

WESTPORT SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting September 8, 2008

Minutes

An open meeting of the Westport Soccer Association Board was held on September 8, 2008 at the home of Paul Rossi. Present were: Paul Rossi, Larry Berman, Mark Gudis, Tara Brownlee, Wes Malowitz, Michael Byrne, Valerie Rogers, Steve Rowland, Megan Loffredo, Loren Benjamin, Jeff Boley, Robby Casey, Alan Zuniga, Gabe Stan.

The Minutes from the WSA August 2008 meeting were approved.

President's Report: Paul Rossi

- All Director's Reports to be submitted in writing and in advance of all future meetings.
- Request for all Board Members to review the three general agenda questions in advance of the October meeting (What do we do well as an organization? What areas can stand improvement? How do we enhance the WSA experience?)

Equipment Director's Report: Larry Berman.

- 10 new small goals and nets have been delivered to the Long Lots Lower Fields. Nets on other goals have been repaired and new locks have been obtained for the small goals that are stored at LL, CMS and Wakeman.
- Larry is exploring the possibility of replacing the wood field boxes used for storage.
- New nets and med kit supplies are available for coaches and assistant coaches at Larry's house.

SWD Report: Michael Byrne

- Summary of the August 28, 2008 SWD Meeting.
- SWD has approximately \$160,000 in surplus funds. May reduce fees to Clubs next year.
- On-line referee certification classes are available this year, significantly reducing the time commitment to attend classes for new referees.
- CJSA has announced that the minimum goal size for 8v.8 Cup play is 6' x 18'. In Cup play, the home team has sole discretion to set the time of the game and has no obligation to accommodate the preference of the visiting team. All teams must have certified/frozen Cup Rosters for all Cup games.
- SWD awarded four \$1,500 scholarships to recent HS graduates. Scholarships were awarded based on committee's review of essays written by the applicants.
- Proposal to be made next month by Tim Blake (Darien) for SWD to contribute \$2,500 to a program started by a former Darien player who is currently a Marine stationed in Iraq. The Program is intended to provide new soccer equipment for kids in Iraq.

Special Projects:

- Tara Brownlee reported that the U-9 Splash Beach Party and the Ice Cream Social were both successes.
- Picture Day is being planned for Oct 4 and 5.

Program Director Report: Gabe Stan and Alan Zuniga.

- Rec Clinics have begun. Request was made by J.Boley and T.Brownlee that MKSE consider adjusting the time for the Rec Clinics for the younger players. Current time is too late in the day for the youngest Rec players.
- Rec Coaches Clinic was attended by approximately 50 Coaches. The Coaches' Curriculum is on the WSA Website.
- Kelvin and Gabe have been attending Saturday Rec games and observing games and speaking with (advising) Rec coaches.
- Travel Games have begun. Concern expressed regarding trash on fields. All coaches to work to keep fields clean. MK has sent notice to HS coaches requesting that they do the same.
- Some WSA travel practices have been starting late due to HS practices/games running late on the same fields. Not much can be done about this. Travel coaches need to be prepared to start practice on smaller areas near assigned fields, especially as darkness comes earlier.
- Coaches Meeting was held – Need reminder for next season for WSA Ex Board and Travel Directors to be invited to Coaches Meeting.
- Parents Meeting was held – well attended, brief, no questions by parents.

Travel Directors Report: Val Rogers and Jane Orlin

- Summary of Attrition to Premier Clubs was provided and a general discussion of the impact of Premier Clubs on travel programs followed.
- Discussion of U-12 girls situation.
- Education Program for U-11 Parents was proposed and discussed.
- Standards for and behavior of Assistant Coaches was discussed. Possible communication from P.Rossi/V.Rogers/J.Orlin and MK to all Assistant Coaches reminding everyone of the guidelines.

League Director's Report: Alan Doran

- All teams have coaches.
- Rec Coaches Clinic was a success.

Director of Volunteers Report: Megan Loffredo

- 10 new volunteers, some will be assigned to Picture Day.
- HS Ballgirl and Ballboy programs are organized and managers have been informed.
- Discussion of Glastonbury's volunteer policy for its Tournament. P.Rossi suggested further discussion with the people who run the Glastonbury Tournament and organize their volunteers.

- Suggestion that we add a “Volunteer Commitment” into the player/parent contract that is signed.

Sportsmanship: Steve Rowland

- No issues/problems to report
- Discussion of the foul language that dominates the O-30 team’s games sponsored in Westport by the WSA. Suggestion that a communication go to the Westport contacts for all of the Adult teams (O-30 Men, O-40 Men and Women) reminding them that we sponsor their field use and that their games often have young children (WSA players) watching and waiting to use the field. We can’t have excessive foul language and failure to meet this request will result in loss of field usage in Westport.

Referee Director: Robby Casey

- On-line certification and re-certification classes summarized.
- Ref scheduling and mentoring is off to successful start for Fall season.

Special Projects: Jeff Boley

- Discussion of Order of Communication and perceived need to enhance this system and involve a WSA Board Liaison in all material issues.
- On-line system for feedback being developed. Discussion of whether the on-line system should provide for parents to submit comments/complaints in an anonymous fashion.