

Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association, Inc.  
 East Central Soccer District, INC.  
 August Meeting  
 Kimberly Municipal Center  
 August 15, 2022

Roll Call

<u>Club</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Electric City	Nate Laabs	Niagara North Stars	*Greg Kulas
Green Bay Lightning	Jacob Depas	Oshkosh	Brian Casey
Heart of the Valley	Tracy Hengst	Synergy	Jeff Jones
Howard FC	Matt Bellisle	TASK	*Sarah Wolslegel
Kiel	Joe Muehlbauer	Water Cities	John Rathert
Kimberly	Noe Smart	WI United	Eric Gebhard
Neenah	Sean Breitzman		

\*Virtual sign-in

Clubs absent: FC Green Bay, Fondy, Fox Cities United, New Holstein, United of Allouez

Guest Club: Lakeshore United – Manitowoc FC: Representative - Steve Meyer

<b>East Central Officers</b>	
EC President	Christopher Billstrom
EC Vice President	Jeff Pozniak
EC Treasurer	Noe Smart
EC Secretary	Vicki King
EC Games Commissioner	Mike Jones
EC League Chairperson	Brian Casey
EC Academy Commissioner	Vacant
EC Referee	Justin Oshefsky
EC Adult Commissioner	Vicki King
EC TOPS	Jeff Jones
WYSA Rep	Christopher Billstrom
Executive Director	Sue Ann Evers

Started Meeting without Quorum but received Quorum shortly after it started.

Quorum (17)

## Quorum Report - 2022/2023 Season

Position	Name	Votes 2022-2023	Club No	Club Name	2021-2022 Total Players	Votes 2022-2023	2020-2021 Total Players	Variance
President	Christopher Billstrom	1	032	Electric City Youth Soccer	283	1	419	-136
Vice President	Jeff Pozniak	1	006	FC Green Bay	230	1	255	-25
Treasurer	Noelani Smart	1	024	Fond du Lac Soccer	307	0***	244	63
Secretary/Adult League	Vicki King	1	078	Fox Cities United Soccer Club	688	2	327	361
Executive Director	Sue Ann Evers	0*	121	Manitowoc Futbol Club	0	0****	0	0
WYSA State Board Rep	Christopher Billstrom	0**	027	Green Bay Lightning	78	1	95	-17
Games Commissioner	Mike Jones	1	117	Heart of the Valley Soccer Club	75	1	142	-67
League Chairperson	Brian Casey	1		Howard FC	185	1	320	-135
TOPSoccer Commissioner	Jeff Jones	1	036	Kiel Soccer Club	64	1	54	10
Referee Commissioner	Justin Oshefsky	1	037	Kimberly Area Soccer	683	2	640	43
Academy Commissioner	VACANT	0	058	Neenah Soccer Club	1,479	3	1,300	179
<b>Total Executive Board Votes</b>		<b>8</b>						
			052	New Holstein Soccer Club	14	1	17	-3
			099	Niagara Northern Stars	68	1	43	25
			057	Oshkosh United Soccer Club	489	1	537	-48
			003	Synergy Soccer Club	64	1	80	-16
			071	Thunder Area Soccer Kids (TASK)	336	1	285	51
			084	United Soccer of Allouez	131	1	154	-23
			096	Water Cities Soccer Club	360	1	154	206
				Wisconsin United	1,530	4	1,604	-74
			<b>Total Club Votes</b>		<b>7,064</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6,670</b>	<b>394</b>
* Executive Director is a Non-Voting Member of the Executive Board			**** Manitowoc currently registers their players with Lakeshore United and had 0 players so do no longer have a vote					
**Per Bylaws: No individual may carry more than one position's vote								
*** FDL club is not in good standing and have no vote as a result								

### Summary

<b>Total Executive Board Votes</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Club Votes</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>32</b>

**2022/2023 Season Quorum is 17 (50% of Total Votes plus 1)**

Approval of prior meeting Minutes – Approval of May 2022 All Club Board Meeting Minutes

*Motion to approve the March 21, 2022, Minutes as made by Mike Jones (Neenah) and seconded by John Rathert (Water Cities)*

*Motion passed*

President's report

Welcome to the 2022/2023 Season!

Some quick numbers

- 2020-2021 Total East Central Player Count 6670
- 2021-2022 Total East Central Player count 7064 (WYSA Numbers)

Just under a 6% increase

Statewide Numbers and other District numbers have not yet been released

Fall Classic Teams 2021- 89

Fall Classic Teams 2022 – 98 (a 10% increase)

Fall Academy Teams 2021 – 102

Fall Academy Teams 2022 – 59 (More on this in the Academy Report)

I am sure you have seen from the emails, WYSA is working on Soccer Parenting and the sideline Project to provide discount club memberships for 2022/2023 season

WYSA is promoting that clubs may use the RMRI fees to help pay the cost, but in January 2020 East Central passed a rule that all RMRI fees collected for East Central club players will be pooled and used for an East Central run Referee Mentoring program

Unless there is a change to the current rule's individual clubs in East Central

### **Spring Rescheduling Recap**

#### 75- Reschedule Requests

47 – Classic Games

28 – Rec Games

19 – Field or Game Time Changes/Day stayed the same

51 – Game was postponed due to weather or field conditions

5 – School Activity Conflict (2 Approved/3 Denied)

### **Comparison to Spring 2021 (numbers pulled from Demosphere 4/20-7/31 timeframe)**

Spring 2022 – 95 Games had some change (in line with above numbers as some games were acted upon twice, one to set game as TBD and a second time to set new date/time)

Spring 2021 – 225 Games had same change (not all entries had reasons for changes listed but it was a considerably larger number of games)

Overall, the reduction of reschedules was very promising and most clubs complied with the new policy.

One negative was the added inconvenience for games which needed rescheduling because of weather postponement.

- Club Schedulers couldn't use Demosphere change to notify home/away coaches and managers
- District involvement in Rescheduling these games was often unneeded and at times slowed down the process of getting the new game date into the schedule.

While we anticipate less weather postponements in Fall, we do want to tweak the rescheduling rules a bit yet this Fall.

- Return Access to Club Schedulers on the date of the FIRST GAME of the season (8/29/2022 this year)
  - Waiting until then so clubs continue to get scheduled worked out in the pre-scheduling phases
  - Will allow access for those games with weather/field postponements
- Games with time changes of 1 hour or less can be done without district approval
- For games with date changes or a time change more than 1 hour change needs district approval and clubs must use the Reschedule Request Form

- If clubs are found abusing access and making changes without approval, forfeits can be declared and or fines levied. If both clubs are complicit in changing the game both clubs can be fined.

### ***Motion 22/23 – 1***

***Motion to Waive the 2-meeting rule to allow changes to the Rescheduling Process made by Brian Casey (Oshkosh) and Seconded by Mike Jones (Neenah)***

### ***Motion Passed***

#### **Motion 22/23-2:**

**The following changes to the rescheduling process will go into effect immediately for the Fall 2022 season:**

- 1) District Schedules will be unfrozen on the date of the FIRST GAME of the season and Club Schedulers will have access to their clubs schedules to make the following changes:
  - a. Games with ONLY a field location change
  - b. Games with a change in start time of 1 hour or LESS
  - c. Games which need to be rescheduled because the initial game was postponed due to weather or unplayable field conditions

All above changes should be communicated to representatives from both teams as well as to the club's referee assignor so that the changes can be updated in Games Officials. Clubs also need to put in comments indication the reason for change in scheduling tool. It is not necessary to fill out Rescheduling Form for these changes but the district will be tracking changes and billing clubs \$7.50 per change when applicable

- 2) The Rescheduling Form must be filled out and changes approved by the district for the following:
  - a. Games moving to a different date for reasons permitted by the league rules
  - b. Games with a change in start time of 1 hour or MORE

If approved the requesting club will continue to be charged a \$25 district/referee re-assigning fee. Under no circumstances will clubs be permitted to make a game change without permission from the district. Should the district discover this has occurred; the club initiating the change will forfeit the game and both clubs may be subjected to district fines.

***Motion to accept the new Rescheduling Process made by Mike Jones (Neenah) and seconded by Brian Casey (Oshkosh)***

***One nay by Justin Oshefsky***

### ***Motion Passed***

#### **Referee Shortage Protocol**

Currently, East Central has a policy that for 8U and 10U Rec (Academy) games, we will play the game even if we have no refs. For all other games we play the game as long as we have a Center Ref.

Do we want to expand the divisions where games are played and counted in the standing even if there are no certified refs on the game?

#### **Discussion:**

- Mike Jones thinks the shortage will be more noticeable this fall as many of our summer referees have gone back to college.
- Places where they only have a few referees during the summer games will have even fewer referees for the fall.

- Green Bay area will be struggling to get enough referees to play the games
- If two coaches can agree to have parent referee the game that might be a good solution to the younger age teams
- Coaches can always agree not to play if referees do not show up and game is an important one in the standings.
- Games that are played without referees will not post standings for that game.
- This motion is to be reviewed for Spring 2023
- Referee assignors will still do everything in their power to have referees at every game.

*Motion made by Eric Gebhard (WI United) and seconded by Justin Oshefsky (Neenah) to pass an Emergency motion for Fall 2022. East Central 11U and 12U teams can play a scheduled game without referees. Games with no referees present will not count in the standings. Coaches can also decide to reschedule the game if they so choose.*

*Motion passed*

Non – East Central Club Policy

Currently, our leagues are open to Non-East Central Clubs. They must be a WYSA recognized club and currently pay 1.5 x the team rate that East Central Clubs pay.

**Past Clubs:**

Marquette United

**Current Clubs:**

FC Wisconsin - North

SC Wave – Tiletown

Lakeshore United – Manitowoc FC

Any elimination of the current policy would need to go through a Bylaws Change Process.

Discussion:

- Members of East Central Board were concerned that these clubs may not always have the best intentions.
- It was felt by the membership that we need to make some policies of how clubs should behave if they want to play in our district. This would apply to all clubs in the district and to any guest clubs that want to play in our league.
- This discussion will be brought back to the AGM so that it can be discussed at greater length.

**Treasurer’s Report**

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

Discussion:

Clubs will be sent an invoice in September for teams scheduled in East Central Soccer District.

## Commissioner Reports

### Academy

Big changes for Fall, our team numbers have dropped with both Neenah Soccer Club and WI United pulling their teams in favor of in-house programs.

Current academy scheduling process is at the final stages

- Fall Academy Schedule was sent out Monday, August 15, 2022 (noon)
- Second Phase revisions due back to scheduler on Thursday, August 18, 2022 (noon)
- Entire schedule will be posted on later than August 22, 2022
- Breakdown of teams scheduled

<b>Teams - Academy - Fall 2022</b>								
	8U GIRLS	8U BOYS	10U GIRLS-1	10U BOYS - 1	10U GIRLS-2	10U BOYS- 2	total	
Electric City	1	2	2	1	2	0	8	
FC Green Bay	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	
FOX Cities	1	2	0	0	1	1	5	
GBL	1	1	0	0	1	1	4	
Kimberly	3	3	1	0	1	2	10	
Oshkosh	2	4	1	2	2	2	13	
TASK	2	0	0	0	2	1	5	
Water Cities	3	2	2	0	2	1	10	
<b>total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>59</b>	

### Adult League – Vicky King

- Adult League had 10 adult teams participatin in 2022 Spring League.
- There was a total of 195 players that participated
- All participating clubs should have received reimbursement fees from WSL

### Referee Commissioner – Justin Oshefsky

- New referee courses are still being held now. 1<sup>st</sup> time referees will have fee's reimbursed by WYSA. Also including is a 1<sup>st</sup> year referee kit. If interested, please take advantage of this offer in August.
- We were able to host Mentoring sessions at tournaments this past spring. Mike and I are working on hosting more mentoring at academy games this fall. It will largely depend on referee availability as we were short refs in the spring.
- We Applied for Mentoring reimbursement, clubs should have received check already. If not, please contact me.
- Reminder: Referee fees went up as of 8/1 please make sure teams are paying the correct amount.
- Referee pool this fall will be limited. I will be difficult to have full crews on all games but will work our hardest. All games on Weekends + Academy + Tournaments. Not to mention HS games/college games/etc.
  - How can we help?

- Back-to-back games when we can.
- Not every game can start at 1pm.
- Willingness to move games
- Notify assignor ASAP when games are or will be moved/cancelled asap.

These two motions will be put in Old Business to be voted on at the next East Central Board Meeting.

**Motion: To eliminate referees at 8U Rec games.**

*Discussion:*

- 1) *Most 8U games in spring did not have a referee already.*
- 2) *Coaches can be prepared to know there will not be a ref and the unknown if a referee is going to show up or not is eliminated.*
- 3) *Saves clubs money*

**Motion:**

*If clubs are unable to provide a full referee crew for at least 50% of their home games the prior season, allows the district to move game(s) to other venues to allow both teams a full referee crew*

**TOPSoccer Commissioner – Jeff Jones**

> FIRE: We are planning another TopSoccer event at the CCU Park towards the end of August. It will be free for players; hope you can join us. (Submitted by: Armando Martinez)

> KASA: We will be starting up in Sept and run for 6 weeks. We take a break in Nov-Dec. we then start up gain in Jan. (Submitted by: Jane McCormick)

> SYNERGY: Currently dormant. Fall session will run Nov-Dec. (Submitted by: Jeff Jones)

> WCSC: TOPSoccer program isn't running right now. We will ramp up this fall, but nothing to report right now. (Submitted by: John Rathert)

**WYSA State Rep Report – Christopher Billstrom**

Issues in process with WYSA State Board

- Demosphere Evaluation
  - Possible Task Force to look at other systems
  - At earliest, would not go into effect until 2023-2024, possibly later
- State Referee Administrator change
  - In March, WYSA Board issues a statement requesting change in the SRA position
  - Currently working with Adult (WSL) side to vet potential candidates
  - Cannot talk about most of the details due to Executive mSession restrictions
- Board Configuration Changes
  - A 5 district/10 member board proposal is currently being voted on

- If this passes, look for State to request feedback from Districts and Clubs on new district lines
- Bylaw Changes
  - Most of this is contingent on above
  - Possible Special Council Meeting in January to vote on Bylaw changes.
  -

### **Old Business**

*Motion made by Mike Jones (Neenah) and seconded by Brian Casey (Oshkosh) to offer the following recreational divisions in Spring 2023*

*East Central will offer the following Recreational Division in Spring 2023*

- *8U-12U recreational for both Girls and Coed*
- *\*14U recreational coed*
- *\*\*High School Recreational Coed – 15U and up*

*\*East Central will be exploring potential gender balance rules for these Coed Division over the winter*

*\*\*East Central will be exploring if we will allow players younger than 15 to play up on the High School Rec League.*

*Motion passed*

*Motion made by Sean B (Neenah) and seconded by Brian Casey (Oshkosh) to offer the following classic divisions in Spring 2023*

*East Central will offer the following Classic Divisions in Spring 2023*

- *\*Girls Divisions – 11U, 12U, 13U, \*\*15U*
- *Coed Divisions – 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 17U, 19U*

*\*East Central will NO LONGER offer a Summer Girls High School Division*

*Motion passed*

*Notes:*

***\*\*What do we do with the 15U 8<sup>th</sup> Graders and 15U in general?***

***\*\*\*Wish to discuss potential Coed High School Division for future years at AGM***

### **New Business**

To be discussed and potentially voted on at next meeting

#### **Eliminating East Central Adult League**

- Difficult working with WSL
- Declining interest/Number of teams
- There are other Adult Leagues out there
- Referees unwilling to take games
- When issues arise, they tend to explode immediately into big problems which need a lot of attention to deal with



- **Takes away from Youth Programs**

### **East Central Rules and Regulations/Policies and Procedures**

- In the past the district has had two manuals/documents for the above
- The concept dates back to pre-internet/pre-district website world where people could print off the all inclusive documents
- As things changed, the documents often were not updated
- An annual re-approval of the documents at the AGM often was overlooked
- Since smartphones and webpages have replaced printed documents in the real world, we think we need to update how we present the information needed
- The District website in its entirety is the district Rules and Regulations/Policies and Procedures manuals

### **Weather policy: Tornado and Heat Index**

- Our current rules don't really take into account these weather situations
- Hopefully good sense prevails but sometimes you need rules to make sure
- WYSA will be issuing statewide weather policy soon so it probably makes sense to review all of our policies regarding weather.

### **Fines/Enforcement for clubs not complying with Scheduling Process**

- While our scheduling process of late has been running like a well oiled machine, all it takes is one club to not do their part to grind the process to a halt.
- Currently, repeated emails begging clubs to comply and get their part done is about all we can do
- The District would like to add a bit more bite to the rules for unresponsive clubs such as
  - Losing home games
  - Fines

### **Announcements**

- Oshkosh is bringing new referees to their practices to give them some experience in a game situation before they are at a scheduled game
- Esmir Bajraktarevic (17 Years Old from Appleton) makes first MLS start.  
<https://www.revolutionsoccer.net/video/bajraktarevic-makes-first-mls-start-i-just-try-to-get-loose-and-i-tr#bajraktarevic-makes-first-mls-start-i-just-try-to-get-loose-and-i-tr>

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Brian Casey (Oshkosh) and seconded by Sean Breitzman (Neeah)

Meeting adjourned 9:38 PM

Respectfully submitted by

Vicki King  
East Central Secretary