

Northwest District of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association

January 21, 2015 Crown Plaza, Southbury, CT

Attendees: Andrew Greene (Woodbury/Bethlehem), Paul Maloney (Wolcott), Diane Orsini (Litchfield), Margherita Luzzi (Litchfield), Nick Meglio (Bunker Hill), Tony Melaragno (Watertown), Kelly Gereski (Watertown), Ian Apruzzese (Torrington), Amy Famiglietti (Thomaston), Tom Fitzpatrick (Sherman), Craig Richardson (Sherman), Julie McNally (New Milford), Harry Allison (New Fairfield), Tim Holland (Southbury), Kevin Crowley (Winchester United), Bryan Sautters (New Hartford), Glen Gleissner (Middlebury), Michael Diker (Danbury), Stephen Vetter (Brookfield), Dave Brouillette, Rich Zimmerman, Scott Shakley

Not in Attendance: Terryville, Boca, Town Plot, and Northwest United

Minutes: Minutes from the September meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: None

Registration: Scott reminded everyone to send their registrars to the Registrar's Meeting at the AGM. Volunteers will need to have their background check completed first before being uploaded. The player club transfer will be going online soon and will have a fee that the parent will need to pay as well. Dave reminded everyone that the only time a president should hold a transfer is if the player still owes the club money, otherwise you can't hold the transfer.

Classic Travel: We had previously discussed ways to help make the A Division more competitive. The competitiveness of this division is not what it used to be. Two suggestions are to try to get more towns to come and join the Northwest District. The other suggestion is to provide incentives for teams to win A division such as paying for the team's tournament fees for a tournament. Steve from Brookfield says that they have teams that don't have any A teams at the U9 level, so they go to the Southwest District and then don't want to come back. Paul from Wolcott reminded us that we need to stick to the relegation rules and that if a team wins B, that team should move to A. Dave asked how many are concerned about strengthening the competition of A division, all but two presidents agreed that we need to work on strengthening the A division. Mike from Danbury challenged the presidents to sign their teams up to participate in A division. Amy from Thomaston stated that player training and parent education helps. Dave stated that we need a commitment from the presidents to play more teams in A division and to commit their resources to improve coaching and player development. Commitments are due March 1st. The meeting to determine the teams will be on March 18th. The coach's meeting will be March 31st at the Crowne Plaza (girls at 6:30pm, then boys at 7:30pm). The first weekend of travel soccer will be April 11th & 12th. The end of the season will be on June 21st. We took a show of hands for how many wanted two divisions instead of three - 13 presidents raised their hands. Rich said that when you put in a commitment, you will need to choose A or B. Rich made a motion to increase the roster limit for U9 & U10 teams to 18 players and change the rule to equal playing time instead of 50% playing time, Glen from Middlebury seconded the motion. Mike from Danbury amended the proposal to say that for teams who have a roster of 14 players or fewer then the rule is 50% playing time and for teams who have a roster of greater than 14 players, then the rule is equal playing time. 17 people votes to approve the motion, two voted against. Motion moved. We will revisit what days A and B division will play their games and the flexibility offered at the March meeting.

State Report: We've got an election coming up at the AGM. There are some really good seminars also, check out the agenda online. President's dinner will be Friday, January 30th. There's some discussion about moving the calendar year back to January to December instead of September to August, this may not happen for the fall. Kathy Zolad will be stepping down as president. Maggie is running unopposed. It's her goal to bring everyone together and hopefully take us in a more productive direction. She plans to only sit for two terms.

Premier: The deadline for premier teams to be registered is February 13th on gosoccer.com. March 15th will be the scheduled premier meeting – Boys teams at 6pm, Girls teams at 7pm at the Crowne Plaza at Cromwell.

Referees: There's a change in referee recertification coming up. There's a new clinic and if you attend the clinic, the recertification rules will remain the same and if you don't attend the clinic, the rules will change. The overall objective is to increase the education level. This change is for all referees.

Banquet: The banquet was great, there was a good turnout. Mike from Danbury said he would like to publicly thank the Northwest District for hosting the banquet. It all comes together and everyone does a great job. A soccer ball is given to the most improved player, which is determined by the team without any input from the coach or the parents.

All Star Game: Rich asked that all clubs require each team to submit a player for this season's all star game.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 18th, 2015.