

Northfield Soccer Association

January 17, 2011

Present: Matt Forster (president), Kerstin Cardenas (secretary), Jeff Dykema (field maintenance), Brent Kivell (coordinator, girls' traveling teams), Hank Tetreault (referee coordinator), David Mucha (treasurer), Matthew Olivero (registrar).

December Minutes approved.

Discussion on agenda items and other topics:

Brent N. sent in updates: Jesse James application approved by their Board. He is still waiting for confirmation from two individuals who will hopefully take over the In-house Coordinator role.

Jeff D.: Would like to ensure that at least one field is fallow each year. After registration is complete, and once we know the number and levels of teams and playing days he will come up with a plan to see how we can best rest the fields. This may include restricting field usage, using other fields (i.e. Sibley). The idea is that in order to repair fields you need a long period of time without usage, and letting them rest will ultimately improve the quality of the field. We will pick this up again during the March, 2011 meeting.

At the September meeting, Kerstin discussed ways to increase the participation and engagement of Latino families in the program. She will bring ideas to the February meeting for discussion.

Registration open and working, Matthew O. will send a broadcast email to everyone. Brent K. sent email to all in-house families that are eligible to play at the U9, U10, & U11 levels; he will send another email to those who played in the traveling program in a week or so. There is an ad scheduled in to run in the Northfield News for the first time on Wednesday, then it will run two more times before registration closes.

Matthew O. joined the meeting at 7:20. He checked prior to coming to the meeting, and there had been four successful registrations, and he has heard from two families that have had problems. Feedback he has received is that the system is working faster, and cleaner than before. Matthew clarified that the \$650 family maximum in the system does include the uniforms.

Matt O. spent time cleaning up the system and bringing all family balances to \$0. There had been families that in the past had carried a balance due from year to year. It is believed that the majority of these resulted from the families mailing in a check for payment, but that payment was never registered in the system. It is difficult to tracking to see if there were missed transactions resulting in missed payment, so the decision was made to clean the system now and move forward. David has been trained on how to clear amounts due for those that paid with check. He will enter checks on a monthly basis and then follow up with families that do not pay.

Matthew O. reminded the Board that the system is capable of sending emails to families that have not sent in payments, if there is a timeline after registration from when payment is needed.

Matt O. inquired about the expected payment amount for those requesting a scholarship. The answer is that there is a \$25 commitment fee that all families are required to pay. Additionally, the cost of the uniform is not included in scholarship amount- families would need to cover this expense (unless they have a uniform from a previous year). The expected reimbursement formula from CAC is the overall fee, minus the \$25 family contribution and then CAC would cover 75% of the remainder of overall fee.

Keeper program has been installed, and pre-existing players have been imported. Those that no longer qualify due to age have been removed. Background checks are required annually, and requirements were sent out to those that will need it.

It was clarified that team submission info date is March 7. Matthew O. is requesting that we forward him as much information as possible by March 5.

E. license training in Farmington. Brent K. is waiting for a response from the main contact, Sean McKnight, with detailed information. Brent made a motion that NSA pay for lead parent coaches to receive their class E license which includes approximate 16 hours of training. The cost to NSA would be \$150 per coach. Class D license is also available, but costs more as the training is much more intense (may request for c-2 level or higher team). The Board would highly recommend that all parent coaches at the traveling level c-3. No decision at the E level now, we wait to see if there is a demand.

Coach mentor position description is close to completion and will be sent to group when finalized. Coaching guideline and expectations will be posted. Brent K will send to Matt F to post at website.

A question was raised regarding the \$25 team tryout fee. The current structure of having those that out pay a \$25 evaluation fee, while those that don't try-out pay no fee and are often placed on the same team is concerning to some parents. It was noted that players that don't try out take a risk in that they might not place on the team. It was proposed that the try-out fee is built into overall program fee and divided amongst all players. Additionally, the try-out process has changed on the girls' side to be a true player evaluation; maybe we should change the name from try-out to evaluation. There is also opportunity to provide more direct player feedback during the season.

Funding for tournaments. This year, we will provide up to \$350 for traveling per team up to U15, and \$500 for upper teams. This is the same amount that was offered last year.

Referees: Hank plans to coordinate two clinics using Troy as a mentor. Once an individual has completed a year of off-sides (U12) they can work as refs. Younger refs are often placed in the rec program or with younger teams while they gain experience.

Treasurers' report: Net income for the year is \$15,003. This is \$4,800 over budget, due to timing in getting CAC reimbursement.

Ann Etter sent letter to the State of Minnesota asking for the \$4,800 tax penalty back as we originally filed according to their directions. There may not be a response.

Email inquiry from Just Foods. They indicated that they sent a check this fall with the intention of sponsoring a team. They didn't receive a response. David will follow up with more information because their timing does not fit our timing.

When reviewing consistency of programs, it was noted that the Adult League does not pay to use our fields. Currently, there is no approval process to use the fields. Historically, an Invoice has been sent, and they have not paid indicating the reason was due to a lack of funds. The Board agreed that we should have a conversation with Jorge (who coordinates the team), to clarify the expectation regarding field usage and associated fees. David will give him a call. MRSL also uses the fields; they will be instructed of the field use fee of \$100 per game.

David continues to work on investing the reserve funds. Schwab indicated that we can't do the process on line. Forms are in the mail.

Summer camp conversation will be delayed until our next meeting.

Conversation regarding vending. What is required of us to obtain a vending license? A Board member will be asked to have that conversation with the City of Northfield to determine this answer. For the 2011 season, no vending will be provided except for Jesse James day. Future discussion need to be had regarding the vending during Jesse James.

Meeting adjourned.