

American Youth Soccer Organization
Region 418, The LakeFront Region of Chicago

Minutes of Board of Directors meeting, October 4, 2010

Ray Groble called the meeting to order at 7:20pm.

Renee Haber and Matt Miller respectively moved to approve and second the minutes of the September board meeting.

Commissioner's Report:

Ray gave a field update: Three fields were out of service last fall and had areas seeded. Field #3 will be out of service through the Spring. On September 10th 2010 the fields adjacent to Lawrence (#9 and #10) were aerated, seeded, fertilized and fences were installed. The remainder of the U8 games for this season and next will be played at Clarendon Park. All the fields will be fertilized before the season is over and there will be pesticides in the second application to kill the weeds. Next meeting Ray will give a total on what we are spending on the fields.

Ray spoke about the Cleats Drive: The blast was sent but he forgot that we weren't doing it this past weekend so nobody was there to collect them. It was then requested by Renee that we have a uniform donation this coming weekend 10/9 and Ray agreed and said a blast would be sent. Jeric also requested to be able to send a blast to the coaches to invite them to the Chicago Fire "coaches night" game, Ray agreed.

Registrar's Report:

Tom informed us that 3239 kids signed up for Fall. We then deducted the 83 that dropped out. We had 118 that were not placed on teams as of yet so that brought the enrollment for the Fall 2010 season to 3038. Tom thanked Barb for "pinch hitting" and she responded "its teamwork".

Division Administrators Reported:

Jake (U5) reported that we have 13 or 14 cohorts. Approx 8 boy cohorts and 5 girl cohorts. Ray says this is the most flexible division and we need to think about how to target Spring enrollment. VIP program: Barb reported that we have 17 registered. When Ellen Banks was here last meeting she requested we get as many volunteers. She would like a VIP coaches manual so High School kids can help out and work with Special Ed players and wanted to know if there is money to hire a paid trainer as a consultant. Ray wants to send an email to all on the waitlist—priority placement in the Spring or you can withdrawal and get cash refund.

Steve Shatto said that there are 104 U8 and U10 on the waitlist. We cannot make more teams because we don't have the field space, coaches or Refs. There is only one team (that requested) to be overbooked.

NO TREASURERS REPORT:

The statements aren't out yet. Ray will distribute via email and go over them in the next meeting.

Regional Coach Administrator:

Jeric reported that U12 and U14 are doing the best with strength-based coaching. The earlier time frames aren't being utilized to the fullest most likely because they are too early. More coaches are using the 5-7 slots on the turf field.

The comment box is going well, people are utilizing it and the trainers are reading the comments. Some coaches are sending a coaching plan via email ahead of time but it depends on the trainer whether they adhere to it. It was reported that trainer George was listening to the coaches and there making it an effective training session. The other trainers will need to be advised. The MLS website is a bit confusing, therefore very few U8 and U10 teams have signed up for the remainder of the season. It was suggested that we should open it up to all teams.

Steve Shatto reported that lots of teams are sharing field 1 and there is still space available. Ray commented that they aren't utilizing the MLS trainers and wants to open it up to all teams. Although we can't require teams/coaches to do this, we can offer the times W-TH-F from 4-7.

Fields and Equipment:

Les reported that the bids for containers were \$950.00 for used and \$3000.00 for new. Our lease is ok for structures (max: 13x20) to be placed near Margate but not anywhere on the Lakefront, therefore: no containers aloud near the turf fields. Paul Malueg expressed an interest in having lights near the turf fields because it is getting difficult to practice in the dark. Rich said that lights with generators would get stolen and we would need a place to store them. Generators are combustible, so we would not be able to store them in a container. The storage would be used for nets and goals but currently we have advanced money for a van because Joel's broke down. He brings the nets to the fields and picks them up as well as stores them in his garage. He is basically our "portable container". It was collectively decided to give Joel more money to store the goals rather than spend the money on containers at this time, but we still have the permit if needed. Ray is still waiting for Rich to put AYSO signs up on the fields that are being renovated. Les told us we donated uniforms to Rwanda and gave us a CD to view. We will also load this on the website.

Winter Indoor:

Matt reported the Indoor season starts January 8th from 9-noon. There will be 12-18 teams participating. This is more than last year because it was well received. There is a high demand in the U8 and U10 divisions and low in U12. Last year we charged \$150.00 per player. There are three components involved in the cost: 1) Saturday League Play 2) Primary Training time with clinic time available 3) Northwind time. Tom made a motion to take this offline and it was decided that Matt will crunch the numbers and come up with a "suggested cost per player" proposal which will then be circulated via email to board members for a vote. We owe approx \$32,000.00 total for the Indoor program. We have until Dec. 1 to cancel any time slots we don't need.

Northwind:

Paul Malueg reported that lights were a major concern (or lack there of) on the Turf field #2. It was decided that Rich and Paul would sort this out offline.

Marketing:

Paul Li announced that there are 4 pre game slots for the Chicago Fire game on Friday that teams can sign up for (8 minute games) but most teams probably can't get there. We have also been offered the Tunnel of Fire where players need to be there by 7:15 for an 8:00pm game. Paul wants to pass on it.

Ray agreed to continue with the Fire agreement (but get the details first) and that we will talk offline about how we can make the Red Stars more of an impact for our girls and decide what we can do to support it.

Other Business:

Ray reported that Rob couldn't be here but that we added 26 refs this Fall as follows: 16 in U8 and 10 in U10. It is noted that 30 teams have refs out of 61 teams in U10. This week starts the beginning of our "preferred ref" program. If a team has a ref, they will get one...otherwise, they won't. The Tournament weekend will have a "no ref flight".

This session ended and we adjourned our board meeting circa 8:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Anna Ringo