

## Region 18 Board Meeting, September 12, 2017

Hennessey's, Manhattan Beach  
7:30 PM

### 0. Attendance:

Andrew Lelchuk, , Sean Aderholt, Russ Allen, , Albert Chen, Todd Collins, Billy Crader, Ed Danskin, Ben Donohoe (non-voting), Byron Eguchi, Allyson Estess, Bill Fournell, Woody Hauck, Wolf Heim, Steve Hershkowitz, Michael Hinz, Mark Hodson, Stan Ibara, Molly Jolls, Eric Knudsen, Chris Otey, Bill Power, Karl Primm, Marco Rico, Krista Skinner, Ron Tani, Chris Wong (non-voting).

### 1. Call to Order:

The meeting began at 7:39 PM with a quorum (22/33).

### 2. Review of Prior Minutes

- ✓ MOTION: Approve Minutes of the August 2017 meetings.  
APPROVED, with no opposition.

### 3. Regional Commissioner's Report

Andrew thanked the Board for a successful start to a new season starting last Friday.

Andrew noted that the Campus El Segundo field will not be available for play until sometime in October. Thus, for U16 and U19, game locations will be changed from what is currently on the schedule, although game times will remain the same.

An Intermediate Coach class will be offered in the first two weeks of October and an Advance Coach class will be offered in the last two weeks of October. The classes will likely be in Manhattan Beach.

Andrew reported that with the transition to Blue Sombrero, some roles lost access to some information. There was a request at the area level to grant access to regional reports which Andrew was not in favor of allowing but got outvoted at the Area meeting. Michael Hinz noted that six people on the Area Board requested access to Regional Data but have been denied such access. Michael pointed out that these individuals do need this data to do their work more efficiently. Rose Rocchio noted that Andrew will have to do Certification Checks.

Andrew stated that Area player enrollment was down about 8% as of late July, while Region 18 was down 5%. Andrew thinks this is due to the change in the age calendar, as Byron Eguchi processed more drops than before. Andrew noted that refund checks cannot be issued until there is offsetting income at National so there may be a delay in

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processing these refunds for some individuals. For Region 18, U7 and U16 are up significantly, while U5, U6, and U19 are down.

Andrew welcomed Billy Crader to the Board as the new co-commissioner of BU12.

Andrew has noted a much more competitive environment in Region 18, likely due to the past success of the Region. Andrew asked the Board to help control the competitive atmosphere, particularly at the U7 to U10 levels, to ensure a good experience for the kids and parents.

There were many complaints about the age calendar change despite very clear and constant disclosures.

Molly Jolls asked that the "friends request" entry on the Registration input screen be removed as it sets up unrealistic expectations for parents (and thereby several complaints), especially in those Divisions that use a draft to select teams.

Andrew acknowledged Albert Chen for a compliment from the Westchester Regional Commissioner for the successfully balanced teams in GU19.

### 4. Finance Report

Stan Ibara reported that we currently have approximately \$750,000 in cash. Approximately \$200,000 of that amount was added since the beginning of Fall registration. The primary expenses so far have been balls and uniforms, but field expenses have not been paid yet.

### 5. Registrar's Report

Byron Eguchi requested that if any Divisions are still adding players, the Division Commissioners should let him know so that he can turn on registration for those Divisions.

### 6. Field Report

Russ Allen reported that the fields at Manhattan Village and Marine Avenue Park are missing flags, but they have been ordered. Russ noted that a set of flags costs around \$250 so they need to be put away after AYSO use to minimize our expense. Chris Wong asked that Division Commissioners inform Coaches **that they** are responsible for putting away the flags, not Referees.

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Sprinklers went off at Clark Field during a game, but the City of Hermosa Beach has agreed to fix the problem.

Litter was an issue at Center Field and at Marine Sports Complex. Food, trash, and loose stakes were all over the field at an unacceptable level. Russ will talk with the Division Commissioners of the Divisions that use those fields to ensure that we rectify this situation.

Meadows Field at Mira Costa High School is targeted to be open in two weeks and will be available for Region 18 use. It is likely that BU10 games will be moved to that field.

Russ will replace damaged nets at Marine Avenue Park and Manhattan Village.

Russ offered to change practice times for any Coaches who call him.

Steve Hershkowitz requested that kids be reminded not to dig up the softball field at Marine Sports Complex. Krista Skinner also noted that parents should be reminded not to use camp chairs on turf fields and that only water can be brought to drink at those fields.

Albert Chen asked whether we could provide fields to make up for those unavailable in El Segundo for U16 and U19, particularly around November 22 during the playoffs.

### 7. Safety Director's Report

Wolf Heim reported that Goal anchors are in place at all fields. Coaches should make sure that they are secure before each game.

New sand anchors have been placed at Marine Avenue Park and Manhattan Village Field and can be found on the sidelines. Referees or Coaches will need to drag them out for use with the goals.

Meadows Field at Mira Costa will have two fields and Wolf will place sandbags at those fields as well.

### 8. Uniforms and Pictures

Picture Day will be this Saturday, September 16, at the Marine Sports Complex. The make-up day will be on October 8 at Pennekamp.

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There were sizing issues for BU12 and GU10, mostly due to the new age calendar. Andrew Lelchuk asked Division Commissioners to let Nedra Yost know of all uniform issues so that she can resolve them.

### 9. Referee Committee Report

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Chris Wong reported that there several good games during the opening weekend but a shortage of Referees. Charlie Abbott, Chris Wong, and Wolf Heim went to the various player drafts to discuss the need for Referee volunteers as well as to explain concussion protocol.

The Returning Referees' meeting was well-attended with lots of Youth Referees. The meeting was kept at one hour so there was not specific discussion about rules. There will be a pre-playoff meeting where rules will be discussed in detail.

Referee Registration has not gone well. There was a historically low sign-up level for Referees for this season, going from 450 a few years ago to less than 150 now. There will be a big shortage at the National Referee level.

It was suggested that the Blue Sombrero registration process needs to be changed, particularly with regard to verification of Referee Certifications. It was also suggested that things need to be done now at the lower levels to replenish Referees at the upper levels in the future.

Last weekend there was 79% Referee coverage of the games, but Assistant Referee help was lacking. The U8 and U7 Divisions were particularly short of Referees. Advanced and National Referees helped to cover U10.

Chris acknowledged Karl Primm for doing double duty, with both Referee training and registration.

Referee feedback on game play and coaching is welcome by the Division Commissioners and Referees should notify Charlie Abbott if there are any issues.

Karl announced that Intermediate and Advanced Referee classes would be held in October. The Intermediate Referee Course will be held on October 3, 5, 10, and 12, while the Advanced Referee Course will be held on October 17, 19, 24, 26, with all classes at Marine Avenue Park.

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Of the five recent classes provided, 64 Referees were trained with about half being Youth Referees. Bill Fournell clarified that there were 29 Youth Referees trained, but only about half had finished all the required components.

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Only 15 people showed up for the U7/U8 Referee Training Classes.

The last scheduled training class is for tomorrow and 26 people are signed up. Billy Crader noted that there seems to be excessive pressure on the Coaches to Referee as well, and requested that the Region put out a message to all parents to request participation. Andrew Lechuk agreed to send the message out immediately.

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Krista Skinner speculated that the age calendar change could be creating an issue.

Karl noted that he is allowing the Online Module component to be completed after the class is taken. Karl is willing to do another class next week.

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### 10. Coach Committee Report

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Steve Hershkowitz reported that a U10 Field Session will be held for Intermediate and Advanced Referee candidates. The dates are yet to be set.

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Mark Hodson reported that Friday Night Clinics have started at Pennekamp Elementary, but will not be held this Friday due to a school conflict.

Goalkeepers' classes will start on Monday and last for three weeks. These will be on Monday and Tuesday with U7/U8 classes at 4:00, U10 classes, at 5:00, and U12 classes at 6:00. A new session will be held once the first three-week session is completed. These classes require advance registration.

Mark asked that any Division Commissioners who have not yet sent him Coaches' e-mail addresses please do so.

### 12. Division Commissioners' Reports

Eric Knudsen reported that there was one red card in BU16/Bu19. Eric noted that e-mail addresses need to be added to the Blue Sombrero database.

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Ed Danskin reported that U14 was OK. To avoid blowouts, Ed implemented a policy where he will talk to the Referee to review any games when the final point differential is more than five goals to see what actions the Coaches took. If there is an issue, he will take away sportsmanship points.

Allie Estess reported a shortage of Referees in BU7.

Molly Jolls noted that the level of play in BU10 was way down from past years due to the change in age calendar.

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Krista Skinner asked that Coaches not pre-fill game cards for substitutions. Woody Hauck suggested that the PDF version of the cards provided by Steve Hershkowitz are superior to the ones provided by AYSO.

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Marco Rico reported no issues in BU8.

Woody Hauck reported that GU12 went smoothly, except for the sprinklers at Clark Field. Woody asked whether the Mira Costa mentors would be returning and Shaun Aderholt verified that they would.

Rose Rocchio and Billy Crader reported that BU12 went well, though there were two games where the goal differential was too large.

Albert Chen reported that GU19 went well. Albert noted that it's best to have Coaches referee so that they will treat Referees better during their own games.

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### 13. Other Business

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Ben Donohoe talked with Youth Referees to get input on what type of reward program would be a good incentive for them.

Bill Fournell mentioned that there are gaps on the Youth Referee contact list and asked that this information be completed.

Charlie Abbott noted that there needs to be a better way to contact Youth Referees as e-mail is not effective. Ben suggested using a platform called "Remind" that is used at High Schools.

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### 14. Summary of Motions Approved

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- ✓ MOTION: Approve Minutes of August 2017 Board meeting.  
APPROVED, with no opposition.

### 15. Summary of Motions Rejected

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None.