

Newtown Soccer Club
General Board Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2015

Present: John Premus*, Derek Bobowick*, Eric Poupon*, Rebecca Hall*, Carolyn Mandarano*, Anthony Leuci*, Linda Hess, Michelle Greenspan, Keith Miller, Melissa Ansman, Jon Del Pozo, Patty Powers, Joseph Smith, Kathryn Piccini, Jeff Kennel, Joe Cella, Patricia Cianci, Brian Daly, Nick Waaler, Kurt Thompson, Kristen McManus, Tracey rado, Kevin Massett

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

1. CFC West Program Update (Connecticut Football Club)

- Updates provided to Club since no-one from CFC could be at the meeting
- Girls Academy update
Moving to Sunday evening from 5 – 6:30pm @ Reed school. This will conflict with Newtown Travel program so looking at scheduling specific one for Newtown on a more convenient day/time.
- Fall Program(s)
Total of 5 teams (2 @ U12, 2 @ U13 and 1 @ U14) and 4 academy programs (2 @ U9/U10 and 2 @ U11)

2. Recreation league update (Rebecca Hall)

- Fall Registration Numbers

- 487 total registered with about 50 -60 that signed up at the Rec Kickoff event

Age Group	U4	U5	BU6	GU6	BU8	GU8	BU10	GU10	BU14	GU14
Fall 2015	46	77	33	34	69	50	45	27	58	48
Fall 2014	44	49	60		76	44	45	35	78	68
Fall 2013	50	53	42	25	88	50	63	39	41	81
Fall 2012	31	55	37	30	82	66	50	32	46	75

- Rec Kickoff event (Melissa Ansman)

- Very successful and had a lot more people than we had anticipated.
- Overall feedback was positive although there was good recommendations on ways to improve for next year
 - Get Coaches and High School players involved to organize and run skills for kids
 - Set up tables for coaches where parents / players can find them more easily (name badges & team as well)
 - Maybe not do bouncy house next year so we can focus on soccer related activities
- Turned out to be more of a registration event versus a “meet your coach and team” event so need to think about this for next year
- We can grow from this year, opened a lot of doors for us and we even brought in a few new coaches not just players

- [1st weekend feedback \(Jon Del Pozo\)](#)

- One UKI trainer did not show up and will be replaced. Expect the new trainer this Friday
- Girls team really enjoyed their trainer Jonas
- Question – “I need one more uniform, how do I get it?”
Answer: Coordinate with Jen Del Pozo and/or Lorraine Stenzel
- Uniforms/team moves – “Some parents have asked to move teams, but uniforms are team specific, perhaps next time we should order a couple extra to accommodate”
- Facebook page specifically to REC league launched. Announcements will be posted there LIKE US!!
- Question – “Do kids stay on the same teams and they keep their uniform or is it a new team/uniform every year?”
Answer: It's a new team/uniform every year

3. Sponsor update (John Premus)

- We secured 23 sponsors this year to offset costs of REC uniforms. Will look to increase this number moving forward

4. Travel League Update (Eric Poupon)

- [Fall teams](#) – 19 teams including our GU14 Premier team – total of 279 players
- [1st weekend update](#)
 - Went pretty well, 1 potential issue with U9 Boys Blue and U12 Boys Gold regarding division they are playing in
 - U9 Boys Blue played a team that was primarily an “A” team not a balanced team and we discussed thoughts behind this from NSC perspective and challenge with placement at U9 level because of the unknown competition and skills of players being their first year.
 - U9 Boys Blue team played Greenwich and they had an A and B team. Question was raised by the Team Managers asking if we are we set up that way
 - The focus at the earlier age groups is about developing kids, not winning so most clubs in the Southwest District do balanced teams at U9 and some continue this into U10.
 - Teams are named after countries not A and B to promote balanced teams
 - Towns are supposed to qualify their players before placing them in specific division, but not all do
 - U9 is really difficult to balance teams in all divisions because there is no team history
 - The Fall is trial, adjustments are made going into the spring moving teams up or down divisions and it gets much better
 - Other team had “two full squads” lot of subs
 - U12 Boys Gold team played a team that should have been placed in the A division
 - Originally it was supposed to be 8v8 team but the Southwest District could not find other towns to participate so it was changed to an 11v11 team. With only had 13 players it is a stretch to field 11

players on the field and discussions will be held with Keith Miller (other U12 coach) to see how to increase number of players

- Coach of New Caanan was also surprised that his team was in the B Division, they're supposed to be in A
- John has a SWD meeting coming up, will dig deeper

- Trainer fees

- Board is looking at two options to provide an "equal fee" across all teams and will get an announcement out by the end of the week.

▪ Goalkeeper training

- Initially set up for Travel only due to availability of GK coach and maintaining a proper coach/player ratio. The cost for GK training is now included in the fee for playing Travel so no additional charge
- As we get more coaches involved we will open this up to Rec program
- GK training will run for 5-weeks at St. Rose soccer field on Mondays from 5:30 – 6:30
- Question – "Can High School players be a GK coach?"
Answer: No, it needs to be someone who with experience in coaching GKs

- Winter Training

- We do not have dates for Travel winter training yet but have given NYA a block of time for 10-weeks. Waiting to hear back from them
- We are also looking to reserve 1-2 hours per week for the REC program for "pickup games" each week to keep the kids engaged with the game. Will look to get some parents or High School kids to organize and referee

5. Referee update (Michelle Greenspan)

- Season started, looking good, lost some Senior referees to College, recruited in 5 or 6 over the summer
- Continuing the mentoring to keep pool strong
- Little concerned about Saturday mornings due to NHS Free Soccer Clinic so coordinating with High School coaches to ensure coverage for games Saturday mornings
- Will continue recruiting new refs from middle school
- Question – "How many refs currently"
Answer: Ballpark is 120 all inclusive
- Question – "How old do they have to be?"
Answer: Kids need to be 13 by June 2016

6. Administration and Field Maintenance update (Anthony Leuci)

- Storage and supplies -- everything has been handed out to Coaches / Managers , flags etc.
- Oakview flooded over the weekend and was closed to play

- Porta Potty at Fairfield Hills is scheduled to come in this Friday
- Looking to better secure nets at Treadwell and will replace nets at Tilson
- Considering options for temporary barrier at FFH to stop balls from going into road. Will need to coordinate with P&R

7. Field Scheduler update (Linda Hess)

- Rest of the Travel schedule will be done tonight
- SWD playoff's for U11's may start this weekend due to the number of teams / brackets
- Question – “How do managers schedule Cup games?”
Answer: Same as regular games and there are specific rules on when they need to be scheduled by and the timeframe that they can be scheduled between. Rules are on the SWDCJSA.ORG website.
- Make sure you post the score for Cup Games or you could lose home field advantage
- Question – “Do we want to host any playoffs?”
Answer: Several brackets are still open. Eric and Linda to discuss and see what options we have.

8. Special Needs Soccer Update (Linda Hess)

- Mike Dyer had the JV HS team there this past weekend
- About 5 or 6 special needs players showed up
- Anyone interested in participating should contact Park and Rec
- We may also ask School contact to forward P&R flyer to all families

9. Coach Advisory Board update (Keith Miller)

- Gearing up now for fall meetings
- Looking to put forum on website for parents, coaches, managers to ask questions / provide feedback to CAB. Keith will be the primary contact for this communication
- We're here to advise and answer questions

10. Any Other Business

- Ball size for U8 should be Size 3, not Size 4 per the US Soccer website
- Picture weekend is the 17th & 18th, let's email team managers
- The US Soccer Board recently adopted the following initiatives as recommended by the National Coaching staff. These two initiatives mandate small-sided games and a move to calendar-year age groups. We will need to determine how this will impact our Club including field modifications, goals, registration systems, etc. The implementation schedule is as follows:
 - Adopted as a Best Practice – August 2016 for 2016/2017 Soccer Year
 - Mandated as Best Practice – August 2017 for 2017/2018 Soccer Year.

- For small sided games they are mandating as a Best Practice:
 - U6 and U8 will need to play 4v4
 - U9 and U10 will need to play 7v7
 - U11 and U12 will need to play 9v9

11. Review Upcoming Key Dates

- 9/13 CT Cup Rosters frozen
- 9/15 CT Cup Draw
- 10/17 Soccer Night at Newtown High School Varsity Games – Girls at 4pm and Men at 6pm
- 10/17 – 10/18 Picture Day
- 10/23 Rosters frozen for SWD Travel Leagues
- 11/8 SWD Travel league regular season ends U11-U14
- 11/14, 11/15 SWD League Playoffs
- 11/8 SWD Travel league regular season ends U9 & U10
- 11/21, 11/22 SWD Travel league playoffs – rain date