



## **FC Exeter Board Meeting**

**December 12, 2023**

### **Welcome**

Patrick Garrity, vice president of the board of directors, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. In attendance were directors Jenn Young, Mateo Taormina, Jason Faria, Eric Kelley, Patrick Garrity, Geoff Meadville, Ben Bailey, Scott Craig, Shane Bradt, Porter Hayes and Luke Martel. Absent with regrets were Christie Farris, Jessica Costa and Maria Proulx.

Patrick introduced John Fagan, an FCX coach and parent considering a role as a Board Member. John introduced himself and shared his extensive coaching background, primarily in Duxbury, MA.

### **NNESL**

Patrick shared what he knew about potential changes at NNESL. There are concerns that some of the changes NNESL is considering could negatively impact the way we form teams. There also continues to be a concern about teams actively recruiting players from other clubs' "catchment areas." This continues to be a contentious subject at NNESL Board meetings.

### **NNESL**

Luke Martel made a motion to accept the minutes from the November meeting. Seconded by Shane Bradt. The motion was carried and the minutes were approved (10-0 w/1 abstention).

### **Financials**

The Board discussed having a Code of Conduct added to the registration page for sign off by parents and coaches. We agreed to develop one and have it discussed at the Coaches Meeting. Matteo agreed to look at the samples that had been provided by Scott, Jenn and Geoff and to help finalize it.

### **Financials**

Jenn delivered the financial report and suggested that we raise registration fees as rising costs are beginning to eat into cash. Jenn recommended that registration fees be raised by at each level. We've kept pricing flat for a long time. Exeter Rc is going to increase fees to \$2000 for practices. We book for every weekday in the fall. Brentwood hasn't charged because we've spent money on improvements, but they will begin to charge. Field maintenance is

becoming more costly at \$8,000-\$10,000 and we want to stash \$15,000 in a money market for future investments in fields. Matteo suggested that we chip away at it by raising the fees partially, rather than covering the whole cost immediately and start fundraising more to cover some of it. Jenn Young suggested that a \$15/age group increase would do it, but we would eat some cost.

Luke Martel made a motion to raise the fees by \$15 per age group, seconded by Patrick Garrity. The motion carried (11-0).

There was continued general discussion about trying other tournaments to reduce costs because we've been paying \$18,000-\$24,000 per tournament for the Seacoast United tournaments we participate in now.

### **Spring Registration**

Because of the acrimony at NNESSL about us having two teams in the HS JV division last Spring, there was discussion of capping HS registration at 22 and then wait-listing players until another 22 registered before opening a new team. Jason raised concerns because high school players start becoming responsible for pursuing their own registration after freshman year. Our initial sign ups will likely be mostly freshmen/sophomores and the upper-classmen will sign up late, so that could make it hard to form real JV/Varsity teams. There seemed to be general agreement to take this approach. No vote was taken.

### **Coaches Survey**

Patrick had previously shared the results via email. 18 out of 24 coaches responded. There was good support overall. There was mixed feelings about the tournament experience. Overall, one area for improvement was more support for newer coaches.

Patrick suggested that maybe we go with a coaching committee rather than leave the onus on one director and that we do committees for other responsibilities as well.

There were suggestions that we follow up with coaches who had issues specified in the survey and that we develop a checklist and template emails for coaches.

### **Fields**

Patrick reported that all fields were cleaned up and put away for the winter. Luke committed to cleaning up the storage shed. Patrick discussed how positive Friday night games at Knowles Field were. However, we should staff the games with some Board members to keep peace with residents and regulate parking and speed.

**Use of FC Exeter Name/Logo/Uniform off-season**

There was a discussion about negative impacts and potential liability for using the FC Exeter name/logo/uniform outside of our covered seasons. There appeared to be consensus that the Board doesn't condone use of the logo/name/uniform outside of the season. There was discussion that no vote was necessary at this point, but that the Executive Board could move forward with enforcing a policy of no use outside of the season. If the Executive Board feels a vote of the Board is required in the future, that can be brought up again.

**Adjournment**

Jason Faria moved to adjourn at 8:40pm, seconded by Eric Kelly. Motion carried unanimously.