

2017 Region IV Open Forum Workshop Discussion

What are the positives and the negatives affecting growth in the states in Region IV?

- Alaska
 - Positive* - New men's league now affiliated after 20 years
 - Negative* - Shortage of fields & referees
No outdoor space available
Competition with other sports for any available space
- Alaska (Fairbanks)
 - Positive* - Coordination of adult game times with youth tournaments/events
Using phone app (Yapp) for communication with teams & players
Allows schedule posts. Guessing cost is \$400/yr.
- California
 - Positive* - Working with National Intramural-Recreational Sports Assoc. (college)
 - Negative* - Lack of communication
- California North
 - Positive* - Added benefits, discounts, and swag for players
 - Negative* - Communication
Difficult recruiting referees for adult leagues
- California North (San Francisco/Golden Gate)
 - Positive* - Tournaments
 - Negative* - Field & referee shortage
Cost
Losing young open division players
- California South
 - Positive* - Adding more tournaments
 - Negative* - Communication at every level (i.e., local, state, regional, and national)
Referee recruitment; need bilingual capabilities
- California South (San Diego)
 - Negative* - School play conflicts with various league seasons
Funding
- Colorado
 - Positive* - Staff assisting players with registration
Have PSL
 - Negative* - Field and referee shortage

- Hawaii
 - Positive* – [check with Gwen, unable to hear her comment]
 - Negative* - Field shortage
Communication

- Idaho (Central)
 - Positive* - Teams/players like structure, organization, and having insurance
Offering older league options (e.g., Over 40)
Growing the over 35 men's league
 - Negative* - Lack of/poor communication
Shortage referees & fields
Competition with open (non-affiliated) leagues

- Idaho (Idaho Falls)
 - Positive* - Coed and women's leagues
 - Negative* - Difficulty forming men's leagues

- Idaho (Northern)
 - Positive* - New dedicated board members
Using social media to increase communication
 - Negative* – Currently no indoor facility

- Idaho (Southern)
 - Positive* - Over 50 7v7 men's league
Dedicated, active board including league & division representatives
Adding automation (Affinity) to registration and reporting
 - Negative* - Referee & field shortage
Relegation of teams; moving competitive teams out of rec divisions
Difficulty recruiting 18-20 year olds and non-affiliated players

- Michigan
 - Positive* - Growth in the older age leagues
 - Negative* - Indoor facilities plan adding outdoor option

- Montana
 - Positive* - Registering individual players & assistance finding recreational teams
Plenty of fields
 - Negative* - Difficult recruiting female players
Communication within state
Referee shortage for spring seasons

- Montana (Bozeman)
 - Positive* - Overland population growth
 - Negative* - No fields

- Nevada
 - Positive* - Tournaments.
Partnered with youth
 - Negative* - Independent, unaffiliated Latin leagues

- New Mexico
 - Positive* - Increased growth from communication via social media with consistent, structured weekly posts on Monday evenings
 - Negative* - Field shortage

- Oregon
 - Positive* - More small-sided leagues and tournaments
Addition of walking soccer and soccer golf
 - Negative* - Shortage of available fields

- Utah
 - Positive* - Able to include high school age players, offering them increased variety of teams to play on and increased levels of competition
 - Negative* - No Sunday play
Same day play for everyone leads to shortage of fields and referees for adult leagues

- Washington
 - Positive* - Staff reaching out to players
Addition of Walking Soccer
Finding new communication techniques
Adjusting leagues to meet players' needs
 - Negative* - Field shortage on account of competition with other sports for access

Additional input:

Nationwide representative urged continue to “square the pyramid” by making changes to meet the needs of your league and promote growth.

Offer surveys for suggestions and/or feedback

How is your social media choice set up and what is it approved for?

Thank you to everyone who attended and took part in the open forum. This information will be beneficial to future workshops and helping promote the growth of adult soccer.

Teresa Andrew & Donna Fouts