

# Northwest District of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association

June 15, 2016 Crown Plaza, Southbury, CT

**Attendees:** Corrado Perguini, Karen Puskas, Scott Shakley, Dave Brouillette, John Hester, Nick Meglio (Bunker Hill), Tony Melaragno (Watertown), Scott (Northwest United), Tom Fitzpatrick (Sherman), Steve Vetter (Brookfield), Nicole Minard (Torrington), Dave Hendy (Shepaug), Andie Greene (Woodbury-Bethlehem), Dave Shannon (Litchfield), Glen Gleissner (Middlebury), Paul Maloney (Wolcott), Nicole Minard (Torrington), Joe Wunderlich (New Milford), David Hezer (Southbury), Scott Stiffler (Northwest United), Margherita Luzzi (Litchfield), Keein Gouly (Winchester United)

**Not in Attendance:** Danbury, Terryville, Thomaston, New Hartford

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** The minutes are posted on our website, please review them.

**Treasurer's Report:** We've taken in about \$104,000 this year, we have had \$85,000 in expenses for a balance of \$19,000. Karen will bring a report of any clubs that still owe player fees to the August meeting. Affiliations are due by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Even if the officers are the same, you still need to go onto the website and update each year.

**Registration:** 13 clubs currently have recreation programs.

**State Report:** The cup tournament fees will be changing. The state is working on an updated heading policy. Currently they are considering allowing teams to practice heading the ball using a nerf ball, but still no heading during the games. We will wait to see what they decide before determining what we will do at the district level. It has been noted that there has been more dangerous play with feet around the head level. The state is close to making a decision about hiring an executive director. They are down to two candidates. The goal with the new executive director is to give the clubs more administrative support. Our numbers have been decreasing across the state. Our goal is to increase the rec numbers.

**Classic Travel:** The spring season ends on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Team commitments are due by August 1<sup>st</sup>. We are going to offer a U15 league to see if there are enough players to form a league. Many clubs have a couple of 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are U15s and would like to let them play. Dave Brouillette made a motion that clubs be allowed to submit a U14/U15 team as long as the U15 players are 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The motion was seconded by Dave Shannon and passed. This rule will only apply to Northwest District teams.

**Premier:** No report

**Training:** No report

**Website/Publicity:** Please send any photos from the clubs that you would like posted on the website to Karen.

**Referees:** We had two Northwest district teams go to the semifinals – New Milford U14 boys and Brookfield U17 boys. We are short on referees overall, so entry level referee training will open before the fall season, probably sometime next month. John is asking that everyone use the central referee assign website for

assigning your referees. It makes it much easier for the referees to report any issues. The site is [csrp.ctreferee.net](http://csrp.ctreferee.net). There were several times this spring when there were issues with a player being cautioned or a coach needing to leave the game and it's not getting reported. Even if a club isn't using this website, a referee can still use this site to report issues. Local assigners can contact John if they have questions. Dave suggested that clubs hold a referee meeting before the season to review some of this information. The state of CT recognized a referee assigner from Brookfield as the referee assigner of the year.

**Disciplinary:** We had an issue of referee abuse by a coach and also three incidents of racial abuse against a player. We have zero tolerance for this type of behavior.

**Equipment:** You have until August 31<sup>st</sup> to spend your equipment money. US Soccer is talking about creating ranges for goal sizes and field sizes, so we are waiting to hear what they decide.

**New Business:** We would like to look for a part time district administrator to update the website, support Cory and Dave and other league commissioners, be a liason to CJSA, as well as other administrative tasks. The job would require 2-5 hours a week, 10 months out of the year. The salary is \$1500-2000. The idea is to have someone who be a central person who could track down answers to issues more quickly. Paul made a motion to allow the district to hire such a person. Tony seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**For the Good of Soccer:** We had our district All-Star game this past weekend in New Fairfield. Harry Allison did a great job coordinating this event. There were forty boys and forty girls who participated. All players received a full uniform, an all-star t-shirt and also pizza afterwards. Wolcott is offering a Labor Day tournament again for U9s-U12s.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be August 17th at 7:30pm.