

Northwest District of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association

September 17, 2014 Crown Plaza, Southbury, CT

Attendees: Cory Perugini, Dave Brouillette, Dave Gold, Rich Zimmerman, Nick Meglio, Steve Sauve, Paul Maloney, Joe Wunderlich, Harry Allison, Andie Greene, Tony Melaragno, Tom Fitzpatrick, Craig Richardson, Glen Gleissner, Scott Shakley, Ian Apruzzese, Karen Puskas, Tim Holland, Bryan Sautters, Kelly Gereski
Not in Attendance: Danbury, Brookfield, Northwest United, Winchester United, and Terryville

Treasurer's Report: This is the end of the year report as our fiscal year goes September to August. We're about \$4,500 in debt right now. We are waiting on some clubs to pay their club fees. All approved the treasurer's report.

Registration: The rosters freeze on Saturday, September 20th. The recreational players need to get uploaded to make sure that the players are covered. There are seven clubs that still need to upload their rec players and adults: Brookfield, New Hartford (no program), Northwest, Shepaug (Karen said she uploaded it this morning), Southbury, Wolcott, and Woodbury. Danbury and Watertown's uploads are skewed. The state has asked that everything is uploaded by October 1st. Dave reminded everyone to upload all of your volunteer adults. We're going to start some guidelines to ensure that there are enough adult volunteers. CJSA bylaws states that CJSA should be paid within 30 days of receiving your club's registration fees. You can always do a second rec upload if there are more players added later.

Classic Travel: Everything is going well.

State Report: Mario Prada has been hired as the new Director of Coaching. He has been approved to get some new computer technology. He will be getting some D and E license courses going. Dave would like to invite him to our holiday dinner as the speaker. He's in the office if you need any information, you can call him for coaching education, player education or coaching advice. Also, Dan Gaspar has been hired as a Technical Director. This should bring some strength to the clubs to continue to develop quality coaching. The next big initiative is to focus on our recreational programs. State registration is currently down (about 8%), but not as much as some other sports. Our district registration is down slightly.

Concussion Legislation: There is still legislation working its way through to address concussion issues. Cory mentioned that there will most likely be concussion training that may be required of coaches in the future.

Mandated Reporters: Beginning October 1st, all paid coaches and athletic directors will be mandated reporters. This applies to any trainers that the club hires. Dave recommends that you have the trainer sign a form stating that they understand that they are mandated reporters.

Premier: No report

Website/Publicity: All the games have been loaded for the season. There are some missing results from the first couple of weeks. If anyone has any news that they'd like to add to the site, let Karen know. The system is set up to remind coaches to put in their scores. It was asked if there was a way to see if there are any missing games as a club. Scott suggested that you sort all of the results by your club so that you can see them all. Also,

if you have a league athletics website, you can link your site to the district site. Karen was asked to post direction on how to link your site to the district site on the NWD website, she said she would do this.

Referees: Nothing new to report

Disciplinary: Nothing new to report

Fun Days: Watertown, Thomaston, Winchester United, and Woodbury did a fun day this past year. It seems to always be the same clubs. We're not seeing a lot of participation, so the district is thinking about getting rid of the district support for these fun days. Dave asked if there are any suggestions on other ways that the district can help you? The competition is hurting us. We are losing A teams to other districts who are looking for more competition. One idea is to offer an incentive to teams to stay in the district, for example, give a team who wins their division some money towards their next tournament. Another suggestion would be to subsidize paid training for clubs. Many clubs are still scraping together teams even at the younger age groups. Another suggestion was to allow towns to combine. The residency rule is a state rule (was put in place to protect the smaller clubs) and also, many park & rec departments control the number of out of town kids that can play. It was suggested that the smaller clubs combine and create a new club. This creates some new issues such as where do you practice and play games. Removing the residency rule also has issues as all players become free agents and larger clubs could take players from the smaller clubs. How do we improve our competition level? How do we build our B level teams to become better teams? Coaching education needs to be addressed, hopefully there will be more licensing courses offered with the new DOC in place. The goal is to help each player develop to his/her potential within the district. Cory will put together a subcommittee to try to work on this. There might be some redistricting that occurs when the new CJSA president comes in. How do we increase the quality of the play and keep the integrity of the district while servicing the small and large clubs?

Roster Limits: There were some requests to allow 15 players on a U9 or U10 team. Scott mentioned that many of these requests included teams that were double rostering players. It was suggested that we increase the required number of single rostered players on those teams. The goal is to have more kids get more playing time. A straw poll was conducted and five clubs said that they were in favor of increasing the roster limit. We will vote at the next meeting on increasing U9 & U10 roster limits to 18 and change the rule to equal playing time instead of 50% playing time.

Opportunity: The USA Men's team is playing Equador on Friday, October 10th at Rentschler Field. The district is looking to purchase a block of tickets for the clubs that attended tonight's meeting. An order needs to be placed by Monday. Dave needs to be notified by Sunday at noon as to how many are needed. Wolcott made a motion that Dave be approved to spend up to \$7500 to purchase 8 tickets per club for the clubs that are at tonight's meeting. Thomaston seconded the motion. All approved.

Holiday Meeting: Our next meeting will be our holiday dinner. Bring a volunteer with you for the dinner.

Banquet: Rich needs help with the Banquet with the set ups and the preparation as well as the trophies. It will be the weekend of January 10th & 11th. A committee will be put together to help with this. Please help follow up with your winning teams to get a table count as to who is coming. Awards are given out (coach of the year, volunteer of the year, adult referee of the year and youth referee of the year), start thinking about this now. Karen will post a reminder about this on the website.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 19, 2014.