



Northern Lights Soccer

Monthly Meeting

May 11, 2020

7:00 pm Online Meeting

Call to order:

- **Meeting Called By: Meghan Rietschel**
- **Type of Meeting: Monthly Committee Meeting**
- **Note Taker: Mandy Paumen**

Attendees: Mandy Paumen, Meghan Rietschel, Chere Thompson, Aaron Lindquist, Andy Severance, Angela Kokesh, Sarah Boyum, Christine Amsler, Kotchi Prosper, Heinrich von Mende, Ben Gerads, Mary Pipenhagen, Leigh Bakke, Jon Klocker, Justin Allen, Sean Sutter and Lindsey Helgeson.

Meeting called to order by Meghan Rietschel at 7:05 pm.

Mandy Paumen makes a motion to approve the March Meeting Minutes. Leigh Bakke seconds the motion. Motion carries.

Financial Report: Angela Kokesh

- Discussed financials

Open Forum:

Committee Business:

Task Updates:

Tournament Coordinator: Andy Severance

- Tournament was canceled.

Volunteer Coordinator: Leigh Bakke

- Need to know when and if we have a season to get volunteers lined up.

Field/Equipment Coordinator: Justin Allen

- Despite the unknown status of the season, the summer schedule has been set for teams.
- Reschedules have been taking place and I have not heard of any issues.
- I have been in touch with both the Cities of Ramsey and Anoka and they are as uncertain as we are. Both have advised that we will touch base again after we hear from the Governor on whether the shelter-in-place is extended. Both advised that we should be able to have the fields ready to go by the 1st if we do indeed get the go-ahead to play. We plan to touch base again a week from today.
- Once we know more, I will make plans to get nets put back on the goals.

Concessions Coordinator: Lindsey Helgeson

Girls Travel Coordinator: Ben Gerads

- Unfortunately nothing much to report as we wait patiently and anxiously for what if any season we will have.
- I have received no emails at all from families(shockingly).
- I am sure if the season is canceled and what if any refund they will receive is announced that will change.
- As Aaron has outlined in his update we have been meeting as an executive committee weekly to keep on top of any updates from the Governor and MYSA.
- We still need to be prepared with having teams and facilities ready to go if and when that is.
- We have a number of families that have outstanding balances for their registration and/or tournament/coaches fees that we are addressing. Those balances will be deducted from any possible refund and if anything beyond that is still outstanding we will need to collect that from them.

Boys Travel Coordinator: Christine Amsler

- Receiving emails about health concerns with the season.

Rec Coordinators: Heinrich Von Mende and Mary Pipenhagen

- Been working with Aaron about pricing for rec if they do have season.
- Put together teams today with who was registered.
- Need a list of families who have requested refunds.

Registrar/Communications: Sarah Boyum

- Refund requests for rec need to be forwarded to Sarah.
- Tryout dates are set and will look different/will send message later.
- No advertising about registration or tryouts at this time.
- Not going to start background checks right now for rec coaches.

DOO/Team Manager Coordinator: Chere Thompson

- All managers are trained on rescheduling and going through the process.

DOC: Aaron Lindquist

USYS Update

- The Return-to-Play (RTP) committee hopes to have the guidelines ready to go this week and distributed to state associations.
- Congressman Max Neal is asking Congress for reimbursement for sport activities through tax deductions. This bill is currently being debated and you can learn more about it [here](#).

#GiveAtHomeMN for The Sanneh Foundation

- We would like to highlight the good work our friends at The Sanneh Foundation are doing in light of the pandemic. The Sanneh Foundation is "responding to the urgent needs of youth and families which have emerged as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, by retaining and repurposing our youth-serving workforce to meet the new realities of youth and families.
- They are providing food relief, education support, and childcare by partnering with location organizations and sending staff to support where needed. In just one month, the organization has made the following community impact:
 - Total Individuals Served at Conway: 9,167
 - Total Households Served at Conway: 2,016
 - Total Staff Hours of Service with Food Shelf Partners: 794 Hrs.
 - Total Lbs. of Fresh Produce Distributed: 47,562 Lbs.
- If you are able to support their efforts or want to learn more, [click here](#).

MYSAs Updates

- We want to expand and share our June 1 Return-to-Play plans so you start to have an idea how we expect to return to the field.

Reminder: June 1

- ❑ MYSAs will not host, sanction, endorse or provide insurance for any in-person activities, events, games, or practices that take place prior to June 1. We expect everyone's first in-person practice to be June 1 at the earliest.

Return to play guidelines

- ❑ Governor Walz has asked youth sports organizations to come up with plans to safely return to play. So this week we are talking and working with other local youth sports organizations to create general guidelines. Internally, we are working on soccer-specific guidelines and are looking at USYS guidelines (to be released soon), other state youth soccer associations guidelines, local government rules and regulations, and other relevant organizations plans.
- ❑ We will pass along the guidelines as soon as we can. We understand clubs will need time to figure out implementation plans and with June 1 only a month away, time is of the essence.
- ❑ Please know, players' and coaches' safety is our top priority and our guidelines will reflect that. Also, if Governor Walz makes any announcements that contradict our return-to-play date, we will change our plans to comply.
- ❑ We look forward to getting everyone safely back out on the field, but we know there are still many uncertainties that need to be solved prior to starting youth soccer again. We will plan and wait!

Return to play plan

- ❑ We have been working on a **Return-to-Play** plan so when the time comes, we will be ready to safely start getting players, coaches and families back on the field. We consulted and referenced a variety of organizations including The Aspen Institute, Center for Control and Prevention (CDC), US Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), US Youth Soccer, and US Club Soccer in developing this plan. We will continue to seek the advice of medical professionals.
- ❑ In conjunction and collaboration with Twin Cities Soccer Leagues (TCSL), MYSAs & TCSL have developed a phased approach to resuming youth soccer safely.
- ❑ We sent the plan to Governor Walz and his office this morning in hopes he will provide some guidance and direction on not only youth soccer, but youth sports as a whole. We designed a phased plan that strictly adheres to governmental restrictions and guidelines, can be changed depending upon additional input from medical and/or governmental officials, and allows us to move between phases at any time. Even though the plan is a good start in designing how we will return to play, we understand that the process will need to be tweaked, re-worked, and altered at any point in time based on government restrictions and recommendations.
- ❑ With the Stay-at-Home order set to expire May 18, we anticipate Governor Walz will be making more announcements regarding future restrictions in the next couple days. This morning, we sent him this plan, and hope we will be included in his next announcements and included in conversations with him about returning to play.
- ❑ As mentioned, the phased plan was created in conjunction with Twin Cities Soccer Leagues (TCSL). We believe a unified and collaborative set of guidelines is best for youth soccer in Minnesota. As these set of guidelines evolves, we commit to working together to update the plan and keep you informed.

- We are analyzing our social and health environment on a constant basis. Our hope is to offer soccer in a safe and healthy setting this summer. Our primary concern, of course, is the safety of our participants, coaches, administrators, and parents. We will not rush to any decisions, we will perform necessary due diligence, and we will return to play when and only when it is deemed safe to do so. Just as we have contingency plans for a season, we are also prepared to cancel the season if that is the correct decision for the safety of those we are to protect. A final decision will come when we have enough information to make the decision.
- We see the next logical step as Phase 2 in the Plan, and consequently, this phase contains the most details. Best practices and guidelines seem to be changing often, so we anticipate providing additional guidance within each phase as time evolves.

Please keep the following in mind as we move forward:

- Safety of players, coaches and families is our top priority;
- The plan can and will be altered at any time to fit government guidelines;
- We will move between phases based on guidance from governmental authorities;
- We can move between phases in a nonlinear fashion if needed;
- We welcome input from medical authorities and are currently seeking their advice;
- No club, coach, or player will be penalized if they choose not to participate under this plan

Fundraising Coordinator: Sean Sutter

- Was still reaching out to companies.
- Did pick up some money from Kraus Anderson.

Uniform Coordinator: Jon Klocker

- Corner flags are at Elmcrest.
- Pinnies are on the way.

Future Months Business:

- Discounts for families with multiple children.

New Business:

Meeting Adjourned:

- Mandy Paumen makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meghan Rietschel seconds the motion. Motion carries. Meeting is adjourned at 7:59 pm.**

Next Meeting: July 13, 2020, at 7:00 pm at Elmcrest.