

AYSO Board Meeting

April 1, 2021

Attendees

X	Taj Chiu		Caroline Amicone
X	Neil Weinberger		Steve Hawkins
X	James Sheehy		Chris Herb
X	Mimi Goldstein		DeWayne McMullin
X	Shanti Rao		Ivonne Penichet
X	Dan Jeffries	X	Marco Quezada
X	Dana Bradley		Samir Singh
X	Scott Davis	X	Joanie Paik
X	Steve Haegelin		Tara Mastro
	Oscar Alvarez	X	Terry Takahashi
X	Patrick Shopbell	X	Sam Shaker
	Mark Evans	X	Stas Petropoulos
	Louise Hamlin	X	Terry Takahashi
X	Bill Owen		

Call to Order

Taj Chiu called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Approval of previous meeting minutes (January and February)

Neil motioned to approve January and February minutes. Shanti seconded. Minutes were approved with all in favor and none opposed.

Reports

Registrar Report – Shanti

Region 13 is upgrading technology to InLeague for player registration. InLeague will be ready in mid-April to migrate the user accounts. Technology was upgraded to improve emails, to merge mail from within Google Sheets, and to send text messages via Twilio account.

Proposal: Switch 6U-8U age ranges to align with the school year so that schools can enter teams for K, 1st, and 2nd grades. Older 8U players would have the choice of playing 8U or younger 10U divisions. Taj will check with AYSO National on whether the eligibility ranges can be changed for 8U and below. Messaging will need to communicate this proposed change to parents.

4U/5U program managed by Oscar, with coaching from Breanna & Nick of Launch, was substantially better than before, so the age ranges would continue. Terry will re-invite Oscar to run the program again.

Bill Owen reminded the Board to allocate field space for 4U/5U on Saturdays.

Referees' Report – Patrick

When we restart, everyone will be new to their division, and either rusty or new to their age group. The staff will have to double down on “push” mentoring, not just waiting for people to raise their hand for help. We are excited about giving referees more autonomy to choose and reschedule assignments for games. We will also experiment with having 10U referees not referee their own games. There are

downsides. What would referee points look like? Every team still needs to referee a game every week, and every team will be assigned to officiate a game, but there will be more available options. More people are perhaps willing to referee if they can referee their own child's game. Alternatively, actual and perceived bias can be a downer for everyone.

Scott says that when the Region switched to referee-your-own-game, the number of no-shows declined substantially. But the rate of volunteerism has declined, and no-shows are getting worse.

In order to address the declining volunteerism, the referee staff will be more involved in referee recruitment over the summer.

Referee instruction will probably not have 100 people in person at the clubhouse. The staff is considering options and alternate scenarios. Ken Aston has been cancelled for this year.

EXPO Report – Scott

EXPO is just around the corner, over four weekends, starting April to May. There is no cost to attend, and no cost to the Region, so no reason for everyone not to do it. The classes will be over Zoom. These workshops are all the general referee improvement classes, with no certifications or upgrades. James and Patrick will announce EXPO to last year's DRA's and assistant RA's.

Coaches' Report – Terry

DCAs are moving up. Please nominate coaches to fill in the gaps for younger divisions. Note to DCA volunteers that the DCA's kid gets first pick of uniform colors.

How will we train the coaches? This still has to be worked out with Dana and Marco. Marco added that coach training is a good place to recruit division coordinators.

Field Report - Marco

PUSD has chosen to not reopen its fields yet. Muir Central and PHS turf fields are scheduled to be torn up and rebuilt with turf. The city has delegated authority for Muir South to the school district to issue permits. Muir North is available as it is not located on the school proper.

At LCHS, construction will start in June to convert the basketball courts into a CIF-sized pool, while the pool will become a basketball court. During construction, it will be very difficult to use the JV field.

LCUSD is also exploring options for having more grass at the LCE campus, and arranging the HS varsity field to accommodate a full-sized grass soccer field.

Neil observed that upper division starts play in mid-August, so they'll need practice fields in early August.

Panthers and Gladiators football have shut down, so they have no need for fields.

Treasurer's Report - Mimi

We are forecasting a lower enrollment than usual, 1500 players. Typically, the fall season loses money, the rest of the program breaks even, and the tournaments balance the budget. The Thanksgiving tournament will be smaller, but the spring tournament should be big because the kids will all be vaccinated by then.

The pricing will be \$170/180/190, with the usual \$20 sibling and early registration discounts.

CVPA Report - Stas

Scrimmaging -- where do we stand? The guidelines are unchanged.

LA County gave a presentation today about Appendix F. It will be updated on Saturday reflecting a move to the orange tier. This is not expected to substantially affect soccer.

Taj attended a presentation by the LA County Public Health. The official presenting the briefing admonished the audience that sports present a high risk of transmission, and strongly encouraged youth sports organizations to continue to be cautious.

The data on COVID cases show a general declining trend, although today's numbers went up. Tournaments will be allowed through a permit process, with one game per team per day. Two weeks' minimum notice is required.

Intra-cohort competition is not directly addressed. Masks are still required, and Pasadena recommends that they stay on (just dial it down a little bit).

Inter-cohort competitions are allowed without testing (for soccer), within the county or neighboring counties.

Can Skills & Drills introduce scrimmaging? The guidelines do not prohibit it (masks and training precautions still apply). Field owners would need to be notified of the new protocols, as would parents. According to Appendix S in the county guidelines, protocols do not have to specifically state whether scrimmages occur.

The region will survey Skills & Drills parents about the program to gauge willingness and interest to allow more than just drills within cohorts and introduce scrimmaging.

Beware a fourth wave -- while California is #2 in the nation for vaccinations, many people seem to be gathering in public this week or leaving the state.

Additional Items for Discussion

After all Board volunteers are vaccinated, Taj proposes a cleanup of the clubhouse. Shirts, shorts, socks and cleats were recently hauled off for donation to a group in Haiti.

Neil noted that the Board's donation in memory of Julie Hardy was greatly appreciated by her husband, Will.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Next Board Meeting is May 6, 2021.