



Seattle Youth Soccer Association

Minutes for SYSA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

April 6th, 2024 in person

Attendance: Officers, Commissioners and Staff

President	David Funke	X	Ballard	Corey McNamee & Luke	X
VP of Administration	Keith Leitich		Beacon Hill	Hugh Gallagher	X
Secretary	<i>Position open</i>		Capitol Hill	Shelly Chinn	
Treasurer	<i>Position open</i>		Hillwood	Silas Lindenstein	X
VP of Operations	Ann Davison	X	Lake City	Tony Goodson	X
VP of Rec Development	Kris Espinosa	x	LVR	John Blackman	x
VP of Competition	Corey	X	Magnolia	Stephanie Skinner	X
VP of DEI	Shannon Palmer		McGilvra	Nick Tchemitcheff	
VP of Marketing & SSRA SYSA Liaison	Calen		Mt Baker	Shannon Palmer	X
	Peter Maunsell & Larry Metz		Queen Anne	Shane Cramer	
Disciplinary Chair	Chris Tuttle		Seattle United	Paul Merz	
SYSA Cup Rep	<i>Position open</i>		Shorelake	Jenica	X
			Woodland	Mitch Furuglyas	X

Executive Director	David Griffiths	X	Scheduler	Stephanie Skinner	X
SYSA Registrar	Paige Blomso	X	Communication	Jenn Ireland	X
Assistant Registrar	Anne Bare	X	Bookkeeper	Michele Authier	<i>absent</i>
Assistant Registrar	Kristin Bates	X	Scheduler	Megan Lund	X

APRIL MEETING

- Called to order by David Funke (time 10:08am)
- Attendance noted by Anne Bare, SYSA Registrar
- Presence of a quorum noted
- Minutes taken by Anne Bare, SYSA Registrar

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME OUR GUESTS – COACH OF THE YEAR

- Girls Recreational – Rebecca Wynkoop – Woodland
- Boys Recreational – Kate Peterson – Hillwood
- Volunteer of the Year – Kate Osborne – LVR Scheduler
- Admin of the Year – Alyson Stage – LVR Registrar
- Girls Competitive – Brooke Reece
- Boys Competitive – Alec Duxbury
- VP Rec Dev Candidate – Joe Pankiewicz

CONSENT AGENDA - MARCH MINUTES

- (Dave Funke) March minutes: Dave Funke to edit March minutes and resend for approval at May meeting.
 - Budget proposed based on projections for fall & spring.
 - HW proposes we need to address the issue of players gender discussions. Asks to add to agenda for May meeting.
 - Volunteer of the Month: Jon Carver – tremendous support to club registrars through City Tournament, Spring season and the cross-over of data across the different platforms. Brought by Paige Blomso.

OFFICER REPORTS

- President (Dave Funke) – Connected with candidates for SYSA positions. Ready to complete his run as SYSA President. Additionally spoke as Treasurer. We are in good shape financially based on the current years budget. Profitable projections – slightly less than projected last year, but not by much.
- VP of Admin (Keith Leitich) – Not present.
- VP of Operations (Ann Davidson) –
 - Start process to align SYSA for the World Cup.
- VP of Competition (Corey McNamee) –
 - Nothing to report. Will address rules in old business.
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- VP of Rec Development (Kris Espinosa) –
 - Nothing to report
- VP of Diversity & Inclusion (Shannon Palmer) –
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- VP of Marketing & Communication (Calen Holbrooks) –
 - SYSA day September 15th, possible 2nd and 3rd date as well.
 - SYSA Video montage ideas likely not going to happen as planned.

- Block of seating, discounted rates, SYSA receives a portion of ticket sales. In a separate event, we may be able to rent corporate box to invite SYSA Volunteers to recognize efforts. A great way to give back to membership. Possible opportunity to do this again in June, smaller scale without the box.
- SSRA (Peter Maunsell & Larry Metz) -
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 - Not present
- Disciplinary Chair (Chris Tuttle) – not present but John Blackham asked to acknowledge how much time and effort he adds to SYSA in this role.
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STAFF REPORTS

- Registrar (Paige Blomso, Anne Bare, Kristin Bates)
 - Spring soccer starts tomorrow. Just under 450 teams, so it has contracted.
 - Working on player rosters, communications, registering new players.
 - Now turning attention to coach compliance to ensure all coaches/volunteers are approved by the end of April.
 - Demosphere visit in 2 weeks and there will be learning sessions for clubs as well as SYSA staff to develop and improve our knowledge in the platform and with the app. Will be day and evening sessions. WD requests we ask Demosphere to add west coast hours to accommodate volunteers who often do work later in the day. Paige to send schedule for the visit.
 - Frustration from coaches regarding Spring Break games – we have 4 weekends of rolling spring break this year, so impossible to avoid conflicts.
- Scheduler (Stephanie Skinner)
 - Challenges to spring scheduling due to spring break.
 - Turning attention to fall field allocation and calculations.
 - Taking over field taskforce meeting so will check in with clubs individually regarding potential changes to allocation model. Learn about what fields may be offline this fall.
 - Verifying permits and working with SL & HW for Shoreline permits.
 - Excited to be working with all the clubs this fall.
- Scheduler (Megan Lund)
 - Nothing to add.
- Executive Director (David Griffiths)
 - See attached XD report. In addition, we have an opportunity to help fund the creation of a new Magnuson field. Magnuson 12(?) is not a field currently and was approved to be built, but never had the funding. Presenting the consideration to have SYSA/Seattle United/Clubs contribute funds. Would want to ensure we get priority scheduling/usage if we contribute to funding the project. Parks Dept seem to be more open to the idea now. Proposed around 5 million cost. Positives: even clubs geographically that wouldn't be able to use the field could benefit as it opens up space at other fields, potentially in their geographic area.

- Partnership with Arena sports – asking to redevelop relationship. Create league specifically for SYSA rec teams – not playing against select teams. Also provides SYSA the opportunity to use the facility for board meeting or as a meeting space.
- League WA – asked if we would be willing to send U13 and older teams to their league. Only sent U17-U19 previously. Don't see the benefit to the younger teams moving as we have viable age groups in house. League WA also decided no Select players allowed to participate in League WA this coming fall.
- WYS informed us that SnoKing Soccer Association is dissolving so SYSA can potentially get some fields previously allocated to them. Distributed among other associations. Concern from clubs about increasing the travel for games? Next steps to meet with WYS and neighboring associations to determine what could be available. Will update as a date is set to meet. HW voices concern about competing with SnoKing.

CLUB REPORTS

- NO CLUB REPORTS THIS MONTH.

Old Business –

- Corey McNamee: SYSA Rules Document Clean-Up
 - Need to update the section on jewelry. Take into consideration cultural/religious reasons. Make sure this is discussed further.
 - Sent cleaned up version and summary. Chris & Steve updated language.
 - Added rule 11 – references spring soccer, Dave Funke noted he didn't see anything referencing spring soccer at all. Needs to be added back to the document, so needs to be amended.
 - Can be voted in but needs to be amended.
 - LC – need to address Select player rule – written differently for spring and for fall. Request to table the rules for section 5-6 to a later date. Number of teams dropped significantly with the select player rule. And lopsided games weren't impacted either.
 - Corey asks what is the benefit of having extra select players.
 - LC lost a team because of the select players being excluded, BAL lost 4 teams due to kids being tired of getting beaten badly.
 - MBL Proposal to table this until next meeting, as there are still sections that have not been addressed completely. Need to ensure the final copy is distributed. Request to have a written reasoning for the request to table 5-6. Written request to be submitted by LC.
 - Dave Funke – can accept a motion to accept the rules with exceptions noted, and table or have an email vote. MBL feels it is not a readable document at this point, even with amendments.
 - Idea was to leave notes in the report as context for the changes. Committee can convene again to clean up this version, answer questions still in the comments, and distribute the final draft again before a vote.
 - WD notes – reason for the timing was in part was to prevent Select player in older age groups from registering for fall, due to League WA rules.
 - DF proposes we have this distributed and vote on the rules change by the May meeting.

New business –

- Promotion of Referee opportunities
 - Larry not present, but believe the hope is to get more adult referees involved.
 - Will add to May agenda.
 - Benefits include better understanding of the rules and the game. Fosters the appreciation and positive treatment of referees when you do it firsthand.
 - More seasoned Referees better with older teams.

AGM Business –

- Approval of Budget – Dave Funke
- A few questions posed earlier. Presented last month with no SYSA fee increases. Relatively conservative, consistent from last fall, few less teams for spring, slight admin pay increases. LVR asks – does it make sense to raise SYSA fees to start to create a fund for Magnuson field project? DF – would need to be discussed by the board prior to making that decision. Topic for further discussion by the board.
- MBL asks about Demosphere costs. Costs show as doubled this coming year. Accounting Fees and Software budgets show as doubled as well. No change/increase in Demosphere rates. Still have an invoice for spring scheduling will be around 5K so should align for the amount that was budgeted. 24/25 budget for expenses – 10 k Demosphere, D&O insurance went up, 5K new line item for marketing. Budget was distributed during the March meeting for review.
- Airtable – the new scheduling platform only a few hundred/month. Not notable increase from Access, previously used system.
- Motion to approve proposed budget for 2024/2025; HW motions, SL seconds. Budget is passed.
- Board Elections & Proposal for two new Board Appointed Positions. Ex-officio for Departing president (Dave Funke) and a VP at Large (Ann Davidson).
- WD motion, Mag seconds Ann Davidson
- Ex-officio position – LVR make motion, Bal seconded
- Electronic ballots sent out and clubs voted on.
- Electronic Results
- VP Rec Development – Gina Giordana
- VP of DEI – Shannon Palmer
- Treasurer –Paul Merz
- Secretary – Steven Toff
- President – Kris Espinoza (7 votes)

Feedback on electronic voting: request to make sure the ballots/communications get sent to the Commissioners directly, not only to the club presidents. Only commissioners should be able to vote, per SYSA rules, each club needs to have a commissioner.

SYSA needs to create a distribution list with all roles and positions held for each club. Part of the new Secretary role to create list and engage in distribution of materials. Need the clubs to engage more and take ownership of their clubs active roles.

Reminders –

Next SYSA Board Meeting is Monday May 6th.

Please confirm attendance by accepting Google Calendar invite from David G

Meeting adjourned –

Meeting adjourned at 12:18

MBL motions to adjourn, Beacon Hill seconds

Thanks Everyone!