

**CPYSL Meeting Minutes
Via GoToMeeting**

**March 24th, 2021
7:00pm**

Board Members:

John Abe, Tom Bieber, Joe Butera, Jim Conners, Karen Crawford,
George Gemberling, Ronald Kaczmarek, Jim Lamb, Christina Loss,
Paul Predmore, Simon Skudder, Kellas Wechsler

Staff:

Wendy Campbell, Terry Mull, Phil Frederick

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Jim Conners

Roll Call/Minutes:

-AGM was held via GoToMeeting. Attendees were asked to send their name/club via the chat feature.
-January meeting minutes approved via email.

Reports:

Registrar (Wendy Campbell)

-Spring season begins April 10th/11th. The schedule will be posted by Friday.
-U13/14 teams will play on Saturday in the spring.
-Please make sure your coaches read the coach guidelines on the website, many answers to your questions can be found in the guidelines.
-Spring score cards can be picked up at the office or mailed, you must contact the office if you prefer to have your cards mailed. Area clubs should send a representative to pick up the cards at the office.
-Remind your teams to fill out the score cards completely in order to avoid a \$25 per card for ones that are not completely filled out.
-There are still several clubs that need to send their updated Bylaws/Constitution/Code of Conduct to the office to keep on file.
-Please review the calendar on the website for important dates/deadlines.
-To be determined if the June 16th board meeting will be held in person or via Gotomeeting.

Treasurer (Paul Predmore-not in attendance)

Checking: \$75,385.08
Savings: \$400,757.68

Outstanding invoices: CQL field rental, Liability insurance, EPYSA Spring League fees

Game Commissioner (Jim Lamb)

-Nothing to report

Referee Association (Terry Mull)

-Referee coverage will be extremely short. The pool of referees is depleted, down 1500 in the state alone.

VP Programs (George Gemberling)

-Send applications for the Scholarship money for graduating players

VP Girls (Joe Butera)

-Good feedback about the competition meeting being held via GotoMeeting.

VP Boys (Simon Skudder)

-Competition meeting went well. There were very few issues with divisions.

President (Jim Conners)

-From EPYSA – COVID-19 Response: All coaches, spectators, referees, players should wear masks at all times. The only time when players or referees do not have to wear masks during participation is if they meet an exception in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Order requiring Universal Face Coverings. Section 3 of the Order provides an exception that allows an individual to remove their mask if wearing a face covering would either cause a medical condition, or exacerbate an existing one, including respiratory issues that impede breathing, a mental health condition or a disability. Proof of meeting the exception is not required. For fully vaccinated individual's, masks should be worn in public places which includes soccer activities.

-This is a mandatory rule in place by the Commonwealth of PA & the CDC, we must abide by this determination as it in place, we will revise if the State of PA revises their guidelines

-From EPSARC (EPA Referee Committee): All coaches, spectators, referees, players should wear masks at all times.

-The League feels that there is no need to have referees involved in enforcing this guideline, it should be up to our member clubs to police their venues and have all that attend games comply with the guidelines in place. CPYSL will ask game referees to note in the match report teams out of compliance so that the League can work with the clubs to remedy the concerns effectively.

-Summer League: I have been asked by one of our directors to investigate the

possibility of offering a 7-a-side summer league for HS & returning college players. I have sent an inquiry to EPYSA and if we would need EPSA involvement to hold such a league including concerns we might have.

-The reply from Chris Branscome: There is a way to do it, and probably without the involvement of EPSA. It should be limited to maybe U-21. There will be some safesport issues with adults regularly playing with minors. We'll get back to you as soon as we can. (My original request 3/5, reply 3/16)

-EPYSA AGM highlights: Several bylaw amendments including renaming of the Vice Presidents and revising their job descriptions to reflect the changes at the EPYSA office. Most notable to me is the removal of Recreational VP, as now other than the EPYSA office staff, there is no one person that must answer to those recreational Leagues. The Registrar position was also deleted from the board and made into an at-large position; I believe this is another voice that we will miss who has gone to bat for the member clubs & leagues with the registration concerns that occur. The big item of note was an amendment to the bylaws for rules & player tryouts that was voted down due to ambiguity in the verbiage. I have asked several of our Club's Directors of Coaching to put together a policy for us to implement through CPYSL the League & several of our member clubs were concerned that the rule that was proposed had unintended consequences especially to the smaller clubs. Thus, we will work together to help protect our members and by having guidelines published it will reinforce all with what should follow, hopefully it could become a model for the State association. I have been made aware that many of our member clubs will already be following the intended policy in good faith. Currently, I am informed that Keystone FC, PA Classics, CASA, Hershey, Eagle FC, & Penn FC are moving forward with May 1st as the date for tryouts, to those and any other clubs following that I commend your efforts.

-EPYSA also announced their support for the hosting of the 2026 World Cup in Philadelphia. EPYSA is looking to secure donations from the member clubs & Leagues to the tune of \$500,000 over the next 4+ years, with the provision that if the bid for Philly is not fulfilled, they monies would go back to the donating sources. When pushed for what EPYSA was asking from our league in particular, the amount of \$35,000 was discussed, or to put into a figure to comprehend a donation of \$1 per player, per year... so if you had a EPYSA sanction rec league of 400 players, they would hope to see \$2000 earmarked toward this fund by 2026. Some of us had a heads up to thus request when there was a League only meeting in January with a 15-minute commercial outlining this proposed plan.

-Although I would like to see the World Cup come to Philly, in the real world with DC, Baltimore, & New York along the I-95 corridor with Philly, I foresee the committee only picking two of these venues, and with NY being a large audience,

a huge TV presence, and a likely lock the other choice will fall on either DC/Baltimore getting the other bid.

-US Gender policy: One of our members inquired about the Leagues' policy on gender identification. To be clear, we follow EPYSA on these policies, and in turn EPYSA follows US Soccer. In the USSF Policy Manual, Section 6 Inclusion policy it outlines what we are to follow, I will include a copy in the official minutes. In a nutshell, a medical doctor, not associated with the family needs to verify gender. The player is then permitted to play as they are identified and verified. I would recommend to any needing clarification on this policy, the club & family must be educated on the written USSF Inclusion Policy completely prior to pursuing. In prior cases EPYSA was supplied documentation by the parent and the player's gender (& name) was changed quietly in the system.

-Excerpt from USSF Policy Manual Section 6. Inclusion Policy(A) To clarify the Bylaws, membership of the Federation is open to all soccer organizations and all soccer players, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or national origin.(B) For the purposes of registration on gender-based amateur teams, a player may register with the gender team with which the player identifies, and confirmation sufficient for guaranteeing access shall be satisfied by documentation or evidence that shows the stated gender is sincerely held, and part of a person's core identity. Documentation satisfying the herein stated standard includes, but is not limited to, government-issued documentation or documentation prepared by a health care provider, counselor, or other qualified professional not related to the player. (C) This policy shall not apply to the Federation's National Teams programs, but application of this or a similar policy shall be re-evaluated at such time as FIFA addresses the issue (D) This policy shall not apply to Professional Leagues.

Re-visit an old topic: Running up scores and the mercy rule. Do I really need to talk about this again, this past fall we had several instances so I will state CPYSL DOES NOT COUNT GOALS to determine a bracket winner, the need to run up a score against a weaker opponent is...pointless? Second to have to ask the referee to remove a player to implement the 5-goal mercy rule, who is already taxed with enforcing the laws of the game with a common-sense rule that the member clubs voted into place, especially when the coach who oversees his team & subs and can easily pull a player is beyond belief. I will ask again of our member clubs to support these rules. There are many creative ways to keep from having the score get out of hand long before needing to implement the removal of players, let's work on making all our participants have an enjoyable experience in this game rather than chase them away because they have not reached your level of skill. If

you are unsure of ways to keep scores in check, drop me a note, I will send you a list of possibilities.

Referee Course: EPSARC just finished a course at Vibrant Church, Mechanicsburg, Eagle FC was the host with 23 participants, unfortunately most were from outside our immediate area and therefore this does not assist our depleting pool. In the future to our member clubs wishing to host and involve local talent there is a vehicle in place to assure maximum attendance to those you wish to include before it is opened to outside participants. The coordinator notifies the EPSARC referee office (Joanne Neal) of the stipulation, they will in turn give the coordinator a pass code to give members they want to assure get in the local class for distribution to them giving you up to a ten (10) day head start on registration before it is made public for all Eastern Pa.

Got Soccer Points: The Got Soccer points will be implemented this fall for all division 1 & Premier teams to add to their portfolios. I had hoped to start this past fall, however with COVID changing the world and the possibility that we might not get the chance to play period, the points were tabled for the season. As Covid concerns are slowly ebbing, we are hopeful of a full slate of teams & games for the coming fall, and therefore adding them will benefit those teams using them to better themselves at tournament time. For the Fall '21 season CPYSL will underwrite the extra costs involved, I have been told this amount to \$10-15 per team. Official welcome to Mason Dixon Soccer League and Masjid Al Nur soccer club to our League, Mason Dixon will have one team (U13B) in our Spring season & Masjid Al Nur will have four teams entering our competition this spring (U9B, U11B, U14B, & U18B), I hope all will extend a warm greeting to our newest provisional members.

Club Reports/Good of the Game

-Think Spring!!!

Motion to adjourn at 8:00pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

**Wednesday, June 16th, 2021
7:00pm**