

Seattle Youth Soccer Association

Minutes for SYSA Board of Commissioners Monthly Business Meeting held on September 9, 2019 at the SYSA offices, Seattle

Officers, commissioners and staff attending the meeting:

President	Steve Kuhn	x	Ballard	Luke Giustra	
VP Administration	Alex Johnston		Beacon Hill	Keith Leitich	
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	x
VP Competition	Corey McNamee		Magnolia	Alex Johnston	
			McGilvra	Jeff Scott	*
Disciplinary Chair	Jeff Huse		Mt Baker	David Funke	x
SSRA SYSA Liaison	Chase Parker	x	Queen Anne	Ryan Hall	x
Seattle United Rep	Kelly Mullins	x	Seattle United	Kevin Long	x
SYSA Cup Rep	Anne Bare	x	Shorelake	Adam Stoecker	*
MAR (Rep to State)	Phil Herold	x	Woodland	Mitch Furuglyas	

* Anne Bare represented McGilvra; Kris Espinoza represented Shorelake

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: None

Monthly Business Meeting Call to Order

Called to order at 7:06 pm.

Approval of Minutes and Consent Agenda

With no objections heard, minutes of the August 5 meeting and the consent agenda as submitted both declared approved by consensus.

Volunteers of the Month

The group recognized Heidi Layton, Woodland micro scheduler.

Officer Reports

- **Steve Kuhn, President**
No report
- **Alex Johnston, VP Administration**
Not present

- **David Funke, VP Operations**

Reported that:

- Playdown committee had approved a few medical playdowns
- He had refereed a match the first weekend, both teams had rosters printed out, one player wearing earrings, goals were weighted down

- **Phil Herold, Secretary/MAR**

No report

- **Treasurer**

Position technically unfilled, bookkeeper not present

- **Corey McNamee, VP Competition**

Not present

- **Ann Sattler, VP Rec Development**

No report

- **Chase Parker, SSRA Liaison**

Reported that:

- Chapter has 500 active referees that are licensed; using them at the appropriate levels, some are focused on adult games
- Restructured assigning/assignors so they're covering districts, rather than serving as overall assignors
- Classifying referees as apprentice, citywide, district, state
- Jewelry and field safety need to be emphasized
- Received rule change clarification from USSF: on goal kick, players behind buildout line or outside penalty area can enter the area once the ball is touched and moves

- **Jeff Huse, Disciplinary**

Not present; it was reported that only SYSA rec club is operating without a disciplinary rep

- **Kelly Mullins, Seattle United Board Rep**

- Inaugural ECNL league play for boys the past Sunday
- AGM is third Monday in October, three board members with terms expired, looking for new members

- **Paige Blomso, Anne Bare, Julie Irwin, SYSA Registrars**

- Woodland has largest numbers ever, numbers shot up during August; suggested need to standardize when clubs open registration across SYSA
- Almost 9800 rec players registered overall
- Released coaches' handbooks last week, will work with Griffiths to do weekly updates to the coaches
- Requested help from rec clubs with disseminating knowledge to volunteer rec coaches, e.g. SYSA can't reschedule rec games, not acceptable to no-show the opponent since you can play a soccer game with fewer than the standard number of field players
- With season underway, registrars now turning attentions to duplicate player reporting; need to pay attention to kids who have inadvertently gotten themselves on an SU and SYSA rec roster
- Getting ready for City Tournament and All City Jamboree

- **Jessica Beckton, Scheduler**
 - Last three weeks were intense, a lot of changes, working and reworking
 - ECNL had some late changes
 - Hope to start working on October and November schedules
 - Using Affinity for score reporting, requires coaches to report the score after the game; was pleasantly surprised to see number of coaches that entered their score
 - Issues with fields, but overall, 500 teams U10 and over and 250 games every weekend
- **Andrew Westmark, Volunteer Coordinator**
Not present
- **David Griffiths, Executive Director**
 - Field issues: one set of goals snapped in half, some goals with nets missing, with no weights, some goals hadn't been moved out; city promised they'd get a crew out
 - Brief discussion about nets and who is responsible for replacing them, or securing unsafe goals
 - Been working with clubs on fall rec outreach, program started tonight; coaches from Girls Boss Sports, Seattle United, a few other unaffiliated coaches who have been vetted
 - 50th anniversary event moved to September 21 at Shoreline Center; Seattle United will bring the inflatable soccer field, tell your clubs to come on out; Washington Soccer Legends will be there, trying to pool together stories and information; if you have memorabilia, bring it
 - Retooling coaches' handbooks
 - United Soccer Coaches and SYSA could become partners, provide more online coaching resources for coaches
 - Set up ten coaches clinics, attendance was poor with a combined 15 coaches turning up; the on-field clinics tended to be the most successful; brief discussion of value of PCA
 - Media consent form for use of image was passed out, with suggestion that we add that to the SYSA registrations; modification suggested so the language covers SYSA as well as the clubs; conditional on the suggest modification, move to adopt the consent form by Hillwood, second by Queen Anne, unanimously approved by the commissioners present.

Old Business

Cut-off date and playdown rules adjustment

Continuation of discussion from previous meeting. Mt. Baker/Lakewood submitted a proposal to change the SYSA Administrative Regulations as follows (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. 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 Recognizing that recreational soccer is supposed to be fun, and that friction around the specified age cutoff dates may create circumstances where a player may be excluded from playing with their school peer group or otherwise feel unaccommodated, the Play-Down Committee may grant exemptions for players to play down from their specified age group for the "good of the game". The exemptions will be evaluated individually, and subjectively. Mitigations may be required such as notification to other teams in the division that an overage player has been allowed, or observation of games the team with the overage player to determine that no unfair advantage has been gained.

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 Play Down Committee

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.

Mt. Baker/Lakewood spoke to the proposal. There are two issues: One, kids who want to play with their school friends. Two, in instances where clubs have to combine ages and there are few older players, teams with a larger cohort of younger players might be disadvantaged.

Among items discussed:

- SYSA receives between seven and eight medical playdowns a year, unknown how many are August birthdays
- LVR shared their experience that most if not all of the requests are within a six-week window
- Should there be a specific and different cutoff date, or emphasis on playing with classmates; general agreement that the orientation is toward playing with classmates
- Documentation: required or not
- Should there be a deadline specific to avoid late requests - registrars can write their routines once the rule is determined

Hillwood motioned that the commissioners ask Mt. Baker/Lakewood to redraft the proposal to reflect that the intent is to allow playing with classmates. Queen Anne seconded, motion carried with seven votes in favor.

Standardized Rules for the Mod/Inhouse Ages

Griffiths passed out a passed out a handout summarizing the small-sided rules used by the majority of the clubs in their house leagues. Commissioners asked that field sizes and game duration be added.

Disciplinary Procedure & Policy

This item was not addressed due to time. Suggestion was made to redistribute, have commissioners bring it back to the clubs and note objections or exceptions; aim for adoption at the November meeting.

Competitive Mismatch Policy (Discussion & Development)

Not addressed due to time.

New Business

City Tournament Fee & U10 All-City Jamboree Fee

SYSA staff had requested this item be placed on the meeting agenda; proposal for an increase in the fee for City Tournament to \$150, All-City Jamboree to \$125. Capitol Hill made the required motion, seconded by Mt. Baker/Lakewood. Ensuring discussion surrounded the rationale for the change. Approved unanimously.

Announcements and Reminders

Honor the game WYS event. Sounders Game 6th, 1pm KO (tickets)

At Sounders game on October 6, 1 pm kickoff. Would like to get people out, possibility that there will be some moment of recognition honoring the adults who have been involved in the game.

SYSA Day at Seattle University November 9

Ball boys/girls needed; get the word out within your clubs.

Next SYSA Board of Commissioners meeting

October 7

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Hillwood, second by Queen Anne, no objections and meeting declared adjourned by consensus at 8:55 pm.