



Ocean State Soccer School

Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 8th, 2011

Board Members Present: John Montanaro; John May; Bill Gallagher; Jenn Gallagher; Rosemary Stitt; Chris Runci; John Resendes; Pat Corso;

Members Present: Frank Overly; Steven Souls; Jeff Wallace; Dave Covell; Bob Jones

Meeting started at 7.30pm

1. **Minutes from May BOD meeting** - no comments or amendments - Bill Gallagher proposed; Jenn Gallagher seconded.

2. President's Report:

- AGM: June 27th @ 7.30pm – agenda will include establishing VP position; electing new officers; voting on proposed by-laws changes (one already drafted by BOD but the others are not supported by BOD, but will be posted on website);
- Scholarship Applications – awarded 6 scholarships (\$500 each) on June 7th at NKHS (\$3000 total, increased from \$2000 later year); regret letter sent out to the two applicants who weren't selected. Names of recipients will be posted on the OSS website.
- Fall Advertising – fliers for distribution in schools, day-cares, libraries and rec departments etc – and also for the last day of the spring rec season - is being printed; ads to go in NK View, NK Standard Times and NE Independent in July. John Montanaro suggested bringing back the flier outside NK town hall or chamber of commerce.

Positions:

- New Marketing Manager is Stephen Souls – will be under Foundation Director;
- Director of Development – Jeff Wallace; *John May proposed and Bill Gallagher seconded – unanimous vote in favor.*
- Assistant Registrar – Deb Caramante – will help with team formation on both rec and competitive.

3. Registration Report:

- Fall registration links are ready for approval and will be up by 12 June
- *Proposal to charge a \$2 fee when making registration payments by credit card – proposed by Chris; seconded by Rosemary. For: Chris, Rosemary, Bill; Against: John May, Pat, Jenn. John Montanaro gave casting vote against, however we may revisit and test for next spring.*

4. Treasurer's Report:

- FY11-12 Budget (covered by John Montanaro in Jeff's absence) – we're financially sound but need fundraising as net income was \$19m below FY09-10



\$17m vs. \$36m). However, \$18.5m was repaid from the loan over the course of the year, reducing the balance to \$19m. Budget was passed as presented (proposed by John May, seconded by Jenn).

5. **Member Comments** – Frank Overly, the parent of 1 current U11 player and 1 U14 OSS player, discussed the U14 competitive boys’ team. 7 players from his son’s team left for the Rams last year and with the remaining talent pool thinly spread between two teams and as a result, 6 families are now talking about what to do next year. In essence they want a core of talented players on their sons’ team and the answer is probably to field a gold team but with any more losses, talent would be eroded below a requisite critical mass. All 6 families are planning for their sons to try out for premier clubs later in June but meanwhile would like to know if there’s a way to stay with OSS, albeit if OSS try outs aren’t until September, that wouldn’t work since the premier clubs want a commitment within 2 weeks of a place being offered. Stressed that in order to stay at OSS, it would also be critical to know with certainty who would be on the team and who would coach. Stated that this year the spectrum of talent has been so wide that it detracted from the most skilled players – referenced that the coach had agreed but questioned whether it was a problem with that one age-group. John Montanaro assured that OSS will provide the best coach and the best opportunity - it’s the responsibility of OSS to ensure the best qualified coach with appropriate talent. OSS had also taken the position not to be a premier club – if there are kids who should go premier, OSS can’t provide that level of support and coaching, however John also made the point that we’ve had several teams win both Superliga (including this year) and the SRI cup. Continued that the issue of hiring private coaches has been discussed and we’re receptive to it but want to do it right. Chris commented that maybe we, i.e. OSS, could hire a coach for the A teams above a specific age; Keb suggested bringing in trainers for specific nights. John May commented that if a coach was to be hired, it would be important to be clear to all families up front that there’s be additional costs but there is still be potential problem that not all families could afford this and/or would be put in a difficult/embarrassing position. John Montanaro also referenced that John Resendes is starting training program for ad-hoc sessions so there will be clinics/courses offered to all. Chris acknowledged that there is a wide discrepancy of skills in the age group and in retrospect we should have grabbed the top U13 and U14s and formed one team. For the purposes of next year, players in the current U13-14 competitive boys’ teams will be viewed as one group next year which will be split into an A and B team. Chris also clarified that try-outs won’t be in September - they’ll be scheduled for sometime in the summer. Dave Covell added that probably 4 from the U12 anchor will be lost to Premier this year and that OSS should consider some of Frank’s points.

6. **Old Business**

- Winter Tournament – John Resendes – trying to develop winter tournament in West Warwick civic center and is waiting for the organizer to get back to him to confirm times (would be \$100/hr – normal price is \$130/hour – and he’s looking at a 2 hour slot for a total of 13 days).
- Fall Tournament – John May – will be deferred until 2012 as we need a tournament director but we’re investigating a U10-U12 tournament over Columbus Day weekend.



7. New Business

- Trophy Day (June 12th) – everything is all set – Keb has placed all the orders and trophies will be there for 7am.
- Conflict of interest – our bylaws say that if you're on the board you can't be affiliated with another club (in the capacity of a coach, member of BOD, volunteer etc.). There is no similar restriction on coaches i.e. an OSS coach could also be a coach for a premier team or be on the board of another organization, however we're considering changes.

8. Monthly Reports

- DTT – JR – past clinics, 3 run by Steve Froberg; everything went smoothly.
- Referee Report – July 11-August 29 referee training; will be given shirts; a couple of parents want their kids to be in clinic but are not in OSS so had to be turned down – has 85 refs, only needs 20.
- Equipment – nothing to report
- Safety – Bill – a couple of injuries recently though neither due to equipment or field conditions. Bob Jones asked if it is possible to get a few sand-bags for goals on the front fields to weigh them down since they're otherwise a liability for the club – agreed that this is a good idea (Chris also commented that he couldn't find goal anchors recently).
- Operations – Keb – concession is in good shape; numbers on track; possibly open in Sundays, starting in the fall, though limited to basics such as water/Gatorade.
- Back shed was recently vandalized again with windows smashed – it was decided that the gate to the back field will be locked on Friday 17th but combination lock will be available to coaches.
- Competitive – possible dates for tryouts: U10s-U16s: August 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st – SRI will have 3 or 4 coaches available. May have Sunday 21st as the rain date (will also have alternate dates for families who are away). U8 tryouts will be in September.