

APPROVED

State Board of Directors Meeting
June 8, 2021 – 7:00 PM
Conference Call

Minutes

1. Attendance & Call to Order

Melissa Zielinski (WYSA Executive Director, Chris Lay (WYSA Secretary), Francisco de la Rosa (Southwest), Chris Yustus (Midway), Jay DeBruin (East Central), Chris Lacey (WYSA President),), Fred Yasatan (Racine), John Janasik (Milwaukee Metro), Ken Ward (WYSA Treasurer), Jim Launder (WYSA Director of Coaching), Alvaro Velez Garcia (WYSA Vice President), Chris McCormick (Milwaukee Kickers),

Chris Lacey calls meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. Referee Initiative – A State Youth Referee Administrator has been named (Brandon Wachholz) and a position description for the referee administrative lead will be posted. Chris Lacey also introduced the 30-90 day plan related to, among other things, onboarding the SYRA, getting an admin person, recruitment & retention and improving the overall referee experience.

Jay Motions to accept Brandon Wachholz as the State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA); seconded by Ernie Englund. Unanimously approved.

Ken Ward made a motion for a budget addition/deviation to fund & support a Program Administrator designated to support referee-related initiatives; seconded by John Janasek. Unanimous approval. Note, the budget impact for this position for FY 20/21 is expected to be approx. \$3.5k and for FY 21/22 is expected to be approx. \$20k, but is to be determined.

3. Operations Update – Melissa Zielinski

- a. COVID updates – technically, there are not any updates to WYSA's COVID protocols. For example, face coverings are no longer required but are "encouraged". That said, mask wearing is being infrequently observed and is down to a personal, family, team or club decision. Quarantine protocols, teams on opposing sidelines, jurisdictional/local expectations are still to be observed and will be reviewed prior to Fall and 21/22 registration year.
- b. MLS Next and Girls Academy (GA) – GA is under US Youth umbrella and is therefore still, mostly, within WYSA jurisdiction. However, MLS Next remains nebulous. It has created a frustrating scenario wherein clubs are concerned about issues such as poaching, sanctioning, etc. Melissa has been proactive in seeking out more information but it has been limited.
- c. Grants – some, but not all, districts have applied for referee-related funds. Districts are encouraged to take action soon. The application and funds will be processed in a single batch. Also, clubs have the opportunity are apply for promotional grants (e.g. signs, etc.).
- d. Player registrations – anticipated to be down approximately 20%, which is significantly better than the nationwide trend.
- e. Districts – please consider whether you will use the forthcoming game day roster option, which would replace the need for player pass cards. National competitions are currently considering this option. Policy language from WYSA is forthcoming.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.