

Oregon Youth Soccer Association
Regular Board Meeting
April 5, 2010
Beaverton, Oregon

Meeting called to order by President, Ric Listella, at 6:35 PM

A quorum was declared by Ric Listella.

Board members attending:

Ric Listella, President	Matt Madeira, Vice President
Steve Meckel, District Director (via phone)	John Cronkrite, Director at Large (via phone)
Steve Hershberger, District Director	Don Newell, District Director (via phone)
David Wagner, Treasurer & Secretary	John McCafferty, District Director
Keith Ericson, District Director	John Thomas, District Director

Others attending:

Chuck Keers, Executive Director	Brian Scott, Member Services Coord.
Kelly Ward, Admin Director	

Minutes & Reports

- Minutes from March 8, 2010 are approved as presented
- Board Reports accepted as presented
 - Vice President's Report (Exhibit A)
 - Finance Committee Report (Exhibit B)
 - Executive Director's Report (Exhibit C)
 - Member Services' Report (Exhibit D)
 - Leagues & Tournaments' Report (Exhibit E)

Board Discussion Topics

- OPL and Premier League Status
 - Ric, Chuck & Mike shared the input they have received from members of the OPL and others in the soccer community. The OPL has told us they are going to pull all of their players out of OYSA and appear to be aggressively encouraging other clubs to do the same. A suggestion was made for a select group of OYSA representatives to meet with a select group of OPL representatives to discuss options.
 - Board members were asked if they thought there was any point in discussing the situation further with OPL representatives. A majority of the board members supported meeting with OPL representatives, provided we met with people who could make a decision and bind the group of clubs at that meeting. Our representatives would have the authority to bind OYSA. Matt Madeira, Chuck Keers, Ric Listella, Mike Smith & David Wagner were identified as potential representatives for OYSA. Ric will attempt to get the meeting scheduled to occur in the next 5 to 7 days. The possibility of a mediator was suggested.

New Business

- Review Association & Foundation 990 Forms
 - Motion made to approve Association's & Foundation's 990 Forms, seconded and passed

Old Business

- Interpretation of Bylaws & Policies
 - The Board reviewed the Board Meeting Minutes from the February 10, 2010 and agreed that the action taken on "Policy 801-3" was recorded incorrectly.
 - No action was taken to adopt this as a policy, but rather to accept the interpretation of the USSF Referee in Bylaw 404, Section 7 to include USSF Certified referee who engages in USSF referee activities such as assigning, assessing, training, disciplining or other USSF

Referee duties in addition to officiating a match was made and approved by the full board.

- The reasoning for this interpretation was provided in a document and attached as Exhibit F)

The Board entered into Executive Session and the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Ward, Director of Administrative Services

Exhibit A:

To: Oregon Youth Soccer Association Board
From: Matt Madeira
Re: Vice President Report – April 2010

1. A disciplinary hearing was held 3/23/10. 4 cases were heard and decisions made by the review panel.
2. The ORC met on 3/10/10. Discussion items included education and the budget.
3. Chuck sent a letter to the Willamette and South Metro districts asking for volunteers to fill the board vacancies for each district.
4. The nomination form for the 2011 OYSA Lifetime Membership Award will be published in the next Goal Lines.

Matt Madeira
Vice President

Exhibit B:

Finance Committee Meeting
March 15th, 2010

The Finance Committee met March 15th, 2010, and discussed the following items:

Operating Result as of February 28th, 2010:

December 31st, operating results reflect a deficit from budgeted amounts in the amount of \$(196,036)
At January 31st, the deficit was \$(189,600).
At February 28th, the deficit was \$(137,661)

The Finance Committee will continue to monitor operating results on a monthly basis.

Budget for Fiscal Year 2010/2011:

Staff presented their initial budget for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. The budget has been downsized based on current economic conditions. The initial budget plan as presented reflects a projected balanced budget for next fiscal year.

Submitted by

David Wagner, Secretary/Treasurer

**Executive Director's Report
April 8, 2010**

OPL – The head coaches from the OPL clubs met on Wednesday, March 17th to discuss the board's recent decision to not sanction any other premier league in the state – and to designate our Premier League as the only qualifying league for State Cup eligibility. Their response was a unanimous vote to have their clubs leave OYSA.

There was another meeting on Thursday, March 18th that included some of their club presidents. Apparently the presidents in attendance supported the vote the coaches took on Wednesday, but did not take any formal action of their own.

A letter was drafted and sent on March 18, 2010 to Region IV that was signed by the head coaches and most of the presidents of the eight clubs to “make inquiry regarding a set of circumstances that has presented itself here in Oregon.”

They allege OYSA has “reversed itself” and is working to “undermine the agreement” we made with them. They make a number of other allegations and statements and ask why they can't run independent leagues and still receive OYSA/USD Youth Soccer sanctioning.

Clearly we have not reversed ourselves. We never said we would sanction a separate U12 premier league this year; in fact we have been pretty clear for months that this was not something we felt was in the interest of elite soccer development in a state of our size. Our Premier Council remains the place where key discussions about the structure of our premier leagues will take place. We are committed to a collaborative process that includes representatives from premier programs around the state.

USL Portland Timbers – The Timbers have informed us that our recent plans to integrate our ODP program with their Academy and MLS Player Development Program are “on hold” due to the “the recent decisions and actions of OYSA” – actually the reaction of the OPL clubs to our efforts to unite premier soccer in Oregon. They feel they need to align with what they refer to as “the best players and clubs in the state” and are actively setting in place a program that will directly compete with ODP for the top player in Oregon.

OPL/Premier Council – We remain committed to this committee as the primary vehicle to discuss, analyze and recommend ideas related to our premier league and related issues. The group did meet twice via conference call and followed these meetings up with phone calls and emails regard the 2010 premier league structure. Their ideas were compiled by Mike Smith and Scott Enyart and our planned league structure will be shared with the club head coaches and club presidents of the teams we expect will play in that league on March 30th. We expect to announce the final structure to our general membership by April 2nd.

FY 10/11 Budget – The draft budget presented to the Finance Committee earlier this month reflects a conservative/reduced membership projection and reduced participation in competitive events. It also includes increases in ODP fees and other programmatic changes to balance the ODP budget so that no membership dues subsidize this activity. We have presented a balanced budget.

Recent developments regarding the possible separation of a number of Portland-based clubs will require additional modifications to the budget and program structure, if we do lose these member clubs. The board asked staff to develop a draft budget that reflected greater economies in the event we chose to add to our reserves or experienced significant membership loss. We have shared a list of modifications with the Finance Committee that adjusts the proposed budget accordingly.

Soccer Pacific – The northwest soccer collaborative with Washington, Oregon and British Columbia is beginning to formalize. Ric, Mike and I attended the fourth meeting of this group and we have decided on a name, a vision and a number of specific projects over the next few years.

To review; discussions began following the announcement that Vancouver, BC and Portland would be awarded MLS franchises in 2011. The Seattle Sounders FC has been perhaps the most successful franchise in history of Major League Soccer in the United States. Washington State Youth Soccer Association has been working closely with the Sounders organization to promote soccer in the state and to merge their elite player development programs.

The goal of Soccer Pacific is to bring us together to maximize collaboration, cooperation and shared leadership in the Pacific Northwest. Higher levels of cooperation, completion, shared best practices and economies of scale will enhance player development and help elevate the game of soccer in our region.

The role of the alliance will be to develop regional initiatives designed to strengthen programs, resources and services; tournaments, competitions and exchanges, as well as marketing, communications and merchandizing for all three organizations.

To this end, current and future projects include sports medicine education (particularly concussion legislative action and education), abuse prevention (Respect in Sports modules – see below), a soccer Expo, a web portal, an Under 20 Super League, a Champion's Cup/League, World Cup promotion, a beach soccer event and a technical event scheduled for May 22-23.

Continued participation in this venture will begin to have a greater budget impact now that we are beyond the discussion phase and into professional marketing and project development/implementation.

We will be hosting the next meeting in the second or third week of September and we would encourage any board members that are interested to attend.

US Youth Soccer – The US Youth Soccer Board agreed to propose to the membership, for adoption at the July 24, 2010 AGM, a proposed amendment to increase the yearly player registration fee from \$1 to \$2. If adopted, it would become effective only if their agreement with adidas is not renewed for the calendar years 2011 and 2012. If this is necessary, it would be effective September, 2011. Even if the agreement with adidas is renewed, other triggers would go into effect in 2012 or 2013 if certain membership goals are not met.

Respect in Sports – This is a Canadian-developed online bullying, abuse and harassment prevention program for coaches and community leaders. It is a 2.5 hour tutorial developed in partnership with the Canadian Red Cross. At least one province in Canada has mandated the training for all sport coaches to help reduce the incidence of bullying and abuse in youth sports. They are in discussions with the USOC to help partner, distribute and promote the program here in the United States. They also have a program for parents that last about 1 hour.

It is a positive program; however it comes with a cost. The current charge is \$30 per participant for the coach's module. Most parents would probably be happy to pay a few cents more to their club so that their club could ensure their coaches are trained in anti-bullying, abuse and harassment as it is their own children that are often the victims of such behavior. The political and economic climate may not be ideal; however the subject matter is central to the mission of what we do.

Member Services Report

April 5, 2010

Club Development

With the appointment of Keith Erickson as the District Director for the Tualatin Hills District, THJSL has requested that its communications with OYSA be through the district director rather than by having an OYSA staff member attend their meetings. As a result, I did not attend the March meeting of THJSL.

There have been no new applications for membership in OYSA, although I have had several discussions with persons interested in the details of forming a club and becoming an OYSA member.

Risk Management

Spring seasons for our member clubs has led to an increase in the number of adults whose risk status must be manually set. There have been no appeals filed to risk management decisions.

We continue to review how best to implement required printing of member passes for adults.

Discipline

Staff assisted the OYSA Vice-president in holding 4 disciplinary hearing arising from player ejections for violent conduct. Three of the cases were from Winter League and one from the spring portion of the Fall Premier League. Hearings were required because the cards were given at the end of the season so sanctions would apply beyond the end of the league seasons.

We were able to assemble a hearing committee from among club presidents with more volunteers than were required. The hearings were completed as scheduled on March 23rd.

TOPSoccer

The TOPSoccer program in Sisters is beginning operations April 2nd and will have its first "season" run for 8 consecutive weeks on Fridays, 5-6pm, through May 21st. To the extent possible, they will be running the program outdoors at Sisters Elementary School. They do have access to the gymnasium in case of inclement weather. We have provided T-shirts, popup goals, and soccer balls to this new program.

Planning continues for TOPSoccer at the Region IV Presidents Cup in Medford. Current plans are for an approximately 2 hour event on Thursday, 6/17/10, that will include activity stations and small-sided game play. The TOPSoccer programs at Rogue Valley Soccer Club and Ashland have committed to participation, although all Oregon programs and Region IV programs are invited.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Scott
Member Services Coordinator

**Leagues and Tournament Report
April, 2010
Submitted by Scott Enyart, Director, Leagues and Tournaments**

Winter League:

Winter league is complete and champion medals have been sent. We had a very good stretch of weather January through March so there were very few issues with games getting played on time. One item that will need to be address is the number of red and yellow cards being issued – is a referee problem or is it a player issue?

Region IV President's Cup Regional tournament 2010:

Plans continue for the tournament – volunteers are needed so if anyone on the board is interested in help out please let staff know.

2011 President's Cup Finals:

The USYS board declined to approve our bid and has re-opened the RFP for bids through the end of April. The concern was the distance from an airport hub. The Medford Visitor's Bureau has put together a response to their concerns which has been forwarded. I am disappointed that our bid was judged upon a criteria that was not included in the Request for Proposals.

2010 Oregon State Cup and President's Cup:

The State Cup has more teams enter than was expected and we still have the Under 19 age group to register. We exceeded our budget project for the Winter President's Cup however due to fewer teams entering the Fall event we are slight off our projections for the this event.

2010 Fall league:

A meeting of the clubs who had teams participating in the 2009 Fall Premier Leagues was to be held on March 30. After that meeting I expect to be able to put together a Fall league plan to be distributed to the clubs.

Exhibit F:

Interpretation of Bylaw 404, Section 7: Question has been raised as to the scope of the phrase “USSF referees” in the end wording of this bylaw for exclusion from the restriction of concurrently serving in other positions as noted in the bylaw and on the Board of Directors (as either officer or directors).

Research of initial intent of phrase at inception of the bylaw was “a certified USSF referee who manages competition on the field of play during games.”

The question now is, does this also include certified USSF referees who do such tasks as assigning, assessing, training, disciplining, or other USSF referee duties that are done in the capacity as independent contractors (as noted in bylaw), in addition to working on the field of play during games.

The intent of Section 7 was to reduce or eliminate conflicts between activities outside of those duties of a member of Board of Directors and those serving on the Board, primarily activities in leadership, in voting, and in economic benefit. In keeping with Conflicts of Interest document (required to be signed by all Board Members) and in the intent of this bylaw language, it would be within the scope of the bylaw’s exclusion language, if such certified USSF referees were involved in these other duties as independent contractors.

“USSF referees” who do such tasks as assigning, assessing, training, disciplining, or other USSF referee duties, (as well as managing competition on the field of play) would be equally excluded from the restriction in serving on the Board as stated in Bylaw 404, Section 7.

Any certified USSF referee who also serves in a capacity restricted by Bylaw 404, Section 7, would not be able to serve concurrently as a board member based on the status of the other activities apart from the duties as a certified USSF referee (such as President of a members club).