



Meeting Minutes

AGM

Sunday, August 13, 2017
North Colonie Soccer Complex
1:00 PM

Call to Order ~ Timothy Owens, President

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 pm.

Tim O. thanked all for coming to the meeting especially on a Sunday afternoon. The food is on its way so once they arrive, we will take a small break to get the food.

Roll Call ~ David Sparks, Membership Committee

The following clubs were in attendance: AB; AL; AM; BS; BE; BW; BR; BH; CL; CM; CU; CA; CH; CP; CS; CO; CT; EM; FT; FU; GA; GB; GV; GW; GU; HM; HH; HF; LS; LC; ME; NL; NS; NE; NY; NU; RA; RW; RJ; RO; SA; SC; TV; VY; WF

The following clubs were not in attendance: AV; BK; CR; HL

There is a quorum at this meeting.

Establishment and Certification of Voting Strengths

Dave S. read each club's voting strengths. There was a question from Hoosick Falls Soccer Club on how the voting strengths were determined and Dave S. responded that it is based on the number of travel teams the club had in our spring league and the breakdown of the votes based on the number of teams.

Tim O. stated that we are going to do something different at this meeting than from past meetings. We have some individuals that played for CDYSL and/or were part of the CDYSL family who are no longer with us. Tim stated that the following individuals were players William Rowe, Aiden Campion-Pratt, Logan Penzabene and Rachael Kittelson. The Batchler father and mother of players in our area passed away due to a horrific car accident. Tim O. mentioned Karl and Kurt Gerstenberger as well as another Gerstenberger family member. We lost Ray Wolfe, ENYYSA SRA and John Villa, long time referee. Tim O. asked others to please say the name of individuals they know we lost this season

and it was stated that Rachael Hayes and Michael McLaughlin were also deceased. Tim O. asked all to please share a moment in silence in memories of those we lost.

Reading and Adoption of the 2016 AGM Minutes dated Sunday, August 14, 2016

Tim O. asked all to review the draft meeting minutes of the 2016 AGM. Hoosick Falls made a motion to accept the meeting minutes and Chatham seconded that motion. There were no questions or discussions and a vote was taken. The motion was approved.

Treasurers Report ~ Dave Yule, Treasurer

Dave Y. reviewed the financial report for July and reviewed some particular line items. He stated that if a club was due any refund for overpayment of items, those checks will be made in the next few weeks. Dave Y. reported that the fines and fees were high again this season and we will need to pay some invoices such as the division of the Empire Cup proceeds, trophies for the spring season, payroll as well as normal monthly bills.

Dave Y. stated that the proposed budget was not put into the packets handed to each club but this item was emailed many times since June to all in attendance. Dave reviewed the proposed budget and stated that only a few items were changed from the previous year's proposed budget and explained where those changes will be seen.

It was asked if registration fees will be increased and it was stated that there will be no increase this season. Tim F. stated that he attended the ENYYSA AGM last weekend and there were no registration increases from ENYYSA either this season.

The Finance Committee chairperson stated he made a motion to approve the vote on the proposed budget and New Scotland Soccer Club seconded the motion. There were discussions to this topic before a vote is taken. Hoosick Falls asked if the fines and fees were a matter of the clubs not being careful on what they are doing during the season or were they being overcharged with the fines and fees. Tim O. stated that he will address this question and Italo will speak on this as well. Tim O. stated that the fines and fees are large and he stated that he is very disappointed because it is an additional tax on all of the clubs and for two reasons. Could it be the failure of the league or the failure of the clubs to get the information down to the coaching levels to not incur these fines. Tim O. outlined how the fines are generated and stated that most of them are generated by the Spring season rescheduling requests. He stated that some of those fines are for referees who should be paid for games that were cancelled or change within 3 days of the game to be played. The referees lose the game and may never get that game back after they lose it based on the late rescheduling or forfeitures. Tim O. gave an example of a fine he received for one game several years ago due to the last minute rescheduling of a game and the impact it made on that one fine. Tim O. wanted to make it clear that we are not balancing the budget based on these fines. That is not what the league does and we have no intention of doing so in the future. Italo gave a breakdown on the various fines and the amounts they amounted to base on this year's fines and fees. Some of those breakdowns are missed general board meetings, late withdrawal of teams for the spring league, late handing in of registrations for the spring season, etc. Italo also verified the amount that was paid to the referees for the referee vouchers that were submitted on games that the referees ended up losing due to late reschedules and/or

cancellations and/or forfeitures. Italo also stated that we only pay the referees who submit the paperwork and there are a lot of referees who do not submit the paperwork for payment to the league so the fines could be even higher if they all did.

Hoosick Falls SOCCER CLUB asked why a club who doesn't have travel teams gets the missed meeting fines. Tim O. stated that we meet as a group six times a year. That is what the bylaws and constitution mandate. We have some meetings at 8 pm at night as we do in June because our season is in progress. Tim O. stated he would like to make some of these meetings webinar meetings so that we only need to meet in person four times a year and the other two can be signed in through the webinar. Tim O. stated that the fines for missed meetings are based on if you miss two meetings, the charge starts at \$50 and continues to rise on the more meetings you miss. If you want to see this changed, please send a proposal to the Rules Committee so we can address and you as the members vote on any changes that you want to see done.

Northern United SOCCER CLUB asked that why would teams and clubs get fined if they reschedule a game in late April for later in the season. Tim O. stated that three or four years ago, we introduced the free rescheduling period for the spring games. The league stated that we can put the schedule together and then give the coaches two weeks where they can reschedule any games for any reason for free without any fines or fees within that time frame. They just needed to get it done within that two week time frame. The only day you are asked not to reschedule on is a Sunday due to the low numbers of the referees. This was done with the hope that it would alleviate the number of fines and fees. It didn't change anything. Those numbers are still the same, and the two week period for free reschedule is still in place. Look at your school calendars, look at the junior varsity and varsity sports as that is where most of these fines end up coming from. Northern United stated that it is all done by the computer, so it seems like there could be more flexibility within a week or ten days of a game. Dave Y. stated that this is a great point to bring up to the rules chairperson and show the numbers. This is your league, come up with a proposal that all can adhere to and we can vote on it. Tim F. stated that he believes, but could be wrong, but five years ago, it was much less being charged for the fines and fees and we can change that but there is a cost that is in the rescheduling field. The body has to say this and we can look at it.

Roy stated that it is up to the clubs and Tim and Italo explained it very well but the clubs need to go back and let their coaches know. When you coach, there are certain responsibilities and one of them is following the rules. The more rules there are, the more you break them. A question that he wants to ask is now that we have all of this money, what are we going to do with it. We have a lot of money as the Treasurer said today. What are we going to do for soccer. What are you going to recommend to do with that money. Not a refund to each club but what can we do for soccer.

New Lebanon Soccer Club asked if there were examples of how other soccer leagues handle their fines and fees. Tim F. stated that Long Island has a policy that there is absolutely no rescheduling of games. He stated that part of our issues are that a forfeit is a fine of \$100 and we have teams that say they don't want to drive to Catskill that day and will take the fine. There is one team that forfeited over five games this season. We could know that fee down but is it fair for those teams that were forfeited against? They lose a game that they wanted to play.

Tim F. stated that with the Eastern New York Premier League, there is a fine of \$250 for each forfeit. And there is another one that is charging \$1000 for each forfeit. Afrim asked if we can look at other leagues to see what they do and how much they collect for their fines and fees and then we can find one that is successful. Empire FC asked what do the clubs who don't receive these fines do in order to not incur those fines. It was stated that First Touch Futbol Academy does a great job at avoiding most fines and fees or at least the large amounts of fines. Jeff Geller does a great job in making sure all know what rules need to be followed and they avoid those large fines. Chatham Soccer Club stated that the rescheduling fees, if they are far enough in advance, does the referee get to send in for a fee? It was stated that the assignor doesn't automatically just assign by dates but will look at some of the clubs in the outer boundaries where it is tougher to get referees to travel and cover those games first knowing they will be harder to assign. There continued to be lengthy discussions on this topic.

Tim O. stated that there is a motion on the floor and we just finished discussing the topic, a vote was taken and the motion carries.

Unfinished Business

There is no unfinished business to discuss at this meeting.

Communications/Comments from the Floor

Malcolm from Score Sports spoke about his business and the items he has as handouts at each table. Malcolm explains some of the items that he sells that the clubs may be interested in. If any clubs are in need of uniforms for this season, contact him and he can let you know what he has and he shows a few samples that he brought.

Tim O. stated that Malcolm was at our Coach Workshop and he knows that Lansingburgh Soccer Club ordered their uniforms from him and they were very happy with them.

Report of Officers

Dave Sparks ~ 1st Vice President stated that last year was good except for the sore topic of fines and fees. Right now we need to address another topic and that is the sideline behavior that is becoming a large problem. We are having trouble getting and keeping referees because of this bad behavior. It is getting out of control and it is something he hopes and asks each and every member in attendance brings back to your clubs to discuss. This needs to stop.

Roy Pfeil ~ 2nd Vice President stated that the ODP North tryout announcements were sent out and Roy reviewed what the announcement stated. There will be no practices on holidays, he reported. Roy also reported that there will be changes in the Coaching Education and he is waiting for more information and updates on this topic but they are dropping the F and E Coaching licenses and it is going to change to coaching education with 4v4, 7v7, 9v9, and 11 v 11.

Tim O. stated that since the Secretary position is vacant, there is no report on that position.

Report of Chairpersons of Standing Committees

Rules ~ Tim O. stated that our Rules Chairperson is not in attendance but we do know that he worked with the office staff to update the rules, they were streamlined so they were easier to find particular documents. There were no changes over the last year to the Rules and Regulations. The updated Bylaws and Constitution are up on the website. The Rules and Regulations will be posted on the website in the near future. Tim O. stated that we are always looking for volunteers for committees so we are hoping that more will step forward.

Registrations ~ Tim O. stated that Tammy provides registration reports and updates at every Executive Committee meeting. Last year, Tim stated he would like to increase our registrations by about ten percent. We didn't hit that benchmark but we are up about four percent. We can down eight percent so our registrations are stable and we are still at about 10,900 players and that was reported the same last year. The reason for us going down is we have had some clubs dual register their players and some clubs are migrating from CDYSL and several of them are registering with both USY and US Club. Overall, if you look at our numbers on ENYYSA, we are down four percent but the league is stable and that is with both travel players and recreation players. ENYYSA shows their numbers while our season is still operating and registering so they don't have the total in numbers when they report their numbers. We are the third largest large in ENYYSA, behind Long Island Soccer League and the East Hudson Soccer League. He reported at the last meeting that we were the second largest but we are actually the third. East Hudson has about 9,000 registered recreation players and about 3,000 travel players and we have higher travel players.

Arbitration ~ Tim F. stated that he did not have a report at this meeting.

Games ~ Paul stated he would like to get each club to find two new adult referees to certify next year. There are two advantages to this. One is that the younger referees are usually players so they have more conflicts with their games and practices. The adults won't have that problem. Three years ago we had 324 referees and this season we had 197. So we are looking to get referee numbers up and we want to be able to cover all age groups. Another advantage is that you have a referee from your area should you need games covered. The age groups that suffer with the low number of referees are the U8's through U12's. Anything we can do to encourage referees, let Paul or Tim O. know. Paul stated that all in attendance state they are officers within their clubs so this is great to getting this information back to your club members. Paul stated that everything that we discuss at this meeting today, is now in your hands and get that information out to all in your clubs. You want to get this information to all officers, coaches, and parents in your club. Paul stated that we also need to remind coaches to go and play the games you are scheduled to play. He stated that he knows of one coach who stated he would not go to any away games if he didn't have at least 13 players at the time. He admitted this to Paul. This brings up the reason for all of the fines and fees, they disregard the rules and get hit with the fees. Paul also stated that when you get your fines and you think they are too high, appeal them. You are given that information on the invoice of the appeal process so send them in. If we don't see an appeal from you, we don't know you have a problem with the fees. Greenville Soccer Club asked if the information for referees can be sent to the clubs. Paul stated that they are doing their recertification's of referees until October and then once the classes begin, usually the first of the year, they will give information to CDYSL so we can get that information on the website and out to the

public. Paul mentioned that Northern United Soccer Club, Calcio United Soccer Club and Berkshire Ajax Soccer Club are all members of our league so please travel to these away games. We don't want to see forfeits especially for games that are weeks away from being scheduled to play. Italo stated that we will also find neutral fields so reach out and let the office know that you need a neutral field. Paul stated that Calcio United Soccer Club used the Valley Soccer Club fields for at least 14 games and some games they did back to back to get the games out of the way and it was less travel for each of the teams because they used the neutral field. Roy mentioned that the CDYSL has a footprint in particular counties but some of our clubs are outside of those counties, that is when you want to use a neutral field and please show to these games.

Zero Tolerance ~ Prince stated that we received nine zero tolerance reports and they have been addressed but not closed. Prince stated that he takes the fault for this and he still needs to get information back to the clubs from the committee and this topic is close to his heart. Please bear with him in his first year and he will make sure to address these topics in a timely manner in the future. We need to get the closure of these cases and he thanked Paul and Tim for their patience and help. Tim O. stated that Roy would like to be part of the committee and Prince welcomed Roy to the committee. Tim O. stated that most of the reports were bad sideline behavior. He said he isn't sure what has shifted or what kind of culture we are developing but no twelve year old should F-bomb a referee, that is just insane. They didn't learn this behavior that day on the field. Most of our zero tolerance reports are still coming from our U12's and U10's and U10's are non-result oriented so obviously we need to make some changes and all need to be educated.

Appeals ~ Caryn stated that she had no appeals this season.

Executive ~ Tim O. stated that we meet regularly on the first Thursday of the month and we are looking at some alternative nights as well all have to discuss later.

Nominations ~ Paul read the positions that were open for election and stated who was running for the positions currently. Tim O. is running for re-election of President, there were no nominations from the floor. Dave S. is running for re-election of 1st Vice President, there were no nominations from the floor. There are no individuals running for the position of Treasurer and there were no nominations from the floor. There are no individuals running for the position of Secretary and there were no nominations from the floor. There are three individuals running for two At-Large positions; Tim F. is running for re-election, Dave M. is running for re-election and Dave Y. is running for an At Large Position. Paul outlines that what is expected is to attend all of the Executive Committee meetings and the General Board Meetings. That is a total of 18 meetings. Roy nominated Afrim Nezaj and Mike Kinnally to run for At-Large positions and both accepted the nomination. Tim O. stated that the current meetings are held on Thursdays but it is not written in our bylaws or constitution that they have to be held on Thursdays. Roy nominated John Helft for the position of Treasurer but John graciously declined the nomination. He appreciates the thought but he cannot make that commitment.

Tim O. stated that as CDYSL President he stated two years ago when you elected me to this position, I used the same notes that I am holding and when I shared the mission of CDYSL and my vision. My

vision was to establish a common goal, strengthening and growing the program, stabilizing outlining clubs and be more organized and a well mobilized organization. Everything that he committed to over the last two years, he's focused exactly on that and the players that we have. Every person under the age of 19 that is involved in this program, he feels like they are his own kids. All of the decision he makes, I make with every single boy and girl as his own child in mind and do what is good for him or her. Sometimes those decisions need to be tough love and some of them have been and sometimes you just need to make decisions on what is right versus what is just quick and easy. Tim O. stated that he is making a proposal to the Executive Committee At Large officers be regional representatives to take CDYSL and divide it into four quadrants and each officer would be responsible for a quadrant. They would be responsible to listen to all of the clubs in their area. This also supports the idea of the two web meetings as even if your club can't make a meeting, the information will be heard. He hopes we can implement this plan over the next couple of years. He has been trying to adjust or affect our climate and culture that we have within the league to make it more inclusive. But we spend an inordinate amount of time dealing with some of the things that were necessary but took away from a lot that we had set out to do. No one wants to start a new job especially with the president name where the first thing you had to deal with I a major level club controversy. We didn't need it but it fell into our lap and we had to deal with it. As you know, he sent out a letter, retracted the letter and was told to do it right. Was the decision fair, it went through the process, some will like it and some will not. And then our winter program, the same common goals, so when one club sets themselves up above the others or decides that their interest are no longer the biggest of what we are doing as a league than a decision has to be made and he thinks we made the right decision. He stated he has taken enough of your time so he thanks you and hope all to be supportive. We, however, still need volunteers, we need you.

Dave S. read from the grey handout on why he would like to run again and he outlined what he wrote in the handout.

Tim F stated that he has been around for a while and most of you all know what he stands for. His role is to be a voice of the clubs on the Executive Committee. He has spoken with many individual and he wants to support the kids and get them to play soccer.

Dave M. was not in attendance so there is no report from Dave.

Dave Y. stated that his idea of running for At Large was two-fold. When Tim O. let the cat out of the bag for the regional visiting of clubs, he found that very attractive. He would love to be out doing this sort of work. He was President of the Colonie Soccer Club for many years and his children both played soccer. He has been the Treasurer for six years at CDYSL and he is coaching in Colonie Soccer Club and it is all about soccer and the kids. He is a CPA and in the accounting world, the book are transparent. He will be the unofficial Treasurer until one is found. All of this should be done for the good of the kids.

Afrim stated that he has been involved in soccer for a very long time, over 30 years. He knows what the goal is of CDYSL and his intention is to make it better. He always wants to find out how to make

things better. In the meetings, he likes to talk and he would love to bring your thoughts back to the Executive Committee.

Mike K. stated that he was born and raised in this area and he moved back into the area about 15 years ago, He works for the Guilderland United Soccer Club and he knows about the Futsal situation as it is discussed at every meeting. If you want to know the accuracy about the Futsal situation, he started that program over six years ago. His club has grown faster than most clubs in the area, he is an educator and he is in favor of clubs working and learning from each other. He has some ideas in moving forward and did this long enough to know what will work. He has known Roy and Afrim and has been a supportive member and he apologizes for being a topic of the meetings over the past six months and that was not his intention. He thinks there should be some new volunteers in CDYSL.

The members were asked to fill out their voting ballots and hand them out to Paul, Prince or Jon C.

Election of Officers

The voting ballots were counted and double checked and the officers are as follows:

President ~ Timothy Owens

1st Vice President ~ David Sparks

Secretary ~ Open

Treasurer ~ Open

At Large ~ Tim Frament

At Large ~ Afrim Neza

Afrim's name was written down on a ballot as Secretary but he decided to take the At Large position. Dave Yule was written down on a ballot as Treasurer and Dave stated that you can all vote him in at the October General Board meeting.

Amendments to Constitution/Bylaws

There were no Constitution or Bylaw proposals so nothing to report at this meeting.

New Business

Paul stated that he would like to speak as a referee. He stated that most of our problems are at the U10's and U12's age levels. Please get the word back to your clubs that you may have to have field marshals at your games. As Vice President of the Capital District Referee Association, if your club continues to have problems with the referees, your club will be the last to get the referees scheduled due to the problems. We need to get these issues under control because they are absolute nonsense.

Roy stated that he sent out a proposal this morning about ODP. He is proposing that we have a pre-ODP training group that would meet on Mondays or Fridays, most likely Fridays. The players would only be charged about \$150 - \$200 for about 20 sessions. This proposal will give kids a jump start. This is not his unique idea, others have done this. He outlines what he was thinking on the proposal. New York Elite FC asked if this proposal would be open for any number of kids and Roy stated that it would. He stated he will look at this and he wanted to keep it where the league had to absorb some

of the debt to see what kind of response we get. It would be open to all kids who are U11, born in 2007. There would be no tryouts.

Good and Welfare

Tim O. stated that he wanted to share a thought and stated that he wants club coaching passes to be able to cover any coach within your club to cover any club game. They don't have to be on the roster. He also spoke about speaking with Italo and Tammy about looking at club player passes. He gave an example of having three U10 teams and you can build a roster with 20 players. And on game day, only the number that is specific would be allowed to be game eligible. It would allow more mobility. For the smaller clubs, it may give you other players. He spoke about the flexibility on this matter.

Tim O. stated that on August 1st, Fall Ball team commitments went live and on Friday the Futsal Program team commitments went live. Please go back to your clubs and encourage them to sign up. It is a great opportunity. No games will be played on Columbus Day weekend for the Fall Ball Program. There is the Clifton Park Soccer Club tournament that weekend. Those players can play at that tournament that weekend.

Tim O. stated that the MLS Bus trip between NYCFC and Red Bulls was a heck of a game. He has asked Italo to schedule more of these outings. He is asking Italo to look into a Women's professional league game if they could come into the area to play.

Tim F. asked if you could print the passes and laminate them yourselves, would clubs be in favor of that and some would be. He asked if we could look into that. Please give feedback to Tim O. as we may be getting into digital passes in the future. ENYYSA is also thinking along these lines as well.

Tim O. spoke about the birth year and said it was our first year for using the birth year and there were bumps in the road for some teams but hopefully these are ironed out now.

Tim O. reminded all the coach license changes and stated that once we received full information, we will pass that along to the clubs.

Tim stated that we would like to thank the Latham Circle Soccer Club for hosting the AGM this year.

Meeting Adjournment:

Brunswick Soccer Club made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Cohoes Soccer Club seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tammy Kishbaugh
Recording Secretary