

**Newtown Soccer Club
Open Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2014**

Present: Josh Drew, John Premus, Linda Hess, Michelle Greenspan, Jody Huzina, Cindy Stierle, Keith Miller, Brian Matzke, Ryan Lyddy, Marc Kenney, Carolyn Mandarano, Nick Whaler

Apologies for Absence: Tony Filiato, Maureen Trivers, Rebecca Morits, Brian Gioiele, Anthony Leuci

Meeting called to order 7:05pm

1. CFC (Brian Matzke / Ted Haley)

Organization Update

None to report. However, B. Matzke reminded new folks present that he is the Director of Coaching for CFC West Girls and that Teddy Haley is Director of Coaching for CFC West Boys.

Developmental Academy

The CFC fall development academy has finished and use of Tilson worked out great. Flyers for the winter program have been provided and were posted to NSC website. There will be 2 sessions (session 1 is 8 weeks and begins 12/1 and session 2 is 7 weeks (no start date yet). A 20% discount has been provided to Newtown residents bringing the total fee for either session to \$165. There are currently 3 boys and 3 girls signed up at this point.

CFC Tryouts

There is a need for a second supplemental tryout for the U14/U15/U17 teams. Brian is working with Linda to schedule the day/time.

2. Recreation League Update (Rebecca Morits)

R. Morits was not present to provide an update however there were several updates from others in attendance.

Fall 2014 Update

Feedback was positive for the U6 program where games were introduced. However there was some confusion i.e. referees, as some coaches were not aware that referees were going to be used or how to pay for them. While referees were not required for the games, M. Greenspan and J. Huzina used these games as practice for some of the younger referees.

L. Hess mentioned that there are two makeup games scheduled for the 11/14-11/15 weekend. Also that the use of friendlies between REC and TRAVEL teams worked out well and provided the REC program with a way to expand the pool of teams they play against.

C. Stierle did mention that we might need to mix up the U14 boys teams as one team seemed to have very strong players, mostly because these players joined later and happened to get put on

the same team. R. Morits and M. Trivers will look into this to see what, if any, changes are required for the fall.

J. Premus mentioned that the Club will look for a way to monitor the use of the curriculum / practice session plans and how to incorporate the skills clinics in the Spring.

3. Travel Update (Josh Drew)

Fall 2014 Update

J. Drew reported that 6 Travel teams made the SWD playoffs. The U11 Girls Yellow team was co-Champion of their division and the U11 Girls Blue and U13 Boys Blue were runners up in their division. The U14 Girls Blue team and U11 Boys Blue & U11 Yellow teams lost in the semi-finals. Mr. Drew also mentioned that the Newtown Premier team did well for their first year playing in the premier division.

However, the Club did receive several parent complaints, which will be addressed with the Coach Advisory Board at the meeting on Nov. 24th.

Winter Training

J. Drew stated that there are currently 99 players signed up for winter training, excluding the U16/19 Travel players of which we expect 45+ additional players depending on the number of teams at this level. Winter training will be opened up to REC age groups if not enough players register and this will be know after the Travel registration closes on Nov. 20th.

The cost for Winter training has been set to \$175 per player for 8 weeks to make it affordable (it has been > \$200 in the past).

U16/19 Travel Tryouts

U16/19 tryouts are scheduled for Thursday Nov. 20th from 5 – 6:15pm for girls and 6:30 – 7:45pm for Boys. We expect 4-5 assessors to be present to conduct the tryouts, which includes CAB members and current coaching staff for this age group.

Plan to establish “A” and “B” teams as the idea of a balanced team at this age group did not work well last year.

Currently have the following persons identified as coaches:

- Steve Solaski (U16 Boys)
- TBD (U19 Boys)
- James Kelly (U16/19 Girls)
- Danielle Norris (U16/19 Girls)

Danielle is a recent Grad of Newtown High School where she played soccer for the Varsity team. She is currently head soccer coach for the girls High School Varsity program at Kolbe Cathedral. We are excited to have another female coach and role model for the girls.

J. Drew will follow up with Managers from last year to track down equipment, as some of the Managers didn't return it.

4. Referees (Michelle Greenspan & Jody Huzina)

Fall 2014 Update

M. Greenspan stated that overall the Fall went well for both the REC and TRAVEL leagues and that we have a great group of referees (~ 100 total). The only challenge they ran into was that the Saturday morning NHS free clinics impacted the availability of referees for Saturday morning REC games as many of the players also ref. Better coordination with NHS Varsity teams will be taken to avoid this going forward.

M. Greenspan also noted that there will be a Winter clinic in January to cover some basics in preparation for the Spring.

Certification / Re-Certification

Recertification is on-going for existing referees and must be completed online by 12/26

Certifications for new referees is also underway and all new referees must complete their online test by 12/26 and then attend the field session scheduled for 12/27 in order to be able to referee in the Fall 2015.

5. Administration (Anthony Leuci)

Mr. Leuci was not present but did provide an update that he will be working with B. Gioiele on moving kit out of NYA storage and into the storage unit.

B. Gioiele was also unable to attend but did provide an electronic update. so no update was provided.

- Porta-potties will be removed from all Fields on 11/24.
- The new practice goals on Fairfield Hills will be broken down and put in storage over the winter
- An inventory will be conducted of all fields to insure there are enough sand bags and also to check on quality of all nets.

6. Field Scheduler Update (Linda Hess)

L. Hess did not have any updates to share with the group.

7. Special Needs (Maureen Trivers)

M. Trivers was not present to provide an update.

8. Coach Advisory Board (CAB) Update (Keith Miller)

K. Miller noted that the CAB has met once already and will be meeting again Nov. 24th to review the Fall season and discuss the upcoming Spring season. A read out from that meeting will be provided to the Board at the net meeting.

9. **Any Other Business**

N. Whaler raised a question about the correct size ball to be used by U6 age group as some coaches had size 3 balls and others had size 4 balls. This will be reviewed by the CAB and documented on the NSC website.

J. Huzina raised a point about better communication on field closures due to confusion with Coaches when the Town doesn't close the fields but it starts raining or is bad weather at some point during the day. J. Premus did mention that the Field status widget was removed from the main page of the NSC website and was replaced by a link on the main page to the NSC Town website for Field closures. However, there is still confusion so we will look to figure out a way to get information out to players & parents quickly (maybe an app or SMS Text)

With nothing more to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.