

GAASA LEAGUE MEETING

October 2, 2012

Board members present: Jim Bauschlinger, Pres.; Tom Pickett, Exec. Dir.; Zoe Walsh, Boys VP; Lu Ann Blazeff, Registrar; Melissa Fullen, Treas.; Barb Knabe, Dir. Commiss.; Deb Kimble, Secy. Not present: Scott Kelley, Exec. VP; Paula Moore, Girls VP

<u>Clubs in attendance:</u>	Akron Metro FC	Alpha Phi Alpha	Bees Soccer Academy
Copley SA	Diamond Select	Field Youth SA	Highland Youth SA
Inner City SC	Internationals	Jackson Fury	Jackson Select
Lightning SC	Louisville SC	Mantua SC	NEO Hudson
New Philadelphia YSA	Norton SC	Perry Soccer	Ravenna
Revere SC	Rootstown SC	Springfield SC	St. Hilary
Stow SC	Streetsboro SC	Strikers SC	Tango FC
Woodridge SC			

<u>Not present:</u>	Barberton SC	Brecksville Broadview	Carrollton
Chippewa SC	Coventry SA	Cuyahoga Falls SC	Europa
Green SA	KA United	Kent SC	Lake SC
Manchester SC	Minerva	Northwest SC	OSU
Sagamore SC	SC Ternopil	Tallmadge SC	Wadsworth SA

DISCIPLINE

Jim announced significant improvement in discipline this season compared to the previous year:

- Fall 2011 – 38 yellow cards; 6 red
- Spring 2012 – 54 yellow; 11 red
- Fall 2012 (so far) – 25 yellow, 2 red

RESCHEDULES

Zoe and Paula are alternating reschedule approvals. Invoices will go out to clubs at the end of the season.

PLAYOFFS

Tom sent out the playoff schedule by email. Please note that the schedule is completely full this season. Parking at Copley Road will be very congested. Teams are encouraged to car pool players and to use overflow parking space behind the e-check station. Clubs were also reminded that dogs are not permitted at the Copley Road fields.

Division scores must be reported no later than 10:00 p.m. Sunday. Standings will be updated as quickly as possible going into the next 10 days. If a team is not planning to participate in playoffs, please notify Tom immediately so the next team in the standings can be called up.

Barb announced that we are now recruiting volunteers from the clubs to serve as field marshals and in the awards tent during playoffs at Copley Road Complex. The purpose of the field marshals is to facilitate communication across fields and prevent backups at the awards tables. Shifts (Sat. and Sun.) as follows:

- 8:00-11:30 a.m. – Need 7 volunteers each day
- 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. – Need 7 volunteers each day
- 2:00-5:00 p.m. – Need 7 volunteers each day

A \$20 credit per volunteer per shift will be given to clubs. Barb will contact commissioners and Tom will contact club reps. If there are not enough volunteers this season, the league may implement a mandatory schedule for clubs for future playoffs.

FINANCE

LuAnn and Melissa are sending out invoices to address outstanding balances. They ask for patience as the league moves its financials to a new operating system. If an invoice has already been paid, please send documentation (copy of check and invoice #) to LuAnn so records can be updated.

The financial report YTD through October 1, 2012 showed:

- \$115,141 in income
- \$74,623 in expenses
- Checking balance as of 9/30/12 at \$59,279
- Savings balance as of 4/24/12 at \$7,844

REGISTRATION

LuAnn announced that late registrations were limited. However, a significant portion of the outstanding balances mentioned above were late registrations that were submitted without payment. Although the Board previously voted to not process these unpaid late registrations, obviously we don't want to punish the players for administrative laxity. Clubs were encouraged to remind treasurers to include payment with late registrations. This can be done as an amount-blank check that LuAnn will fill in and send the info to clubs, or treasurers can contact LuAnn in advance of submission to find out total amount.

LuAnn reminded clubs that documentation to show a coach is registered for the OYSAN U10/12 coaching course must indicate that the course is paid in full. The league had at least one incident of a coach who was out of the grace period, submitted course registration documentation without proof of payment and never attended the course, which made him ineligible for the season, but was not caught in time to withhold the coach pass. If payment or a \$0 balance due is not indicated on the registration form, it will not be considered valid for eligibility.

REFEREES

The Board is aware of an increase in referee no-shows this season. The issue appears to be two-fold:

- Games in specific areas (Chippewa, Coventry, Norton, Barberton, Revere, Doylestown) are not being picked up at all.
- Games are being assigned and then the referee does not show up.

There is a severe shortage of referees in the Akron area overall, complicated by the fact that GAASA pays the lowest referee fees in the area. New referees who have a negative experience at a game often do not return, and referees are considered independent contractors, so there is little recourse for no shows.

The Board recommended that clubs coordinate with the league to host referee training clinics in their area to help increase the number of available refs. Tom reminded clubs that in order to track no shows, it is important for coaches to note on their games reports when a game is played without a referee. He also discouraged last minute reschedules, as they make it very difficult to assign a ref.

Tom was also informed that some new refs may not be able to access the assigning system to take games. He will investigate. Tom recommended that even though refs have up to one hour before a game to be assigned to it, if a game does not appear to be picked up two days prior, the club should start making phone calls to refs in their area.

One suggestion at the meeting is for clubs to sponsor a referee (reimburse the training fees) if the ref commits to a set number of games in that area.

Another suggestion was a sliding pay scale for refs who are more experienced. While Tom indicated that would be difficult to implement, he did suggest a "field experience" training day for new referees who tend to get lower grade games and, therefore, less educated parents which can lead to a lot of harassment on the field. A controlled game environment might be useful for better composure on the field. The Board attempted to implement a training day several times prior, but will address again with the Ref Assoc.

The Board also plans to address late arrivals with the Referee Association, as some refs are showing up five minutes prior to game time. Their contract indicates arrival 20-30 minutes prior.

OTHER BUSINESS

OYSAN is offering a U10/12 coaching course in Perry at the end of October. Usually coaches have to wait until spring, so this may be a good opportunity to get licensed.

Tom distributed a handout on concussions. There are mandatory training requirements pending in the Statehouse.

Information on a new indoor league for division 1 teams was available at the meeting.

Columbus Crew is hosting a GAASA night at the end of October. Discounted tickets and food are available to interested teams/clubs. Contact Tom for information.

The Board fielded a question regarding the single-card issue at OYSAN. The issue appears on the agenda for the OYSAN General Meeting in November and if a decision to single-card is approved, it may be implemented as early as Fall 2013. More information will be forthcoming after the meeting.

The next league meeting will be the Presidents Meeting in January 2013 (date and location TBA).