

**General Board
Creek Middle**



**Meeting | Sand
School Cafeteria**

June 13, 2019 | 8:00 PM

Call to Order

Tim Owens, President called the meeting to order at 8:01pm. A quorum was established at 8:12pm.

Roll Call

Clubs present: AB; AL; AV; BS; BR; CL; CU; CO; CR; FU; GP; GB; HF; LC; ME; NL; NS; NY; NE; RO; SA; TV; VY and WF.

Clubs absent AM, BK, BE, BW, CA, CH, CP, CS, CT, EM, DU, FF, GA, GV, GW, HH, LS, NU, RA, RW, and SC.

Scholarship Announcements

Tim O. announced that there was an increase in scholarship applications (48), and that 3 of the 4 winners were able to attend the meeting. Tim O. introduced Dave Yule, chair of the scholarship committee. Dave Y. announced that the average GPA of all applications was over 93. Therefore, it was very difficult to select the winners as they all had great recommendations, grades and had an excellent background of volunteering. What set the award winners apart from the others was their essay that spoke about their love of soccer and the game, and what soccer means to them.

Dave Y. invited the winners up to be presented with the scholarship. Libby Cook (Fulton-United SC) is going to Elmira. Kieran Hughes (Latham SC) is going to Siena College. Merjan Ozisak (Blackwatch SC) is going to Syracuse University. Rylie Smith (Rotterdam SC) was not able to attend the meeting, but is going to SUNY Oneonta.

Dave Y. thanked members of the committee for their work.

Tim O. shared that the names of the scholarship winners will be on the website, the scholarship money is unrestricted, and wished everyone the best of luck next year.

Reading and Adoption of the Minutes

Correction noted on page 3, 2nd paragraph, the word "hat" should be "bat". Motion to accept the minutes with noted correction by NY Elite, second by Niskayuna SC, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Dave Yule

Financials were distributed. Dave Y. mentioned that CDYSL is approx. \$69,000 ahead of budget. The executive board will put together the 2019-2020 budget in July and will be voted on at the AGM in August. The fines and fees have been sent out, and the deadline for appeals has passed. Tamarack SC asked if a club hasn't received a letter, should they assume that they do not have any fines/fees. Paul B. recommended that they check with Tammy K. in the office.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Latham SC, second by Brunswick, motion carried.

Comments from the Floor

Averill Park SC asked about the placement of teams for this spring season, and scoring. Paul B. asked that we wait to address this issue until the Games committee report.

Averill Park SC asked what CDYSL's plan for the future is to bring back soccer players to teams since registrations have declined and some teams are struggling to get enough players. Tim O. mentioned that CDYSL is working to make the registration process easier for clubs. Tim O. said that lower registrations aren't isolated to just CDYSL, and the executive board is keeping an eye on the situation and encouraged clubs to give input to CDYSL. The main question is whether players are simply quitting soccer, or are they leaving soccer to play other sports. There is a video circulating that mentions many kids are leaving soccer around the 12-13-year-old age, Tim O. wonders why. Even though the number of games, referees and teams are down, CDYSL as a league is still healthy. Tim O. said that we still have almost 9,000 kids registered, which is approximately 10% down from 7-8 years ago. Division 1 groups are considerably down due to EDP. In the end, the most important thing is that these players are still playing, even if they are playing with another league. CDYSL does get a cut of all EDP player registrations in our area. Recently, Eastern NY has mandated that every player in EDP must register through CDYSL. Therefore, any clubs that have attempted to get around not registering with CDYSL will not be able to anymore.

Afrim N. mentioned that some of the Division 1 clubs are now playing EDP. The other top clubs may be forced to join EDP as they won't have competition with CDYSL. He also mentioned EDP is looking to expand (Level 2 and 3) and will now start pulling other teams over to EDP. Latham SC disagreed that there is no competition with CDYSL, and feels that the message that should be sent out to clubs is that there is a lot of competition right here with CDYSL, and it isn't necessary to leave the area. Afrim N. agreed.

Paul B. mentioned that he spoke with Mike Kinnally about this issue as there were Division 2 teams playing against Division 1 teams in the CDYSL spring league because there wasn't enough competition. Since the EDP schedules are given out in February, Paul B. recommended doing CDYSL Division 1 limited play schedule (4 games).

Tim O. said that there has been feedback that CDYSL has too many rules. The executive board realizes that they need to evolve and not be stuck in the rules that worked 10 years ago.

Eastern NY State Cup

Tim O. reported that CDYSL had 23 teams playing in Eastern NY State Cup. 4 teams won their division, and are heading to U.S. regionals in West Virginia: Blackwatch, Alley Cats (3 teams). Tim O. said that CDYSL budgeted \$3,000 to help teams offset the cost of regionals. Typically, CDYSL gives each team \$1,000. Since there are 4 teams going this year, Tim O. suggested that the budget be increased to \$4,000 so that each team would still receive \$1,000. Motion by Colonie SC to allocate an additional \$1000 to the CDYSL State Cup budget so that each team would receive \$1,000. 2nd by Latham SC., motion carries unanimously.

Tim O. announced that for the Arch Cup, CDYSL had 2 teams that won: U13 East Greenbush Girls & Bethlehem U14 Girls. Rotterdam U12 Girls also made it to the finals.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees

Standing Committee Reports:

1. Rules – Scott Swere (absent)

Tim O. reported that the rules committee met in June to discuss a few changes for next year and the year after. One discussion was how to make it easier for the clubs to register in the league and to get rosters and passes in a timely fashion. The backlog in the office is due to registrations being sent in at the last minute. In the month of May, there were 1,442 registrations. 2/3rd of those were recreational players. There were 500 registrations in the month of May for travel even though the season had already begun. Some of which were just adding a couple players to a team or guest players. A couple options were discussed:

- Team commitment/registrations –streamline the process so that there is a set flat fee per team based on the age of the team. Technically it doesn't raise fees (depending on how many players are on the team). The fee structure will be U8 (roster max is 14 players)-\$600, U10-\$675, U12-\$750, and U14-\$824
 - a. This fee includes commitment fees, CDYSL and Eastern NY fees.
 - b. The committee realizes that this could be difficult for some teams the money would be due upfront.
 - c. Printing of the player passes would now be the responsibility of the clubs.
 - d. The online system would allow every club to handle their own registrations, passes. The league office would simply approve the registrations that the clubs have loaded.

Roy P. mentioned that if there are only 10 kids on a team, it makes it much more expensive. It is going to be difficult for teams that are having trouble getting enough players. He did comment that streamlining things for the office is a good thing. Dave Y. then commented that if you have a large roster, the club would still be responsible for the same amount. Currently, it is a pain for clubs to add 1-2 players once the season has begun, so the new system would be better.

Dave Y. also mentioned that another consideration is eliminate passes and simply have rosters with pictures on them.

NY Elite commented that it sounded like CDYSL is moving away from player registration and moving towards team registrations. Tim O. clarified that the players would still be registered through CDYSL's system.

Latham SC asked if the registration fees would go down because the clubs would be doing the bulk of the work, and Tim O. said that the fees would not go down. She said that it seems like the clubs will be paying more to CDYSL, with CDYSL doing less work. Tim O. said that CDYSL runs a fall and spring league, and there are about 110 teams doing fall ball, and 362 teams doing spring league. So, there are 252 teams that register later in the year. Within the proposal, fall ball fees would be raised from \$80 to \$100 per team. If the team then registers for the spring league, they would receive a discount of \$50. Tim O. clarified that the spring league cost isn't going up, it's just being presented as a lump sum.

Tim O. suggests taking the printed material that have been distributed at this meeting back to the clubs for discussion.

Tim O. clarified that a U8 team with a roster of 14 players pays \$110 per team, plus \$35 per player which amounts to almost \$600. With the new system, the flat fee would be \$600 regardless of the number of players. NY Elite asked when payment is due, and Tim O. said that it would be when they put in their team commitment. Dave Y. mentioned that a recommendation from the executive board was to break the payment into 3 installments of \$200 each. Tim O. did say that he understands that it could be very difficult for smaller clubs to pay large fees before they have received the money from the players.

A club mentioned that it will make it very difficult for the registrar to track down all the information from their teams, and Tim O. commented that this is exactly the reason for the backlog in the office, as there are 362 teams to track down information. Taconic Valley SC asked if the new system would force every team to go through SI Play. Tim O. said that Eastern NY is using SI Play until August 31st, and there is a proposal to go to a new system for next year. CDYSL has been told that the new system would do everything SI Play does and more. Dave Y. clarified that it is Eastern NY's decision to switch systems, not CDYSL.

Greenbush voiced a concern that without players passes, how would a team get passes that are required at some tournaments. Roy P. said that the clubs would have the capability to print their own players passes.

Roy P. mentioned that clubs will need to be careful when setting a fee for their players to be sure they don't lose money.

Tim O. said that for next year, a club could choose to pay per team, or by player like they have in the past. After the 1st year, the requirement would be to pay by team.

Albany SC asked that without player passes, how another team could dispute a player on another team's birth year. Tim O. said the program is designed not to allow wrong birth years. Club registrars are required to verify birth certificates.

2. Registrations – Tammy Kishbaugh (absent)

Tim O. reported that CDYSL registrations for this year are just over 9,000 players

3. Games – Paul Bascomb

Paul B. reported that CDYSL has received many complaints regarding the division they were placed in. In many cases it is due to registering late. Also, CDYSL is only able to determine divisions by the team placement information that is provided by the clubs. The committee sent emails to out to teams to try to get feedback on where they should be placed and, in many cases, did not get a response.

Paul B said that some games have ended up with a team winning 18-0. CDYSL is losing players because of these kinds of games. Nobody wants to play a game and lose 18-0. This kind of game should never happen. If a team is winning by that much, the coach needs to work to bring the score down a bit. It's not all about scoring goals. There is a disconnect between what the clubs are communicating to CDYSL as to the strength of their team and reality.

Beginning next spring, referees will be allowed to card coaches. Therefore, CDYSL will come up with a policy for carding coaches; whether the coach will be suspended for a game or a fine will be assessed. USSF is also changing this rule.

This year, there has only been 36 game notes submitted from coaches out of the over 1,200 games that have already been played this season. The only way that CDYSL can know what is going on with referees, coaches, parents or clubs is if game notes are submitted. If a referee is doing an exceptional job, please also put that in the notes. Paul B. said that there is no way he can know what is going on with each referee without these notes. Roy P. clarified that only constructive criticism should be submitted so that the problem can be corrected.

Paul B. also asked that the referee fees be communicated to all coaches so that they are paid correctly. Tim O. said that the referee fees listed in the rules section of the website is incorrect. The correct fee schedule can be found in the Referee Fees PDF. In the future, the referee fees will be taken out of the appendix so that the rules don't need to be updated every time the referee changes are updated.

4. Zero Tolerance/Appeals – Roy Pfeil

Tim O. reminded all clubs about the code of conduct that Roy P. has had the office distribute to every club president and registrar multiple times (players, parents, coaches, and administrators). Clubs must to have everyone initial the code of conduct.

Roy P. mentioned that some of the reports are ridiculous. Please remember that there is a system in place to deal with inappropriate spectators, and referees shouldn't be addressing inappropriate spectators.

Ultimately, everyone needs to know how to deal with issues during a game, people taking it into their own hands is not the correct way. Getting into someone's face about an issue is not acceptable. Instead, please inform the zero-tolerance committee.

Roy P. mentioned that last year he had 12 zero tolerance reports, this year he has already received almost 20. Paul B. mentioned that Roy P. is doing a great job with the zero tolerance reports. He is responding with a judgement within a day and is as fair as he can be. Roy P. mentioned that the executive committee is criticizing him that the fines are not large enough.

Tim O. said that to put it in context, there are 20 zero tolerance reports, and only 36 game notes. So more than half the comments we are getting back are behavioral issues on the field or on the sideline. He urged the clubs to get this information to their coaches.

5. Membership – Afrim Nezaj

Tim O. reported that a club has inquired about CDYSL membership and has one U12 boys' team. CDYSL has referred them to the two clubs that are within 10 miles of their club to join forces.

6. Nominations – Paul Bascomb

Paul B. announced that this year the following positions are open: President, 1st Vice President and 2 At-Large positions. If anyone is interested in being considered for a position, please notify the office. Nominations will be taken from the floor, and the qualifications are on the CDYSL website.

Special Committees

1. Programs – Roy Pfeil

a. Coaching Education – Roy Pfeil

Roy P. announced that there will be a 11v11 course on August 3rd. Info will be coming out very soon.

b. ODP Program – Tim Frament (absent)

Roy P. said that the 05's (birth year) and 07's won their group at the Eastern Regional this past weekend. Roy P. was very impressed with the 06's as they took 2nd in a division of 16 teams. He mentioned there are many very good players in this area that should be encouraged to try out for the ODP program.

c. Exceptional Senior Showcase

No report

d. Empire Cup – Roy Pfeil

No report

Old Business

1. League Operations Director

Tim O. said that resumes are due June 15th for the League Operations Director position. Currently we have 5 resumes submitted.

New Business

Tim O. brought the topic of teams running up scores, and the concern of fees. He reminded everyone that some of the costs are not controlled by CDYSL, in particular CD-Ref. When a referee is assigned to a game, and then a team pulls out, the referee still must be paid. There have recently been teams pulling out mid-season because of the scores being run up too high, and again, the referees need to be paid for the scheduled games. Referees are being assigned earlier than usual because there is a shortage of referees. Therefore, the team pulling out will be hit with a forfeit fee and a referee fee.

Afrim N. asked about making it easier to add players quickly to a roster so that there isn't as many forfeits due to a lack of players. Tim O. said the new system will make this much easier. Rou P. said that this is long overdue, and just will need to put in a safety net so that players can play up, but not allow players to play down just to win a game. Rather than withdrawing a team because there aren't enough players, Tim O. suggested contacting the CDYSL office. For example, CDYSL has allowed neighboring teams to partner up to combine for a team if neither has enough players.

US Nationals Bus Trip

Tim O. said that CDYSL hosted a bus trip to the US national team game, and unfortunately the Yankee Trails bus did not show up. 14 people drove multiple people down to the game. 6 people decided not to go at all once the bus did not arrive. Yankee Trails is trying to rectify the situation and has profusely apologize. One of the co-owners was in the CDYSL this week trying to make amends. CDYSL has contacted their legal counsel for advice. It is important to the executive board that CDYSL recoups all funds spent including reimbursing mileage/tolls/parking for the 14 people who drove. Right now, Yankee Trails is not willing to reimburse the mileage/tolls/parking.

Tim O. extended many thanks to Prince Knight and his wife Tracey as they took charge of the situation on the day of the game and handled it tremendously. Afrim N. asked how much CDYSL is asking Yankee Trails for, and Tim O. clarified that CDYSL wants everyone to get their \$100 back (bus and ticket), which is about \$5500.

Next board meeting is August 11th.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by the Roy P., and seconded by Saratoga soccer club).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Mendy Varga
Recording Secretary