



Massachusetts State Soccer Association

A proud member of the United States Adult Soccer Association

Minutes of MASS Semi-Annual Meeting

November 27, 2012

Wellesley Community Center, Wellesley, MA

Meeting called to order by Andy Weiss, Secretary at 7:18pm

I. Roll Call

Leagues: BSSL, EMWSL, TSL, CMO35, GWASA, MSSL, NEOTHSL, USAfrica, LUSA

Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary

Total votes = 21 Quorum present.

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approved unanimously

III. Unfinished Business

None

IV. Officer's Reports

Treasurer (Cezar for Sean)

Income is right on target with expectations. Actual affiliation income looks higher due to collection of two years of registration fees. This will be adjusted by the end of the year so that income is reflected properly between MASS and USASA. We did receive about \$6600 in incentive rebates from USASA for submitting data promptly.

Expenses are behind expectations. Some monies not yet paid out. Expectation for the year is to lose money. Largest expense of year is the online registration system, approximately \$40-50K. Income tax return has been filed for 2011. Budget proposal for 2013 will be submitted prior to a meeting of the membership planned for late January/early February of 2013.

Secretary (Andy)

Lots of work on MASS website over previous few months. Old material purged, calendar is active. Membership Services and Resources sections updated. Listing of BOD members and other appointments are now up to date. Download section includes Constitution and Bylaws, Suspension Lists, etc. Other state links are active and up to date. National and State Cups sections have been updated. We now have the ability to make edits without delay on the web site.

Affiliated league pages are available for each league, with web site, President name, address, phone number, etc. New email address format with common domain. Contact information still being maintained by Andrea. Please send her updates so they can be turned in to USASA and for insurance coverage. Officers who are not listed may not be covered.

Constitution and Bylaws project is underway. First step will be to re-format what is there. Being assisted by William Duncan. Steve Siniscalchi suggested that the paid administrator should be part

of the Executive Board, and that this should be written into the Constitution. Tabled as this would have to be sent to Rules Committee before consideration.

Vice President (Tony)

Reported on USASA Mid-Year Meeting, and that USASA may consider self-insuring due to low number of paid claims. Council meeting was shortest on memory, indicating very little business was discussed. This could be a sign of no growth in the organization and/or not much involvement of leagues. The only thing that seemed to be benefitting was the Veteran's Cup which seems successful and is growing, but all other programs seem to be slowly dying. Two Adult state associations have folded in the last year, and Southern California has now been folded into the Youth. Mostly this is because of lack of interest at the Adult level in those states. We should guard against going down the same path, hopefully our people are motivated and will remain interested. Tony has announced that he will not run again, this is his last term and he is looking for candidates for the office in the spring.

President (Cezar)

More info from Mid-Year Meeting. USASA now has some cash reserve that has been built up for self-insurance. Women's Festival to be held in Kansas same weekend as Veteran's Cup. Centennial membership drive planned for next year, unaffiliated leagues will be given \$4/player rebate as incentive. Also four new tournaments to be held in Seattle, Chicago, Florida and Boston. Dates TBD. USASA goal is to double membership to 500,000. Suggestions requested for Boston date and format.

Other goals being worked on: Newsletter Editor found. Looking for content and story ideas, and he will put them into quarterly email to all membership. One new State Association formed: Wisconsin Adult Soccer. 2013 AGM will be later in June due to Centennial events. Champions League will kick off again in 2013. Info forthcoming in January. Awaiting info from US Soccer about hosting E-License coaching course.

Continue to develop functionality for on-line registration system including roster functions, etc. We plan to reach out to unaffiliated leagues and also offer some coaching courses to attract new players in our state.

Tournaments - plan is to send a select team to regional U-23. Veteran's Cup dates are 6/25 thru 6/30. NESO grew to 42 teams, will continue this event. Out of state tournament announcements will be sent on email when we are aware of them. National Cups will again be in the fall of the year. JP will send out the dates and important info sooner next year.

V. Committee Member Reports

Referee Committee (Andy)

MSRC report in the booklet and will be published on line. Referee Committee is working towards institutional continuity, developing systems that can be easily used by next SRA. Referees are now expected to use computers in their job. Technology will become part of all processes, including assignment, game reporting, etc.

National Cups (JP)

Open and Amateur Cup brackets submitted. Finals upcoming the next two weeks.

Disciplinary Committee (Cezar for Garrett)

Disciplinary Committee report in booklet. Committee heard six cases this year. Five referee assaults and one case of referee misconduct. Five players all suspended, referee received Letter of Reprimand. Total number of cases are fewer than last year. Struggle to get panelists to attend. Plan is to reimburse panelists for their expense to attend.

Donnelly/Select Teams (Jim Antonakas)

Select program team went to U-23 Tournament, and two teams from Massachusetts went to the Donnelly Cup in Western NY. Region 1 requested an All-star event to be organized. Players were brought into three day training event in New Jersey, games against Philadelphia Fury and NPSL all-stars, good results. Overall successful, good representation from Massachusetts. Video shown from the New Jersey weekend. All star program to continue in 2013.

Appeal Committee (Andy for Donal Keane)

One appeal from a team within NELASA. Panel found in favor of team against the league. Recommendation to all leagues is to follow their own bylaws and simplify them if necessary to remove contradictions.

VI. New Business

Tournaments/Fields

Possibility to run an indoor tournament some Saturday over the winter. Also interest in a 7v7 tournament outdoors in the spring. Cezar to look for a facility and dates.

Suggestion for Mass Soccer to generate a list of rentable fields. USAfrica already had to reduce several teams due to not enough fields. Suggestion to use Devens and Lancaster as options. Looking for leagues to participate in Champions League, send emails to Tony if interested.

Online Registration

A report was included in the booklet. Cezar and Jeremy Mordkoff reported that we now have the ability to print the registration cards in house. Should result in improved turn-around time. Replacement cards are also available online. Currently registered over 12,600 players, including a few from NH and RI. New features will continue to be added, including rosters and pictures. Overall the server is working out well, and extra server space is available to MASS leagues if they want to take advantage of the space. Cezar is in discussion with National office about how to handle some out-of-state issues. One suggestion is for the one week pass. Current system does not designate professional level player status. Some difficulty in removing duplicate entries but this is being worked on.

Finances

Cezar reported that we are currently sitting on about \$200,000 in reserve. We do have some of this invested in a very low interest vehicle that gets us almost no return. Cezar suggests considering some other investment that would still be low-risk but get us a respectable interest rate. General discussion ensued. No consensus reached to move the money. Cezar to make additional suggestions at next meeting in January.

Rules

Suggestions for new rules and changes to Constitution and Bylaws will be discussed at the next meeting, or sent around for review in advance of AGM.

Meeting adjourned 9:10pm

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Weiss, Secretary