

Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Inc.
 East Central District All Club Board Meeting
 Kimberly Municipal Complex
 October 18, 2021
 7:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM
 Quorum was reached by attendance.

<u>Club</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Electric City	Nate Laabs	Neenah	Mike Jones
FC Green Bay	*Jenna Ryan	Niagara North Stars	*Jim Laydon
Green Bay Lightning	*Cory Romdenne	Oshkosh	*Jenny Ostertag
Heart of the Valley	*Tracy Hengst	Synergy	Jeff Jones
Howard FC	Heidi Haroldson	TASK	*Sarah Wolslegel
Kiel	*Joe Muehlbauer	United of Allouez	Abdul Nur
Kimberly	Wayne Stoflet	Water Cities	John Rather
Manitowoc Futbol	Steve Meyer	WI United	Dusty Rhodes
Menasha	Kevin Otto		

Roll Call in call person and by *virtual sign-in
 Clubs absent: Fond du Lac, Fox Cities United, New Holstein

East Central Officers

EC President	Christopher Billstrom
EC Vice President	absent
EC Treasurer	absent
EC Secretary	Vicki King
EC Games Commissioner	Mike Jones
EC Rec Commissioner	Vacant
EC League Chairperson	absent
EC Academy Commissioner	Sean Breitzman
EC Registrar	open
EC Referee	Justin Oshefsky
EC Adult Commissioner	Vicki King
EC TOPS	Wayne Stoflet
WYSA Rep	Jay DeBruin
Executive Director	Sue Ann Evers

Quorum Report 2021/2022 Season

Position	Name	Votes 2020-2021	Club No	Club Name	2020-2021 Total Players*	Votes 2020-2021
President	Christopher Billstrom	1	032	Electric City Youth Soccer	419	1
Vice President	Scott Frisch	1	006	FC Green Bay	256	1
Treasurer	Noelani Smart	1	024	Fond du Lac Soccer	244	0**
Secretary/Adult League	Vicki King	1	078	Fox Cities United Soccer Club	327	1
Executive Director	Sue Ann Evers	0	121	Manitowoc Futbol Club (Goalgetters)	0*	1
WYSA State Board Rep	Jay DeBruin	1	027	Green Bay Lightning	95	1
Games Commissioner	Mike Jones	1	117	Heart of the Valley Soccer Club	142	1
League Chairperson	Brian Casey	1		Howard FC	320	1
TOP Soccer Commissioner	Wayne Stofflet	1	036	Kiel Soccer Club	54	1
Referee Commissioner	Justin Oshefsky	1	037	Kimberly Area Soccer	640	2
Academy Commissioner	Sean Breitzman	1	058	Neenah Soccer Club	1,300	3
Total Executive Board Votes		10				
			052	New Holstein Soccer Club	17	1
			099	Niagara Northern Stars	43	1
			045	Menasha	161	1
			057	Oshkosh United Soccer Club	537	2
			003	Synergy Soccer Club	80	1
			071	Thunder Area Soccer Kids (TASK)	285	1
			084	United Soccer of Allouez	154	1
			096	Water Cities Soccer Club	154	1
				Wisconsin United	1,443	3
			Total Club Votes		6,683	22

*They had 3 teams 14, 16 and 19. They would have approximately 54 players
** FDL club is not in report timeframe

Summary

Total Executive Board Votes	10
Total Club Votes	22
Total Votes	32

2021/2022 Season Quorum is 17

Approval of August Minutes

Motion to approve the August Minutes as made by Mike Jones (Neenah) and seconded by Jay DeBruin (TASK)

Motion passed

President's Report

DOC Meeting Recap

- Adding a Coaching Commissioner back onto Exec. Board. Idea needs more fleshing out and tabled now. The idea of having a yearly DOC meeting may fill the same role
- Evolving Youth Academy – many different views on the issues and fixes for the Academy. General agreement that good competition needs to be a priority and addressed. This will continue to be an ongoing process
- Scheduling and Rescheduling Changes. Everyone can support. More later in New Business
- Growing Youth Soccer in Northeast Wisconsin, a district driven grass roots program to reverse declining player trend. This idea was introduced but with not a lot of discussion. More in New Business

Fall 2021 Referee Shortage

Current Measures Taken

- Created Referee shortage Protocols to create consistency and minimize “all the field” decisions
- Justin and Mike have taken steps to add additional communication with refs to fill open spots
- Justin and Mike have the authority to postpone EC games that have ZERO assigned refs
- EC schedule Freeze as of 9/14
- Impact so far details in Referee Commissioners Report

- While eliminating refs from Academy and 11U/12U games could potentially provide refs for higher level games, the lost opportunities for young ref development would create more long-term problems

Next steps

- Expand referee pool
 - WYSA extending incentives for first time refs until April 2022
 - Should East Central do something to encourage EVERY club to recruit more refs?
 - Encourage more parents to become refs rather than relying on 14–18-year-olds
- Maximize our current referee pool
 - Micromanage schedule from the onset to maximize ref use
 - Extend 48-hour rule to minimize last minute game changes
 - Amend Referee Shortage Protocol/League Rules so that younger age/lower-level games (11U/12U – classic 2 and 0 can go on without referees
 - Expand Fall Season Time Frame (more on this in rescheduling discussion)

Director of Operation's Report

- Please remind your coaches and team managers that they must complete all phases of the risk management process
<https://www.wiyouthsoccer.com/member-services/risk-management/>
 - **SAFESPORT CERTIFICATION – Renew annually**
 - Each Club has a responsibility to ensure compliance across their organization.
 - If a coach is not approved, they should contact Katie Schauer WYSA. East Central has no control over their risk management approval
- Spring Schedule Preliminary Dates
 - Classic 14U and below – May 1, 2022
 - We are starting early so that we have an extra week for playing games due to rescheduling dates and the possibility of adding blackouts
 - Classic 15U-19U - May 15, 2022
 - Classic High School Girl – June 12, 2022
 - Recreational teams – May 15, 2022
 - We are starting the first play date as late as we can for more players to sign up and this will also start the scheduling process later.
 - Academy – April 30, 2022
 - Adult League – June 5, 2022
- East Central Rules and Regulations update
 - District needs to determine how rescheduling will proceed to update the document

Treasurer's Report

Information presented is not for public release. Please contact the East Central Executive Director with any information requests.

Commissioner's Report

Academy- Sean Breitzman

Investigating ways to evolve the academy program

- Fall 2021 we unweighted the teams to have just one level of play at 8U
- Discussion to follow of also unweighting the 10U teams for Spring of 2022
- Academy meeting to follow season to review the Fall 2021 season and to make plans for Spring 2022

WYSA- Jay DeBruin

State system sync

- Reminder – all programs must be set to sync with the state system to ensure proper insurance coverage.

Referees

- New referee program has been a success in getting new referees, but still need more. The state is attempting to work on finding other ways to solve our referee shortage.

AGM

- The WYSA AGM is Saturday, March 19, 2022, at Discovery World in Milwaukee. All clubs need to have a representative at the AGM. Mark your calendars.

Executive Committee

- Chris Lacey, the WYSA Chair stepped down for personal reasons in September. Per the by-laws, Vice Chair Alvaro Garcia-Velez takes over as Chair for the remainder of the term. Also, as per the by-laws, after soliciting nominations across the state, the state board voted to have Jay DeBruin assume the remainder of the term of the Vice Chair (election at the 2022 AGM).

TOPSoccer – Wayne Stoflet

Kimberly TOPS: Completed the fall indoor TOPS session. Enrollment was approximately 50 % of what we had before Covid. We are planning a winter session beginning January 15, 2022.

Howard Fire TOPS: We are having the start of our Fall season Saturday mornings in November. Renting indoor turf at Purdy performance. Currently 23 players registered, with 2 of them that are blind. We expect to have 25 at least (with another blind player joining).

Synergy TOPSoccer, fall session is scheduled for Nov 7, 14 & 21 + Dec 5 & 12.

Water Cities/Oshkosh TOPS No report at this time

Games – Mike Jones

No report

Referee Commissioner – Justin Oshefsky

- Aug 16 until Oct 14, we have had 498 East Central / State League games in the Fox Valley & Bay area.
- 138 games were missing at least 1 AR, both AR's or a full crew (typically academy). 360 games had a full crew.

Breakdown as follows:

- 15 Academy games missing a full crew (9 in Bay & 6 in FV)
- 35 games missing 2 AR's (9 for SL & 26 for EC, 27 in Bay & 8 in FV) 7 games were academy, 11 games were 11/12U level games, 11 games were 13/14U level games, 6 games were 15U+ level games
- 88 games missing 1 AR (20 for SL & 66 for EC, 50 in Bay & 38 in FV) 24 games were academy, 25 games were 11/12U level games, 18 games were 13/14U level games, 21 games were 15U+ level games

We have also had to cancel 67 total games. Not sure how many of the 67 were canceled due to no refs, but my money is on at least 40 of those games.

Credit Mike Jones

The grassroots referee reimbursement program kicked off in August 2021 and the program will continue through spring 2022. Clubs need to send out to players, parents, and coaches.

Proposal to look at referee payment when we are short 1 AR and 2 AR on a game. It is a lot of responsibility to be the only referee at a game. Referees should be rewarded for that extra work.

Referee Mentoring was held at academy games this fall (mostly 1st few weekend) Along with Oktoberfest and Copia cup Tournaments.

Adult League – Vicki King

- No Report

Old Business

Requesting formal approval of new East Central standards for these divisions:

Motion

- *East Central will provide ONLY a 15U Classic division (which includes 15U and 14U) in the seasons when we have displaced 8th graders*
 - *Fall for Boys/Coed Divisions*
 - *Spring for Girls Divisions*

John Rathert (Water Cities) made the motion and it was seconded by Mike Jones (Neeah)

Motion Passed

Discussion: The blending of these two age groups is typically done each season because there are not enough teams to have just a 14U or a 15U team. Because of birth year most of these players are in 8th grade. Clubs may have turned some players away because the player did not fit into the age group they were trying to create. By making this a common practice clubs can plan better when selecting players for that age division. This policy will also help with player retention

Motion

- *East Central will offer a High School Summer Girls Classic Division (Mid-June-July) which will encompass all age groups 15U-19U named as High School Girls. If there are enough teams to make two divisions, we would have a Classic 1 and Classic 2*

*Kevin Otto (Menasha) mad the motion and it was seconded by Sean Breitzman (Neeah)
Motion Passed*

Discussion: East Central will need to come up with some rules around the High School Division. i.e.: referees pay and playing rules. More to come on this.

Potential future standards:

- Review current Classic Fall 2021 Girls divisions and determine whether the same set up for Summer would also be best for fall
- Look at historical data and review if there are benefits to establishing predetermined age division for Boys High School Age players

New Business

2022-2023 Budget

A committee consisting of Chris Billstrom, Noe Smart, Mike Jones, Jason Salzwedel and Sue Ann Evers met over several different formats to discuss and develop a new budget for 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Please see the meeting presentation sent out for details on the budget proposal or contact the East Central Executive Director with any information requests.

Next Steps

- Take this back to your clubs and discuss
- Please remember
 - The issue here is not IF to charge clubs fees, it is HOW
 - We only bill clubs, not players, if clubs want to adjust their fees and collect more from some players to subsidize the fees of others completely up to them.
 - There will be an OPEN house virtual meeting in early November where clubs can ask any additional questions and provide feedback
 - You can always email president@eastcentralsoccer.com with any questions and provide feedback
 - Pending feedback, the Budget Committee will meet in early 2022 and make a final recommendation for the Budget to be voted on at our East Central AGM on Sunday, January 29, 2022

New Business

Spring Scheduling/Rescheduling Changes

- Long overdue, COVID put this issue on a lengthy hold
- After discussing at the DOC Meeting, it was evident that
 - Many clubs are frustrated with the excessive rescheduling
 - Some clubs are hesitant to reign in some of their coaches
 - Some clubs have no internal process to stop nuisance rescheduling requests
 - Many want East Central to be the BAD GUY and get the issue under control
 - You can get an idea of the types of things the district will be looking at by reviewing the DOC Meeting nots sent out last week
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1l155I0luWY7zZoAVjBFs-hn-Qe4iIWwJL8mmouJmVs/edit#slide=id.p>

- The plan is to have a revised scheduling/rescheduling process outlined in Rules and Regulations to be presented for approval at the AGM in January
- We are asking for club representatives to form a committee to develop the process
 - Committee members will be expected to work on this project in the coming months
 - We ask for representatives who are currently familiar with our scheduling/rescheduling process

A district driven grass roots program

- Player numbers continue to fall, Covid just increased the rate
- While bouncing back from Covid and getting our pre-pandemic players back to play might get us back to 2019/20 numbers it doesn't address the historic decline
- Most club mergers/promotion/marketing is driven towards bringing in older players from other clubs
- What we need is a grassroots program that brings in younger players
 - Creating a district plan for all clubs to form In-house 5U/6U rec Program
 - Encourage clubs to partner with each other
 - Establish hyper-local mini programs in smaller communities
 - Work towards both Fall and Spring programs to establish future expectations
 - District providing resources to drive program, contingent on clubs following established program guidelines
 - Assistance
 - Curriculum
 - Funding
 - Marketing
 - Local mini programs could have more regional multi-program events, future potential a big district wide event.

Announcements

East Central AGM, Saturday January 29, 2022

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mike Jones (Neeah) and seconded by Jay DeBruin (TASK)

Moton passed

**Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm
Adjournment**

**Respectfully submitted by
Vicki King
East Central Secretary**