**Seattle Youth Soccer Association**

**Minutes for SYSA Board of Commissioners Monthly Business Meeting held on June 7, 2021 via teleconference**

**Officers, commissioners and staff attending the meeting:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **President** | David Funke | x | **Ballard** | Luke Giustra | \* |
| **VP Administration** | Keith Leitich | x | **Beacon Hill** | Keith Leitich | x |
| **Secretary** | Phil Herold | x | **Capitol Hill** | Perry Lee | x |
| **Treasurer** | John Clark | x | **Hillwood** | Phil Herold | x |
| **VP Operations** |  |  | **Lake City** | Dave Farber | \* |
| **VP Development Rec** | Ann Davison |  | **LVR** | Greg Parker | x |
| **VP Competition** | Corey McNamee |  | **Magnolia** | Alex Johnston  |  |
|  |  |  | **McGilvra** | Jeff Scott | x |
| **Disciplinary Chair** | Steve Kuhn |  | **Mt Baker** | Shannon Palmer | x |
| **SSRA SYSA Liaison** | Larry Metz | x | **Queen Anne** | Ryan Hall | \* |
| **Seattle United Rep** |  |  | **Seattle United** | Kevin Long | x |
| **SYSA Cup Rep** | Anne Bare | x | **Shorelake** | Kris Espinoza | x |
| **MAR (Rep to State)** | Phil Herold | x | **Woodland** | Mitch Furuglyas | x |
| \*Yarrow Banko represented Queen Anne, Greg Lanier represented Lake City, Andrew Westmark represented Ballard  |
| **Executive Director** | David Griffiths | x | **Scheduler** | Jessica Beckton | x |
| **SYSA Registrar** | Paige Blomso | x | **Volunteer Coord** | Andrew Westmark | x |
| **Assistant Registrar** | Anne Bare | x | **Bookkeeper** | Michele Authier |  |
| **Assistant Registrar** | Julie Irwin | x |  |  |  |

Guests/others present: Jimmy McAlister and Paul Aur, Seattle United; Jon Carver, LVR; Matt Moran, Greater Seattle Soccer League (GSSL)

**Monthly Business Meeting Call to Order**

Called to order at 8:04 pm

**Matt Moran - GSSL**

Gave some of his history: formerly on Washington Youth Soccer staff, currently on the board of GSSL. Looking for some kind of youth-to-adult road, for example there are club teams in the GSSL. GSSL is also looking to partner with WSWSA on forming a women’s league. Mentioned from the floor that GSSL players might want to coach in SYSA; also a question about team formation and whether placement is as a team or if individual players sign up. Looking for SYSA to promote GSSL for their graduating seniors.

**Volunteer of the Month**

Jason Flores, director of marketing for Queen Anne

**Approval of Minutes and Consent Agenda**

Consent agenda and minutes for previous meeting had been sent in the meeting packet. Hearing no objection, consent agenda declared approved. Hillwood moved to approve the minutes, Beacon Hill seconded, all in favor.

**Club Reports**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SOUTH** |  |
| Mt. Baker | Board meeting last week, discussions about social security number issue. 103 players registered. Field scheduler has a system for field allocation he’s willing to share, also looking to use geolocation for team formation. |
| Capitol Hill | People aren’t removing the yard signs, as has happened in the past. |
| McGilvra | Doing well with registration, average is 500-600 in a typical year, at 310 now. |
| Beacon Hill | 146 kids registered, 9 coaches. Noting a continuing trend with only 41 girls, 2:1 ratio of boys to girls. Updating website, sending emails out to PTAs. Have seen US Club operations on Jefferson and further south. |
| **NE** |  |
| LVR | 460 registered; expecting teams that participated in spring soccer will sign up; haven’t opened coach registration yet. Have a ways to go to reach normal of 1500 registrations. Starting a new U6 program, working with Girl Boss Sports for some coaching assistance. Put yard signs out, all disappeared within a few days.  |
| Lake City | 256 players registered, 20 coaches. No signs out yet. Field space is a concern, lost Olympic Hills to a rebuild and now Northgate elementary this year, looks like trouble come fall for space for academy programs. |
| **SHORELINE** |  |
| Shorelake | Lost one yard sign. About 470 kids registered. |
| Hillwood | 350 players registered. |
| **WEST** |  |
| Ballard | About 625 registered, about a third of the way there to our usual 1800; have coaches for 95 teams. |
| Magnolia | 310 registered, number of interested coaches and volunteers, on track for a healthy fall season. |
| Queen Anne | About 108 registered so far; been using social media but don’t have many followers, so need to push emails out. A number of high school players interested in coaching. Re-branding is complete, go to the QA store and buy some swag. |
| Woodland | 390 registered, significantly less than the 1300 in normal years. |
| **COMPETITIVE** |  |
| Seattle United | SU completed tryouts, registration is underway, summer tournament season starting. A player has put in a request to the SYSA board of commissioners for an exception to SYSA rule 1.4.2. Specifically, a female player is asking to play on a boys’ team for competitive reasons; a same-gender team is available.Items of discussion: in the last 10-15 years, when these sorts of requests have been made, SYSA turned them down. SYSA has been down this road before, do an internet search for Eve Russell v. SYSA or Eve Russell v. Robin Chalmers; the language that is in the current SYSA administrative regulations comes from that period. Mentioned that we just visited a similar issue a few months ago. Discussion about setting precedent that would allow boys to play on girls’ teams. Clarified that this is not a gender identity issue, but desire to play on other-gender team for competitive reasons. Noted that the situation here is that this issue has come to us because other organizations she could turn to don’t have a rule in place; we’re being asked to vote based on a rule that doesn’t allow for competitive reasons, but we’re not really addressing this girl’s situation; this isn’t the correct rule for it. If we decide to apply the rule as written, the player has an avenue of appeal.Hillwood motioned to deny the request based on the language in the SYSA rule, as a same-gender option is available, seconded by Seattle United. There was no further discussion. Eight commissioners voted in favor, four against. Noted the importance of getting items like this on the agenda or communicated to the president. The president needs to allocate and prioritize time spent during the meeting so the commissioners can address and make the decisions that need to be made. |

**Officer, Staff and Committee Reports**

* **Dave Funke, President**

Dealt with the social security issue, had a chat with WYS president and some others

* **Keith Leitich, VP of Admin**

Seattle Public Schools isn’t allowing placement of information leaflets in the schools, think it’s a one-time denial of access because of COVID

* **Phil Herold, Secretary**

Nothing

* **John Clark , Treasurer**

Haven’t seen year-end statement yet but think we’ve done better than expected; looking forward to next year which should be more positive than the last year-and-a-half

* **Corey McNamee, VP of Competition**

Not present

* **Ann Davison, VP of Recreational Development**

Not present, but sent a note to inform and disclose she’s running for Seattle City Attorney, which is a nonpartisan office and she’ll be on the ballot August 3; wants to know if anyone has any concerns or sees it as a conflict of interest.

* **Larry Metz, SSRA President**
* **Steve Kuhn, Disciplinary Committee Chair**
* Not present
* **Paige Blomso, Anne Bare, Julie Irwin, SYSA Registrars**
* Spoke to numbers, distributed 10-year historic registration numbers prior to the meeting, will bring some more specific data going forward
* Worked on social security issue
* Prepared spring player count billing for WYS
* Might be opportunity to put rec club info out with SU summer camps; registration numbers are good and some of those players might not be playing in the association currently; camps in the south end are nearly sold out
* Player development academy starting up in mid-June including a program for the littles; a way for SYSA to reach younger players before they find other soccer providers
* Will decide date on alignment meeting
* **Jessica Beckton, Scheduler**
* Been working on August allocation, if clubs know they won’t be practicing in August, let Jessica know
* Miller and Georgetown scheduled for turf replacement; might happen in the fall
* Ballard community center and QA playfield could potentially be down this fall for construction (light replacement)
* Should be adding lights to Jane Adams 1 and Franklin
* **David Griffiths, Executive Director**
* Spring soccer, a couple of complaints around ten minute rule and blowout scores
* Been working with Beacon Hill on their new website
* Staff meetings, finance calls, presidents’ calls have gone quiet the last few meetings, check in if you can
* Going to games on the weekends
* Going forward with COVID protocols, some talk about proof of vaccinations vs. the honor system
* SYSA was donated a defibrillator through our partnership with the Nick of Time Foundation, we’ll have it at our events
* Meeting with current assistant mayor who is running for mayor, wants to get our feedback as youth sports and parks users, meeting with him next week

**New Business**

**Dual Participation - Seattle United**

* Ideas that came out of meeting with Griffiths — what we can do to bolster overall SYSA numbers?
* On thing SU does is give 10% back to SYSA from camps and would be happy to market for the recreational clubs at any of our camps and PDAs
* Referenced work with All-City Jamboree, also propose going forward with some rec outreach, sessions for youngers and olders, one event in each region, allow recreational coaches to come out, capacity of up to 50, free for already-registered SYSA players
* Suggestion to eliminate rule that players can’t dual roster at U12 and under
* Intent is to offer something to players who are interested in select soccer but want to continue to play with their friends; US Club operations are promoting availability of their select along with SYSA rec to dual-play as a marketing tool
* If adopted, Paige and Jimmy will work together, to make sure select player’s participation is appropriate for SYSA rec to make sure the balance would be right
* Noted difficulty in balancing competition in our rec leagues given lack of visibility to US Club players; during spring soccer we get reports every week about teams with US Club players who aren’t playing up an age group as required; if we adopt this rule then when we have disputes, at least we’ll know that for the Seattle United players it’s legitimate
* Points of discussion: Is timing for this fall (would be desirable); noted that 8-9-10 can dual-participate now; Celtic offering is a la carte and they’re a for-profit organization; Ballard reported that they’ve already refunded six players who made Seattle United teams who would have stayed with their rec team, too; any reason for not extending to all groups as this would particularly benefit the older girls’ teams?
* Next steps: a proposal is needed; noted that the rule change is simple but items around competitive balance such as numbers of select players allowed on a rec team will need to be addressed
* Questions/discussion about overall goal of such a change; SU offering compared to US Club offerings; coaches overplaying their select players

**SSN Registration Requirement Update – Paige Blomsø**

* Announced that individuals don’t have to provide a social security number for RMA clearance if that makes them uncomfortable or if volunteers don’t have one; WYS has a workaround but they never publicized it or educated club registrars about the workaround
* Blomso met with WYS (Keli Bitlow, Administrative Services and Felipe Mendez, President); Keli put together a draft about how the process works and Blomso sent the instructions out to club registrars including Bare and Irwin
* Issue might be turnaround time for completing the workaround
* Questioning how WYS gained control of the registration process for SYSA and the local clubs; could SYSA have a separate Sports Connect account? LVR is going to look into that so the club doesn’t have to get permission from WYS to set up its own registration criteria. Observation that clubs collecting a social security number changes liability at the club level
* Suggested that for now, focus should be on getting word out to coaches that there’s a workaround
* Noted that spring soccer coaches who registered before April 1 were given a heads up the process was changing; they didn’t have to input their social security number and are cleared until April 2022

**Old Business**

**Bylaws Updates - Dave Funke**

Quick status summary due to time

**Announcements and Reminders**

* Next SYSA Board Meeting set for July 12 after brief discussion, straw poll and concensus
* Look out for and confirm attendance with iCal notifications via email from Griffith

**Adjournment**

Hillwood motioned to adjourn, SU seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm