

Thursday, July 18, 2024

Meeting Location: Tele-Conference/Webinar Meeting **Meeting Time:** 7:00PM to 8:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Speaker: Joe Payton

President Joe Payton called the 2024 WDDOA General Membership Meeting to order and welcomed attendees to the kickoff meeting for the upcoming year.

Joe introduced the WDDOA Governing Board members present:

- John Buckler, Executive Vice President
- Dora Boyle, Secretary
- Stephen Sundquist, Treasurer
- John Jones, Commissioner of Referees

Attendees were informed that the meeting was being held via webinar. Questions were to be held until the end of the meeting, at which point WDDOA staff would remain available to address them.

Joe turned the meeting over to Dora Boyle to begin the vote accreditation process.

ROLL CALL & VOTE ACCREDITATION:

Speaker: Dora Boyle

It was confirmed that WDDOA has 578 teams, requiring 290 teams for quorum.

Quorum was met.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 20, 2023 General Membership Meeting

The minutes from the July 20, 2023 General Membership Meeting were made available on the WDDOA website prior to this meeting. Attendees were encouraged to review them in advance.

- A motion to approve the minutes was made by Lonestar Gray Nth A 12B
- The motion was seconded by SA Athletic FC Wolves 08G
- A vote was conducted via a show of hands on the webinar dashboard

The motion passed and the minutes were approved

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

REPORTS:

Officers Reports (* Signifies positions up for election July 2024)

Executive Vice-President – John Buckler

Speaker: John Buckler

State Cup / Presidents Cup / Directors Cup: Tournament Highlights & Regional Success

John Buckler shared updates on WDDOA team participation and achievements in recent regional and national competitions.

2024 US Youth Southern Presidents Cup: June 14–18, Plano, TX

BOYS:

- **U16** – Laredo Heat 08/09 Red – **Regional Champions** – Advanced to **Nationals**
- **U18** – Force FC 06B White
- **U19** – RC Rangers U19B Orange

GIRLS:

- **U13** – SA City 11/12G Red – Advanced to **Semi-Finals**
- **U14** – Lady Lions 2010 Red
- **U14** – SA Bullets FC – Advanced to **Semi-Finals**
- **U16** – Centex Storm 08G – Advanced to **Semi-Finals**
- **U17** – Lobo FC – Edinburg 07G
- **U19** – The 956 United GU19 – Advanced to **Finals**

2024 US Youth Southern Regional Championships: June 21–27, Tampa/Auburndale, FL

BOYS:

- **U13** – RC Rangers SGA 11B Premier – **Regional Champions** – Advancing to **Nationals**
- **U14** – Brownsville Tiburones – **Regional Champions** – Advancing to **Nationals**
- **U16** – Capital City SC 08B Sky North
- **U19** – Capital City SC 05B Sky North

GIRLS:

- **U14** – GSA Force FC 10G White – Second consecutive year at Regionals
- **U14** – Lonestar 10G FDL White – Second consecutive year at Regionals
- **U15** – FIERCE 09G – Qualified via National League – Advancing to **Nationals**
- **U16** – FIERCE 08G – Advanced to **Quarterfinals**
- **U16** – Lonestar 08G FDL White – Second consecutive year at Regionals
- **U17** – Lonestar 07G FDL White
- **U18** – GSA Force FC 06G White – Advanced to **Semi-Finals**

Commissioner of Referees* – John Jones

Speaker: John Jones

Review of South Texas and WDDOA referees at Regional and National Events

Secretary* – Dora Boyle

Speaker: Dora Boyle

No Report

Treasurer – Stephen Sundquist

Speaker: Stephen Sundquist

WDDOA is in good financial standing

President* – Joe Payton

Speaker: Joe Payton

President Joe Payton introduced Mike Erwin, representing the WDDOA Directors' Council, to deliver the Council's report. Joe reminded attendees that the Directors' Council plays a vital role in shaping the future of competitive soccer within WDDOA. The Council:

- Meets monthly throughout the year
- Reviews requests for consideration from clubs and stakeholders
- Provides input on:
 - League structure
 - Competition formats
 - Rules and policies

Committee Reports

Speaker: Mike Erwin

Mike Erwin, on behalf of the WDDOA Directors' Council, presented a comprehensive overview of the 2023–2024 seasonal year and shared updates on league operations, player movement, and policy changes.

Seasonal Year Overview (2023–2024)

- Total Games Played: 4,655 (↑ 400 from previous year)

- Initial Player Count (August): 10,342
 - New Player Adds: 1,599
 - Transfers/Moves: 634
 - Releases: 803
- Total Players for the Year: 11,772

Scheduling & Game Adjustments

- Average Reschedule Rate: 47% across all groups
- 231 reschedules processed after season start (↑ 52 from last year)
- 419 rainouts (↑ from 145 last year)
- 2 COVID-related postponements (same as last year)
- 195 forfeits (↑ 50 from last year), including:
 - 14 for ineligible players or club pass violations
 - 134 for failure to travel, show, or field minimum players
 - 47 for handwritten players (consistent with last year, down from two years ago)

The decline in handwritten players is attributed to strong pre-season club meeting attendance, great job, everyone!

Policy Updates & Enforcement

Forfeits

- Due to the increase in forfeits, a new rule has been added to the Rules of Competition
- See Section 2.4.14.2.2 for details on consequences for teams with multiple forfeits

Sideline Conduct Policy

- The WDDOA Sideline Conduct Policy, introduced last year, includes a progressive discipline system
- Positive impact noted: fewer sideline incidents
- Update for 2024–2025:
 - The “Counseling of Coach” step has been removed
 - First violation now results in a 1-point deduction in standings
 - Clubs are encouraged to set clear expectations with parents and spectators

“We all want everyone to cheer and have a good time, but let’s remember—we’re out there for the kids.”

NEW BUSINESS:

WDDOA Flights: Season Navigation Information

Speaker: Joe Payton

The WDDOA flight structure and scheduling approach for the 2024–2025 seasonal year were reviewed. Key updates and reminders were shared to help teams and clubs prepare for the upcoming season.

WDDOA Rosters: Adult Compliance / Player Photos

Speaker: John Buckler

The WDDOA office reminded all teams and clubs of the critical role registrars play in preparing official team paperwork, including rosters and player cards. To support this process, coaches and team managers were asked to assist with two key responsibilities:

1. Player Photos

- Every player must have a recent, properly formatted ID photo uploaded in GotSport
- Official rosters cannot be finalized without valid photos for all players

2. Adult Compliance Requirements

Before any adult (coach, assistant, or manager) can be added to a team roster, the following must be completed:

- SafeSport Training:

- Expires May 31st annually
- A refresher course or full course (depending on tenure) must be completed each year
- Background Check (KidSafe):
 - Expires every two years on May 31st
- CDC Concussion Awareness Training:
 - Required once (no expiration)

Full instructions and compliance details are available on the Manager/Coach Resources page at www.wddoa.org

Progressive Discipline System

Rules & Compliance

- The WDDOA 24/25 Rules of Competition are posted online and will remain unchanged unless directed by USYS or US Soccer
- If changes occur, they will be posted in detail on the website

Club Pass Reminder:

Just because GotSport allows a Club Pass player does not mean they are eligible.

Review the Club Pass Rules and Progressive Discipline Policy to avoid:

- Forfeits
- Fines
- Loss of Club Pass privileges

The WDDOA office provided an overview of the STYSA Progressive Discipline System, which is outlined in Section 4.9 of the STYSA Handbook.

Key Points:

- The system is prescriptive and tiered, meaning punishments escalate with repeated offenses
- Fewer incidents now require D&P (Discipline & Protest) hearings, allowing for faster enforcement
- Teams are encouraged to review the “Progressive Discipline System Explained” document available on the WDDOA website

Season Preparation Meetings

To ensure a smooth start to the 2024–2025 seasonal year, WDDOA has scheduled several important meetings and deadlines for club administrators, registrars, coaches, and team managers.

Key Dates & Events:

- **August 2nd – Initial Schedules Published**
 - Available at 10:00 PM in GotSport - Not available on the public website
 - Only visible to coaches and managers who are properly attached to their teams by the club registrar
- **August 5th–7th – Club-Focused Virtual Meetings**
 - Covers league requirements, deadlines, game-day procedures, Club Pass usage, and more
 - Meeting schedule is posted on the WDDOA website
 - Clubs may request a time/date change via the Google Form
- **August 9th–11th (with overflow on 12th–13th) – Virtual Scheduling Workshops**
 - For Prime and Challenger teams only
 - Times will be posted once brackets are finalized
 - Alpha teams will continue scheduling via GotSport Chat
- **September 4th – Team Manager “Let’s Get Ready for the Season” Meeting**
 - Covers all topics discussed in this meeting in greater detail
- **September 10th – Club Pass Usage Refresher**
 - Reviews rules, best practices, and verification procedures for Club Pass players

WDDOA Election of Officers

Speaker: John Buckler

The WDDOA announced that three officer positions were up for election during this meeting:

- President
- Secretary
- Commissioner of Referees

All current officeholders have chosen to run for re-election. No additional nominations were presented during the meeting. No candidates from the floor.

Voting procedures and results were recorded and certified per WDDOA bylaws all candidates approved.

MEETING CLOSURE:

For the Good of The Game

Speaker: Dora Boyle

WDDOA 13th Annual Pink Out the Pitch – October 19-20, 2024

WDDOA proudly announced the 13th Annual Pink Out the Pitch, scheduled for: October 19–20, 2024

All teams are encouraged to participate in this special weekend by showing their support for breast cancer awareness. Suggestions included:

- Wearing pink socks, jerseys, or accessories
- Coaches and staff dressing in all pink
- Creative sideline attire—last year featured pink tutus and fun team spirit!

Adjournment

Speaker: Joe Payton

President Joe Payton thanked all attendees for participating in the 2024 WDDOA General Membership Meeting. He reminded everyone that the WDDOA website remains the primary source of information throughout the seasonal year.

Attendees were encouraged to use the “?” icon on the webinar dashboard to submit any final questions. WDDOA staff remained available after the meeting to assist with follow-up inquiries.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:43pm.