

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

Minutes of Board of Directors meeting, September 2, 2010

Ray Groble called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM
Rob Randolph and Jeric Johnson respectively moved to approve and second the minutes of the August board meeting.

Ray introduced two representatives from America Scores, a program in fourteen American cities using soccer along with an emphasis on literacy to help youngsters in inner city schools develop skills and responsibility and keep them off the streets. The program meets five days a week with teachers and other hired adults working with the youth. Ivan Boone and Amy Vondra explained the Chicago program, serving ten westside schools needs equipment for the players and asked if we could have our parents donate outgrown cleats. America Scores, on a national basis has a relationship with AYSO having honored the immediate past Executive Director, Rick Davis.

None present had any objection to the program if it is legitimate. Barbara ventured that she has known of the organization headquartered in NYC. A local founder is a colleague at U of Chicago Medical Center. We will still have sufficient shoe bank shoes to help the parents of our younger children who most use the bank.

We decided on two collection dates, 9/25 and 10/2. Email blast to be sent to parent before 9/25 and a follow up reminder as well as a post on our web site. Briefly we thought about donating uniforms but decided for now we will focus on cleats. Our main support area on the east side has sufficient table space to collect items and we will set up a table on the west side where U06 and U08 play.

Division Administrators reported

Jake Howard U05 felt all is well now with his division. Cohorts are formed
Peter Knight, our trainer advocates smaller cohorts, no more than 20 youngsters per cohort. Last year's cohorts were too large. We have space and time to make more cohorts to keep them from being over filled.
Jake will have table, chairs and will be there to give out uniforms on opening Saturday.

Mark Oldani reported being set with U06. Some last minute coaches and players added. Asking Jeff Guttadauro's help to get email to U06 parents with schedule and team information.

Elsie Lindgren bowled us over with her numbers. 943 players 118 teams with 42 and 21 players on the boy and girl wait lists respectively. Some of her coaches have been stragglers with Safe Haven training and she is nudging.

What do we do with the wait-listed youngsters? We had no ready answer and some present reminded the Division Administrators that we may have drops as parents now ask for different teams with different practice days. We may have drops and so some Waitlisted kids can get team slots.

We have no more fields presently what with fields 9 and 10 closed for repair (games being held at Clarendon Park Montrose and Clarendon)

We have liability insurance through AYSO if we ever find a school whose grounds we can use. Nothing identified presently.

The U10 report given by Steve Shatto was delivered in his usual colorful manner. The division is a "blank up mess". Thanks to Barb for helping straighten out. Steve is amazed. Usually he experiences numerous drops as U10 kids go to different sports or programs. This year, with 740 players he has only had 8 drops to date and only fifteen requests for team swaps.

U12 and U14 divisions were reported as being in good order.

U16- no boys teams now, will be in spring.

U19 girls has a small inter regional team

NorthWind, all teams set and the coaches want Shutterfly

Jeric Johnson, RCA reported that we have held seven coaching classes certifying 100 coaches with age appropriate training. Three more classes are scheduled through U12. Referee Advisory Board members are attending to help familiarize coaches with the game officials viewpoints.

Master Coach classes are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4:30 to 7:00 PM but the time between 4:00 and 5:00 PM is not well attended.

Field 1 assigned as a practice area was underused last spring. Teams signed up but kids did not show. Space on field one was only half used attracting poachers who had to be chased away and we hired security to keep them away.

Trainers on field 2 were sitting, underused.

Jeric suggests that we put practices and trainers on the same field. Trainers can observe and help teach during practice. Jeric stated three teams can practice on one half of field 1. NorthWind can practice on field 2. We can rent lights if lighting becomes an issue on field 2.

Paul Maleug suggested that we reverse, give Field 1 space to NorthWind. That field has lights. Use field 2 for the other divisions never practice after 6:00 PM and do not need a lighted field.

Ray observed that having trainers on same fields where primary teams practice will encourage the kids.

WE also may have given coaches mis information or wrong impression about play limits on the turf fields.

Steve Shatto will handle obtaining the permits for our use of all the fields.

The turf fields can handle fifteen teams each day (?). Coaches need to be given maps and description so they and players can find their practice spots.

Rich Lettiere, Treasurer

WE have three accounts with Harris Bank, which is part of the Canadian Banking system and is strong. The accounts are: North Wind. Primary program and our Money Market account used for our field improvements and is an interest bearing account.

Our revenues are in sync with our registrations (2974 at the time of our board meeting.

Rich requested NorthWind final accounting which Steve promised by the next month.

Barbara Passman moved to accept the treasurer's report and Elsie Lingren seconded that motion. It passed.

Rob Randolph, RRA, reported we have a good group of referees. He is making sure all are registered. Three training sessions planned for early to mid September to train U08 referees for U08 or to advance to the Regional badge to officiate U10 games. Coaches will be notified of the referees focus on protecting goalkeepers and that referees will expect team sizes as follows. U10 at 7 v 7, U12 at 9 v 9.

Les Boros our equipment manager is replacing nets. He needs help with the truck on Friday before our first game. Barbara promised to send him the list of volunteers who indicated interest in field set up.

Paul Malueg reported the yellow stripes on field 2, need to be glued and sit for 8 hours. He is emailing Steffen at the Chicago Park District. Complaints were first filed in July and installers came out to fix. Recently there has been poor response from the CPD. Rich Costello ventured that the fields are probably under warranty. There is a shallow hole on Field 1, looks like a burn. It too needs fixing.

Paul LI, Marketing reported that we need to get the word out for the October 8 Fire Game. This will be a coach night with our coaches having access to team coaches before or after the game to discuss strategy. There will be the Tunnel of Fire There is a web link on the Fire page, parents can purchase tickets on line and pick up at Will Call.

We then went into executive session re a personnel issue
That session ended and we adjourned our board meeting circa 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Passman
CVPA