

Attendance & Call to Order

Ken Ward (WYSA President), Jay DeBruin (WYSA Vice President), Chris Lay (WYSA Secretary), Chris Lacey (WYSA Treasurer), Ernie Englund (Kenosha), Chris Yustus (Midway), Parker Conover (MAYSA), Francisco de la Rosa (Southwest District), Dusty Rhodes (East Central), Amanda Seifert (Stateline), Shan Amini (Waukesha), Michael King (Kickers), Kyle Trimble (SYRA), Melissa Zielinski (WYSA Executive Director), Craig Carlson (WYSA Director of Coaching)

Absent: John Janasik (Metro), Alex Schroeder (Ozaukee)

Ken called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

- I. Board Minutes for August 12 and September 9: Dusty Rhodes moves to accept; Francisco de la Rosa seconds. No changes proposed. Minutes for both meetings are approved.
- I. Presidents Updates
 - A. US Youth Soccer Grassroots Referees – Ken is currently serving on a US Youth Soccer Committee focused on improving the experience for Grassroots referees and recruitment/retention. Among the ideas that could be replicated in Wisconsin is the expansion of the mentorship program such that they are a “game day ally”. There was interested discussion on exploring this concept further. Kyle added that while the overall referee numbers have improved over the last several years there is an opportunity to offer better experiential training to new referees with the assistance of mentors.
- II. Treasurer’s Report
 - A. Year on year ahead on cash position, tracking to budget overall but some timing issues. Some discrepancies/variations with one-time grants. CDs – interest income will be reports when CD matures.
 - B. The 2026/2027 budget is in process and will be presented ahead of next scheduled board meeting.
- III. Old Business
 - A. Article II – Membership – review of WYSA Districts. Districts that do not have representation for prolonged periods of time (e.g., Northwest and Racine). Secondarily, there is a prevailing interest among the Board in seeing neighboring districts combine, or at least collaborate, on leagues and events. It should be noted that bylaw amendments will be necessary related to number of board members, quorum, etc.

Motion to combine Southwest and Northwest Districts, and to combine Stateline, Kenosha, and Racine. Motion by Dusty Rhodes, seconded by Parker Conover. After discussion the voting was as follows:

Yea: Dusty, Parker, Francisco

Nah: Jay, Amanda, Chris Yustus, Shan, Chris Lay, Ernie, Ken, Michael

Motion Fails

Amended motion: To combine Southwest and Northwest Districts and to combine Kenosha and Racine Districts. Motion by Dusty Rhodes, seconded by Parker Conover. All are in favor. Ernie Englund abstains. Motion passes.

There was follow-up discussion to present bylaw amendment to the membership at the AGM.

- B. Referee game fee increase – Melissa and Kyle have reviewed referee game fees for neighboring states and other competitions and, to remain competitive, proposed the following changes/increase to be implemented in 2026/27:

2026-2027 Proposal				
Age Group	Games	Referee	AR	AR
U8	2x25	\$ 24.00		
U9	2x25	\$ 40.00		
U10	2x25	\$ 40.00		
U11	2x30	\$ 46.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
U12	2x30	\$ 46.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
U13	2x35	\$ 56.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
U14	2x35	\$ 56.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
U15	2x40	\$ 70.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 48.00
U16	2x40	\$ 70.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 48.00
U17	2x45	\$ 80.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 54.00
U18	2x45	\$ 80.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 54.00
U19	2x45	\$ 80.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 54.00

Motion made by Parker Conover to accept the proposed referee game fees for 26/27 except for Center Referee for Under 9 & 10 being adjusted/lowered to \$34. Second by Dusty Rhodes. All are in favor.

- C. Alcohol at matches – Ken shared that multiple State Associations have been exploring, or have already implemented, prohibition of alcohol at youth competitions. After lengthy discussion there was general agreement that this should be considered an education piece. Staff and Board will collaborate to produce something for members.
- D. 2026 World Cup – Ken provided a summary of ideas for consideration. In particular, the Soccer Forward initiative that invites open play, soccer-related activities while celebrating the World Cup, participation, diversity and physical activity. There are resources available to assist in hosting Soccer Forward Fests.

IV. Operations Report

- A. Playmetrics will now be utilized for applications for tournament sanctioning.
- B. Preparations and planning for the WYSA Symposium in March.

V. For the Good of the Game

- A. Shan shared positive updates on our friend and fellow Board member Dr. Kevin Wasco.

Motion to adjourn made at 1:02pm by Amanda Siefert; second by Chris Yustus. All approve.