

Timberline Youth Soccer Association

Minutes of Board Meeting Conducted

March 5, 2008

Meeting Called to Order 7:05 PM

Members Present

Mike Pruitt, Chuck Vallentine, James Simmons, Mark Zylker, Mark Broughton, Tom Pate, Jo Pate, Hal Hutton, Rick Friedman and Tim Sonnier
Terri Cahill - Administrator

Guests

Matt Miller – Sports Quest
Tom Ward – Cleveland Area Youth Soccer

Mr. Miller addressed the Board to ask what steps his club needs to take to become a member of TYSA. Mr. Pruitt let Mr. Miller know that TYSA is currently in the midst of changing their Governing Documents. He added that it might be in Sports Quest best interest to wait until the documents are finished before they hand in their documents. The new governing documents will make it easier for a club to become a member of TYSA.

Mr. Pruitt let Mr. Ward (representing Cleveland Area Youth Soccer) and Mr. Miller know that they were more than welcome to take a look at the working documents. Mr. Ward asked if they would be done in time for the May 1 deadline for U11 tryouts and the June 1st for U12 and up tryouts? They want to prepare for the Fall/08. Mr. Pruitt advised Mr. Miller and Mr. Ward to forge ahead. Mr. Pate added that in the worst case they would play as unaffiliated through one of our member clubs.

Mr. Miller stated that the window their looking at for starting is the Fall of '08 through the Fall of '09. Sports Quest is not trying to pull from Cy-Fair Soccer Club or Cy Creek. Their main pull is through the Christian league and FFSA. They want to tread carefully that they don't upset those clubs. Mr. Pate added that Sports Quest needs to talk with Cy-Fair and make sure that they are okay with this if they become a member club. Secondly, Mr. Pate added, he wanted to know why Sports Quest needs TYSA? Mr. Miller said that the different avenues that the club had been seeking all came back to TYSA. It was a member of HYSA but they felt it was a conflict of interest to use that part of town. Sports Quest is an organization contracted into Westside Soccer Club and therefore affiliated with HYSA. Sports Quest is trying to start its own club in TYSA through Fairfield. Due to the zoning in Cy-Fair it seemed to lead back to TYSA. Mr. Pruitt reiterated that he felt they needed the blessing of Cy-Fair. Mr. Pruitt went on to say that the reality is that there's no preclusion to you forming a club. Protected territories do not exist. That was dictated to us by the State. Kingwood Alliance formed in the territory that initially used to be considered Texas Heatwave, per the old governing documents. The new governing documents propose no such thing as territorial boundaries. We've been told from a practical standpoint that they don't exist. That has been mandated to us. Mr. Pruitt encouraged Mr. Miller to build a good relationship with Cy-Fair and Mr. Sonnier. Mr. Miller assured the Board that Sports Quest plans to meet with Cy-Fair and work with them. Mr. Pruitt stated that the territory issue is not a contestable issue. Mr. Pate added that it will save everyone lots of volunteer hours and legal fees if they just "play nice". Mr. Pruitt stated that TYSA has approached its saturation point. We are a play group and that is our fundamental purpose to create a mechanism for kids to play soccer. We are also a political group through STYSA. We've passed the saturation point with respect to the state association and representation. We've reached our maximum voting wise. The big associations are paying the bulk of the State's costs and yet restricted in voice. Some big associations are looking at fragmenting after a certain size, so we don't dilute our representation. In a sense, satellite associations that are very closely related.

Presidential Award of Merit

Mr. Pruitt presented Mr. Sonnier with the STYSA Presidential Award of Merit. Mr. Pruitt went on to explain that at the Winter GBM held earlier in February, Mr. Loucks gave out awards recognizing those who had given so much to youth soccer. Mr. Vallentine and Mr. Pruitt said that they were very proud to have accepted the award on Mr. Sonnier's behalf, who was not in attendance at the Winter GBM.

Mr. Pruitt also announced to the Board that Mr. Pate is now the new treasurer of STYSA.

Minutes

Mr. Zylker asked that “no cost” be changed to “minimal cost” in his President’s report in the January meeting.

Motion to approve January 16, 2008 minutes, as amended, made by Chuck Vallentine. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hutton. The motion was carried unanimously.

President

Mr. Pruitt has hard copies of the new governing documents. He explained that this is not a red line copy but a clean copy for the review committee tonight. He would like the committee to review and make revisions as soon as possible. Once that is done and a consensus reached, then he will notice this out for the entire Board.

Administrator

Mrs. Cahill reported to the Board that Mrs. Cerda was hopefully having her baby tonight. Mrs. Cahill explained the scoring shortcomings of the Affinity system. She is working on lots of transfers and releases and reschedules. Mrs. Cahill reported about a situation with a Coach named Zac Tuttle who tried to join TYSA as an unaffiliated team through Lufkin

Old Business

Affinity

Mr. Vallentine reported that Klein was going to be charged for uploading their Spring registration information into Affinity. The Board was originally told that clubs would not be charged for uploads the first year. Affinity told Klein that it was based on one upload per year. Affinity notified Klein about this after the trouble of preparing the information for upload and it had gone through the State office. This used up weeks of time before they were informed of the situation. Mr. Vallentine went on to say that he had heard that Eclipse Soccer Club had also had problems with their registration with Affinity. Klein’s current system E7 has great e-mail, especially when it comes to team formation. The rest of the system is probably about the same as Affinity and the support is so-so for both. Affinity’s e-mail system isn’t as good. Ms. Pate agreed with that statement. Mr. Broughton gives Affinity some credit. He felt that Natalie, Affinity’s support person, got overwhelmed with so many people needing help. Mr. Sonnier reported that Cy-Fair didn’t have any problems with spring registration except for a few stray players. When the parents called they were able to search for the player but they didn’t see the player during team formation. Mr. Zylker suggested that they get a few more people for Affinity’s software support. Mr. Sonnier had suggested that we stick with a system so that the different issues can be worked out. He added that if we switch from system to system we won’t get anywhere.

U16-U18 play group

Mr. Zylker reported that he spoke with Bob Mariah with BAYSA about joining together as a play group for that age group. Bob Mariah was very excited and is all for it. They will try to get together this summer at the STYSA GBM to discuss things further. Mr. Zylker reported that Mr. Broughton was happy to schedule it for both playgroups. The only tough situation will be playoffs. Mr. Zylker had suggested that the only games that will count are when a TYSA team plays a TYSA team and when a BAYSA team plays a BAYSA team.

New Business

Game reports

Mr. Hutton knows of coaches who still can’t print game reports. Coaches were instructed at Klein that if they have a problem with this to print off a blank game report from the website and use it. Please make sure the report is filled out completely, especially the game number.

President’s Reports

Aldine United

Mr. Cerda had called Mrs. Cahill earlier in the day to say that he would not be able to attend tonight’s meeting.

Bear Creek

Mr. Colchado had sent an e-mail earlier that he would not be able to attend tonight’s meeting.

Cy-Fair

Mr. Sonnier was overwhelmed by his award that he couldn’t remember what to report.

Conroe

Mr. Gay and Mr. Wakefield had e-mailed earlier in the day that they would not be able to attend tonight’s meeting.

Kingwood Alliance

Mr. Zylker thanked Mr. Broughton and Mrs. Cahill for their efforts in scheduling this season.

Klein

Mr. Vallentine reported that there Klein used 90 different referees this last weekend and 25 fields used this last Sunday. They have not had a problem with the PDF league at all. Mr. Vallentine got an e-mail this last week from a person who does aeration. They tried his services on a few fields and were amazed at the results. Klein is paying for 4 constables on Saturdays and 2 on Sundays to help with traffic and parking issues.

Texas Heatwave

Mrs. Pate is doing fine, except for Affinity.

Texas Rush

Mr. Simmons reported that things were going fine with Rush.

Board Member Reports

VP of Coaches

Mr. Hutton addressed Mr. Martin's note in an e-mail that only 10% of coaches have any licensing. He feels that this is not truly reflective. Some coaches licensing is not showing in the system. Mr. Hutton went on to say that clubs need to be looking at their coaches licensing information in Affinity. He will work with Mrs. Cahill to see what type of reports they can get from the system to tell them which coaches have licensing and which don't. There is a link on the TYSA website to the Coaching Education site of STYSA. On that page there is a way to contact STYSA for help on finding past certifications. Everyone agreed that we need to support coaching education. Mr. Broughton explained the problems at the beginning of the spring to get coaching classes offered and advertised. He went on to say that we need to work with the State to get the information out to everyone.

VP of Publicity

Mr. Contreras was not in attendance.

VP of Scheduling

Mr. Broughton reported that the system is working pretty well. There are some problems that he is documenting. He asked that if we want to pre-assign the weekend of April 26th and 27th to playoffs. If any of the clubs could offer fields for the playoffs he can work on setting up the scheduling template for it. Mr. Sonnier said the Cy-Fair would have a 3v3 tournament going on that weekend but could offer some fields. Mr. Vallentine said that Klein had nothing going on and could offer some fields. Mr. Pate suggested that we have the playoffs at one set of fields, especially in case of a D&P hearing. He suggested Klein so that they could use the clubhouse.

Mr. Broughton asked if any of the clubs were hearing that coaches were having a problem with scorekeeping.

Treasurer

Mr. Martin notified Mr. Pruitt by e-mail that he would not be able to attend tonight's meeting due to a business trip but has sent an e-mail with his report (copy of e-mail at the end of the minutes). Mr. Pruitt asked the Club Presidents, on Mr. Martin's behalf, to have their Spring fees sent in by April 1st. Mr. Pruitt reminded everyone that one of the conditions of receiving the refund checks was that fees would be paid on time. There isn't the cushion anymore to absorb the late payments.

Mr. Pruitt asked everyone to read the e-mail Mr. Martin sent regarding unaffiliated teams and performance bonds. Per Mr. Martin's e-mail dated March 5, 2008:

Bond Policy [information]

* No changes to our prior discussion. A copy of the policy is below for off-line review. Unless comments are received, I will post this on our web site.

Team fees are assessed to cover the cost of administering the play group. This includes schedule generation, schedule maintenance, web site hosting and management, team reporting (penalty, etc.), scorekeeping, trophies, and other miscellaneous activities. Team fees are due at the time of registration, and cannot be refunded after the playgroup schedules are posted.

Performance bonds are posted to ensure unaffiliated teams can be fully integrated as part of the Timberline playgroup; repeated bond forfeitures may cause the team/coach from registering in future seasons. Forfeiture will generally occur in the following situations:

- a) withdrawing from the playgroup after the playgroup schedule is posted
 - b) no/incorrect contact information for the head coach
 - c) more than three forfeit games
 - d) failure to appear for Away games without 24 hours notice
 - e) failure to pay tournament fees if advanced to playoff competition;
- it is not accepted practice to use bonds to pay for invoiced tournament fees

f) failure to participate in tournament play if advanced, unless the invitation is declined and the Administrator, VP Scheduling/Scorekeeping, and VP Coaches are notified within 48 hours of the invitation

Unaffiliated Fee Structure & Spring Participation [direction requested]

* Revisiting this topic from last session. We agreed at that time that \$300 for the Spring season was appropriate, and that we could "level-load" playgroup costs over the two annual seasons (i.e. \$300 for next Fall as well).

* My understanding of the HYSA unaffiliated fee structure is \$9-10 per player per season, with no bond; with an average 16 member roster, this correlates to ~\$150 per team. For comparison, our member fees are \$24 per player per year.

* A surprising attrition in Unaffiliated play has occurred this Spring. At initial count, only 3 of 30 teams are returning to play. This was the one scenario (Fall play, but not Spring) where Unaffiliated teams might pay less than a member team.

* I suggest a bit more complex pricing structure, but one that is more fair and may provide a Spring incentive. It also takes into account the small roster size of U11 teams.

- Fall Season, U12 + \$400

- Spring Season, U12+ (returning teams) \$200 ... "50% discount for returning teams"

- Spring Season, U12+ (new teams) \$400

- Fall Season, U11 \$300

- Spring Season, U11 (returning teams) \$150 ... "50% discount for returning teams"

- Spring Season, U11 (new teams) \$300

* Is there any interest in me calling a few teams to find out why spring attrition is so high?

Mr. Pate felt that \$400 a year is okay but when you get up to \$800 it is too much, he asked Mr. Sonnier for his opinion. Mr. Sonnier felt that \$400 was too much. Mr. Pruitt stated that he didn't think it was too much and that what we have charged is just the break even point. He went on to add that we have to pay the State fees at the end of the season for those unaffiliated teams. Please put this item on the agenda for next time under old business.

VP of Referees

Mr. Friedman reported that they just held two big referee clinics, one in the Klein area and the other in the Bear Creek area. There is one more re-certification class coming up on March 30th at Cy-Fair Hospital. You must register on-line at least 7 days ahead of time.

Mr. Friedman reported that they are looking at some programs in the fall for referee development.

Executive VP

Mr. Pate reminded everyone of the idea Mr. Naudin approached the Board with 60 days previous regarding a Dynamo/TYSA Sign-up Event. He reported that he has followed up on that item with the State and has it on the agenda for the March 29th meeting.

Mr. Pate wanted to address the coaching license issue in the sense of coaches who have lost their license that they received years ago. Contact the State because there may be ways of finding some type of documentation of it. It may take a while but it is worth it. Mr. Broughton brought up that he just received his "E" license and when he looked on the card he was issued there wasn't any type of referencing numbers on it. He suggested that the State may want to put some type of referencing, or number on the license, to make it easier to track.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: April 9, 2008

Here's my update for this month's meeting. Most topics are for information, but two items require direction from the group: the START program is fairly urgent if we want to do something for the Spring; the unaffiliated discussion can easily be deferred. This message is attached as a MS Word document in case formatting is lost during the email process.
Brad

Shirts to New Board Members [information]

* Two TYSA logo shirts remain in inventory; I propose welcoming our two newest members with a shirt (VP Referees Rick Friedman, President Bear Creek Auggie Colchado).

Sunsetting of Legacy Scheduling Software/Host [information]

* Affinity scheduling package appears to be meeting our needs, and the link to the legacy scheduling program has been idle for a couple of months. Our service agreement with Joe Asher has been terminated.

eMail Service [information]

* The spam-filtering service is in place. Please let me know if you are still receiving too much spam, or if "good" messages are getting caught.

Surplus Distribution [information]

* Checks have been distributed.

Academy Players in Affinity [information]

* Some questions have come up regarding the Affinity status of PDF/Academy players that did not register for recreational teams during 2007-08. Specifically, the player search fields do not retrieve the player records.

- Are PDF-only players registered with STYSA? Are they insured?
- Did TYSA collect player fees, and did we pay STYSA accordingly?

* Terri is in process of working with club administrators to identify which have PDF-only players, and to understand how to verify their registration in Affinity, fee payments, insurance coverage, how to print player cards, etc. We will report back next meeting.

TYSA Coaches' Licensing [information]

* An analysis of Affinity records has been performed; a potential gap exists with respect to state mandated training and licensing of coaches via age appropriate courses, as it appears that less than 10% of coaches are documented. Discussion subject to Hal's guidance.

START Guidelines [direction requested]

* State requirements as defined by the program Committee:

- Recreational players in D3, D4 are eligible. Competitive players are not eligible.
- Generally expected that the club will support the player (e.g. in terms of uniforms, fee discounts, etc.), although experience suggests that Start players should pay something.

- Where programs already exist, players may be fully integrated into club teams, or may form teams of Start-only players.

* STYSA guidelines are posted at http://www.stxsoccer.org/programs/soccer_start. Are there additional guidelines TYSA should use to accept players at no cost to the play group? We could follow these guidelines on the honor system or could require some sort of formal documentation.

* Should clubs collect START player fees if TYSA does not?

* IN ORDER TO GET THE DISCOUNT FROM STYSA, we must submit a proposal of our program for approval in advance of registering players; this can be done simply and quickly. Elements of our plan should include:

- Fee structure (club/TYSA/STYSA)
- Number of anticipated players, potential growth in registration
- Other subsidies to be provided (e.g. uniforms, gear, etc.)
- Like-kind expectations of players, if any (e.g. ground maintenance, referees, etc.)

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