



## **Exeter Youth Soccer Association**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the board of directors**

#### **Held at 7.30pm on July 13th, 2021 via Zoom video conference**

#### **1. Chairman welcome**

The Chairman, Marc Chabot, noting that the meeting had been convened properly and that a quorum was present opened the meeting at 7.00pm. Also in attendance were Patrick Garrity, Jenn Young, Maria Proulx, Brian Melick, Luke Martel, Randall Skaal, Matteo Taormina, Jason Faria, Amy Farnham and Stephen Osborne, who acted as Secretary. There had been apologies for absence from Luke Martel and Chris Sera. Jeremy Frost, a member who has previously coached joined for item 3, below.

#### **2. Minutes**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on June 8, 2021, had not yet been circulated. Stephen undertook to do so, noting that the key matters discussed in June were the team placements for players and coaches, which had continued to progress on a case-by-case basis.

#### **3. Double rostering**

Jeremy noted that he had been invited by the Randall to join the board meeting and share his experience about the effect of double rostered players on EYSA teams. He advised the board that he had had email correspondence with Randall about the same topic. Jeremy stressed that his concerns related in general and that in no way was he singling out any player or parent. He noted that he understood that no change was intended to be made on the topic this fall and that as a result he had declined to coach the team he had originally volunteered on.

Jeremy said that he had coached EYSA teams with rosters that included Seacoast United players. In general, the Seacoast players prioritized their club commitments over their town schedule meaning that training attendance was variable or zero, team rosters could be short on match days and, in particular, the Columbus Day weekend tournaments were affected by player absences and, in some cases, his team competing against Seacoast opposition which included some of his Exeter players. He also felt that as a coach he wanted to offer game playing time to those declare their primary club as Exeter and who attend practice first. He could then fill in with less committed player when there was space on the match day roster. Jeremy argued that it would be better for EYSA if double rostered players could be offered a different experience and playing commitment, if they prioritized club over town. This could be matched with an alternative fee structure.

The followed a general discussion which also covered, amongst other points that in NNESSL there is one club that operates a training player system, outside the rostered team. They refund 50% fee if a player is on a training team and is not guaranteed first pick at the games. It was also noted that within Exeter, where the ethos is to try to have every registered player on a team, there needs to be flexibility and creativity for the board to be able to get everyone rostered. The risk with making specific rules is that then they need to be set aside to accommodate the inevitable exceptions that apply to different age groups due to the numbers registered, the numbers of teams, the surplus/ shortfalls at neighboring age groups and the other commitments of players.

In conclusion it was agreed that the board would:

- 1) Establish and share guidelines for going forward
- 2) With respect to the fall 2021 teams, consider the team-by-team impact of double rosters and determine possible team and age group strategies with coaches.



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Jeremy said that he felt, based upon his experience, the club could do more to improve coach communication and involve coaches earlier in decisions affecting the teams that they coach.

Marc thanked Jeremy for taking the time to share his insights, before Jeremy left the meeting.

#### **4. Fall season**

The approach toward the 2009 girls is still under discussion. Mac Bonifante is still trying to recruit more players and it was noted that the Stratham girls may not be running a 6th grade program, which could lead to more demand for EYSA.

Registration for the academy remains open and will close at the end of July.

Randall confirmed that for all teams, except the 2009 girls, coaches have been appointed, appointments having been agreed with the board.

It was agreed to hold the Coaches Kick off meeting the Thursday before the Seacoast Summer Camp (August 19) with an alternate date of August 17th. It was agreed to hold the meeting in person. Randall will ask Laura to try to secure a venue. Randall noted that one thing to cover will be dynamic warm ups, possibly using a video... Randall will also distribute a leaflet on 'what to expect' for coaches.

We will also need Jerseys and bags. Brian will check in on inventory of equipment including pinnies.

Jenn advised that Jen Sherman will be asked to proceed with updating coaches' safety certificates.

Finally, Laura will ask coaches to confirm their players/ team's availability for the preseason jamboree at Seacoast. To be held on August 28-29 in Epping.

#### **5. Academy**

Registrations indicate that there will be 7 boys and 5 girls teams. These teams are all viable, from a numbers perspective. The rosters are thin, maximizing the number of teams. Patrick advised that only about half the teams have coaches to be assigned at the moment. It was agreed that when the rosters are released, they include a call for coaching volunteers.

#### **6. Fields**

Patrick had shared circulated a report before the meeting, setting out the state of the fields. Laura is updating the certificates of insurance for the applicable locations. The following actions were agreed:

- 1) Patrick to determine if we can do the Academy at Exeter on 2 nights given the number of teams (12)
- 2) Patrick to ask Greg Bisson about the metal plate and the rock at Exeter Rec, on the 7v 7 field
- 3) We will need 2 lined fields at Exeter for 7v7 games, plus a spare 7v7 lined at Brentwood.
- 4) We will need an extra 7v7 set of goals for Exeter.
- 5) Patrick will confirm if Andy wants to deal with the goals removal at Brentwood, or have EYSA help
- 6) Patrick to check if Andy can give us a lock box for Brentwood, for corner flags, etc.



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**7. Finances**

Jenn is updating the current position. There are no matters that require board decisions. She will circulate the position before the next meeting.

**8. Other Business**

It was confirmed that the costs of coaching courses taken by EYSA coaches are reimbursable by the club. It was agreed that where courses are available, these should be promoted, to the coaches, by Laura.

Jay is looking to coordinate a training that may be run locally, he will circle back with more details.

There being no further business, the Chairman called the meeting to a close at 8.45pm.