

Northwest District of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association

May 17, 2017 Wyndham Southbury Plaza, Southbury, CT

Attendees: Corrado Perugini, Rich Zimmerman, Dave Brouillette (Wolcott), Nick Meglio (Bunker Hill), Karen Puskas (Shepaug), Tony Melaragno (Watertown), Dave McCarthy (Woodbury/Bethlehem), David Shannon (Litchfield), Margherita Luzzi (Litchfield), Tim Holland (Southbury), Paul Maloney (Wolcott), Joe Wunderlich (New Milford), Teresa Bilodeau, Harry Allison (New Fairfield), Steve Vetter (Brookfield), Cari Boucher (Highlander), Cindy Langer (Highlander), Paul Beavers (Middlebury), Steve Sauve (Thomaston), Mark Crowe (Torrington), Tom Fitzpatrick (Sherman), Craig Richardson (Sherman), John Belles (Brookfield)

Not in Attendance: Northwest United, Danbury, Winchester United

Public Comment: None

Minutes: The minutes from the March meeting are posted on our website, please review them.

Guest Speaker: Joe Guerra, President of CJSA spoke to the group. Joe said that he is working with the board of directors to make decisions more quickly. The majority of our players are in house. CJSA wants to start focusing our attention on the majority. CJSA is looking at everything from background systems to recruiting more players and volunteer parents. They want to educate parents on what soccer should be and retain and keep players from a young age. CJSA is going to go through a one-year pilot with a company called Bluestar. All systems will be in one website database. You don't have to move your club to this system, this is optional. The advantage is that there's one version of a parent, player, and team. It would be cost neutral for the first three years and then a cost savings for the state and clubs after that. CJSA spends about \$70,000 per year on our state websites. For the first three years Bluestar will charge 75 cents per player and then \$1 after that. There would be no upload to the state system for registrars, it would all be one system. Rosters and passes would be electronic. If a player gets a red card, he/she wouldn't appear on the electronic roster. Each club could get rid of their League Athletics site and just use Bluestar. Bluestar would handle player registrations and registration fee collection for the clubs. Parents would upload photos and birth certificates. There is a piece of the software that does referee scheduling. It only makes sense to add this if the state referee system moves to it as well. It's a powerful system. We're a year away from going live with it. Please let Dave know if you're looking to be a volunteer to pilot the system. We're looking for a cross section of clubs to participate in the pilot this fall and spring. This is much better than League Athletics. Joe asked who would be interested in a new idea where the top travel teams could play other top travel teams and then the number two team could play other number two teams. The first five to six weeks would be inter-district play and then the rest of the season would be against other teams of similar competitive level.

Treasurer's Report: We're doing okay right now. We have four more months in the fiscal year. We have some major expenses coming up like the all-star game. We still have four or five clubs who still need to pay their club fees. A reminder to clubs that you have until August 31st to submit your receipts to the district for capital improvements. All receipts should be in by August 15th. You have this fiscal year to take advantage of that. We may not be able to offer this again next year. Steve (Brookfield) asked what are we working towards with our districts funds, we have \$140,000 in the bank now, what do we need to be at a comfortable level? Our

annual operating budget is \$130,000, it's not unreasonable to have a year's budget in the bank. We are doing things to give back to the clubs.

Registration: When do you open registration for the fall? The majority answered May or June.

State Report: The state is using a lobbyist to keep us abreast of concussion bills and to be our mouthpiece. There are two bills that are still alive and losing gas in their existing format. The legislators are realizing that these changes would make it tough to be a parent volunteer.

Classic Travel: There are several unplayed games due to the condition of the fields at the beginning of the season. Please remind your teams to get all of your games in before the end of the season on June 18th. Game results must be in June 20th and then the system will freeze.

Goal Sizes – CJSA added a range for the goal sizes to the US Soccer chart, they took the maximum sizes and went one size down. Goals are not going to be the issue that we thought they were going to be. This is for state wide play such as CT Cup games. You should use the chart from CJSA's website. Take the chart back to your club and see if it fits your existing goal sizes. Karen will post the range up on the website and let everyone know once it's posted. We can discuss any issues at our June meeting. If you're buying new goals, buy the maximum size as we will need to get there in the next two years.

Game times - KK (Northwest United) mentioned to Cory that changing the game times to two 25 minute halves is an issue for her club (Northwest United) as they have to travel long distances to most of their games and then would have to play a shorter game. Cory said that we can increase this at the district level if we want to. It was decided that we will stay at 35 minutes for U9 and U10 and then 40 minutes for U11 and up. We will leave the game duration as they are now.

Roster sizes - for U9 & U10 will be a maximum of 14 players. A vote was taken and three voted for a max of 16 players and the rest voted for a max of 14 players (for U9 & U10). We will put maximum roster sizes for U11 & U12 at 18 and then U13 and up will be a maximum of 25 players.

The question was raised about 8th grade U15 players for next season. We will do this the way we did it this past year. Is there a limit to the number that you can have? No, there is no limit. The player must be an 8th grader who's also a U15.

Premier: No new report

Training: No new report

Website/Publicity: No new report

Referees: Referee association is getting hammered. There is a shortage of referees and have been many complaints about the referees. Things will be changing to help this going forward. There are issues with fans, players, and coaches abusing referees. The referee association is trying to do better training at the lower levels. Remember the coaches are responsible for their parents.

Disciplinary: There have been two player red cards and one coach suspension so far this seasons. There have been a couple of complaints about issues, but there's no referee report to back up the complaint.

All Star Game: The game will be Sunday, June 11th in New Fairfield. The games will be at 4pm for the girls and 6pm for the boys. Karen will post it on the website and ask coaches to send three nominations per team to Harry. 8th grade players only. Can a player who played in the fall but not playing in the spring play? The answer is yes if we are short players (on an as needed basis to be determined by Harry). If a player is playing for a Northwest District club but their team is playing in another district, then they cannot play in the all-star game.

For the good of soccer: USA vs Ghana men on July 1st. Get your kids to watch more soccer.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be June 21st at 7:30pm.