

## **New Election:**

As you (the current board) are aware, there was a complaint filed against our club with the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association. WYSA would not share with me who filed the complaint, but I did ask repeatedly. The complaint was that we did not allow for write-in applicants on the night of the election. I did state that per our bylaws, all candidates are presented from the nomination committee that does screen each applicant and ample notice was given for applicants to follow the process. WYSA decided that because it doesn't state we won't allow write-ins (which it is not referenced at all in bylaws) we need to allow them. I feel that is a very gray area, but they require us to hold a new election. Therefore, I have locked in the Performing Arts Center at the Fond du Lac High School for our "Re-election" on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. I am working with the WYSA to ensure all the rules we need to follow are outlined so there is absolutely no dispute this time. I have sent them a series of questions and clarifications as well as a proposed agenda and procedure for that night. We need to pass the word to try and get as many parents to attend as possible and vote. There will be communications to the membership as soon as I have my conference call with WYSA and continue up to the election date.

Due to that, we are not able to conduct any "new business" for the club until those elections take place which is the reason for the overview and not the normal agenda.

After elections take place, there will be a Board Meeting that will take place to elect the new slate of executive officers. Until that time we are in a bit of a flux so the former executive officers are still in place as they were at the August meeting.

## **Fall Season Overview:**

### **Select League:**

This Fall the Fond du Lac Phoenix had 10 teams playing in the SECL and one State League Team. Each team played 2 tournaments and between 7-10 league games this fall.

As of Nov 8<sup>th</sup> here are standings out each of our teams did:

### **Boys:**

- **U11: 1<sup>st</sup> place C: 7-0-1 – League Champions**
- U12: 5<sup>th</sup> place B: 3-4-2
- U13: 4<sup>th</sup> place B: 5-3-2
- U14/15: 8<sup>th</sup> place (State League –Premiere Team Division) 0-6-1 but 7-2-1 in tournaments so overall 7-8-2 on full season but different story overall vs just looking at league play.

### **Girls:**

- **U11: 1<sup>st</sup> place C: 7-0-1 – League Champions**
- U12: ? place B: 4-4 (site needs to update)
- U13: 3<sup>rd</sup> place B: 6-2
- U14/15 Black: 7<sup>th</sup> place B: 0-7-1
- **U14/15 Red: 1<sup>st</sup> place: 6-2 – League Champions**
- U16: 2<sup>nd</sup> place B: 6-1-1
- U18: 8<sup>th</sup> place: 3-7-1

Overall, many of our teams had success, and overall even those that did not kept a very positive attitude. Most of our teams are done. Last games of the season are this coming weekend. The season did extend one week as it started one week late due to schedules released late from the state.

We are holding another set of late tryouts on Nov 15<sup>th</sup> at the complex on Field one for U14/15 Boys, U16 Boys, and U18 Boys teams. We had them in spring but due to HS boys not playing till spring we like to hold another in fall when the fall sports wrap up and they look to spring activities. In addition, we were just a few boys short to field another U14/15 team this fall so we are opening that back up to see about adding more boys in hopes of another team at that age level for 2003/2004 birth years. Coach Craig Peltonen will lead those tryouts.

Winter Trainings: Winter trainings are part of the select fee for teams. We hold 8 sessions at the indoor facility at Lenz Field House at Marian University and trainings are done by Marian Coaches and Players. This also acts as a fundraiser for their soccer programs.

Dates are as follows:

- Sunday, December 3 7:30am-noon
- Saturday, December 9 8am-12:30pm
- Saturday, December 16 8am-12:30pm
- Saturday, December 23 8am-12:30pm
- Saturday, December 30 8am-12:30pm
- Saturday, January 6 8am-12:30pm
- Saturday, January 13 8am-12:30pm
- Saturday, January 20 8am-12:30pm

Times are:

- 8-9:05am U11/12 girls
- 9:10-10:15 U11/12 boys
- 10:20-11:25 U13/14 girls
- 11:30-12:30 U13/14 boys (we may get to go a bit longer) – HS age may attend this one but they historically have not.

In addition, we are adding 2 goal keeper sessions:

- December 9<sup>th</sup>
- January 20<sup>th</sup>

They'll be 2 GK sessions for an hour each starting at 12:45-1:45pm and 1:50-2:50pm.

### **Select Coach of the Year:**

I sent an email to the board but want to again congratulate Select Coach Dave Moehn for being awarded the "Competitive Team Head Coach of the Year" award from WYSA. Dave will receive his award at the March AGM meeting in Milwaukee and we are looking forward to supporting him at that event. Diane will be working on a press release to promote this locally. Dave has an unbelievable dedication to this

program, his players, and the game of soccer and it is fantastic he is being recognized for his accomplishments.

### **Academy Program:**

The Fall Academy program we tried something new and went from one training per week to two trainings. There is still some misconception that our Academy is similar to rec program and not “just games” even though we try to make it very clear. Numbers were down from last fall. 53 this fall vs 99 last fall. We do know (yet) if this was due to 2 trainings. Also last fall, we did have a lot more players who thought it was a fall rec league vs trainings. Players and parents have expressed more interest in adding games and tournaments. U9 girls did participate in Neenah/Oshkosh Academy tournament this fall and went 3-0 and all enjoyed it. There were not enough boys to participate. Coach Peltonen did not include U7/U8 but wishes now he did and we should in future. Over winter, we will need to evaluate how we run the academy structure, and find new coaches to run the program.

We used space on Field 9 and also Field 2 for the Academy program which seems to work very well this fall as the YMCA used space on Field 15 and 16. Ideally, we try to line up the nights of play so only one field set up is needed. That did not work this fall as the YMCA did change at the last minute. We do not charge the Y as they (in trade) offer our club free meeting space, an area for rec league registration over the winter once or twice and over winter some after-hours gym space to offer trainings.

### **Complex:**

Andy Gill really stepped up this fall – not that he wasn’t a machine before, but he went “super human”. As you may be aware, at the end of summer, Josiah Poss, our main set up person for the complex gave his notice. He attends UW Fond du Lac and also his brother started a company that now Josiah works for. Josiah did help set up for FC Green Bay Tournament and Andy took care of the field set up for September, October, and early November. We will need to actively find 2-3 new set up personnel for the spring and be ready for HS, Select, and Rec Season(s).

The complex is now all shut down (for the most part). Garbage is picked up – Thanks to Andy for taking care of all the clean up under the Field 1 bleachers. I called and put the Waste Management Dumpster on vacation hold. We need to call in April/May to arrange for service again. We will continue to be billed the \$15 dumpster fee, but no service fee over the winter. The golf cart was picked up by Hayward Tire who we purchased it from for winter storage. He will clean it, ensure it is ready to go for spring and deliver it. Also benches and flags are put away and all small goals moved to along the Premiere Field Fence. Water is turned off and the plumber is coming this week to winterize the restrooms and sinks in concessions and garage. I did get a call from a U19 Premiere team from Stevens Point who has a make-up game to play vs Hartford on Saturday. They desperately needed a field to play and needed a location that worked for both teams. I did explain we do not have restrooms and lines were painted last Saturday and “are what they are” as machines are put away for the season but I would put flags back out and a set of benches for them to use. They were very, very appreciative. Given it is a late add, and we do not have our normal set of amenities, I did offer the field at no charge. I do want to add, we get calls regularly as Fondy is a central site and get several teams, typically state league that want to play here and are appreciate of us. We had a few this fall and this also results in a nice added bonus of field rental fees.

Finally, you may have noticed that the fence around the Premiere Field is leaning. I have a message into the High School, actually several attempts this fall, but they are coming to evaluate it and hopefully repair. They did so two years ago. Per our agreement about 25 years ago, they donated the bleachers, fence and lights and take care of repairs. In return, they play games at no charge at the complex. Speaking of Field 1, we took care of this this summer, let it rest, over seeded and it held up VERY well this fall and the new drainage we installed in summer was fantastic. We had many compliments on the field. While it was wore down at the end, many teams were still impressed vs how it has been in the past so we are trending in the right direction with the care of that field and many others. In addition, we added a new layer of gravel by the bleachers and new ticket booth to smooth that out for drainage and fan experience. It was well received.

This fall, as we have done in the past, now that the complex is closed and season over, they will be fixing the goal boxes so they are ready for games come this spring.

All told with our Select Leagues, Fondy High, WLA, Rec League, Adult League, FC Green Bay Tournament, Fond du Lac Christian School, UW-Fond du Lac and the Fondy Express playing games at our 53 acre soccer complex, by my rough count we had over 1,100 games that took place in 2017 at our complex. Now that is a lot of soccer.

**Open Forum Discussion (No Voting or New Business)**