

GAASA ANNUAL PRESIDENTS MEETING

Edgar's, Akron
January 15, 2013

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

Clubs Represented: Akron Metro FC, Alpha Phi Alpha, Barberton SC, Bees Soccer Academy, CAK SC, Chippewa SC, Copley SC, Coventry SA, Cuyahoga Falls SC, Diamond Select, Green SA, Highland Youth SA, Inner City SC, Internationals, Jackson Fury, Lake SC, Lightning SC, Manchester SC, NEO, New Philadelphia YSA, Norton SC, Ravenna, Revere SC, Sagamore SC, Springfield SC, Stow SC, Streetsboro SC, Strikers SC, Tallmadge SC, Tango FC, Wadsworth SA, Woodridge SC

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa was not able to attend the meeting to present the financial report. However, the year-end report included in club packets noted 2012 total expenses of \$209,925.74 and income of \$234,871.00, with investments totaling \$94,094.77.

Jim reported that a 4-year reconciliation has been completed (2009-2012). There were no discrepancies and accounting procedures have been formalized. Cost of this process was a one-time expense of approximately \$7,000, as indicated on the 2012 year-end financial report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jim reported that the following Board positions will be open for elections in July: President, Girls VP, and Secretary. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Jim.

Referee Association

Bill Roth, new president of the Akron Referees Association, was introduced. Bill reported that the Association's membership has declined from 113 to 58 members. Retention of first year referees is 20 percent. The Association wants to initiate more open dialogue with the leagues it serves to facilitate better operations and improve relations and ref retention. The Association also has a new section on a website at www.akronsoccerrefs.net to address general referee questions (i.e., laws of the game). Bill offered to send a referee to club parent meetings to explain game rules and provide officiating information.

Jim reported that Tom and he will continue to meet with the Referee Association and to coordinate referee licensing clinics.

Jeff Blazeff Scholarship

Jeff Blazeff Scholarship is open for 2013. Application will be available on the GAASA website. Please encourage potential seniors who plan to attend college this fall to apply.

Staff News

Karl Sarver, our webmaster, was inducted into the Ohio Youth North Hall of Fame.

Concussion Prevention

There has been no additional progress by the State of Ohio related to concussion prevention. The Board is waiting on official direction from Columbus. However, education will be a critical component in this process. OYSAN may eventually include concussion prevention as part of the coach classes.

Other News

Columbus Crew is looking to create some new opportunities in the Akron area. Jim hopes to have additional information in March.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Book of Reports

Tom presented a book of reports at the meeting that contained the 2013 league calendar, contact information, 2012 meeting notes, and specific items in the coaches manual related to the new single-carding rule. If there are changes to your club's contacts, please inform Tom.

Please note the spring season includes 7 weekends instead of the usual 6 weekends.

Spring Divisions

Proposed divisions were distributed to clubs. If you have any concerns about team placements, please contact Tom.

High school division players may register on teams through their community clubs or directly through GAASA. GAASA follows high school rules with reference to age and limitation of five players per high school (based on fall H.S. roster- graduating seniors and non-rostered players do not count) on a team. U18 division can take players as young as 15. U16 division can take players as young as 14.

Referees

Tom pointed out in the packet a comparison chart of referee fees. GAASA fees are near the lowest for several categories. The Board is likely to raise referee fees for Fall 2013.

Referee clinics are being scheduled. Please take note of dates on the GAASA website and encourage potential referees to attend.

Coaches Manual

OYSAN passed single carding in December to take effect for Fall 2013. Any player dual-carded with two OYSAN-registered teams prior to May 1, 2013, will be grandfathered into being dual-carded for the remainder of their career as long as they remain on those same two teams.

Note: Not all premier clubs are registered through OYSAN. Those players are not considered dual-carded under OYSAN. However, if the premier club wants to play in the State Cup, the team must register for State Cup through OYSAN and the players will then be subject to the single-card rule.

Tom included in the packet those sections in the current coaches manual that are relevant to the change to single-carding. The grandfathering clause and other changes will be added for spring. If an individual player takes a season off and the team continues to play, that player may also be subjected to the single-card rule upon return the following season.

Dual-Carded Player Restrictions by Division - Dual-carded players will attrition out of GAASA over the next 4-5 years. Currently, the rule on dual-carded players states only C1 or C2 teams may include such players on their roster unless an exception is made by the GAASA Board. If a team was moved down to a lower division, it would need to remove the dual-carded players from the roster. Tom indicated that this rule will be suspended at present to relieve pressure on clubs to adjust to the single-card rule.

Guest players – The Board is considering relaxing the limitations on guest players or club-carding divisionally (i.e., C1/C2 or C4/C5) to help clubs continue to fill rosters as they adjust to single-carding.

Team Promotion/Relegation – As clubs settle in to single-carding and develop stronger teams, Tom proposed coordinating with OYSAN to allow stronger C1 teams to participate in State League (Division II) and weaker State League teams to compete in GAASA to help facilitate more balanced competition. This would be determined by prior participation in either league.

This is a league-wide proposal under consideration and participation will be determined by each league. Tom presented an organizational chart that outlines how various Northeast Ohio leagues would be positioned with regard to the Division II State League under this arrangement. He fielded questions regarding the proposal and noted that some logistics would need to be ironed out before deciding whether GAASA would participate. He also proposed that GAASA participation in this arrangement would only apply to U12 and older teams. The proposal will be addressed further at the March GAASA league meeting.

Reschedules

No changes are proposed on reschedules. However, Tom noted that GAASA is more liberal than many other leagues with regard to reschedules.

Other OYSAN Notes

OYSAN workshop schedule was distributed. Details available on the OYSAN website.

OYSAN has a Cavalier's night upcoming. Details available on the OYSAN website.

OYSAN is seeking a new Executive Director. Pam Menick has stepped down and the position is currently open.

Next meeting is Tuesday/March 5.
Team Registration – 7:00 pm League Meeting – 8:00 pm