

**Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association
State Board Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2007
Madison, WI**

In Attendance: Peter Mariahazy – President, Terry Donini – Vice-President, Toby Whipple – Secretary, Beth Bishop Perrigo – ODP, Sandy Cowan – Stateline, Howard Hoffman – Midway, Peter Saemann – Metro, Jay Mattison, Martine Delannay and Jim Pilarzyk – MAYSA, Ken Ward – Waukesha, John McCue – Southwest, John Janasik – TOPSoccer, Mike Riva – Kenosha, Scott Surprise – Boys State League, Ken Pieper – Northwest, Jim Launder – Director of Coaching, Sue Walter – State Youth Referee Administrator

Approval of Minutes

Motion: To approve the March 17, 2007 Board Meeting minutes as read by Toby Whipple. – moved by Sandy Cowen (Stateline), 2nd by Beth Bishop Perrigo (ODP). *Motion Passed.*

Program Reports

League Updates

State Boys Leagues: Scott Surprise was introduced by Terry Donini as the new League Director. Scott gave a listing of the teams winning the spring season. Scott indicated that he felt any discipline that was issued was fair and consistent. Scott indicated that he felt that the number of cards that was issued during the spring was excessive (150 yellow cards and 25 red cards from U15-18). The majority of the cards were for foul language and dissent. Jim Launder made the suggestion that we give all coaches a referee assessment form to use. Scott and Terry Donini indicated that they will look at this for the future. Scott indicated that the best way to reach him is by e-mail at sskaps@aol.com. SECL: Tony Wicenski was introduced by Terry Donini as the League Director. There were very few issues with this League. State Girls League: Terry gave a brief update on league for Ann Girard, who was unable to attend. Women's Tri-State Premier League: Terry indicated that the league has grown and is being administered by Jennifer Anthes out of the WYSA office. Men's U23 League: There was discussion about the fact this league is currently struggling administratively and is currently being run by the WASA office. There does seem to be strong demand for a well run U23 Men's League.

State Cup Update

Carl Micke is the State Cup Administrator, but was unable to attend, so Terry Donini gave the update. State Cup was hosted at Kenosha, Waunakee and Appleton. There was an issue in Kenosha with getting shifted off the prime fields due to wet conditions. This is being addressed with Kenosha for the future. Representatives from the State Cup Committee were present at all the venues. The State Cup Committee is Peter Mariahazy, Terry Donini, Toby Whipple, Kurt Sonnentag, Carle Micke, Sue Walter, and Bryan Flanagan. Peter indicated that overall State Cup went extremely well, due to the outstanding planning of Carl Micke. We had our best diversity ever of the variety of clubs sending teams to Regional 2. Jim Launder indicated that there were a few issues with field sizes in the younger age groups being too large. The committee will review any issues.

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State Youth Referee Administrator Update

Sue Walter indicated that most referees for State Cup were level 7 or higher in grade and there were 3 or 4 referees assigned to all games. Wisconsin is sending 20 referees, 6 assessors and 2 mentors to Region 2. Wisconsin is sending 2 referees to each ODP camp. The referees would like to have a uniform game report for the entire state. Terry Donini and Scott Surprise indicated that he would head a committee to work through coming up with a uniform game report for presentation to the Board. Sue indicated that all information from tournaments must be put onto The Arbiter system. Peter Mariahazy and Terry Donini suggested that a representative from the Referee Committee give better instruction to the referee assigners and district representatives at their meetings about using The Arbiter system. Sue indicated that she felt that this was already being done. There was a discussion about various problems with the Arbiter system from the district representatives. Peter suggested that the problems be discussed between now and the November Board meeting and that there be continued discussion and input at that meeting. District representatives are to send their issues with Arbiter to Terry Donini.

Coaching Licensing and Soccer Academies

Terry Donini and Jim Launder indicated that substantial progress is being made with getting coaches to obtain the proper licensing for their age group. Jim gave an update regarding the National Youth License course, the full youth module (for U6-U11) at Uihlein Soccer Park in July, if we get enough coaches to register. This program gets into the sociological aspects of coaching the various age groups as well as soccer coaching skills. Sandy Cowan indicated that he would like to see Jim have more people authorized to issue the basic Y1 and Y2 licensing clinics.

Terry and Jim presented a handout of what an academy is and how they are run in various clubs and by other states. There was discussion about what our state policy should be regarding academies and whether or not they are in violation of state rules in some cases. Ken Ward indicated we need to have some future discussion about this topic and have some clearer definition of our policy on academies. Jim gave a brief overview about how he has seen academies run in his experience. Peter Mariahazy asked everyone to give their feedback on academies to Terry Donini and that a policy needs to be set.

Motion: To move forward with developing a policy relating to the youth academies. - Moved by Terry Donini (Vice President), 2nd by Sandy Cowan (Stateline). *Motion Passed.*

Terry Donini brought up the issue of the types of goals being used at the U7/U8 age level around the state. Terry specifically wanted to ban the use of Pugg type goals (goals that are too small). After discussion the Board decided that there was not a need for establishing any stricter guidelines than are currently being used. Jim Launder indicated that we already have guidelines that leave flexibility and are adequate. We may discuss this topic further in the future.

Soccer Start

Peter Mariahazy advised everyone that Nathan Tompkins has been appointed as the Soccer Start chairman. Nathan was not present to give an update. Nathan is just getting started with a program in the Racine area.

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ODP

Beth Bishop Perrigo advised the board that there is going to be a girls program in the Midway District in Stevens Point. Craig Carlson will be running the program. Howard Hoffman stated that he is receiving a great deal of positive feedback regarding this program. The numbers in the boy's developmental program for are up. Peter indicated that Beth is doing a great job with this program since the departure of Marshall Murray to Region 2 ODP.

Recruitment Policy

Peter Mariahazy opened a discussion about our current recruitment policy. Peter indicated that well over half of the transfer requests made under our current transfer policy are denied. Having said that he wanted to know, "Do we need a recruitment policy with our current transfer policy?" There was discussion about how recruitment is currently taking place in violation of the policy. The Board was of the consensus that the policy should be left in place and that we should consider ways to better enforce the rules and possibly make the coaches take an ethics test at the time of applying for their coaching pass. There was some consensus that some coaches need to be reprimanded for violating the policy and it may help stop the illegal recruitment, if publicized well.

Tournament Only Team and Tournament Team Definitions

Peter Mariahazy asked everyone to review the definitions of these types of teams between now and the November Board meeting for further discussion. Does everyone understand the definitions? Does further clarification need to be made?

Office Policies

Peter Mariahazy advised everyone about the purchase order policy that has been implemented for program expenses and who us authorized to approve them. Terry Donini has asked everyone in the office to update their job descriptions.

Region 2 Risk Management Policy

Peter opened the discussion about the Risk Management Policy developed by Region 2 that is to be followed by any states that do not have their own policy, which Wisconsin does. There was discussion about some of the items listed on the Region 2 policy and whether they were appropriate or not. The Executive Committee will continue to look at this topic.

WSA / WYSA Update

Peter Mariahazy indicated that there has not been a WSA Board meeting since the AGM. Peter has requested several times that this meeting take place, without any response. Peter has not given copies of the letters that were read by Bill Sandoval at the WSA AGM. Peter will continue to try to get the WSA Board to meet.

Financial Update

Peter Mariahazy presented a budget update for 2006-2007 in the absence of Kurt Sonnentag. The budget deficit was primarily due to the improvements that were made to the website and office space expenses that were unknown at the time the budget was approved. The Board will receive monthly financial updates beginning in June.

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Motion: To approve the financial report as presented to the Board. Moved by Ken Ward (Waukesha), 2nd by Peter Saemann (Metro). *Motion Passed.*

Staffing and Leadership Update

Peter Mariahazy advised the Board that Dale Burke has departed to take a position with the Tennessee Youth Soccer Association. Peter indicated that the Executive Committee is currently undertaking a search for new Executive Director candidates. In the absence of an Executive Director the Executive Committee will be taking care of any issues that need to be handled.

Ken Ward indicated that WYSA needs to do a better job of getting information out to the membership about what the state association is providing them, other than insurance. Peter indicated that this will improve with the hiring of a new Executive Director.

Peter advised the Board that he has met with Hammerhead about the inadequate job they are currently doing for us. We in the process of getting a new project manager assigned to our account and hopefully Hammerhead's response will improve. We are currently prioritizing our list of things that need to be done to the site with our staff. Hammerhead will be advised by Peter that their performance must improve immediately.

Strategic Plan Update

Updated task force chair assignments are: Human Resources – Peter Mariahazy, Communications – Ken Ward, Marketing – Beth Bishop Perrigo, Member Development – Sue Walters, Recreational Soccer – Howard Hoffman, Fundraising – Peter Mariahazy and Beth Bishop Perrigo (on an interim basis).

November 2007 State Board Meeting

There will be a State Board retreat meeting at Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells on November 9-10, 2007. We will continue discussion about our Strategic Plan at this meeting.

A short recess was taken for lunch.

U.S. Youth Soccer Association Workshop & Coaches Convention

Peter Mariahazy encouraged everyone to attend the 2008 USYSA Workshop in Pittsburgh, February 7-9, 2008 in Pittsburgh, PA. The people that attended the 2007 workshop in St. Louis, MO spoke very highly of the benefit of attendance and the quality of the sessions. Peter indicated that he would like to offer the opportunity for Wisconsin administrators to take a bus to Pittsburgh to attend, if we get enough interest. Everyone was encouraged to spread the word to their districts regarding the opportunity to attend.

Peter Mariahazy advised the Board that under the Eastbay sponsorship agreement that they all will receive shirts and that we need their sizes.

Peter Mariahazy advised the Board that the Executive Committee members have been traveling around the state to the various district meetings to answer questions and give updates. Please advise Peter of the date and location of the district meetings.

For the Good of Soccer:

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TOPSoccer

John Janasik gave the Board a brief update regarding the program. The program has been running for 17 years and continues to grow. He indicated that they are always in need of good volunteers. Everyone should encourage teenagers to participate.

Milwaukee MLS Update

Peter Mariahazy indicated that the Peter Wilt was not very optimistic about Milwaukee's current chances of obtaining an MLS franchise.

Motion: To adjourn the State Board meeting and go into executive session with Board members only to discuss personnel issues. Moved by Ken Ward (Waukesha), 2nd by Sandy Cowan (Stateline). *Motion Passed.*