



## **FC EXETER**

### **Monthly board meeting**

**April 9, 2024**

**At Exeter Rec and via Zoom**

### **Attendance**

Maria Proulx (President), Patrick Garrity (Vice-President), Jason Faria (Secretary), Jenn Young (Treasurer); Ben Bailey, Jessica Costa, Luke Martel, Matteo Taormina; Board Nominees: Cathy Golden, Michael Hill (zoom), Shane Bradt, Geoff Meadville

Absent with Regrets:

Porter Hayes, Eric Kelley, Christie Farris, Scott Craig

### **Welcome and meeting minutes**

Maria Proulx opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

### **Minutes from March**

Jessica made a motion to approve the March minutes, seconded by Ben. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **NNESL Update**

We lost our location for the playoffs. 3-Step gave away Epping, stating that we didn't get our check in. Gave our dates away for playoff weekend. This was a corporate decision at 3-Step. We can have a 9v9 field. Patrick working on a proposal for PEA 11v11. Matt C. working on Berwick Academy. We don't have the ability to host more than one 11v11.

Matteo suggested using Roger Allen in Rochester. Maria will bring that back to NNESL because Chad from Rochester wasn't on the last NNESL call.

There was a conversation with NHSL about pulling back together and breaking into regions. This would help because NHSL could run the administration. Ed Royer from NHSL is interested and will talk to his Board. NNESL Board will discuss at the next meeting.

Patrick said PEA is waiting on a response from procurement with an invoice for the cost of playoffs. A decision must be made on playoff locations before next month's meeting.

Still nothing in writing from 3-Step on the merger. Jenn asked when we would have a decision. We need to have a decision well ahead of Fall.

Luke mentioned that NHSL would have Pembroke available for playoffs. Maria said that Ed Royer offered up the Pembroke fields for playoffs. Luke expressed concern that 3-Step could get in and raise our fees. Moving back to NHSL would keep us as a town travel. Maria pointed out that NHSL has a bunch of club teams that we're playing. Matteo and Jason confirmed that has been the experience.

Luke mentioned in closing that his gut is that he's more comfortable with NHSL and NHSL opens up Pembroke as a fall-back for games we can't schedule.

Maria made sure it was clear that whatever we do has to be in writing. Jenn pointed out that we could always leave NECSL if we don't like where they're going. Maria said the goal of the NNESSL Board is to keep the regional feel and streamlining that we achieved with NNESSL while shifting the administrative burden off the Board.

### **Spring Update**

Need to decide on what to do with a U10 Girls team. We had two teams, the Premier and Championship. Three dropped out of the Championship team which brings them down to seven players. The coaches prefer to roll into one team, but that has a ripple effect on scheduling. Ben, Laura and Jessica have all offered to support Sarah Fetras, the Championship coach. Stephanie Christopher and Sheena Haney will help with managing the teams as one pool and getting two games out. Ben spoke to U9 coaches and there are plenty of players who want to play up. The Board brainstormed others who would play both.

Schedules were due from all teams today. League should be getting the schedule out in a few days. We have very few weekday home games.

### **Fields**

High School teams need to practice this week. Stratham Memorial should be available for practice Thursday and Friday. We may need to reschedule the home game for U17 Girls. The U17 Boys are in Windham. Otherwise fields are shut down for the week.

### **Fall Evaluations**

Maria said we need to open up registration so we can do evaluations. We need to set our fees in order to do that and we will need to raise them. Geoff mentioned that we have a forward-facing mission statement that says we will provide affordable youth soccer. Jason read back the minutes from December where we voted to raise fees by \$15/age level.

We have been getting 10-15 scholarship requests through Are You In per season now. We've always funded them. Basketball is charging more, as is baseball. LAX is less but you have to pay a USA LAX membership after it. Discussion about raising it more than \$15 for Fall. Geoff said it would be important to put out information about where fees go to.

Jenn suggested \$25 which brings us to \$190 Youth and \$225 for High School. **Patrick made a motion to increase by \$25/age group. Seconded by Matteo. The motion passed unanimously.**

Patrick talked about ramping up advertising and fundraising. We need to figure out what our value proposition is. What quick hits are worth it? Like fundraiser nights at local restaurants. Luke and Jenn said that the last time we checked on sponsorships for shirts, it was a wash for what it costs. We need to task someone with spearheading it.

Evaluation staffing - Evaluations will be Saturday, May 11. Scott will set up a schedule and then send out a sign up sheet including bagel and donut pickup.

Jenn will open registration April 10 and close May 10. Jenn will set the roster sizes to max size. Anyone beyond that number will receive a waitlist notification. Registration can reopen after evaluations for teams that don't have enough players.

Jenn asked for help merging evaluation data more efficiently. Ben volunteered to help.

### **Coaching & Academy**

Jason will send out a sign up for folks to show up to Academy and to support other coaches.

### **Tournaments**

Scott reported that we are still waiting for updates from tournament directors. Pricing is favorable on Levasseur Tournament and Harvest Cup.

Cathy talked about losing Seacoast players for Tournament weekends. We will pay for teams to go to other tournaments if it works better for them. Need to think about how we get around the waiting game for players who play Seacoast. Might be worth talking to Seacoast about how we aren't getting what we need from them for Columbus Day to see if they accommodate us.

### **Financial Report**

Cash balance is \$124,418. Slightly ahead of where we were last year. 990 and NH Annual Report need to be filed by May 15. Jenn will also check the trademark registration on FC Exeter to make sure it's up to date.

### **Ad hoc**

Chuck wants us to make a decision as to whether or not we are going to let him coach under FC Exeter. Claims that he could put together a Girls Varsity team. However, the teams he puts together aren't from our catchment area. He's been operating without using our system, but has been sending players to our website to purchase uniforms. Maria will draft a response to him to be reviewed by the Board.

### **Adjournment**

Jessica made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm, seconded by Luke. The motion was carried unanimously.