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State Board of Directors Meeting
February 5, 2022 – 9:00AM
Virtual Meeting

1. Attendance

Jay DeBruin (WYSA Vice President), Ken Ward (WYSA Treasurer), Melissa Zielinski (WYSA Executive Director), Chris Billstrom (East Central), Alex Schroeder (Ozaukee) Mike Recklies (Stateline), Kurt Femrite (MAYSA), Chris Yustus (Midway), John Janasik (Metro), Francisco de la Rosa (Southwest), Rhonda Jankowski (Waukesha), Ernie Englund (Kenosha), Chris McCormick (Kickers) Brandon Wachholz (SYRA)

Call to Order by Jay DeBruin at 9:02 am

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 9, 2021. Motion made by Ken Ward, seconded by Francisco de la Rosa. Meeting minutes approved.

3. President's Updates (Jay DeBruin updated in Alvaro's absence)

- a. Referees – WYSA offered numerous dates and times to meet with referee leadership, without response. WYSA requests include commitments to education/training access. These requests have been documented and US Soccer leadership has been cc'd. SRC has made their annual request for funding referees' attendance/travel/housing/apparel/mentors at Regionals – WYSA incurs the majority if not the entirety of these expenses. This commitment is under review.
- b. AGM (March 19) – this event will be virtual and not in person. Demosphere is working to offer a meaningful training and listening event virtually. In addition, a Registrars networking event to facilitate listening and collaboration. Competitions committee will be hosted virtually by Patrick Hodgins. Wisconsin Hall of Fame Ceremony will be held in person. The Board has received their invitation to attend from Melissa.
- c. Motions in advance of WYSA AGM: 1) Motion made by Mike Recklies to nominate Ken Ward as WYSA Treasurer; seconded by John Janasik. All are in favor and Ken Ward accepts. 2) Motion made by Francisco de la Rosa to nominate Mike Recklies for WYSA Vice Chair; seconded by John Janasik. All approve. 3) Motion made by Alex Schroeder to nominate Jay DeBruin as WYSA Vice Chair; seconded by Mike Recklies. All are in favor. Mike Recklies and Jay DeBruin and will both stand for WYSA Vice Chair at the upcoming WYSA AGM.
- d. Collective Initiatives – committees re-formed to address
 - i. Board Structure/Roles & Responsibilities (Chris Billstrom, Ernie Englund, Mike Recklies, Chris Yustus, Rhonda Jankowski, Patrick Hodgins – staff representative)
 - ii. WYSA Bylaws (Alvaro Garcia Velez, Jay DeBruin, Ken Ward, Chris Lay, Kurt Femrite, Melissa Zielinski – staff representative)
- e. Treasurer's Report – Ken Ward presented financials through December 2021 for review and approval. Total current assets running ahead of 2020 for a variety of reasons. Revenue is similar for 2020 & 21. Expenses were down through Dec 2021 – this is across the board and not a single line item. However, it should be noted that there are some timing issues that may result in adjustments more consistent with previous years.
- f. Budget – Ken Ward presented the budget. Overall, this is based on an upward trend of player registrations. It takes into consideration several inflation-related factors, increases to insurance, etc.

There is a discussion on the continuation of referee support initiatives including reimbursement of course registration fees for new referees and the uniform offer kit. Adding these initiatives into the proposed budget will result in a deficit budget but could be funded via a variety of mechanisms. It is WYSA's position that WisRef/SRC must be far more proactive in recruiting

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referees. WYSA has applied for the “Innovate to Grow” grant at US Soccer (and another grant at US Youth Soccer) to help fund numerous new and/or ongoing initiatives.

Generally, there is support among the WYSA Board to continue support of the certification/educational component for referees through 2022 excluding background checks (referees would pay themselves). This represents approx. \$73.5k expense. Mike Recklies motions to include in the budget; seconded by Ernie Englund. All are in favor and motion passes.

Continuing to pay for referee uniform kits for the duration of calendar year 2022, would be budgeted at approximately \$22.5k. Motioned by Francisco de la Rosa; seconded by Rhonda Jankowski. All approve, motion passes to include for upcoming budget.

There are no per player fee increases in this budget; rather, the Pre-K fee will be reduced from \$3.50 to \$1.50 and extended to include 6U players. The only other fee increase are entry fees for Presidents Cup and State Championships which include referee fees and have been calculated based on the referee fee proposal before the board today.

Motion to present this budget, with the addition of the referee support item, for the 2022 AGM made by Francisco de la Rosa; seconded by Chris Yustus. All approve, with Ken Ward abstaining. Motion passes.

4. SYRA Report – Brandon Wachholz reports that since the beginning of the 2022 cycle (July 1) there are 405 “new” referees with 415 within the “pipeline”. There are still 2 ½ months – hopefully, we will get to over 1,000 new referees. There are 600 recertified referees thus far. Courses will run through April.

WYSA evaluated game fees for referees and compared against various competitions. The Board reviewed and was generally supportive. The Board recommended that all Districts adopt this pay scale. Note, there is no variance for Competitive vs Recreational. Ken Ward advised recommending (not requiring) a fee for Under 7 & 8. Mike Recklees makes a motion to approve this referee game fee structure as a minimum standard beginning 22/23 for all WYSA affiliated leagues (not tournaments) with exceptions for in-house and Under 8 and below; seconded by Ken Ward. There was robust discussion and motion passes with unanimous support.

5. WYSA Player Policies – a task force was assembled with representation from each district. It did not include any WYSA Board members. Overall, a comprehensive review to address key areas of 1) Tryouts, 2) Poaching; 3) Youth Academy, 4) Player Transfer. The findings and recommendations are included in an addendum.

The Board was generally complimentary about the process and outcomes of these recommendations.

Francisco de la Rosa makes a motion to approve the Tryout Policy and related dates for 22/23; seconded by Chris Yustus. All Approve and motion passes.

Tryout Window Uniform Offer Date

2022 June 1 – June 24

11U-15U – June 17, 2022, at noon

16U-19U – June 24, 2022, at noon

2023 June 1 – June 23 11U-15U – June 16, 2023, at noon

16U-19U – June 23, 2023, at noon

Alex Schroeder makes a motion to accept the Poaching Policy; seconded by John Janasik. In discussion, Ken Ward recommends some additional language directed at recreational/grassroots

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training with other WYSA-affiliated clubs, which the Board supports. All are in favor. Motion passes.

Ken Ward makes a motion to approve the new language and policy regarding Youth Academy; seconded by Chris Yustus. All are in favor. Motion passes.

Francisco de la Rosa makes a motion to approve the updated & refined language regarding Competitive Player Transfer Policy; seconded by Mike Recklies. All are in favor, motion passes.

6. Bylaw Amendments – the bylaws have been comprehensively reviewed and should be reviewed by an internal committee for review and/or adoption of changes & refinement by August 2022.
7. Operations Report – Melissa shared that clubs have been notified that any “adult”/over 18 years old athlete is required to complete SafeSport. This is a US Soccer Federation requirement. All Districts should convey this to clubs.

Reminder to clubs about WYSA AGM will be shared this week. Alvaro will be appointing an Elections Committee to oversee and verify voting.

Districts are encouraged to remind clubs about referee recertification and coach education, especially over the next 2-3 weeks.

8. For the Good of the Game – Ken Ward notified the Board that this upcoming term as Treasurer will be his last.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.