.m.)  
Linda Kay Messenger, Rules Committee Chairperson and Proxy for District 6 (Davis County)  
Delon Brower, Chairman of District 7 (Cache County)  
Richard Messenger, Past President

Also present were Scott Harward (Executive Director; 9:00 p.m.), Robin Harlow, David Josse, Greg Maas (Technical Director), Mrs. Mills, Tina Patterson (State Registrar; 7:45 p.m.), and Leisa Vineyard (Programs Director).

Board members who were excused or absent included Bruce Cuppett (Director of Development), John Lowery (District 3 Chairman) and Peter Unwin (District 6 Chairman).

WELCOME

President Paul C. Burke called the meeting to order and welcomed the new members of the Board: Vice President Scott Maxfield and District 4 Chairman Dave Mills.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Secretary Jodi Wells presented the draft minutes for the May 15, 2003 meeting of the Board of Directors. These minutes were distributed to the Board in advance of the June Board Meeting. A motion was made by Richard Messenger and seconded to strike from the minutes the references to the subsequent rescission of the first sentence of the Play-Up Policy that was adopted during the meeting in May. This motion was seconded and adopted. Motion was then made, seconded, and passed to adopt the draft minutes as amended.

REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Audit Committee Chairman Delon Brower reported that the committee has not met in several months. Brower stated that other demands on his time had precluded a monthly meeting. Treasurer Tom Borrowman announced plans to merge the audit and finance committees. Borrowman recommended that the integrated committee should meet quarterly.

REPORT OF TREASURER

Treasurer Tom Borrowman presented a Balance Sheet plus a Profit and Loss Budget Performance Statement as of May 2003. Borrowman reported that the Association is on pace to finish the fiscal year close to budget and perhaps with a slight surplus.

#### REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Because Registrar Tina Patterson arrived late and was not yet present, President Paul C. Burke reported that the latest report he had received from the registrar indicated that membership for the 2002-03 seasonal year had declined from the 2001-02 seasonal year to approximately 31,000 players. Burke expressed concern about the apparent decline in membership and encouraged the Board to investigate and respond to any structural causes for the deterioration in enrollment. Burke also noted a significant discrepancy between the membership numbers in the registrar's report and the Association's financial reports. Although these reports bear different dates, which may account for the lack of consistency, Burke expressed concern about the magnitude of discrepancy—representing approximately 5,000 players—between the two reports.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Scott Harward was delayed because he was receiving a field evaluation as a referee. Motion was therefore made, seconded, and approved unanimously to suspend the rules to postpone Harward's report until after his arrival at the meeting.

#### REPORT FROM THE REGISTRATION TASK FORCE

Vice President Scott Maxfield reported that he is leading a committee to evaluate current registration practices and to recommend reforms to the Board and General Council. Maxfield noted that many of the Association's members have expressed a desire for more relaxed and flexible rules for team formation and player movement. While the Association must comply with binding national rules, Maxfield indicated that his committee hopes to propose changes that would respond to these suggestions. Maxfield discussed a number of reforms that his committee intends to explore, including printing the names of member organizations on passes, listing the ages of players on the passes, and issuing passes for technical directors of member organizations. The registration task force is aiming to circulate its proposals in advance of the 2004 Annual General Meeting.

#### REPORT FROM ALIGNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Girls Competition Director Debbie Haycock reported this committee has met informally and is recommending that each member organization be permitted to have a representative participate during the pre-alignment meetings for the State Competition Leagues. Haycock also stated that she will recommend that divisions be limited to eight teams. While existing rules do not prohibit larger divisions, Haycock reported that such divisions had been the source of administrative and scheduling difficulties during the spring 2003 season.

#### REPORT FROM OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Technical Director Greg Maas offered a report on behalf of ODP Administrator Gail Ellison. Maas reported that the Association hosted ODP teams from several states for friendly matches at the end of May. These matches were deemed a success, but Maas noted that some games had to be cancelled and others rescheduled when, on short notice, the West Jordan Complex closed fields that had long been reserved. Maas also reported that Region Camp will open on June 29th.

Maas further reported that the ODP Administration had concluded that insufficient funds were transferred to ODP earlier this year upon the establishment of the segregated account for ODP. The ODP Administration concluded that \$6,000 in ODP tryout fees may not have been included in the transfer. President Burke directed Treasurer Tom Borrowman, ODP Administrator Ellison, and the ODP Treasurer to review the financial records to evaluate the merit of this contention.

#### REPORT FROM TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Technical Director Greg Maas reported on the latest coaching licensing courses. Several E Licence courses have been held during the last month, and more are scheduled during the months to come. An E License Course has been added next January and will be hosted in Grantsville. The entire schedule is available on the Association's website under coaching education.

Maas also reported that registration remains open for the Utah-hosted National Youth Module course in July. Maas encouraged the state association, its districts, and its member organizations to support the course by recruiting more coaches for this week-long course. The registration deadline has been extended to July 3rd. This course focuses on player development techniques for younger, primarily recreation, players.

#### REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF UTAH SOCCER FOUNDATION

President Paul C. Burke reported that the Association's legal counsel, Mike Blackburn, has prepared an initial set of corporate documents to establish a foundation. Burke reported that these documents will be reviewed and further polished before presentation to the Board.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### PROPOSALS TO AMEND POLICY GOVERNING PLAYER TRANSFERS

Motion was made by Bill Patterson and then seconded to amend the policy governing player transfers to require approval from the State President instead of the State Vice-President. Patterson was absent from the previous Board meeting, and the proposal that he had requested to be drafted did not reflect his belief that the State President should have final authority to release players.

District 7 Chairman Delon Brower expressed concern about the imposition of additional demands on the presidency. President Paul Burke concurred with Brower, and encouraged the Board to maintain the current policy, which designates the State Vice President as the final administrative arbiter of this issue. Burke explained that this designation makes sense because the vice president is responsible for oversight of the registration program. Vice President Scott Maxfield also concurred, explaining that responsibility needs to be delegated from the presidency and diffused through the organization to promote efficiency and effectiveness. Richard Messenger encourage the Board to place the responsibility with the president. Messenger also stated that he believed that the president would not be overburdened and that there will probably be few instances when a player release issues might reach the president.

Linda Kay Messenger recommended that the policy be amended to include a statement that the decision of the vice-president could be appealed to the Protest and Appeals Committee. After motion was made and seconded to so amend the policy, a point of order was raised challenging the scope of the amendment. The chair ruled the amendment to be out of order as it was beyond the scope of the agenda distributed with notice of the meeting.

After inquiry was made to the chair about how the Board could consider the suggested amendment, motion was made by Debbie Haycock, seconded, and passed by more than two-thirds vote to suspend the rules to address the suggested amendment. Linda Kay Messenger then moved to amend the policy to add a final sentence stating that "Thereafter, any further appeal should be directed to the Protest and Appeals Committee." This motion was seconded, debated, and then passed with two negative votes. The policy thss reads as follows:

##### POLICY: REQUEST FOR RELEASE BY PLAYER

In the event a coach declines a request by a player for release, the player may seek the release sequentially form the president of the member organization with which the player is registered, the chairperson of the district in which the player is registered, or then the State Vice President. Thereafter any further appeal should be directed to the Protest and Appeals Committee.

##### PROPOSAL TO AMEND PLAY-UP POLICY FOR STATE COMPETITION LEAGUE

Motion was made by John Gygi and subsequently seconded to amend the Play-up Policy for State Competition League to read as follows:

##### PLAY-UP POLICY

Any player may be registered to a team that competes in an age group one year older than the player's age group. No U-10 or younger player may be registered to a team that competes in an age group more than one year older then the player's age group. No U-11 or older player may be registered to a team that

competes in an age group more than one year older than the player's age group without written consent of the player's legal guardian. No U-11 or older player may be registered to a team that competes in an age group more than two years older than the player's age group without the written consent of the State Technical Director, which consent is in the sole discretion of the State Technical Director. An application for the State Technical Director's consent must be signed by the player's legal guardian and include the written recommendation of the president or technical director of the member organization with which the player is registered.

Debbie Haycock urged caution in permitting play-ups because often the decision is driven by coaches and parents without regard for player development needs. Bill Patterson said that coaches hold the power to decide which players will play on teams, and that the state association should not have policies that might discriminate based on age. Delon Brower countered that the play-up issue is a question of player development, not discrimination.

Linda Kay Messenger reported that District 6 Chairman Peter Unwin is concerned about allowing young players to move up into the State Competition League. Ms. Messenger stated that U-10 players should be playing 8v8 to develop their skills rather than playing on U-11 teams in the State Competition League. Ms. Messenger further reported that District 6 had seen a trend where a number of otherwise U-10 teams had added a single U-11 player in order to be classified as U-11 teams eligible for the State Competition League.

Jim Clark stated that the state association's policy should protect the average player since there is only one Freddy Adu. Arnold Wilcox stated that, in his experience, most play-up requests seem to have been generated by passionate parents rather than precocious players. Mike Tate offered that sometime the issue is the ego of the coach, and that parents jump on the bandwagon of ambition.

Robin Harlow made a presentation during which he urged the state association to leave the decision about whether player move up to coaches and parents. Harlow expressed concern about any policy that would prevent promising U-9 players from participating in the State Competition League.

After the question was called by Debbie Haycock, the motion failed. President Burke asked the Board to consider whether it really wished to retain the policy that had been passed the previous month, before the rescission that was itself rescinded at the start of this meeting. To ensure the Board would understand the consequence of its actions, and to reduce confusion, Burke read the policy that remained in effect from the previous month. It states:

#### GENERAL PLAY UP POLICY

No player under the age of 10 may be registered to a team that competes in an age group more than one year older than the player's age group. Upon written consent of the player's legal guardian and the president of the member organization with which the player is registered, a player older than age 10 may be registered to a team of an age group not more than two years older than the player's age group.

#### PLAY-UP POLICY FOR STATE COMPETITION LEAGUE

No player under the age of 10 may be registered to a team that competes in an age group more than one year older than the player's age group. A U-11 or older player may, upon written consent of the player's legal guardian, be registered to a team of an age group up to two years older than the player's age group. Except by waiver issued at the discretion of the State Technical Director, no player may be registered to a team of an age group more than two years older than the player's age group. An application for a waiver under this policy must be signed by the player's legal guardian and must include the written recommendation of the president or technical director of the member organization with which the player is registered.

Motion was then made, seconded, and approved by more than two-thirds vote to suspend the rules to further consider the Play-Up policy. Linda Kay Messenger inquired why the first sentence of policy had been previously rescinded. President Paul C. Burke stated that he had sought the rescission because the policy as adopted at the meeting the previous month precludes 10 year old players from participating in the

State Competition League. Burke also explained that he had sought the rescission because the policy as adopted the previous month had exceeded the scope of the policy notice before the Board meeting.

Debbie Haycock urged the Board to maintain the policy as first adopted. Haycock also expressed concern about changing the policy because some districts have already had tryouts. After the question was called by Jim Clark, the Board voted to maintain the existing policy. Upon call for division, the vote was 15 to 3.

#### RECESS

President Paul C. Burke announced a five-minute recess. The meeting was called back to order at 9:30 p.m.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Scott Harward reported that he should have taken more notice to the mailing that went out to association members with tryout information for two specific clubs. Harward stated that club officers felt that they had clearly communicated their intentions regarding the mailing to State Office staff. Harward accepted responsibility for the mailing and apologized to the Board and association members for the error. The mailing did not receive sufficient scrutiny as the State Office had been largely consumed by State Cup and registration issues. Harward recommended that the Board develop and adopt a policy to govern use of the association's mailing lists. This recommendation was echoed by Linda Kay Messenger and several Board members.

#### COMPREHENSIVE RECRUITING POLICY

President Paul C. Burke presented three examples of recruiting policies from other soccer organizations and leagues. Burke requested feedback from the Board and association members regarding three issues: whether the state association should have a policy defining acceptable forms of recruiting; whether coaches should be precluded by policy from contacting players currently registered with other member organizations during the seasonal year; and whether a defined time period should be established after State Cup during which certain recruiting activities and tryouts would be allowed. Burke stated that policies would be developed for consideration by the Board in accordance with the feedback received on these issues.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Richard Messenger introduced a conflict of interest policy that would govern the conduct of Board members. Messenger explained that such a policy is needed because most states have very rigid policies in this regard but Utah lacks any such guidance. District 1 Chairman Arnold Wilcox expressed concern that the proposed policy is so overbroad that it might preclude a district chairman from receiving reimbursement or small payments for marking soccer fields or serving as a referee for matches. Before concluding this discussion, President Burke conveyed a request on behalf of two absent Board members, District 3 Chairman John Lowery and Director of Development Bruce Cuppett, that further consideration of this policy be deferred until the July Board meeting.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY GOVERNING USE OF MEMBERSHIP LISTS

Scott Maxfield reported that the recent mailing issue had shown the need for the state association to develop a thorough policy to govern use of the mailing list. Maxfield noted that the only existing policy concerning the state association's mailing list defines the method for distributing proceeds from its sale. Maxfield said, and other Board members concurred, that a policy is needed so that the membership will have confidence that the list will be used properly.

#### STATE CUP RULES OF COMPETITION

Due to the departure of the State Cup Chairperson for the Far West Regionals, consideration of this topic was deferred by the Chair until next month.

#### PASSES FOR CLUB OFFICIALS AND TECHNICAL DIRECTORS

Owing to the advancing hour, Vice President Scott Maxfield accepted the request of the Chair to defer consideration of this subject until next month.

#### PROPOSAL TO INCREASE STATE CUP ENTRY FEE

Motion was made by Richard Messenger and seconded to increase the entry fee for the 2003 State Cup Tournament to \$500. Richard Messenger stated that an increase is needed to ensure that the State Cup Tournament does not lose money. In addition, the higher fee would encourage only the higher level teams to enter the tournament. Messenger also stated that the proposed fee would be consistent with those of other states.

Mike Tate suggested that the same revenue could be generated if more teams entered with the fee set at \$350.00. Bill Patterson expressed concern about approving an increase in the fee before seeing a budget for the entire tournament. Scott Harward stated that State Cup was in the red for the 2002-03 fiscal year, but that it would have been near the break-even point but for fines incurred by the withdrawal of Utah teams from the Far West Regionals.

Scott Maxfield opposed the increase because it would discourage teams from entering State Cup. Maxfield also seconded the call for a budget for the State Cup tournament. David Malchenson then stated that too many teams that were not competitive in this State Cup.

After the question was called, the motion to increase the State Cup entry fee to \$500 for the 2004 State Cup failed.

#### PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE PERFORMANCE BONDS FROM STATE CUP ENTRANTS

Motion was made and seconded to require a performance bond of \$1500 from each State Cup entrant. Scott Harward stated that the bond was needed because several teams eligible to attend the Far West Regionals had decided not to attend the tournament, leaving Utah without a representative and leaving the state association with a substantial fine from Region IV. Tom Borrowman suggested that the bond could be as high as \$2,000 if it were to cover the state association's potential liability.

Harward also stated that the bond would provide an incentive for teams to complete all scheduled games in Utah's State Cup competition. Several teams this year chose not to play scheduled games after they were eliminated.

Delon Brower expressed concern that this proposal may be an overreaction to singular events. The question was then called, and this motion failed.

#### PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR UTAH-HOSTED NATIONAL YOUTH MODULE COURSE.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved to suspend the rules to consider a proposal to establish a scholarship program for the upcoming Utah-hosted National Youth Module course. Richard Messenger made motion, which was seconded, for the state association to subsidize a scholarship program that would subsidize the tuition for one candidate from each district. Messenger also recommended that each district and league offer a scholarship as well.

President Paul C. Burke expressed support for the motion since it would benefit recreational coaches and the further development of the recreation program. The question was called, and the motion was then approved.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made, seconded and approved to enter into Executive Session to discuss legal advice from the Association's counsel regarding certain recent events.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 10:25 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Utah Youth Soccer Association is scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will be held at the State Office and hosted by District 2.

These draft minutes were prepared by Secretary Jodi Wells.  
Please direct any corrections or clarifications to [ewells@networld.com](mailto:ewells@networld.com).