

Minutes of the MYSA Council Meeting
November 16, 2002
Holiday Inn, I-55
Jackson, MS

Meeting called to order: 9:55 a.m.

Council Members Present:

Brent Clements, *President*, George Hoff, *SRA & Executive Director*, Jeanne Soboul, *Secretary*, Alex Farned, *Northern District Director*, Shirley Griffin, *KidSafe*, Gene Phillips, *Treasurer*, Dawn Wright, *Registrar*, Tony Bombich, *Recreational VP*, Tim Clements, *State Youth Referee Administrator*, Jim Harrison, *Western District Director*, Mary Ann Hood, *Girls ODP Administrator*, Don Lewis, *Park and Recreation Chairman*

Members Arriving Late: Chris Dahlman, *Disciplinary and Appeals Chairperson*, Karen Carroll, *Amateur Vice President*, John Emfinger, *Rules and Revisions Chairman*

Missing Council Members: Chuck Tate, *State Director of Referee Instruction*, Stephen Peresich, *Southern District Director*, David Dodd, *Central District Director*, Cecil Wright, *SoccerStart Chairman*, Kay Breland, *Division I Vice President*, Ray Holloway, *TopSoccer*, Nigel Boulton, *Director of Coaching*

Meeting Called to Order – Brent called the meeting to order at 9:55 am. He made introductions of the newly elected council members as well as the existing council members. The question was asked as to whether to accept the minutes from the last council meeting.

Motion: To accept the minutes from August 24, 2002

Maker: Dawn Wright

Second: Alex Farned

Motion Approved

The minutes will be marked on each personal copy as approved.

President's Report - By Written report, Cecil Wright reported to Brent that in June and July underprivileged children were taught soccer skills. He sent pictures from the Delta area of children in attendance. These photos will be placed on the website as soon as Brent checks with a few last minute questions.

Nigel is at a coaches' meeting in Charleston today. Stephen Peresich is helping coach his kid's soccer team and David is with his son this weekend.

The sponsorship dollar amount of the Tide Cup, 2003 may not be as much.

There is a concern about the insurance costs going up. Brent has asked the question if we should shop around for another company or are these costs reasonable? No notification was given to MYSA concerning this increase.

Motion: To check with other insurance companies for comparison rates.

Maker: Dawn Wright

Second: George Hoff

Motion Carried

Pat Pullen Insurance Services also insures the referees. Will be checked to see if these rates are also increasing.

Approved _____

Date: _____

Approved as Amended _____

Recreational Vice President – Tony Bombich - Tony was absent on August 24th due to him attending the WUSA game, which Tony reported as being great. He wrote an article that was published in the September MS "In Touch" that dealt with ways that some coaches contribute to player retention problems in the Recreation program. It had suggestions that coaches could use to ensure that players stay in the program. Information that was printed wrong by the publication will be in the next issue. The follow-up article, which was going to appear in the next issue of "In Touch" concerning organizational responsibilities in Recreation player retention, did not make the deadline. Tony has made contact with Amy Helms, President of Singing River Soccer Club, requesting information on field locations and sizes and other pertinent information since they are the host for the 2003 Tide MS American Cup. Tony would also like to have the preliminary arrangements for the Tide Cup referees completed prior to the AGM. To date, Challenge letters of Intent have been received from 5 organizations. The deadline for forming teams is February 1, 2003. He is in the process of preparing several proposals for rule changes involving Recreation and Challenge Divisions for consideration at the AGM in January.

Division I Vice President – Kay Breland – Kay Breland is absent today but has sent in a report. There are 98 Division I teams this year which is up 4 teams from last year. We may still get 2 older teams. The Snicker's Cup will be held in Hattiesburg this year. Brent will be doing an onsite tour to make sure all fields are correct this year.

The Regional dates this year are the last week in June.

Amateur Vice President – Karen Carroll - Karen was appointed about 8 weeks ago by Brent to replace Kenyatta Scott as the Amateur Vice President. In October, she attended a meeting in New Orleans. She received wonderful information. Amateurs are applying for a grant. She is working on it right now. Brent has someone who can write these grants. There are around 15 amateur teams right now. There are 2 women's teams. There is a woman in Atlanta who is helping develop a woman's league. Ray Johnson, on the coast, will be the league director and this will be affiliated with MYSA.

SW Jackson also is developing their team. The coast is starting in January but SW Jackson is playing some mini games now. We can sign up adults and they can now use their credit cards as well as Pay Pal. It was suggested that the referees and ODP need this information on their page as well. Amateurs Add/Drop is different and Dawn and Karen will get together to work this out. It is now called "Adult Soccer Association", not "Amateur" any longer.

Karen wants to put on a State Adult Cup. Brent told her to look at the calendar and choose a date to hold this event.

Registrar – Dawn Wright - Dawn had several sub pool and exceptions. We will wait until Dawn meets with the District Directors and go with their recommendations.

Motion: To speak with the local directors concerning the sub pool and exceptions in question.

Maker: Tony Bombich

Second: Jim Harrison

Motion Passed

Approved _____

Date: _____

Approved as Amended _____

Motion: Greenville Youth Soccer – exception – To accept the U12 and U14 boys teams request for exception as they meet the exception requirements.

Maker: Jim Harrison

Second: George Hoff

Motion Passed

Motion: Vicksburg – exception – To accept the U14 girls and the U16 boys teams request for exception as they meet the exception requirements.

Maker: Jim Harrison

Second: Alex Farned

Motion Passed

Complaints with the Central Area – Laurel Jones U 12 girls’ teams playing Division III. Dawn has investigated this thoroughly. The coach is a paid professional coach and that is the complaint. The rules do not have a provision disallowing a professional coach. The teams are divided equally on all teams. Dawn does not see an issue here. Have requested Division III status. Dawn observed this team and found them to be exceptional. She will discuss this further with the District Director.

There is a formation of a U10 girl’s team in Florence. She is investigating this also. There may be a drafting problem.

There are unhappy people concerning the 18 players exception that was voted on by the council. The matter will be addressed at the AGM.

Secretary – Jeanne Soboul – Jeanne will be submitting her letter stating she is seeking re-election for the secretary position at the AGM.

North District Director – Alex Farned – There are 10 associations now. Alex is in the process of getting with Nigel to conduct a Level I, II and III clinics. There is a lot of interest in the National E and D license. He has the interest so he will pursue it and will be finding a weekend to conduct this clinic. There is a concern with the Oxford and Columbus associations and their fees. Alex will work on this with them. He needs for his people to get paid for referee clinics. George received the money just this week from Chuck Tate and the checks will go out on Monday. The website will be updated and maintained by the North. In 2002, they held the 1st ever Coach’s Cup. 30 teams attended. It was a great tournament and was very successful. Every coach received a pullover jacket. It was suggested that each district could hold this type of tournament, which would mean 4 different District Cups.

Central District Director – David Dodd – No report

Western District Director – Jim Harrison – We all welcome Jim to his new position. He has talked to each of the presidents of each association. On November 30, he will have a meeting for all to discuss events. He has had a very good response of attendance even though it is being held over the Thanksgiving holiday. It seems that Cindy Johnson made a commitment for SW Jackson to hold the Western District Tournament. Jim will check on this and he is dedicated to honor all things that were decided prior to Jim taking this job.

Jim has talked to David Dodd to get a feel for how things are done. The District Directors will all meet to get things worked out and planned. Cindy has been helpful but there are no reports from her for Jim to follow.

Approved _____

Date: _____

Approved as Amended _____

The coach's clinics and referee clinics are done by request and are paid for at the end. It was explained to Jim that he must do 4 clinics each year but can have more if needed.

Southern District Director – Stephen Peresich - Stephen was absent but Brent reported for Stephen as requested. The MYSA Southern District Coaches Clinic was held on November 9th and was a huge success. Over 60 coaches attended to receive the Level I, II and III certifications. Thanks to Nigel for sending instructor, Paul Martin, who inspired a lot of novice coaches.

The MYSA Centers of Excellence U10 training program successfully moved into its 2nd month of training. 30 U10 players from the entire southern district regularly attend twice a month. National "B" licensed coaches are present at each training session. Bids to host the MYSA Southern district tournament to be held April 12-13, 2003 are due December 1st.

The Southern District Director was advised by MYSA that several organizations were past due in submitting various documents to remain in good standing. All involved organizations have been advised. BSO is trying to find coaches needed for certain age groups and finalizing leveling of rosters to submit to MYSA. BSO does not start league play until December 7th.

Financial Report of the Treasurer– Gene Phillips – See report submitted from Gene on the financial standings of MYSA. He has moved to Quick Books and this will help get a better handle on things. This links all-together. Beverly will go on the payroll as of 1-1-03. She makes too much money to be considered contract labor..

Break at 11:25am

Meeting resumed at 11:40am

ODP and Coaching – Nigel Boulton – Nigel is at a National Meeting. The new National ODP logo will be on the patch applied to uniforms. He sent word that he needs clinic dates right away.

Referee – Tim Clements – In September, in Colorado Springs, a level 9-referee clinic was held. It is designed to get some adult referees. It is a 1-day clinic lasting 8 hours. They went through the entire training and manual. The newly revised manual was done and received. The U14 recreation game can only be done after this class is finished. They will wear a different colored shirt that is designed to be distinguished from the other referees. More information is coming on this matter.

The "Young Referee of the Year" nominations are needed. Take time in each district to nominate a good "young referee", age 11-15. November 30, 2002 is the deadline. Each district needs to have a database of a head referee, assignors, referees, etc. This information needs to be given to Tim. Information needed is found on the website under the referee pull down menu. If any referee has a problem finding information, please contact Tim.

ODP – Mary Ann Hood – Camp '86, '87 and '88 boys and girls was successful. The listings of all of the players who made it to the regional and national pool and teams are in the "In Touch" magazine. All age groups have been notified from the tryouts. We are doing something different this year by inviting everyone to train that was selected. That eliminates the players designated as alternates from not coming at all. The teams will be selected in March. All forms for ODP are currently on the website. All or most communication is being done via email. The boys have co-administrators. We still need to get the best players to try out for ODP.

Approved _____

Date: _____

Approved as Amended _____

The Louisiana boys ODP players are going to Costa Rica this summer. We need to find something for our ODP players to keep them coming back and to give them more out of our program. The cost for the summer camp is \$475. This year we are getting the parents to sign a form stating that they will return the uniform their child receives or they will pay for it. If this fails, they will not be allowed to register the following year.

Rules and Revisions – John Emfinger – John was appointed as chairman. Any proposals for revisions are to be in by the deadline, which is December 6th by 4:00 pm. There will be a committee meeting December 14th for rules and revisions. Each district will have a representative for this committee. 4 candidates will be on it. This is not a meeting to debate items, but a meeting to decide matters.

Break for lunch – 12:11

Meeting resumed – 12:25

Top Soccer - Ray Holloway – Ray was absent from the meeting but sent in his report. Tupelo, Oxford and Ridgeland finished the first part of the season for TopSoccer. Tupelo has 30 players, Oxford has 28 players and Ridgeland has 28 players.

Mike Flynt, with the Lion's Organization, has formed a visually impaired soccer league at the reservoir. This league is the first specialized league in the USYSA history. They have over 30 players participating. A story headlined in the Clarion Ledger, which has helped break ground for Topsoccer in the Jackson surrounding areas. I have talked to representatives at the MS State University Technology Department about motion sensors to assist in barriers for those visually impaired and directed them to Mike for additional information. I will keep the board updated on the outcome of these devices.

Petal, MS wants to start a TopSoccer league through their school. I will keep you updated on their progress.

He is still seeking a representative for TopSoccer on the coast. MYSA received their cash grant for TopSoccer in the amount of \$2,655.00 and was awarded an equipment grant of \$2,180.00. The cash grant will go towards scholarships and assisting with those areas not financially able to start a program. Ray is available for any questions or suggestions.

Don Lewis – Park and Recreation – Don has the job with the National Regional III Park and Recreation. They need volunteers. You must be affiliated with the Park and Recreation and must be a local organization to serve the youth. We need ideas on how to best serve our youth and establish a relationship. MPPA, District 1, took over. There are lots of problems there. They conflict with soccer and need to overcome this. The cost to play soccer is a problem. Don is looking for input of the fees. MS is the most expensive in USYSA. Soccer is higher than any other sport that Park and Recreation participates in. With limited budgets, this is a problem. Some suggestions were made to lower costs. Should we do away with the publication of "In Touch"? We would save \$15,000 per year if we eliminate this. We could put the information on a PDF file and let people download it for themselves. Sponsorship in our publication is a big concern.

Approved _____

Date: _____

Approved as Amended _____

KidSafe – Shirley Griffin – Shirley checked on names on the letter from Brent. The disks are due in from everyone except those on her list. Next year, all Shirley will get from each district director is a letter stating that they are all in compliance. This system will be announced at the AGM.

Discipline and Appeals – Chris Dahlman - Chris had a couple of items that needed attention regarding discipline and appeals. She will review these matters. Chris will check up the case of CB Franklin and she will follow up with a letter to him and decide if a conference call is needed. This will be done within 10 days.

Old Business – The website is up and running. There may be a few emails that are not being received but Brent will take care of these right away.

Info@hammerhead.net is the site that is to be used to make changes on the website. Make sure you tell the person you speak to who you are. Do not simply say MYSA since there are several other states with this same name. The changes will take place in a 2-hour time frame. District directors' needs to have their own web page and keep them updated. Every form from the MYSA manual is on this site and some of them can even be filled out online, printed and sent. Do we need these PDF forms, filled out and sent directly to the person or committee? Geoff Leder is the person who will be responding to our requests.

Operations Manager – An ad was placed in the Clarion Ledger 3- 4 weeks ago. 45 applications were received which was narrowed down to 15. These were given to David Dodd. He will meet with his committee and a report will be sent out.

New Business – Discussion on Boundary Changes On page 5 of the financial report, you will see the members in good standing. Changes are needed to boundary lines, which include moving to 10 organizations except for the coast. We need to discuss the changes. Maybe change to a 1,2,3 4 system instead of Northern, Southern, Western and Central districts. Redistricting is a council issue and is not an AGM issue.

Proposals need to be in by December 6th. Staff and council members can also submit items. Brent submitted the Tide Cup proposals. Kay also has proposals for Division I.

The AGM will be held January 25th at the Holiday Inn in Jackson. It is still undecided if we will conduct a referee clinic.

Motion: To adjourn the MYSA council meeting.
Maker: Tony Bombich
Second: Dawn Wright
Motion Passed

Meeting adjourned at 1:45pm

Approved _____

Date: _____

Approved as Amended _____