

**FCFL Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday October 7, 2015**  
**Westport PAL meeting room**

**Attendance:** John Lehaney (Ridgefield), Frank D'Entrone (Ridgefield), Mitch Ross (Darien), Todd Herget (Darien), Joel Schutzman (Darien), Lou Garcia (NC), Denis LaPolice (NC), Wendy Cunney (NC), Joel Beck (Westport), Duke Saltus (Westport), Tom Grace (Fairfield), Tony Depasquale (Weston), Jeff Herlyn (Wilton), Ed Keller (Wilton)

Meeting called to order 7:32pm

**Old Business:**

September 2015 minutes approved unanimously

A discussion revolving around the previous suspension of the coaches of Fairfield and New Canaan 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams. Although the 1 game suspensions have now all been served and the 2 opposing head coaches meet as directed to ensure a repeated incident never happens. The hope was to clear the air in a positive manner so the regular season meeting between the two teams could occur. Unfortunately, Fairfield could only get 11 players (of 22 rostered players) who were willing to play the regular scheduled game and instead they took a forfeit loss. It was reported that the head coach and Tom Grace made efforts to convince the players and their parents to play the game. However, it was reported that they were undermined by the head coach's wife who led an email campaign not to play the game. The fact that some parents refused to allow their children to play in a scheduled game is considered a breach of the team's commitment to the FCFL. The FCFL as a whole felt strongly that this is unwarranted and unwanted behavior. It was decided by a near unanimous vote that by Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, Fairfield will get a commitment from at least 15 players to play a playoff game against the aforementioned New Canaan team. Any players who will not commit to play in a game, will be removed from the roster by Fairfield's youth football board. The remaining players who commit to playing in a potential playoff game will continue the season and will participate in the playoffs normally. If there are not 15 players who commit to a potential playoff game, the Fairfield team will not be allowed to participate in the playoffs. Fairfield will warn the coach of the serious nature of his actions and will review the head coach in the off-season before offering head coaching responsibilities for their 7<sup>th</sup> grade teams.

**Financial:** Account status not reported. Last balance in July: \$4300.85.

**New Business:**

Issues reported with some dissatisfaction regarding quality of refereeing in the prior couple of weeks. Incidents were discussed and dialogue will be re-opened with Jerry Costello as board seeks to improve quality of refereeing.

The championship games will be held for the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in Fairfield and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Darien. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be given the option to delay their championship 1 week to play in Darien or play a week earlier at the home team's site.

**Next FCFL meeting:** November 4th at Westport PAL meeting room at 7:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by Mitch Ross, FCFL secretary