



Massachusetts State Soccer Association

A proud member of the United States Adult Soccer Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

April 12, 2014

Gillette Stadium, Foxboro, MA

Meeting called to order by Cezar Wislocki, President at 1:26pm

I. Roll Call

Leagues Attending: Kevin Griffith BSSL, Diana McKee MSSL, Paulo DeBarros NELASA, Rob Morrison NEOTHSL, Sal Afonseca USAfrica, Steve Siniscalchi VFA, Arnold Lundwall CMO35, David Partridge CMTSL, Luke Stone TSL

Officers Attending: President Cezar Wislocki, Secretary Andy Weiss

Total votes = 17 Quorum present.

Guests attending: JP Musanda (Cups), Andrea Cardarelli (Operations), Mike Wallace (MSRC), Alex Brame (GPS), John Motta (USASA)

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approved unanimously

III. Unfinished Business

New Committee Appointments tabled.

IV. Officer's Reports

President (Cezar)

Introduction of John Motta, new president of USASA. Cezar is stepping down and took a moment to recap changes we have made over the last six years. Highlights include lower player fees due to offering liability only, website improvements, cleaning up governance documents, an effective disciplinary process, budget transparency. Growth of organization to almost 15,000 players. On line registration and paid staff person. NESO tournament seems solid. We have a relationship with the NE Revs and our brand is getting out there.

Not everything was completed. We do not yet have a newsletter and that was one of the goals. No current indoor program and not a good relationship with the youth to bring in new players. Lost some leagues and no more Select Team program.

Cezar is now on the National Board of Directors and is looking to expand membership nationally. USASA staff has expanded to include a recruiter and an Executive Director. Some national tournaments may become regionalized.

Vice President (Cezar for Sean)

Soccer basics course to give an introduction to the game for those who have never played will be offered after the World Cup. Champions League is being discussed at Region 1, under development, If it materializes funding will likely come from Region 1.

Treasurer (Cezar for Antonio)

Financial health is good. Breakdown of registration fees for a two-year cycle is \$18 to USASA/\$7.5 retained by the state. Of the \$7.50 it costs about \$2.50 to produce and distribute the passcards, leaving about \$5 for operating funds. Additional revenue sources include occasional international games played in our state. Large swings of cash flows from year to year because of the two-year registration cycle. Some discussion about investing and/or spending down the cash reserve. Budget approved unanimously.

Secretary (Andy)

Update on league status - two leagues have had difficulties and MASS met with one to help place a new Board and is offering to help the other. Some leagues may have bylaws that need updating or strengthening to withstand issues.

V. Committee Member Reports

Sponsorships (Cezar for Josh)

No report

National Cups (JP)

MPS is in the US Open Cup. Advanced on a protest due to illegal player. Mass United to play also. Both games Sunday 4/13. Desire to have these games publicized more.

Disciplinary Committee (Cezar for Garrett)

Need for more panelists to help when cases arise.

Referee Committee (Andy)

Submitted previously via email. 6700+ referees. Massachusetts still shows positive growth unlike most states. New USSF grade requirements will change certification requirements for grade 6-7 referees. Goal is to have all adult games be officiated by grade 7 or higher. Massachusetts will allow referees to take either of two paths to become certified at grade 7. Challenge of the organization is getting more adults into refereeing.

VI. Elections

John Motta from USASA on hand and was drafted to preside over the elections. Andy Weiss elected President. Logan Wangsgard elected Secretary. Meeting paused to thank Cezar for his service with gift and cake.

VII.(a) Amendments to Constitution

- 3.2 recognizes the chief officer of each league as the BOD member passed unanimously
- 4.4 (A5) clarifying the weighted vote structure passed unanimously
- 4.4 (B1 and D) eliminating requirement for written notice to meetings passed unanimously

VII.(b) Amendments to By-Laws

- 1.2 allowing MASS to conform to legal requirements for financial auditing and reporting passed unanimously
- 4.4 removing requirement for audit unless required by law passed unanimously
- 5.2 setting the fee for filing a grievance passed unanimously
- 5.3 setting the fee for filing an appeal passed unanimously.
- 6.2 requiring leagues to have a method of hearing appeals passed unanimously
- 7.2 allows for alternative forms of player ID besides MASS passcard passed unanimously

VII. New Business

Online Registration and Rosters

Tool for leagues to use. Roster functionality and web hosting available, both are free to leagues.

Brian Bilello from NE Revolution

Brian stopped by to welcome everyone and express his gratitude for the continuing relationship with MASS Soccer and all the leagues.

Duplicate Player Registration and Website

New functionality includes search capabilities and pulling list of players for entire leagues. New tool now in place to prevent duplicate passcards. Current sweep indicates about 80-90 duplicate players, most are data entry or typos that will be cleaned. Few remaining problems to resolve, process is ongoing.

Tent Usage Policy

We now own 14 tents with our logo. Policy needed to manage capital equipment.

Marketing

We will be at several Revolution games to hand out literature. Goal is to bring in more members,

Tournaments

- U-23 Now is National in scope
- NESO dates August 16-17, online registration is now open
- Veteran's Cup 7/8-13 in Virginia Beach, MASS will pay registration fee for teams attending
- National Women's Championships in Maryland
- 2015 plans include a Festival at USASA over the week preceding the Veteran's Cup and indoor tournaments

Data Sharing

MASS does occasionally share data electronically, however we do not retain sensitive information. Policy is available to anyone interested in best practices.

New League Applications

John Kinney from Suburban Soccer League applying for small sided 7v7 to play in Framingham, several 2-month playing seasons each year, expects to start in June. Motion to provisionally approve this league pending submission of by-laws approved 16-0 with one abstaining.

Cezar presented an application from Sean Carey to allow the NEP to run an U-20 division over a 6-8 week season between June and July. Motion to provisionally approve this league pending submission of by-laws approved unanimously.

John Motta

Discussed plans for many National events including major tournaments. Seeking ideas to get more League participation in USASA Mid-year Meetings and other National events.

Meeting adjourned 4:28pm

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Weiss, Secretary