

## **NBSC 05/11/16 Travel Parents Meeting**

Board Members in Attendance: Travel VP-Erskine Glover; Secretary-Rona Hales; Travel Registration and Scheduling Director-Archie Mattis; Coaching and Player Development Director-Oscar Robayo; Travel Equipment and Uniform Director-Larry Bey; and Snack Shack Director-Tangie Cobb.

Trainer in Attendance: Mike Reid.

Travel Teams represented at meeting: U14B-Force; U15B-Tornadoes; U15B-United; U16B-Lions; U16G-Panthers; U17B-Real; and U19B-Arsenal.

Travel VP – Erskine thanked all for coming. This is usually a fall conversation, but due to the changes from US Soccer in regards to the age change, we are having it now. They will now use the calendar year as opposed to the fiscal year, it will impact all travel players but we are here tonight to discuss the outlook and direction for the U14→U19 players. The age direction of the Club is due to the US Soccer age guidelines. This is the only meeting that we will have. For those who did not make it to the meeting tonight, the minutes from this meeting will be posted online. Erskine introduced the Board Members in attendance and Trainer Mike Reid. The new age changes, based on the calendar year, will impact off United States teams. For example, there might have been a senior playing with a junior, but when that senior leaves, the junior will need to find a team to play on. The NBSC wants all players to have a team. Some players are strong enough to play up, but take note in that case, a team may not always be available for the younger player. We will try to avoid that as much as we can. Currently, there are 4 different leagues to play in, in which we play in 3, (MNJYSA-1 team, MAPS-several teams, and EDP-2 teams). None of our teams are in the NPL League. We want to truly develop age appropriate strong caliber teams. There are quite a few players in our club that can be playing in colleges. The teams need to be seen in showcases. We are trying to move those players to those levels. We would want the teams at higher level play, with MAPS possibly being the lowest level we will play. We always want to reach out to the North Brunswick players first, and then reach out to other towns. We are looking to put together birth year teams, which will be competitive. Our Tryouts used to happen in the summer and fall for the older teams. Having them early, will give these players opportunities to reach out to other teams if they need due, due to a team not forming. Tryouts for U14+ will begin next week. The Trainers will evaluate the players at the try-outs. Some players may be moved around. High school soccer is in the fall season. NBSC wants teams formed by Mid-June, with payments solidified. June 10th is our goal to have the teams selected and trainers picked for those teams.

Trainer – Mike spoke regarding the try-out process next week. There will be a lot of changes within the Club due to the new US Soccer age calculations. U14→U17 players will all be evaluated on ability, technical, skills, passing, receiving, tactical, positioning, movement, mental and psychological aspects. Mike is big on team chemistry. Try-outs will consist of all of these aspects. Note that whether a player is interested in playing in college or not, is fine. The Club has the ability to provide levels for all players.

Training Director - Oscar stated that the trainers running the Try-outs will be the most experienced. They have high training licenses: Mike–Level C; Carter-Level B; Trainor-Level B; and Russ’s level is not known yet. These trainer have run many Clubs try-outs. Their evaluations will be the best to determine how we will build the teams. They will need the proper tools to evaluate the players correctly. There will be a simpler score sheet with less categories, but it will evaluate players correctly and place them accordingly. Erskine said that the priority of the Club is to have 1 team for the following age groups: U15, U16, U17, U19, and possibly a U20+. Note that U18 players play under the U19 umbrella. In high school, freshmen can play with seniors, so 14 year olds can verse 19 year olds. This is across the state. Not enough clubs could fill teams for U18 and U19 previously, so the state took out U18, and both play under U19.

Question - In regards to the training and selection process, the Lions players are finally content after all these years, they are not miserable, and would it be possible for them to stay together because they would hate to be divided?

U16-U19 players leave frequently so the competitive balance is off. If all players on a team are not for heading for the same goal, then that team suffers. Some players have jobs, boy/girlfriends, injuries, other school activities, etc. The

Club's goal is not to eliminate players. There are three tracks of soccer players: Rec.-just for fun; Competitive-wants to play at a competitive level now; and Higher Level Player-who want to play in college.

Question – If some players from the Lions are moved to United or other teams, will there be enough players to have a Lions team?

Right now, every player has a team to play on, as long as every player rostered comes back. There are players who are not on our teams now, who want to try out for North Brunswick.

Question – Are there enough coaches for all the teams?

As players move up, for the older teams, paid trainers will be full time trainer-coaches.

Mike reminded everyone that this is all about the kids. What can we do that is best for each player on each team? Unfortunately, because of the US Soccer changes, it will not be 100% happiness for all. Erskine said that about 4 years ago, we tried making teams closer to same birth year, but there was a lot of push back. These rules need to be established for teams coming up. This year, across America, teams are all dealing with this. The competitive level will be very high for those that play up (a 15 year old playing against a 19 year old). It will not be a fun experience for those few individuals. Mike said it would not do a service to keep a team together just because the players are happy with each other. It is better to do it now. The players born in 1999 will be playing U19. When a team loses caliber players, the team's competition will change, rosters change. With all of other things going on in players lives, if a team has 18 players on their roster, only 12 may show up to a game. As long as we all know the plan of a team, then it should work. With the amount of games played, all players rostered will not show up. This is the year for our club to get all the kinks out. We can't promise that all the boys' teams will stay together.

Travel Registration and Scheduling Director - Archie commented that each team in the club has 2 or 3 calendar year birth players. He and Erskine mapped out everything. People don't want to step out of their comfort zones. As a club, North Brunswick teams want to dictate what their team is doing.

Question – What about the girl's teams?

For most clubs, the ages jump from U16 to U19. The goal for NBSC is to keep the Panthers together, since it is the only older age girls' team left. Support will come to this team with a Trainer-Coach.

Question – What if a player is on the EDP level, but there is not a team here for them?

The reality is if a player has outgrown a club or just wants to leave a club, then they will leave that club. The club goal is for the highest competitive level available for all teams. Teams from the Force to the Arsenal have strong caliber players.

Statement – kids bounce back better than we think. To make age appropriate teams by combining multiple teams will make competitive teams. It might yield a better outcome. For example, if you take the older half of Team A and the younger half of Team B, and then the older half of Team B and the younger half of Team C, these new teams might be better than keeping the existing teams and having a lot of the players playing up.

Erskine said that in regards to try-outs, we did a greater disservice when we had later try-outs for the older teams. Making the try-outs earlier will give the players a chance to find out if there is a team for them here, or will they have to go elsewhere for a team. If there isn't a team available, Mike has the resources to help guide them to one. Try-outs will be posted on the NBSC website. They are slated to begin on Wednesday, May 18, 2016. All players must register online. More than one try-out is needed to truly evaluate each player. There are a lot of factors. It is mandatory that each player attends at least 2 of the 4 posted try-outs for proper evaluations. Trainers will make the assessments. There will be a variety of people who will be making the teams.

Question – Is there a separate goal keeper try-out?

Something can be arranged for goal keepers during the try-outs. This is a new process. There may be additional questions and concerns that come up.

Question – There were a lot of male players that registered for the U13 and U14 team. Will this impact the players on those teams?

Not all applicants graded high enough for a travel team. If we get 30 caliber players, then we will make 2 similar teams, where the players can be interchangeable, not have a higher A team and a lower B team. The roster level can go as high as 23 for some leagues.

Statement – this open forum and platform, to hear everyone's questions and concerns, is appreciated.

Archie commented that the United States is the only country that has a fiscal year. All other countries have a calendar year.

Erskine appreciates everyone for coming out. He understands the emotions that people are feeling. And he does not feel it is personal. It pains us to not see girls coming out for teams. Check the website for dates of try-outs. The goal keeper try-outs and time span information was helpful.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.