

Wilton Soccer Association  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 19, 2012  
Comstock Community Center

**Board Member Attendees:** Scott Vanderwall, Andy, Hoffmann, Patti Hoffmann, Pete Connolly, Eric English, Bryce Brichkowski, Sandra Adams, Lisa Smith, Bob Cramer, Jim Newfield and Heather Jung

**Absent:** Russ Schmidt and Kris Forland

**Non Board member attendees:** Mickey Kydes, John Salvatore, Nathan Holmes, Graeme Lloyd, Nick Zizzadoro, Laure Friedman, Farrah Minnich, Kim Dejana

**Motions approved**

- Unanimous approval of February 13, 2012 minutes
- Solid commitment to SCOR tournament for Labor Day and they will support our Nutmeg Columbus Day tournament, approved 7-2
- U9 restructured to Ability-based teams for Fall 2012, approved 5-4

7:40 p.m. Andy Hoffmann, Co-President, called the meeting to order.

**Prospective Election Committee – Heather Jung:** Introduce Laure Friedman and Farrah Minnich to the board as our prospective election committee for the election in November 2012.

**Spring Season Update**

**K-2 Intramural - Patti Hoffmann:** There will be a coaches meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Numbers in the program this spring are 409 players so far. Last year in the fall, the program had 423 players.

**Girls Travel – Sandra Adams:** All rosters certified. A few teams have already attended tournaments WIN, Westchester, and Rye Brook. The U13 Blue team lost a player, but was able to add one more. They will have a roster of 14 players, but will have several players double roster from the U13 White team. Total 184 players in Girls Travel.

**U-13 Boys Travel – Bryce Brichkowski:** U13 team has a roster of 15 players with 3 players from the U14 team double rostering. If this does not work, we can discuss double rostering players from the U12 team. The two high school teams finally received managers. All rosters certified.

**Academy – Lisa Smith:** Currently, we only have 10 players in the U13/14 boy's team and 17 players in the U11/12 boy's team. Lisa requested that the three 12 yr old players play in the U13/14 team to distribute the numbers. The U9/10 teams will play only in town 6v6 games. There was a lengthy discussion of the lack of qualified referees for

Academy games as well as a need of practice fields for Academy teams. It was suggested that high school varsity players can referee U9/10 games this spring.

Patti also reported that Betsy Huffman is planning a junior referee training session on April 5, 2012 for players age 12. Once this session is completed, the junior referees will be able to referee U9/10 in-town games only. They can then be certified in the fall.

**Fields - Eric English:** The WSA has 11v11 fields shortage. He is currently trying to finalize practice fields for K-2, Academy and Travel teams. We are currently short a few fields. It was suggested to use Post field as it has 11v11 goals. He will look into this and find a solution for the final few teams by Friday, March 23, 2012.

**Operations - Bob Cramer:** K-2 nets need to be replaced badly. Bob has ordered these nets and they should come into the Wilton Sport Shop this week. All the Port-a-potties have been put in place. Lining has started this week and at 9 a.m. this Saturday, the nets and goals will be set up. Coaches' bags will be set on Thursday for K-2.

**Mickey Kydes:** He is ready for the season. He has received the information on his practice fields and is concerned about any stray lacrosse balls on Allen's 4. Patti will double check the safety issue. Mickey is also planning a coaches' clinic.

**John Salvatore:** Soccer Extreme had a coaches meeting last week and introduced Bryce and Sandra. All coaches have returned, except Kevin who was denied his visa. They have hired Chuck Savvy as an additional coach. They are running a series of 4 clinics for girls U12/13/14 with Megan Rodriguez.

**Nutmeg Tournament – John Salvatore:** The tournament will be over Columbus Day. He is targeting large clubs and trying to secure their commitment. He feels our tournament needs Glastonbury and Guilford.

Scott spoke with SCOR and they will have their tournament on Labor Day weekend, but need our solid commitment to join the tournament. They will also attend our Columbus Day tournament. (Approved)

**U9 Travel Program – Bryce Brichkowski, Sandra Adams:** Bryce and Sandra's presentation U9 Balanced teams vs. Ability-based teams. Wilton U9 teams are currently balanced teams. The presentation showed how our team placed in the A division had a very poor record, whilst the team in the C division was winning all their games by an enormous margin. The CJSA's Southwest District does not have a policy on this; they do ask that the WSA place our teams in an A, B, C, D division. This was quite a lengthy discussion which all of the board as well as member guests partook in. We were fortunate to have both coaching organizations present to discuss their thoughts on this topic.

Mickey Kydes is a firm believer of Ability-based teams and has implemented this in Old Greenwich as well as Westport. He said that ability-based teams challenge each level appropriately. He felt that the balanced teams bring not only frustration to the best players, but also the weaker players feel defeated and many of these players leave the sport before reaching their potential.

John Salvatore of Soccer Extreme is also a supporter of Ability-based teams.

Nick Zizzadoro spoke that this topic has been brought to the board before, but it was always decided to remain balanced in the U9 age bracket. He feels very strongly, U9 should be ability-based.

Kim Dejana, a member with a daughter in a current U9 team, spoke of her frustration at different abilities on her daughter's team. Her daughter is one of the best players and is not being challenged to bring her to the next level.

Jim Newfield spoke of the pros of a balanced team and felt his son enjoyed the opportunity to have players of a higher caliber on the same team and felt his son benefitted greatly from this.

Andy Hoffmann, Patti Hoffmann and Lisa Smith felt that there should be more research and discussion on this topic.

Sandra Adams put forth a motion to have our U9 teams placed by ability into A, B, C, D divisions for fall 2012. Pete Connolly seconded this motion. Motion a Approved: 5-4

**Legal Report – Jim Newfield:** Jim passed out copies of the changes to the By-laws. He would like them signed and handed in at the April meeting.

**Treasurer - Pete Connolly:** Summary of scholarships \$1750 to date. 150 people not paid spring coaching fees.

10:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Heather Jung, Secretary.