

Seattle Youth Soccer Association

Minutes for SYSA Board of Commissioners Monthly Business Meeting held on November 4, 2019 at the SYSA offices, Seattle

Officers, commissioners and staff attending the meeting:

President	Steve Kuhn	x	Ballard	Luke Giustra	x
VP Administration	Alex Johnston	x	Beacon Hill	Keith Leitich	x
Secretary	Phil Herold	x	Capitol Hill	Perry Lee	x
Treasurer			Hillwood	Phil Herold	x
VP Operations	David Funke	x	Lake City	Dave Farber	
VP Development Rec	Ann Sattler	x	LVR	Greg Parker	
VP Competition	Corey McNamee	x	Magnolia	Alex Johnston	x
			McGilvra	Jeff Scott	x
Disciplinary Chair	Jeff Huse		Mt Baker	David Funke	x
SSRA SYSA Liaison	Chase Parker		Queen Anne	Ryan Hall	
Seattle United Rep	Kelly Mullins		Seattle United	Kevin Long	x
SYSA Cup Rep	Anne Bare	x	Shorelake	Jenica Bell	x
MAR (Rep to State)	Phil Herold	x	Woodland	Mitch Furuglyas	x

Executive Director	David Griffiths	x	Scheduler	Jessica Beckton	x
SYSA Registrar	Paige Blomso	x	Volunteer Coord	Andrew Westmark	
Assistant Registrar	Anne Bare	x	Bookkeeper	Susan Martin	
Assistant Registrar	Julie Irwin	x			

Guests/others present: Kris Espinoza, Shorelake; Jimmy McAlister, Pat Staunton, Chris Tessin, Seattle United

Monthly Business Meeting Call to Order

Called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Guest Presentation

Jimmy McAlister, Seattle United (U8 & U9 spring program plans)

- Overview of structure of the U8/U9 program
- Plan is to hold U8 tryouts in January for a spring seasonal program, after rec season ends
- Differences with current structure discussed
- Promotion/support for the program discussed, leading to discussion about the general relationship between SU and rec clubs

Approval of Minutes and Consent Agenda

No additions proposed to consent agenda; consent agenda and minutes of previous meeting approved by acclamation.

Volunteer of the Month

The group recognized Trent Merrill, Mt. Baker/Lakewood, who has taken on numerous roles including coach, secretary, publicity and uniform coordinator.

Officer Reports

- **Steve Kuhn, President**
 - Announced he will be stepping down as his term ends next spring
 - Mentioned WYS volunteer recognition event, for clubs to recognize a significant volunteer, past or present
- **Alex Johnston, VP Administration**
- **David Funke, VP Operations**
- **Phil Herold, Secretary/MAR**
No report
- **Treasurer**
Not present
- **Corey McNamee, VP Competition**
 - Been monitoring “blowout” games; not many but some goal differentials have been massive
 - Opinions offered by various individuals present about what constitutes a “blowout”
 - Options discussed
- **Ann Sattler, VP Rec Development**
No report
- **Chase Parker, SSRA Liaison**
Not present
- **Jeff Huse, Disciplinary**
Not present; Kuhn reported committee is working through a backlog of cards
- **Kelly Mullins, Seattle United Board Rep**
Not present, report given by SU commissioner
 - 10 year anniversary to be celebrated at the annual gala
 - Strategic planning retreat upcoming, a number of initiatives coming out of that
 - Raffle, exclusively for financial aid fund
 - Food drive just wrapped up
- **Paige Blomso, Anne Bare, Julie Irwin, SYSA Registrars**
 - City Tournament update:
 - Will send trophy collection email to last year’s winners; teams to have trophy engraved and return it
 - Four teams co-registered in CT and state rec cup
 - Late registration ends Wednesday, will reach out to coaches this week about player cards and guest players
 - As of today, U11 and U12 with two brackets each, but need one more girls team
 - 26 teams registered so far for All-City Jamboree; ahead of usual numbers
 - Restarting SYSA newsletter

- **Jessica Beckton, Scheduler**
 - Sounders MLS Cup match has wreaked havoc on rec reschedules; unable to accommodate any more
 - Reported on parks fields meeting; went over upcoming projects, Brighton coming back online, Soundview hopefully turfed by next fall; lights on Lower Soundview in future plans
 - Big concern is fields coming offline for turf replacement projects, supposedly during summer but worried about it running into the fall; Magnuson 6/7 and Lower Woodland 2/7
 - Fields allocation model was shared and Jessica explained it
 - Given the clubs using academy style training, looking to get information on utilization analysis and sharing with the city

- **Andrew Westmark, Volunteer Coordinator**
Not present

- **David Griffiths, Executive Director**
 - Shout out to Paige, Jessica, Anne and Julie who have been really busy since the summer
 - Looking to re-convene the fields task force, will reach out to field assignors on that
 - Goals and equipment being left at the field is problematic for parks
 - All-City Jamboree planning meeting was held
 - Report on misconducts and supplementals
 - Sounders victory parade; up to 1000 players invited to walk but noted it's a school day
 - Meeting with Adidas; four clubs have shown interest
 - Update on sponsorship inquiries
 - Arena Sports proposal for an SYSA-only Winter II league
 - Signed up for Constant Contact to improve the communications and newsletter

Old Business

Age Group cut off discussion – Dave Funke

Proposed changes to the SYSA Administrative Regulations (deleted text in strikethrough, additions underlined):

1.3 Players are required to play in a division of their own age group. They will not be allowed to play in a division of players younger than themselves except as provided below. They may play in a division of players older than themselves with the approval of their club. Use of an overage player shall result in forfeiture of all games in which that player participated.

1.3.1 In the event a player has a medical or developmental reason to play on a team in a division of younger players, such player may make an application for an exception to this Rule. Such application must be made to the ~~Medical-Play-Down~~ Committee as established by the SYSA Board of Commissioners, and the determination of the committee may be appealable to the Board of Commissioners. Such application shall be made using forms provided by SYSA, and accompanied by statements from a medical provider that meet the guidelines and standards provided on those forms. Such exception will be granted only for good cause. The application must be submitted to the committee at least 14 days prior to the first league game in which the player participates, and will be granted for the SYSA seasonal year.

1.3.2 The ~~Medical~~ Play-Down Committee shall consist of the SYSA Executive Director, the Vice President of Operations, and the SYSA Registrar.

1.3.3 School Grade Level Exemption. Recognizing that recreational soccer is supposed to be fun, and that the specified age cutoff dates may create circumstances where a player may be excluded from playing with their school peer group, the Play-Down Committee may grant exemptions for players with June and July birthdates to play down from their specified age group in order to play with school grade peers. The exemptions will be evaluated individually and may be denied for cause. Proof of grade level (copy of report card or other school documentation) will be required. Application for a grade level exemption shall be made using forms provided by SYSA and accompanied by the proof of grade level documentation. The application must be submitted to the committee at least 14 days prior to the first league game in which the player participates, and will be granted for the SYSA seasonal year. The exemption must be renewed each year. The exemption will apply to both fall and spring soccer.

3.3.9 The VP of Operations WILL NOT accept team registration from any club under the following conditions:

3.3.9.1 When registration format other than those designated by the VP of Operations are used.

3.3.9.2 When a team attempts to register after WSYSA and SYSA published deadlines.

3.3.9.3 When a team includes an overage player, unless approved by the Play Down Committee.

Also separately proposing a team play down rule:

1.3.4 Teams U14 and older may petition to play down if the team is predominately players of the younger age group and no more than three of the players on the roster would be playing down. The club registrar shall request the exemption by the time of the Alignment Meeting or a date set by the SYSA Registrar. Play Down Committee shall be informed of the exemption request and shall grant the exemption unless the committee determines the playdown would create an unfair competitive situation.

Hillwood moved to adopt, Beacon Hill seconded; carried unanimously.

Standardized Rules for Citywide age groups

Deferred due to time

New Business

United Soccer Coaches Agreement – David Griffiths

Griffiths presented an outline of the proposed affiliation and what the program would offer SYSA coaches. There was some discussion about the degree to which the resources would be used.

McGilvra moved to discontinue the arrangement with Positive Coaching Alliance and replace it with United Soccer Coaches; seconded by Beacon Hill. Passed unanimously.

Announcements and Reminders

Next SYSA board meeting Monday January 6; no December meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Hillwood, seconded by McGilvra, no objections and adjourned at 8:55 p.m.