



# Seattle Youth Soccer Association

Minutes for SYSA Board of Commissioners Association General Meeting held on **August 1, 2022 via zoom call**

**Attendance:** Officers, Commissioners and Staff

<b>President</b>	David Funke		<b>Ballard</b>	Corey McNamee	X
<b>VP Administration</b>	Keith Leitich	X	<b>Beacon Hill</b>	Keith Leitich	X
<b>Secretary</b>	OPEN		<b>Capitol Hill</b>	Shelly Chinn	
<b>Treasurer</b>	John Clark	X	<b>Hillwood</b>	Jim Shea	
<b>VP Operations</b>	Ann Davison	X	<b>Lake City</b>	Mira Diaz	
<b>VP Development Rec</b>	Kris Espinosa	X	<b>LVR</b>	Jonathan Carver	X
<b>VP Competition</b>	Corey McNamee	X	<b>Magnolia</b>	Stephanie Skinner	
			<b>McGilvra</b>	Jeff Scott	X
<b>Disciplinary Chair</b>	Steve Kuhn		<b>Mt Baker</b>	Shannon Palmer	X
<b>SSRA SYSA Liaison</b>	Larry Metz	X	<b>Queen Anne</b>	Yarrow Banko	
<b>Diversity Chair</b>	Shannon Palmer	X	<b>Seattle United</b>	Kevin Long	X
<b>SYSA Cup Rep</b>			<b>Shorelake</b>	Kris Espinoza	X
			<b>Woodland</b>	Mitch Furuglyas	X

<b>Executive Director</b>	David Griffiths	X	<b>Scheduler</b>	Jessica Beckton	X
<b>SYSA Registrar</b>	Paige Blomso		<b>Social Media</b>	Jenn Ireland	X
<b>Assistant Registrar</b>	Anne Bare	X	<b>Bookkeeper</b>	Michele Authier	
<b>Assistant Registrar</b>					

## AUGUST MEETING

Called to order by Keith Leitich (time 7:05)

## WELCOME GUEST SPEAKERS

none

## SYSA VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

(Jonathan C) LVR new field scheduler, Kate Osborne, doing a terrific job, coaching U13 team, we'd love to recognize her.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES & CONSENT OF AGENDA

July minutes: Seattle United approves and motions to move forward, McGilvra seconds, unanimous vote to approve minutes.

June minutes: unanimous to approve minutes. Both months approved. No nays.

## OFFICER REPORTS

President **Dave Funke**

Not present.

VP Admin **Keith Leitich**

Free and Reduced Lunch, will talk about in 'new business' later.

VP of Operations **Ann Davidson**

Nothing to report.

Treasurer **John Clark**

- Have put together a schedule of fees and pass-throughs; much of what we collect goes to us, but significant amount goes to WYS, etc. We collect for RMA, that gets passed on to WYS. We also have player fees and SU player fees. These numbers will be subject to change within the next year, we will want to discuss at the end of this calendar year because we may have to increase fees. We don't want to wait until April, we want to do it early.
- Right now we have a lot of money going out, and not a lot coming in. Later, we will be billing clubs for pass-through and service work we've been doing, we will also be billing for player fees. Last year we did this late, in November. We have plenty of backup, we will not be hurting even though this is a rough time of year. Jessica, is in charge of fields; SU pays promptly.
- (Jonathan C) have 2022 fees increased for SYSA field fees? (John C) No, there hasn't been an increase in the last couple of years. Shoreline did increase fees but Seattle has not. (Jessica B) It has been a few years since Seattle increased, but Shoreline did increase last year. (David G) From 57 to 60 dollars, SYSA raised their field cost 3 years ago.

VP of Competition: **Corey McNamee**

- Currently working on going through all the rules and streamlining them. Comparison between spring and fall and making sure everyone is clear on everything. Cleaning up website so that rules are easy for coaches to understand. (Shannon P) Can we do a PDF for clubs to post on websites? (David G) Yes we can do that and share with everyone.

VP of Rec Development **Kris Espinosa**

Nothing to report.

Diversity & Inclusion Chair **Shannon Palmer**

- Committee wants to look at the decline of the rate of girls in soccer and start looking at the health of the sport in the city, overall. Will bring this up next month after I have time to talk with others on committee. It would be great to have reports (last 5 years?) of what girls participation rates in age groups has been, per club, so that we can start to collect some data. Or any other knowledge about why it may have, or have not, declined over the past several years. (Kevin L) 30-35% participation rates for Beacon Hill, Mt Baker, etc.; we have 1 girls team over U13. (Shannon P) this is a trend throughout the city and probably nationwide. Downward trend in general. Worth investigating, and it'll take all of us not just the Diversity committee. (Jeff S) McGilvra has more girls teams than boys teams this year. But we also see a huge drop off from 13 on up. (Kevin L) Select soccer is not immune to this, SU numbers have been on a decline for several years, specifically girls aged 13 through high school is when the drop-off occurs. (Shannon P) Women's soccer is at its most popular right now, which is even more troubling.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

SSRA President **Larry Metz**

We have scheduled 4 referee clinics in August throughout Seattle. Duncan has been talking with David about some promotional stuff. (David G) Info was sent in an email last week and posted on social media. (Larry M) fees for adult soccer have gone up, even though they kept them the same for youth. We lost a significant number of adult referees during Covid; and every year we lose about 150 referees in Seattle from a variety of reasons, but we gain about 150 back in the summer through training and clinics. We want to partner with MOD programs in-house in the clubs to see if we can get the parents who volunteer referee at the young ages to stick with it as their kids get older.

Disciplinary Chair **Steve Kuhn**

Not present.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Registrars **Anne Bare**

- Clubs are finishing registration.
- Teams need to be in to Jessica by Wednesday.
- Reminder to reach out to neighboring clubs and get players on teams.

- Club focus right now should be on coach compliance, Safe Sport, Intro to Safety, Background Check.
- Paige and I will change things in Affinity towards the end of the month, but right now it is the club's work.
- Paige had a call with Kelli at WYS today to discuss multiple things including SafeSport for 18 years olds: players have been receiving notifications; WYS has said they are not going to penalize prior to season but they will be monitoring it. Paige and Anne will be coming up with a plan and will share it with everyone.

#### Field/Game Scheduler **Jessica Beckton**

- Alignment meeting 2 weeks ago.
- All final changes need to be in by this Wed August 3rd.
- We won't turn a team away, but clubs need to make an effort to notify me of new teams or teams that are folding by this Wednesday.
- Received Sept to Nov field times last Thursday, which is very late. To divide up time is a lot of work. Field time is divided per allocation model based on last year's numbers, after that it's up to the clubs to work together to trade, etc.
- Hope to have fields out within the next week, by next Monday at the latest.

#### Executive Director **David Griffiths**

- Older high school age girls, numbers are a problem. Lots of players dropping out. We are working to support that age group. Series of workshops, first one is August 17th; Jen Hoy is leading this. Mental performance skills, series of 8 workshops, coming out in the communication this week. Zoom workshop, players and families can jump in. SYSA is paying for that, \$100 per session.
- Coaching clinics, Jimmy McCalister, Rich Reece and Sean Spencer, all SU coaches, will be running the clinics this August. We will send out reminders this week to register. August 17, 23, 25.
- Rec outreach program has really come together in the last two weeks. Gotten more trainers/coaches to help run sessions. Went from 5 coaches to double that in the last two weeks.
- Thank you for your preparedness for alignment meeting, went well.
- Seattle University have offered to become community partners, providing tickets for club leadership in exchange for us helping fill the stadium. Discount tickets available for SYSA. They want to recognize SYSA leadership at the first games.
- Pitched to WYS that we look to form a high school age recreational league or series of leagues. Gives high school age players opportunity to play more, play different cities; Intra-club league play as well. WYS has lost opportunities by not being able to work with RCL anymore, because of this they are interested in forming this type of league. (Shannon P) is this for existing teams or new teams? (David G) Existing. This can help set the foundation for a cultural shift, enjoyment, social, benefit of playing the game. The plan is to make it something better than it currently is. There was also a discussion for a coed offering.

- Translating documents: I have 3 contacts that can translate for top 9 most spoken languages in the Seattle area; reach out for contact info.
- TOPS program: As an association we need to step in and help them in any way we can. We need to provide them buddies or a lead coach; within our clubs (Lake City, LVR) we should try to step in and support them.
- (Shannon P, Jonathan C) Can we double check that the clubs are getting all the emails and communications? (David G) we will double check and resend.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

(Keith L) Free and reduced lunch statistics, gives you a picture of the demographics of your area. Tool for you to see where your families are coming from and where you can move into to get more players. Tool for using in recruitment efforts.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Bylaws update (Shannon P) - waiting until Dave Funke is back before updating.
- (Jonathan C) Would love to learn how to effectively grow the board; can we put this in future business? (David G) It would be great to bring in someone who can do this on a specialized level. I've signed us up for Volunteer match, emails, zero input back. The thing that has been interesting this year, is we have received interest from a lot of volunteers wanting to coach. We have had people reach on a coaching basis, but volunteers for board members has been hard
- (Ann D) Have we ever done a recreational soccer social of any type, in the past? Mixer or fundraising? What about an umbrella event to generate interest and involvement. (Shannon P) Not in 12 years. Maybe a good time for that would be a boost for the City Tournament season? Not bill it as a fundraiser, but community building? (Kevin L) You want to ask your organization, what is it that you want to accomplish? Recruiting new people? For SU Board, we are always looking at our registration database, at people's place of work and what parents do professionally, so we look for like skills to replace people when we know they are outgoing; it's important to keep ahead of it. In regards to events, be selective about who you are asking and how you are asking for money. SU does annual picnic for community building, it is a thank you, a show of good will; fun event, no asks, no entry fee, people are thankful. Another thing SU does is targeted, regional, geographic events for parents. Generates engagement and volunteerism. Important to meet people and let them know we are a non-profit and volunteer driven; helps you figure out the level of engagement that you have. (David G) Might be better received if the club was the face of the social and SYSA steps in to help support.
- Demand Letter Update: no news since last meeting (David G).

## **REMINDERS**

Next meeting is Monday, September 12th.

**ADJOURNMENT**

(8:23 pm)

MBL motion to adjourn/Seconded by McGilvra