



Massachusetts State Soccer Association

A proud member of the United States Adult Soccer Association

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

May 4th 2016

Wellesley Community Center, Wellesley, MA

Meeting called to order by Andy Weiss, President at 7:03pm

I: Roll Call/Credential Check:

Leagues Attending: Peter Silverman (CMO-35), Steven Siniscalchi (NEOTHSL), Diana McKee (MSSL), Kevin Griffith (BSSL), Maria Nilda Morris (USAfrica)

Officers Attending: President Andy Weiss, Vice President Logan Wangsgard, Treasurer Rob Akie, Secretary Nadia Sussman, Past President Cezar Wasecki

Others Attending: Andrea Cardarelli (Admin), Garrett Solomon (Disciplinary Committee), Christopher Camille (Director of Coaching), Del Rainho (Referee), and Elsa Teixeira (USAfrica.)

II: Minutes of the last meeting:

NEOTHSL: unfinished business- eradication. Change wording to “election/elected.”

Favor of approval - Yes.

Minutes approved after change - yes.

III: Unfinished Business: None

IV: Officer Reports:

(President) Andy - we are very active. If it's the report of the president, efforts of all, not just him. Board has been active. Most of organizational things can be seen. Expanded champions cup (Kevin) women included this year, going to regionals, including over 30's, (Chris) coaching combine - product on field so good. Good energy. Newsletter has come out. Credit cards are now being taken. \$3,000 in fees saved per year due to this. Met with Mass Youth soccer, they would like a liaison at all meetings. More collaboration happening. Andrea and Andy got email from someone, refund of a fee for their registration?? What they wanted, they didn't get it fast enough, so an email was received a day later “you people are all corrupt” responded to person. Perspective on all of this volunteer efforts are all for nothing. As much as we do and what people see, we are setting an expectation which is one step ahead from where we are. Higher expectations.

(Vice President) Logan: echo of what Andy said. Working on Champions Cup with Kevin and JP. Logo change. Appreciative of everyone's help and tap as resource if necessary.

(Secretary) Nadia = New player questionnaire, working on format and discussion had about HIPAA and the best way to make this available to players.

(Treasurer) Rob - Received P and L statement. \$250,000 in fidelity account. Santander account? Haven't paid USASA yet. Income, no income for the pro-games (international at Gillette). Question from group: P/L based on what? Make and lose money every other year. **Motion to approve:** Motioned and second. No opposition.

V: Standing committee reports:

Chris (Director of Coaching): Combine - opportunity to get people to play and for people to meet. New



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team/new group. Got large response. Huge for men, more manageable for the women. Nice to have faces with names. More visibility. Greater Lowell United, some semi-pro teams. Greater Lowell team. Event would like to do again. Need to keep players in the game. Go in positive direction. If people get hurt and can't play anymore, what other opportunities are available? (coach, ref, etc). NSCA find something that will fit for licensing. Looking to the fall. Question: Number of men 75 open age, 15 to 20 women, over 30 men 75-80. Temporary passes given. Looking for August to possibly create a team
Coaching standpoint – fields area huge issue for Amateur soccer, not a good relationship with towns and private fields charge a lot. Less fields to play on with turf on the rise. How to make this better?

Kevin (Cup Commissioner): Champions Cup in July, that information is going to be going out soon. No cost to teams, refs and fields are paid for. Work to support the teams to go to it. Amateur cup and National cups. Kendall is in Semi-finals of open cup for the region. Southie is in us-open cup next Wednesday – Revere (Seacoast United up in Maine). Encourage fans to go and support. Qualifying state rounds for the fall for the 2017 year. 2 women's leagues for the champions cup. EMWSL and Old Colony Women. Will go to regional play if there is an event. Coordinating women's league game? JP and Kevin.

Garrett Solomon (Disciplinary Committee): last year for incidents matches 2015, 11 disciplinary hearing. Most in 8years, 9 in 2009. Not sure why this is the case. 22 players suspended on state level, 26 on probation. 1 of the decisions appealed to US soccer and USSF upheld our decision. Really need officials to participate to help go to hearings. Players are not showing up not a surprise, so hearings go quickly. Need more volunteers at the hearings. New – only hear cases ref assault and abuse. Approached 2x by affiliate leagues and handle player on player incidents. Fear if league handles discipline, then can switch leagues then full suspension. Work on proposal and procedure on a regular basis. Question: more cases this past year, would be interesting to know per capita in terms of players affiliated with state each year? How match up. Average over last 8 years has been 6.

Del (Referee Committee): Elite Referee Academy. 37 referee's Eric Simmons, Casio Silva, Tom Supple and Del. Coach mentoring. 18 to 20 advance, people ready to get to international level. Younger people 17-21) age refs. Going to meet June 2nd. Have to sign agreement, participate, show up and do it. If not show up, then they get kicked out. Academy team of refs. 2 fitness tests per year, unannounced. Thanks MassAdult soccer going into games and seeing the refs in real big games. USASL, MPL, see how it goes for this year. If FIFA refs, then not playing those games.

Cezar (Tournament director/competition): Indoor Tournament, did not have a lot of time to promote, 6 teams, 5 games, 9 to 3pm, 30 min games, really good soccer. Team from MV that game in from the day, team from SMASS, Mass United. 3 games would have been enough. Will Do it again, Jan/Feb for next year. Broke even with the tournament. \$275 for 5 games? NESO is back, date nailed back. Aug 13th/14th. Want to have Division directors for each age group (O-30, O-40, Women). Doing event with Revs Labor Day weekend, 1-day tournament, \$300-400, 10 players, three games. Over 105-6 teams for National tournament. Big enrollment in Over – 65. Outside of MLS stadium. Great turnout.

VI: Election of Officers:

President up for Election – Andy Weiss, nominated, he accepts the nomination. Kevin Griffith casts one vote for Andy.

Secretary up for Election – Nadia Sussman nominated, she accepts the nomination. Kevin Griffith casts one vote for Nadia.



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VII: Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws:

Changes to constitution, need 2/3 of total vote present. Need 18 votes total, none of the changes can be addressed or voted on.

1. Housekeeping Bylaws:

NEOTHSL (Steve Siniscalchi) – 3.8 – Section C. Proposed Eliminate section. Rationale: Obsolete. What do you do if there is a contested election?? Purpose is to solicit nominations. Do we even have the ability to have a committee to do that when what we do is open, make public announcements? Is it required?

Compromise: If no candidates running, then maybe board serves as soliciting committee to fill board slots

Vote: in favor of eliminating, say I. 8

Vote against: one opposition. 7

3.8 – Standing Committee and Officers: I. Disciplinary Committee – if removed then no longer a committee. Will still exist and 1st sentence will remain.

Housekeeping Changes: approve all changes = yes; no opposition.

2. Bylaws under minor changes:

Motion: Nadia motion, Logan second it.

3.1 – Add “rationale”, language stays. (regular meeting)

3.6 – Officers Duties = offer flexibility that documents are kept online or in an office. Don’t want to require to physically take possession of everything. Moving to online record keeping, etc.

Modification: Custody or access.

3.8 – Disciplinary committee – has to ask people due to lack of volunteers. No objection. Conflict of interest rules.

6.2 – League Requirements – no point in adding it? Duplicate of 2.7 in Constitution.

Not approving change to Article 3.4. Nothing to articles only bylaws listed.

Motion to accept.

Operational Changes: Motion to discuss, Logan. 2nd – Nadia.

3.6 and 3.8.

Is there a need for 3.6? Andy says stay as it doesn’t prohibit the other article.

3.8 – undefined as to what rules committee was or did. Who is on committee? 3 people picked on purpose. Appointment chairman or past president. Adding the VP. Other questions?

Favor of bylaw changes – yes. Only those discussed.

VII: New Business:

I: Approval of a new league:

1. Mass League of Nations – had all ducks in row, we said okay. They are based out of Waltham, start June 1st. Have a youth program. Want to organize teams based on ethnicity. All players come from one country – They decided to not go through with it.

2. FA1 – play out of Taunton, Wed/Sun evenings. Have list of officers. Dan Borges is running the



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league. Their bylaws still need work. DO they meet the minimum requirements? Motion to have FAI into league, Yes. No oppositions.

II: **Sponsorship Questionnaire:** realized that we are getting requests, so we have to figure out how to handle it? What type of relationship? How does to work in the long run?

III: **Trademarking our name:** the name may have value but we also don't want it stolen. Could cost \$1,000 for legal fees, (Name, logo & name and logo together.) Likely \$3,000 total to do this.

IV: **Subsidy increase to the Vets Cup:** Match early entry fee. Up \$150 this year. Propose that we match early entry fees for the teams going to this tournament. Reimbursement once team shows up. Equal to early application fee for Mass teams.

V: **Disciplinary Committee Proposal:** want to outline formal procedure by which an affiliate can hear player on player excessive violent content. Standard being used COC of USASA. Obligated to use due to affiliation. If MassSoccer suspends a player, then we can notify neighboring states. How fast can meetings get done? Obligated to have hearing within 30 days, excessive violent conduct. Motion to approve, 2nd. None opposed. PUT THIS IN NEXT NEWSLETTER.

VI: **Registering Coaches:** create another category for coaches. Jeremy web person is developing this. Optional for 2017 to register as coach and a player. No charge to the coaches. Fall under liability insurance protection.

**Voting strength. How do we know that all of these active groups are still there? And how to know that their votes still count. League that met reqs in 2015, gets vote in 2016 even if not operation in following year. **

VII: **Players looking for a Team:** reports, what do we do with it once we have this report? Who do we expose this to? What information do they get? Data expose and to whom? Managers logged in, go and search database? Check on DOB if exposed. Email by choice. **Manger terms of use clause, sign*** Do we do a looking for a team?***

VIII: Tickets to Pro Matches - Caesar send out an email:

IX: Mailing List usage by leagues/teams: Section in the Newsletter??? Just out to managers?? Leagues can contact Owen leagues.

Other thoughts?? How to get all leagues online. Why not the last league online? USAfrica goal for the summer, Old Colony men and the Vineyard. Will contact them.

Change the bylaws.

Penalty for not attending the meetings from leagues???

When looking at financials, look at past year for reference/report.

Adjournment: 9:16pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nadia Sussman, Secretary