



Massachusetts State Soccer Association

A proud member of the United States Adult Soccer Association

November 9, 2016

- Roll call/Credential check: 17 votes + 3 board members= 20 votes
- Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 2 edits from previous meeting minutes
 - Title should read Minutes of Annual General Meeting, not Minutes of Semi-Annual General Meeting
 - HIPPA misspelled- should be HIPAA
 - Approved
- Unfinished Business- None
- Reports of Officers
 - Secretary- Absent- no report
 - Treasurer-
 - We're losing money every year.
 - Of the \$25 registration fee- \$18 immediately sent to USASA, also \$3 for pass cards. Yield about \$3-4/player. One check sent to USASA so far of about \$5000.
 - Still a lot of money to be paid- pending liability approximately \$25,000. Numbers look much larger than they really are as of a result of this.
 - 2016 is an income year.
 - Report approved
 - Vice President- Garrett - is new. Thank you to Garrett. Andy provided report for both VP and President.
 - President
 - Got very positive feedback from USASA re: our processes. Financially we're in a very strong position.
 - Continue to work to strengthen organization.
 - Started institutional transparency- ex. Bank statements sent to more than one person.
 - 'Offering' Director and Officers insurance (paid/coordinated through USASA). Liz will be coordinating- will be sending message w. form. Once form is completed, returned and approved, you will be submitted. Policy renews yearly- please provide updates if any person's data changes.
 - Background checks also will be completed for all Board members. Liz will be sending form to everyone for them to complete & return.

- Anyone who touches money or data will be bonded.
 - Report & new processes (bonding & background checks) approved
 - Concern raised about someone who could be here illegally & background check completed. Agreement reached that checks need to be done to avoid fraud, etc.
- Financial Statement by Treasurer: Reviewed emailed financial document.
- Standing Committee Reports
 - Rule Committee- Jessica Berry has volunteered to take role. She plays for Eastern Mass Women's League. Since Jessica's role is an appointment, needs approval.
 - Voted approved, committee consists of 3 people- chair, president & past president
 - Disciplinary Committee- Garrett-
 - Continue to be more active than would hope- hearing cases on alleged referee assault & abuse. Also, hearing about player on player violent conduct. Discussion about state review of these for consistency.
 - Need to encourage players to be respectful- especially of officials. Incidents seem to be getting more egregious.
 - Discussion about whether yellow cards are tracked.
 - Need to make sure suspensions are enforced.
 - Discussion about monitoring rosters/inputting data for suspensions. Also, printing game day rosters just before game so data is current.
 - League should not be hearing assault or abuse on referee cases- they should come automatically/directly to state.
 - Leagues can refer player on player violence to state if egregious.
 - Recommendation for a national suspension list, as player's cross state lines to play.
 - Discussion about 'citizenship award' for team with lowest number of yellow or red cards.
 - Appeals- Moulay absent. There were two appeals- one heard, one not.
 - One appeal was not heard- and was probably better for the team
 - The appeal that was heard was denied.
 - Referee Report- Del Rainho
 - There are some rule changes coming up this year (See: <http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0110/3991/Summaryof2016-2017LawChanges.pdf>)
 - Eric Simmons was appointed as referee scout.
 - Allan Kelly named referee of the year
 - Coaching- Chris- absent. Report from Andy. There are conversations underway w. high level coaches to start small scale event- seminar type- coaching education, paperwork, roster systems. Really hoping to educate managers. Target timing is very early spring.
 - National Cup Committee- JP & Kevin – Historically there have been two cups. There are two other national cups. Should there be a state competition US Soccer
 - Goal for next year would be to bring in the women's league.

- National Amateur Cup- ongoing right now- 13 participants- largest group they've had. The winner of the Amateur cup goes onto Regional competition.
 - Discussion about whether teams are interested in state competition to qualify for regionals tournaments verses champion of O30 levels play each other.
 - Historically, only 2 teams interested. We have paid an entry fee already – discussing how to determine who goes.
 - Registrar Report – Welcome Debbie our new registrar. Debbie presented player counts historical data, we can see that our player counts have increased throughout the years. We have a total of 14,000 players registered as of this week.
 - Presented a slide on the number of female/male player counts by age groups.
 - Youth Soccer Liason Jared Scarpaci introduced himself and started open discussion on how youth leagues feed into leagues... do we see under 20 age group increase as the youth liaison introduces this to the youth groups?
 - Need to determine strategy to market Mass Soccer to youth. They will focus on getting the information to the youth opportunities to continue to play as adults.
 - Suggestion of small tournament/joint effort between Mass Soccer under 20 & Youth Association Soccer.
 - NOTE: Mass has second largest (to CA) number of adult soccer players, Mass Youth is second across US as well.
- Special Election: Vice President. Garrett Solomon nominated. No other nominations. Garrett approved.
- Thank you to Logan for all that he did as the previous VP (who moved to Salt Lake)
- Approval of Budget: Budget distribution. Last year projected loss of \$18,801., Actual loss \$45,012. This year, projected loss \$150,343.
 - Discussion about spending down a little bit from reserve.
 - Also, how to decrease expenses- ex. Break even on events/tournaments vs. have them as expense. Suggestion to push excess back to leagues- provide benefit back to them. Need to look at how to break even financially for the long term- at the loss rate we're running, we're out of money in less than five years. As of today, \$405,000.
 - Suggestion to run budget on accrual basis- avoid big year/small year.
 - Budget: indoor tournament expenses not reflected. Request to add \$5000 expense and \$3000 (10 teams@ \$300/team) income
 - Move money- food re-allocated to equipment- net no change
 - Proposal to increase travel- although so far not too many people may not be going- may not be necessary. (USASA meeting is in Hawaii this spring.)
 - Question about website expense- total of \$20,000 (\$5000 for hosting, \$15000 for development). Recommendation to split those expenses to separate line items.
- Budget voted approved
- Amendments to the Bylaws- None
- New Business

- Indoor Tournament- Ideally Jan/Feb (vs. March last year) Ideally 5v5, 6v6. Currently research being done on locations- hoping to have facility nailed down within next few weeks. If anyone has connections, let Cezar know.
- New England Soccer Open- report by Cezar. Andy appointed Julian Dunlop. Needs new blood- new people to get involved. Need to have leagues get involved. Moved this year to third week in August which seemed better than previous years- when it was second year of August. Has been pitched as getting ready for the season. As League Leaders please pitch to your teams.
- Suggestion: Create an event calendar. Also, include a link showing tournaments for your league.
- Fundraising- report by Andy. Fan Fire app for phone-kind of like fantasy football. It's possible if Mass Soccer players use this & play this game, Mass Soccer may get residual money back.
- Player Waivers- USASA got sued and rules are starting to change re: waivers. Waivers MUST be signed by players electronically or on paper. Need to make sure we're diligent about ensuring players
- Passcard Expiration Dates- Need to have expiration dates b/c of players who play out of state. Therefore, expiration dates will be back. Different designs will be coming.
- Vets Cup will be in Nashville, TN. About 35 minutes outside) July 12-16. Great facilities, 12-14 fields. Last year over 100 teams over all, Mass represented by 10-15 teams (about 7-8 male & female teams). Open Division TBD. Best attended USASA event for women. Mass Soccer will pay for entry/registration league. Don't have to be existing teams- can create teams for the cup. Links will be coming out.
- Andy attends Regional meetings, Cezar attends National level. Let either of them know if you have ideas, etc. Always open to hearing ideas, etc.
- Adjournment