



Exeter Youth Soccer Association
Minutes of a meeting of the board of directors
Held at 7.30pm on September 21st, 2021 at 84 Front Street, Exeter, NH

1. Chairman welcome

The Chairman, Marc Chabot, noting that the meeting had been convened properly and that a quorum was present opened the meeting at 7.30pm. Also in attendance were Patrick Garrity, Jenn Young, Maria Proulx, Matt Taormina, Luke Martel, Randall Skaal, Jason Faria, Amy Farnham and Stephen Osborne, who acted as Secretary. There had been apologies for absence from Chris Sera and Brian Melick.

2. Minutes

The draft minutes of the meetings held on August 9, 2021 having been previously circulated were approved.

3. Fall season

Randall reported that team registrations were healthy with 166 in total across all divisions.

Randall provided an update on the U11 boys who had achieved some high scoring wins in the Championship. It had been proposed, and after discussion there was consensus to support, a mid-season move for the team, to the Premiership. It was noted that this in no way was endorsing the proposal by some on the Competition Committee, that Exeter's first team at any age group should default to a Premier placement. It was also noted that the team's record to date will be wiped and that their end of season placement will be based on their average points over the remaining games. Finally, the move will require a Premier team to volunteer a drop to the Championship.

Randall reported that coach Mac, U13 girls, would like to forfeit their next game, against Proper Footy (Maine). This was in anticipation of a lopsided fixture. There was a discussion about this type of forfeit and whether this was a reasonable approach. It was noted that FC Exeter is a development club and that results should not be the only measure of success. It was agreed that Randall should ask Mac to consider forfeiting the result, but asking Proper Footy to play the game one or two player short.

Maria reported that the NNESL Board has decided to implement more formal protocols for the Competition Committee as the league grows, with more member clubs, and less direct knowledge of the committee members on each situation. This will include determining each clubs' approach to team formation, age brackets, A & B teams, playing up, balanced teams, the academy philosophy, etc. It is intended that this information be gathered ahead of the Spring 2022 season.

Stephen reported that, associated with the discussion above, he had seen differences at the U15 level for fall teams. For example, Hampton Express had a majority of players from the High School freshman year. Whereas other teams had assembled teams comprising 7th and 7th graders. Exeter's position remained that ideally the U14 and U15 ages be combined so that teams may be placed based upon their level, not their age. Maria advised that NNESL is looking at this and combined with the intelligence gathering exercise, above, guidelines will be issued to that clubs may go into the fall season with a clear understanding of the basis. This may mean that FC Exeter U15 teams should seek more high school players.



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4. Academy

Patrick advised that at U9 level, with three birth years involved, there had been some problems. In addition, the thin rosters have meant it has been difficult to assemble match day teams of adequate strength. He proposed a post mortem session for the board, or a subcommittee, to document issues and improvements for next year.

That said, having the Rec filled with eleven teams practicing every Tuesday and Thursday is fantastic. It augers well for the age groups as they progress.

The board recognized the fantastic work that Patrick is doing for these academy age groups.

5. Capitol Cup

The board reviewed each age group for the boys and girls and agreed specific actions relating to team formation and bracket entries.

6. COVID-19

It was noted that there had only been isolated reports of players staying away from games and practice, as precautions, where there had been possible infection. There were no specific club issues.

7. Fields

Matteo will check the 9v9 goal situation at Brentwood. Everything is painted, as planned. Andy (Brentwood) will provide access to the shed, for corner flags. Patrick is ordering 2 more flags.

It was noted that more sand bags were needed, to secure goals. Patrick will order these.

Luke shared that, through an acquaintance, he had been offered EYSA access to a floodlit field in Hampton. The organization was keen to offer a regular time slot for FC Exeter games or practices during the fall and spring. Marc and Luke will follow up. It was noted that floodlit fields are especially useful from the end of October, when there is no early evening daylight.

Patrick noted that Timberland's field had proved to be a great addition too.

8. Uniforms

As previously discussed, the global distribution issues had mean there were significant delays relating to uniform orders. These delays had been experienced by other clubs using different vendors, and they were not a FC Exeter, wegetsoccer or Nike specific issue.

Luke reported that almost all uniforms should now have been distributed by Wegotsoccer. He said that they were very receptive to positive communications and sought to help EYSA. Waivers will be needed for this weekend, but after that, the backlog may have cleared.

9. Finances

Jenn reported the cash balance at \$101,940. This was stronger than a year ago when registrations were impacted due to COVID-19. None of the fall's significant costs had been paid yet: fields, league fees, Seacoast United.



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Jenn noted that there had been some mistakes with Seacoast's invoicing lately. She was reviewing the bills carefully and challenging as appropriate. Maria noted that NNESSL was aware of changes at Seacoast and, by way of contingency, was considering its options in terms of go-forward league management.