SOUTHWEST
SOCCER

## 2023 Annual General Meeting Wednesday, December 6, 2023 - Via MS Teams Meeting Summary and Results

## Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Southwest Soccer's President, Jeff Hughes, at 7:34pm.

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In Attendance:
Membership:
Banatul SC
Blue Mountain SC
Berlin FA
Cambridge Youth Soccer
Football for the World
Guelph Soccer Club
Guelph United FC
Hellenic United
Hillsburgh, Erin & District SC
Inter County SL
KDSL
Kitchener SC
Lakeshore SL
Markdale SC
Mount Forest & District Soccer Club
Orangeville Minor SC
Oriental Sports Club
Portuguese Club of Cambridge
Puslinch Minor Soccer Club
RED Academy of Soccer
Rockwood FC
St. Clements
Stratford CT
Stratford Youth Soccer
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## Board of Directors

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\begin{tabular}{ll} 
Jeff Hughes & President \\
Pat Bandura & Vice President \\
Holly Pierre & Treasurer \\
Kyle Fletcher & Director-at-Large \\
Laszlo Sarkany & Director-at-Large \\
Kimberly Seed & Director-at-Large
\end{tabular}
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## Southwest Soccer Staff:

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\begin{tabular}{ll} 
Daniel Rowe & General Manager \\
Martha Astesiano & District Administrator/Discipline Coordinator \\
Andrea Richards & Administrative Assistant
\end{tabular}
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## Guests:

| Peter Augruso | President- Ontario Soccer |
| :--- | :--- |
| Oscar Rex | Award Winner |
| Reme Osario | Waterloo County FC (New Member) |
| Ginger Osario | Premier League Futsal (New Member) |

## Introduction:

National Anthem was played.
Welcome and thank you to all for attending the 2023 AGM.
Provided guidance on how to communicate during the virtual meeting.

## In Memoriam

Southwest Soccer remembered District individuals who passed away this year.
Cathy Broom, Orangeville Minor SC - Administrator
Donald Heimpel, Kitchener SC - Former President

## 2023 Southwest Soccer Awardees Presentation

Grassroots Coach of the Year - Peter Mortson, Orangeville Minor Soccer Club
Youth and Up Coaches of the Year - Rob Pigozzo and Darren Capper, Puslinch Soccer Club
Grassroots Match Official of the Year - Noah Mackinnon
Youth and Up Match Official of the Year - Oscar Rex

## Roll Call \#1

Based on the attendance, quorum was met with 11185 out of 17699 total eligible votes present.

## Minutes of Previous AGM - December 7, 2022

Moved by PMSC and seconded by KTFC to adopt the minutes of the 2022 AGM.
All in favour to approve.
Motion carried.

## Reports presented:

- President Jeff Hughes
- Administrator Report Daniel Rowe
- Match Official Department Report Daniel Rowe

Motion to accept the reports by Berlin FC and seconder HEADS.

- Financials and Auditor's Reports Holly Pierre
-Financial Statements ending September 30, 2023
-Budget for 2023-2024
-Motion to accept Financial Statements and Budget by PMSC and seconder KTFC.
All in favour.
Motion carried


## -Appointment of Auditors

Motion to appoint Tom Wilhelm Professional Corporation as Auditors for the year ending 2024 by PMSC and seconder HEADS.
All in favour.
Motion carried.

## Amendments to the Constitution

No proposed changes to Southwest Soccer's Constitution were received for consideration at the 2023 AGM.

## Call for Unfinished Business

None.

## Roll Call \#2

Based on the attendance, quorum was met with 11185 out of 17699 total eligible votes present. 50\% plus 1 is 5593.

## Online Voting Process

Simply Voting Software used.
Practice session done before any voting occurred. Worked through glitches. Issues resolved for first vote.

## 2023 Election of Southwest Soccer Board of Directors

Vice President - 2-year term

- Nomination received for Patrick Bandura
- Ballot vote
- Patrick Bandura elected Vice President


## Director-at-Large - 2-year term

- Nomination received for Yeliz Sherifali
- Ballot vote
- Yeliz Sherifali elected Director-at-Large


## Director-at-Large - 1-year term

- Nomination received for Kimberly Seed
- Ballot vote
- Kimberly Seed elected Director-at-Large


## Director-at-Large - 2-year term

- No nomination received from the floor
- Position remains Open


## Ontario Soccer Address

Peter Augruso, Ontario Soccer President, addressed the Southwest Soccer membership:

- Thank you to Southwest Soccer and the Board for hosting the National Championships. Shutout to Andrea for handling the transportation and last minute requests, and all the staff that were there, you did a great event. You made us proud at Ontario Soccer for the fantastic job, thank you.
- Outdoor registration was over $103 \%$ of the pre-pandemic numbers, just shy of 260,000 registrants in the province.
Indoor registration was over 115\% of the pre-pandemic numbers, between 92,000 to 93,000 player registered.
While registrations and the game came back, we cannot forget the Match Officials. You do a tremendous job here in Southwest. In 2021, only 42\% came back to the game and we know most of the reasons why, that number jumped to $59 \%$ in 2022 , and then we all got serious and we signed some declarations and we did some actions on our part at Ontario Soccer with respect to "No Ref, No Game" Campaign and we are now at 71\% of the pre-pandemic numbers. We still have a huge work to do but it is on the upswing. We need folks like you to help with
this. Referees leave the game because of the physical and mental abuse they get and we have to stop it.
Please help us as leaders as we implement different things throughout this year and next year: -substantial increases in fines
-I put forward, and we are in conversations now, to start to taking points away from teams. I think this will be more effective than fining a team
-zero tolerance policy
-the Ref Body Cam - this camera doesn't record the entire game; if there are some issues going on and the ref presses the button, it will start recording, 5 to 10 seconds at first and as long as it remains activated it stays on and the recording is save in the cloud.
We are going to do a pilot during indoor, but it is mostly for outdoor.
-a new 5-min break initiative were the head referee calls a 5-min time out, everyone goes to their benches and hopefully that will be enough to lower the temperature on the field
- Participant recruitment and retention, we are working on it and start rolling the findings on that in 2024/2025. The number one reason is leaving the game because of their coach. We need your help with that to have coaches educated properly before stepping on the field. With respect to referee abuse, Respect In Sport is the \#1 thing you can make them to do, even you can mandate parents to take it if they want to watch their kid games
- We have developed a plan that will be introduced shortly in early 2024 to take advantage of the FIFA World Cup in 2026 to engage the communities, celebrate the game and inspire new comers to sign up for soccer. We are targeting a number of groups - the indigenous groups, people with disabilities, ethnic leagues and new Canadians, etc We will provide some coaching education to protect players and encourage them to come back year after year.
- Based on conversations at another AGM and I would like to take the temperature of this room, about considering one fee initiative for the province of Ontario, this means a one fee for every player in this province. My initial reaction is I am not so keen in increasing the youth/grassroots fees because they make $40 \%$ of our membership but I am not opposed to have some sort of a tier system of 2 or 3 avenues or streams. Should we do some work on it to present some options? Or not? Right now we have fees for grassroots, youth, senior, competitive and recreational. Think about the one fee and you can send your thoughts to Jeff. I will not spend the time on it, if the majority of the membership thinks is not a great idea. Comments from:

HEADS: "It's pretty straightforward as it currently is. Just put the fees onto the budget. Having one fee doesn't seem to change anything from my perspective"
Peter Augruso: "The only change will be a grassroots player paying $\$ 16$ now, this fee will increase between $\$ 25 / \$ 28$ to equalize, I wouldn't know the math now"
Dan Rowe: "I remember few years back and doing some calculations of one fee that includes indoor and outdoor, but for those participating in one season, there will be an increment; but for those participating year-round there will be a reduction."
Peter Augruso: "Yes the last time we saw this was in 2018. You are right, if you see at our numbers, 100 thousand indoor and 260 thousand outdoor, less than $1 / 3$ will see an increment to support the indoor players. We will do some work and present it to the District Presidents and they can move it forward if they feel like it or not"

- Thank you for joining the I-Module in 2025. I have seen some positives coming out of that. Next year, the Hamilton District will be joining with at least one division.


## New Business

None.

## Adjournment

The Southwest Soccer President declared the meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.

