

Charlotte Area Youth Soccer League (CAYSL)

February 23, 2004

Board of Directors Discussion

Attendees: Voting Members-4 Guests: 4

Jim Robinson GCCSA Vic Johnson CUFC Joe Pata SCSA
Andy Jones FCCA Vinnie Argona, Scheduler Ed Eubanks NCYSA
Kevin Foster MSC
Debby Wallace CUFC

A majority of the 15 Directors (8) was not present to hold a Regular Meeting.

This meeting was just a discussion.

Old Business:

- 1) **January Minutes:** will need to be approved at next Board meeting.
- 2) **Treasurer's Report:**
- 3) **Contracts:** The Board requested copies of both the Scheduler's contract and the Referee Assignor's contract for review.
- 4) **Referee Issues:** There were a few problems for the first weekend of play. These have been noted and passed on to D. Romero via the Scheduler. Note: per email 2/22, D Romero has already suspended a referee for two weeks for his no show.

For **6v6 games**, one referee was required, rather than 3. Club linesmen (unpaid volunteers) will be provided by each team for these 6v6 games. The center referee will be paid both the center fee and one linesman fee, or \$17 per team.

Reminder: If there are **no referees** for a game, both teams may, but are not required to, play the game with substitute referees. Once the game is played, that score will count as official. If the team or teams decide not to play, the teams need to email the Scheduler within 24 hours of the game to report the referee no show and request a rescheduled game.

It was emphasized again that outlying areas might only have **one referee for a game**, rather than a full 3-person crew. In that case, each team must provide a club linesman for the game. This is simply a function of the number of available referees on any given day. The Board has discussed this issue at length and will continue to seek ways to improve on the situation for next year.

- 5) **Field Closure Procedures:** This past weekend showed that all Club Representatives need reminding on how to close fields because of weather. The Secretary will send out a memo to the reps regarding this issue. Field closings will only be accepted by the Club Liaison, the Club President, or some other recognized Club official. **CAYSL must be notified via email to wmt@caysl.org by 8 AM on Saturdays and 11 AM on Sundays.** Once accepted, those closings will be posted on the front page of the www.caysl.org web site. Teams are asked to use the weather hot lines for the latest information. Otherwise, decisions will be made at the field and both teams in the first slot are required to show up and pay the referees. Because of the general confusion this past Sunday and the

acknowledged difficulty in closing the fields, CAYSL will be responsible for paying the referee forfeit fees for this past weekend.

- 6) **Field Issues:** The MSC rep complained about the size of goals at one field. The goals on an 8v8 field were 11v11 regulation size. Both CAYSL and NCYSA require that, no matter what size the field or the goals, the game must be played. This year is a transition year from two sizes of fields and goals to three sizes. Noting the expense of providing proper sized goals, NCYSA is allowing for all goal sizes for fields this year. Most Clubs have made a serious effort to provide the right sized equipment for each field size but there will be exceptions.

Per the CAYSL Rules, page 2, Section C.2. A Club should make a genuine effort to see that the fields and goals are in accordance with FIFA Laws of the Game. Any field and corresponding goals accepted and scheduled by the League is, by definition, acceptable equipment. FIELD SIZE WILL NOT BE A MATTER FOR PROTEST.

- 7) **Behavior issues:** There were a few reports of behavior problems, either by parents, spectators, or coaches. These complaints, noted in the Match Reports, will be forwarded to the respective Club representatives. D Romero will be asked to remind his referees to maintain control over the field. Club representatives are asked to remind their teams that good behavior is expected by all, i.e. no name calling, no bad language, etc.

New Business:

- 1) **Financial Reports:** The FCCA rep requested that monthly financial reports be sent out via email to the CAYSL Board for review. Ideally, this report should be sent 5 to 7 days prior to a scheduled Board meeting.
- 2) **Bills:** Several bills from the fall have not been presented for payment. The MSC rep requested that the Board write a "Policy for Payment" to require that all bills be presented to CAYSL within 60 days or CAYSL would not be obligated to pay. The CUFC rep recommended 90 days. This policy will be discussed at the March or April Board meeting.
- 3) **Attendance Policy:** The MSC rep proposed that an attendance policy for Board Members and Officers. Currently, there is no provision in the by-laws or rules for attendance at meetings. Given the low attendance at this meeting, and several pointed remarks about certain officers missing meetings, he felt that attendance requirements need to be put in place. He suggested that Officers automatically be removed from office if two consecutive meetings were missed. The SCSA rep said that many boards have attendance policies but suggested that 3 meetings might be a better number or consider going to a % per year to determine what is acceptable.

The CUFC rep expressed concern that requiring strict attendance on both Officers and Board Members would hurt the league more than help. Clubs should be encouraged to have some representation at all meetings. Removing an officer after two

consecutively missed meetings was unfair, especially if the meeting times were changed or for illness or family emergencies. This could cause major problems with filling those positions, especially on such short notice. The CUFC rep noted that officers, particularly the Secretary and Treasurer, may actually be doing a lot of work for the league on a daily basis between meetings, but may be unable to attend all the meetings. This should be taken into account before summarily throwing someone out of office.

Board member attendance requirements were not discussed in any detail. Given the differences in opinions, and lack of Board members at this particular meeting, this discussion was tabled for a later meeting in the Spring.

- 4) **City Challenge Cup:** In keeping with tradition, the Southern CAYSL area will host the tournament on April 30 and May 1, 2005 (last season, the Northern CAYSL clubs hosted). Kevin Foster MSC volunteered to be the Tournament Director. The Scheduler will obtain commitments from the various hosting clubs for fields and any associated field costs by Friday, 2/24. A simple application will be posted on the web site, along with the tournament fee, by March 1st. Applications and team checks need to be postmarked no later than April 1, 2005.

Brackets for the tournament will follow the current spring brackets. Brackets of 11, 13 and above will be split into two brackets. Brackets with teams of 3 through 12 teams will be single brackets. Seedings will be based solely on the spring season standings as of Monday, April 18, 2005. Each hosting club will provide volunteers (field marshals, site coordinators, referee liaisons, and scorers) for each site. There will be a medic at the three or four major sites. Food will be provided for the referees by CAYSL. Fee per team will be determined based on projected costs with the intent of keeping it around \$150. All City Cup information will be posted on the front page of the web site as soon as it is confirmed.

- 5) **Fall and Yearly Standings:** The Fall 2004 standings will be posted on the web site for informational purposes. CAYSL will not combine Fall and Spring standings. Only the Spring Standings (as of 4/18/05) will be used for City Cup seeding purposes. Final spring 2005 standings along with City Cup results will be posted on the web site.
- 6) **Nominating Committee:** The President formed a nominating committee to start finding candidates for next year's officer positions. Chris Bradley NMYSA was nominated to be chair of this committee. Matt Parker SCAA/Northside was nominated to serve on the committee. Other committee members will be sought to fill out this committee. Per the By laws:

By laws, page 12, Section VI, 6.2: No person may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in any particular office, nor more than three (3) terms in any five (5) year period in any two or more offices.

- 7) **Game Changes:** The CUFC rep proposed adding a “Game Change” plan for the spring 2005 season. The reason for allowing changes is to correct some errors such as the 5 and 6 week gaps; the high number of double game weekends; instances when teams play each other back-to-back on the same weekend; and need for some degree of flexibility for all the teams overall. The flu and other illnesses are impacting teams as well. The main purpose of the league is to have kids play games over a 9-week season, and not have to forfeit if there is another option. Allowing some game changes for the spring would correct the mistakes and account for unexpected events. Game changes could be monitored as well.

The CUFC plan outlines a 5-step process, cost \$100 per change, and utilizes the Referee Assignor as the game change scheduler. The initiating team would pay the fee and be responsible for establishing an email trail for documentation. Both teams would agree on a date to play and the Referee Assignor would then assign a field and a time. All game change forms would have to be emailed to the Ref Assignor by Monday, 12 days prior to the weekend of the original game. The CAYSL Scheduler and the master schedule would not be involved. The fee would pay for the referees for the old game and the scheduling fee for the new game, with the remainder being kept by the CAYSL league for tournament and other league expenses.

The MSC rep suggested charging \$250 per game change to try to limit the number of game changes. The SCSA rep suggested that \$150 to \$200 would probably be enough to discourage teams from making lots of changes. The MSC rep then stated that it was too late to allow for Game Changes for this season because we started the season with a “no changes allowed” plan and to amend that now would cause confusion and anger. The MSC rep stated that the league should stick to its “no game change” plan for this season. The discussion ended.

- 8) **Additional Non-Counting Games:** The CUFC rep proposed that the CAYSL league scheduler add non-counting games or “friendlies” for the teams whose schedules had 5 and 6 week gaps between games or whose seasons end in mid-March. This and other mistakes in the schedule should be fixed by CAYSL. Challenge players need to play games weekly and signed up for a 9 week season of games, not a 4 week season. The MSC rep proposed that since the schedule was already out and these games would not count, the teams, not CAYSL, should fill in their schedules with “friendlies” or tournaments themselves.
- 9) **Fall 2005 Game Changes:** The CUFC rep will circulate a Game Change Proposal for the Fall 2005 season for review by CAYSL reps. All present agreed that teams should be allowed to change games in the fall. However, most stated that game changes should not be easy or inexpensive to do, so as to prevent massive game changes throughout the season.
- 10) **Fall 2005 Schedule:** CUFC proposed a new set of priorities for the Fall 2005 schedule as follows:
- All Sundays will be filled in first, throughout the whole season

- Saturday games will fall on 2, and no more than 4 weekends, and not correspond with Classic double game weekends, if possible.
- Double game weekends would be limited to a maximum of 3 for any team, with no more than 2 preferred, as in the Classic schedules.
- Home Vs Away game ratios will fall between 50-50 and 70-30, but will not be emphasized above a full schedule or double game weekends.

This past spring, emphasis was placed on balancing home Vs away games 50-50 that resulted in front-loaded schedules with lots of Saturday-Sunday double game weekends. It also created 5 and 6-week gaps for 18 teams. Given the field and referee demand on Saturdays from classic and recreation games, along with the historical precedent of challenge games on Sundays, it was proposed to have Sundays as the main challenge game day in the future. Unlike the spring, each Club representative will have an opportunity to review the schedules and make changes prior to publication. The FCCA rep agreed with this proposed policy.

Next Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 30th at 7 PM at the Doubletree Inn.

Discussion adjourned at 9:25 PM.