

UTAH YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
May 15, 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 8:05 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
Jodi Wells, Secretary
Tom Borrowman, Treasurer
Bruce Cuppett, Director of Development
David Malchenson, Boys Competition Director
Debbie Haycock, Girls Competition Director
Jim Clark, State Youth Referee Administrator
Eric Blommer, Proxy for District 2 (West Salt Lake County)
John Lowery, Chairman of District 3 (Sandy/Draper)
Richard Yoder, Discipline Committee Chair and Proxy for 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 Gail Ellison (ODP Administrator), Scott Harward (Office Manager), Greg Maas (Technical Director), Linda Kay Messenger (Rules Committee Chairperson), Jodene Smith (Risk Management Director), and Teresa Ortiz (State Cup Chairperson).

Board members who were excused or absent included Scott Maxfield (Vice President), Arnold Wilcox (District 1 Chairman), Bill Patterson (District 2 Chairman), Dave Mills (District 4 Chairman), and Delon Brower (District 7 Chairman).

WELCOME

Thanks was offered by President Paul C. Burke to all those attending this meeting.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Secretary Jodi Wells presented the draft minutes for the April 22, 2003 meeting of the Board of Directors. These draft minutes were distributed to the Board in advance of the May Board meeting. A motion was made by Bruce Cuppett and seconded to accept these minutes. This motion was passed.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND MEETING RULES

A motion was made by Bruce Cuppett and seconded to adopt the amended meeting agenda, to set time limits for agenda items, to limit discussion of each item of new business to seven minutes, to allow each district three minutes to present its report, to authorize the chairman to call for a dispositive motion upon expiration of the respective discussion periods, and to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. This motion was passed.

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Technical Director Greg Maas reported the 2003-2004 Coaching Education Calendar of Events has been posted on the Association's website. Once a course is posted in a particular region, the first member organization to confirm availability of any necessary facilities will be awarded host rights. Already several courses have been assigned to organizations that have provided confirmed site information. Maas encouraged other organizations to consult the calendar and to submit information to become a host for a coaching education course.

Greg Maas then deferred time to Director of Development Bruce Cuppett to report on preparations to host the National Youth Module Training Course. Bruce Cuppett reported that, for the first time, Utah will host a National Youth Module Course between July 22-27, 2003 at the Lone Peak Facility in Sandy, Utah. Enrollment in the course remains open; the course is only half-full at last check. Maas and Cuppett encouraged Utah coaches to sign up to take advantage of this special course, which focuses on age-appropriate development of soccer players. As an added bonus, successful candidates will have the opportunity to take a five-hour course to become a module instructor upon completion of the course. Applications for the course are available on the Association's website.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurer Tome Borrowman presented a Balance Sheet plus a Profit and Loss Budget Performance Statement as of April 30, 2003. Borrowman reported that the Association is in good financial shape. Borrowman also reported that the Audit Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Board of Directors.

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT

Office Manager Scott Harward reported that the Association has embarked on a marketing campaign to support the registration drives of recreation leagues. Programs Director Leisa Vineyard supervised the production of a radio advertisement that is being played 144 times over two weeks on Clear Channel radio stations. In addition, Harward and the Office Staff developed a half-page advertisement that was printed in the sports sections of *The Salt Lake Tribune* and *Deseret News* on Saturday, May 10, 2003. Both the print advertisement and the radio spot are available on the Association's website. Harward also reported that online registration is available through the website.

Harward reported that the advertising campaign seems to be causing a spike in hits on the Association's website. Last week, the website received more than 10,000 hits, a new record. There have been hits from 22 countries.

Harward also reported that, in accordance with directives from the Board, the Association has entered into an independent contractor agreement for the services of the current webmaster on an ongoing basis. The Association has also purchased all rights to the website.

Harward also reported that the Office Staff is preparing, with the assistance of a professional writer who is working on a part-time basis, a newsletter. The newsletter will feature youth-oriented items and articles on the front with administrative items on the back.

REPORT FROM OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ODP)

ODP Administrator Gail Ellison reported that ODP is holding its own. ODP training is scheduled to resume after State Cup is finished. Ellison attended the regional pre-camp meeting at which 14 states were represented. Ellison also reported that Utah will host ODP friendly games on May 30-31 and June 1 at the West Jordan Complex. ODP teams from Montana and Idaho are coming. This event will generate some revenue that will help support the ODP program.

REPORTS FROM DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 1 – At the request of Chairman Arnold Wilcox, who was absent due to illness, President Paul C. Burke reported that the new Impact United Club is moving forward with recreation registration and competition tryouts. In addition, Wasatch United and the Firebirds have announced plans to merge into one organization.

DISTRICT 2 – Proxy Eric Blommer reported that Chairman Bill Patterson was absent so that he could celebrate his 10th Anniversary with this wife. Blommer reported that the District 2 Challenge Tournament is entering its eleventh year, and teams from several districts have entered this year's tournament, which will feature a girls division. Bloomer also expressed concern because he wishes that

proposals for action by the Board could be circulated earlier, allowing for consideration of the proposals at district and league meetings.

DISTRICT 3 – Chairman John Lowery reported that Sandy City has recently become slightly more lenient on field usage. The district is now only 63 games behind schedule. Lowery also reported that a problem is being addressed involving the falsification of player passes by a coach.

DISTRICT 4 – Proxy Richard Yoder had nothing to report.

DISTRICT 5 – Chairman Mike Tate reported that he has been extremely busy dealing with a number of issues. He reported that District 5 is looking forward to hosting the June 19th State Board meeting in Utah County.

DISTRICT 6 – Chairman Peter Unwin reported the South Davis Soccer Association held its U11 and U10 tryouts earlier in the week. Unwin also thanked Discipline Chairman Richard Yoder for his assistance with an issue.

DISTRICT 7 – No report.

REPORT FROM DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Chairman Richard Yoder submitted a written report on the recent activities of the Discipline Committee. Yoder reported that there has been a surge of complaints involving improper conduct by coaches. Foul language and abusive behavior, both during and after games, have become endemic. Problems seem to be especially severe in Districts 4 and 5.

REPORT ON RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Management Director Jodene Smith reported that the Volunteer Risk Disclosure forms have been updated to include recent policy changes. These forms are scheduled to be distributed during the next week. Smith offered a reminder that each volunteer must submit a form, but that only one form per person is needed if a volunteer holds more than one position. Disclosure forms should be sent to the State Office.

Smith also reported that the revised Code of Coaching Ethics is ready for distribution by the State Registrar. Completed copies of the Code of Coaching Ethics should be maintained by the districts in the team folders.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made and seconded to amend the meeting rules to allow 12 minutes of discussion per item of new business. This motion was passed unanimously.

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE PLAY-UP POLICY

Motion was made by John Lowery and then seconded to replace the current play-up policy with the following policies:

GENERAL PLAY-UP POLICY

No player under the age of 9 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 9 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

A player in the State Competition League 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 in the State Competition League 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.

Friendly motion was made and accepted to change the references to age in the proposed policy from nine to ten. Motion was then made, seconded, and passed to amend the policy for the State Competition League by adding the following as its first sentence: "No player may registered to play in the State Competition League who has not attained the age of 10 by August 1st of the current seasonal year."

Motion was made by Linda Kay Messenger to make this policy effective for the 2004 season. After this motion was seconded, Ms. Messenger noted that some teams have already been formed in the South Davis Soccer Association for the 2003 seasonal year that would be effected by this policy. Eric Blommer said the same was true in District 2. The question on the amendment was then called, and the Chair ruled that the ensuring voice vote failed to pass the amendment. Upon call for division, the amendment failed by a vote of 10 to 4.

Motion was made by Debbie Haycock, seconded, and passed to call the question on the motion as amended. The motion as amended was then passed with one abstention.

The first sentence of the Play-Up Policy for the State Competition League was subsequently rescinded by the Board of Directors. Accordingly, the policies taking effect read as follows:

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 that two years older than the player's age group.

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RECESS

President Paul C. Burke announced a five-minute recess to observe a lunar eclipse. The meeting was called back to order at 9:20 p.m.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND POLICY GOVERNING PLAYER RELEASE

Motion was made by Bruce Cuppett and then seconded to replace the current policy regarding the release of players with the following:

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 from the president of the member organization with which the player is registered, the chairperson of the district in which the player is registered, or the Vice-President.

District Chairman Peter Unwin offered a friendly amendment, which was accepted, to add "State" before "Vice-President" as a clarification. Further friendly amendment was proposed by Richard Yoder and accepted to add the word "then" after "or" to clarify the sequence a player seeking release must follow.

Richard Messenger requested clarification about the term “member organization” in the proposed policy. President Paul C. Burke explained that the term “member organization” is meant to encompass both clubs and leagues, the two types of organizations recognized under the Association’s current bylaws.

The motion, as amended in the following form, was then passed.

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 from 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.

PROPOSAL REGARDING REPRESENTATION AND VOTING AT ALIGNMENT MEETINGS

Bruce Cuppett made the motion to adopt the following policy regarding representation and voting at alignment meetings, which was seconded.

POLICY: ALIGNMENT COMMITTEES

Alignment Committees shall be formed under the jurisdiction of the respective Competition Committee and shall be chaired by the corresponding Director of Competition. Each Alignment Committee shall consist of the members of the corresponding State Competition Board and one representative from each member organization that has at least five teams registered in the State Competition League. The alignment process in the State Competition League shall be the responsibility of the Alignment Committees; provided that an alignment adopted by an Alignment Committee may be vetoed by a two-thirds vote of the corresponding State Competition Board.

President Paul C. Burke recommended adoption of a policy that allows direct representation of the member organizations that enter teams in the State Competition League. Burke stated that it is only fair that member organizations should have both a voice and a vote to influence the destiny of their teams. Burke also stated that such a policy, besides being democratic and equitable, would encourage participation and openness in the alignment process.

Girls Competition Director Debbie Haycock proposed a friendly amendment, which was accepted, to add the Director of Development as a member of the Alignment Committees.

District Chairman Peter Unwin expressed concern that the proposed policy would promote conflicts of interest. Unwin stated that alignment decisions should be made by votes on a district basis. Girls Competition Director Haycock concurred, expressing concern that if alignment voting were conducted by votes in proportion to the membership of the State Competition League, organizations representing the majority of the teams would have power to overrule the minority. Haycock expressed fear that the alignment process would become political and that large clubs would disadvantage smaller clubs and independent teams. District Chairman Mike Tate responded that the politics could be eliminated and the need to debate the form of representation eliminated by adopting a strict promotion and relegation policy of two teams up and down each season.

Richard Yoder made a motion, which was seconded and then passed, to table the motion as amended.

PROPOSAL TO AMEND POLICY REGARDING PROVISIONAL TEAMS

John Lowery made the motion, which was seconded, that the current policy regarding provisional teams be replaced with the following:

POLICY: PROVISIONAL SEASONS

The season during which an age group competes in the State Cup Tournament shall be designated as its regular league season. The State competition boards may designate other seasons for provisional play.

President Paul C. Burke stated the goal of this proposal is to stimulate discussion of how the Association can allow greater roster flexibility to teams. Burke noted that, under new US Youth Soccer guidelines, teams will be allowed up to five transfers during the 2003-4 seasonal year. Burke also noted that several

member organizations have requested even greater flexibility to allow player movement among their teams in order to promote player development.

Girls Competition Director Debbie Haycock expressed her belief that the State Competition League is too large and that many teams should be encouraged to remain in regional leagues.

Director of Development Bruce Cuppett stated that this subject is worthy of further study and he recommended the appointment of a committee to develop a comprehensive set of policies that would allow greater flexibility without overloading the administrative system. President Burke agreed to appoint a committee for this purpose.

Motion was made, seconded, and approved to table this motion. Burke then announced the appointment of a committee, to be chaired by new Vice President Scott Maxfield, that will include Technical Director Greg Maas, Rules Chairperson Linda Kay Messenger, Girls Competition Director Debbie Haycock, and District Chairman Peter Unwin.

CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTED OFFICERS

Bruce Cuppett made the motion, which was then seconded, to accept the appointment of Robert Janicki, Esq. to serve as the Chairman of the Protest and Appeals Committee of the Utah Youth Soccer Association.

Richard Messenger urged the Board to consider the danger of accepting the appointment of a lawyer to this position. Messenger suggested that a non-lawyer would be more capable of interpreting and enforcing the Association's rules and bylaws. In response, President Paul C. Burke noted that he preferred to have this committee chaired by a person with legal training because of the committee's adjudicative role. A chairperson with a legal background is well-prepared to protect due process rights. Burke noted that the majority of the other committee members will be non-lawyers, assuring a lay perspective on this committee. Burke then praised the exceptional legal skills of Robert Janicki, and encouraged the Board to approve his nomination. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONFIRMATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Richard Messenger made the motion, which was seconded, to accept the appointment of the following individuals to concurrently serve as members of the Discipline and Protests & Appeals Committees: Mark Bettilyon, Esq.; Jon Butler, Esq.; Susan Davis; Dan Gillespie; Ann Haertel; Mike Hall; Michael Huff; Skip Laflaur; John Lowery; Steve Mecham, Esq.; Missy Powell; and Don Reynolds. The motion was passed and these nominations were thus ratified.

PROPOSAL TO PERMIT EXEMPTIONS TO THE PLAY-UP POLICY

Motion was made by Linda Kay Messenger, seconded, and approved unanimously to suspend the rules to discuss potential exemptions to the play-up policy. Motion was then made by Ms. Messenger, seconded, and passed to grant discretion to the Directors of the State Competition Leagues exempt teams that have already announced their formation from the coverage of play-up policy adopted earlier in the meeting.

The effect of this motion was mooted by the subsequent decision of the Board of Directors to rescind the first sentence of the "Play-Up Policy" as explained above.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to amend the meeting rules to adjourn by 10:50. Motion was then made, seconded and approved to enter into Executive Session to discuss a potential sponsorship agreement and personnel issues.

When the Board returned from Executive Session, it announced that it had authorized Scott Harward to execute a four-year sponsorship agreement with SCORE.

The Board also announced that it had approved the President's recommendation to change Scott Harward's title to Executive Director. The Board also announced that it had authorized a raise for Harward.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made, seconded, and approved without dissent to adjourn at 10:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors of the Utah Youth Soccer Association is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will be held in Utah County under the direction of District 5 at location to be announced.

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