



# AYSO Region 177 – 12/16/25 Board Minutes

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## Meeting Minutes

Section 11 | Area E

This document is a record of the board meeting minutes from 12/16/25.

### 1. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order following brief informal discussion. Board members and attendees introduced themselves for the record. Appreciation was expressed to the meeting host.

### 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes from the prior meeting.

**Motion:** Approve prior meeting minutes

**Second:** Yes

**Vote:** Approved unanimously

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### 3. Extra Program – Incident Review & Immediate Actions

#### Incident at Beverly Hills Sportsmanship Cup

An incident occurred at the Beverly Hills Sportsmanship Cup involving a **coach** and a **parent** affiliated with the U9 Boys Extra team. The conduct was determined to be inconsistent with AYSO values and Region 177 expectations.

#### Board Actions Taken

- The **coach** was removed from the U9 Boys Extra coaching role.
- The **parent** stepped down from their board position.
- Emphasis was placed on minimizing impact to players and allowing them to continue participating whenever possible.

#### Interim Coaching Appointment

A volunteer board member and coach stepped forward to serve as **interim head coach, current U14B coach Eric Perez** for the U9 Boys Extra team.

**Motion:** Approve interim coach appointment for U9 Boys Extra

**Second:** Yes

**Vote:** Approved unanimously

#### Player Retention & Team Status

- Majority of families (8 of 10) confirmed intent to continue the season.
- Remaining families were given time to respond.
- Team will proceed through the remainder of the Extra season, including Beach Classic.
- Fountain Valley tournament participation was withdrawn due to timing and disruption.

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### 4. Extra Program – Forward Planning & Tryouts

#### Coaching Selection Improvements

Discussion emphasized:

- More thorough vetting of Extra coaches
- Reference checks and clearer expectation-setting
- Ensuring coaches understand commitment, conduct standards, and regional expectations

#### Tryout Timeline Adjustment

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- First round of Extra tryouts planned for **late January**
- Goal: retain All-Star players and remain competitive with club tryout timing
- Reduce loss of players to clubs due to late tryouts in prior years

#### Tryout Accessibility

- Plan to hold at least one tryout outside All-Star practice time
- Consider evaluations during practices to ensure strong participation
- Direct outreach to All-Star players to encourage participation

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## 5. Uniforms & Extra Apparel Discussion

#### Outstanding Apparel Questions

Parents raised concerns regarding:

- Jackets and supplemental apparel ordered earlier in the season
- Perception of incomplete fulfillment affecting confidence in the program

#### Resolution Approach

- Survey to be sent to families to confirm interest in remaining apparel
- Apparel orders will differ from original designs due to vendor changes
- Effort will be made to fulfill jackets where feasible without further disruption

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## 6. Treasurer's Report & Financial Overview

#### Financial Status

- Current checking balance: approximately **\$27,178.33**
- Savings reserved for field permitting uncertainties, especially school district fields.
- Board acknowledged spending levels are **not sustainable long-term**

#### Budget Review

- Increased spending driven by:
  - Equipment investments
  - Program promotion
  - Apparel
  - Beach Classic and events
- Treasurer to circulate a detailed budget comparison for review

#### Vendor Issues (Uniform Supplier)

- Ongoing disputes with uniform supplier Score over invoices for items **not received**
- Several shipments were sent without authorization and rejected
- Board acknowledged widespread issues with this vendor across regions
- No additional payments approved for disputed invoices

#### Process Improvement Discussion

Board agreed on need for:

- Formal purchase order (PO) process
- Centralized ordering authority
- Clear cancellation deadlines
- Documentation of receipt and approval
- Treasurer inclusion on all uniform-related orders

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## 7. All-Star Program Update

#### Registration Status

- Most teams fully registered and paid
- A small number of players remain unpaid or incomplete
- Deadline enforcement discussed; coaches may be asked to identify replacements if registration is known to be delayed

#### Tournament Schedule

- Torrance tournament upcoming
- Fountain Valley tournament scheduled for early January
- Uniforms received and in use

## 8. Spring Academy Planning

### Enrollment Status

- Strong early interest in 7U–8U and 9U–10U divisions
- Very limited 5U enrollment to date
- Registration expected to increase after holidays

### Program Feedback (Prior Years)

- Earlier Spring Academy iterations criticized for inconsistency
- Most recent Spring Academy received improved informal feedback
- Trainer quality identified as a major success factor

### Apparel Inventory

- Region holds significant inventory of Spring shirts
- Board discussed feasibility of reusing inventory
- Challenges include sizing, color consistency, and labor required to sort
- Inventory count needed before decision

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## 9. Communications Strategy

### Proposal: Weekly Region Newsletter

Discussion centered on consolidating communications into a **single weekly email newsletter**:

- Sections for parents, coaches, referees, divisions
- Reduce email overload
- Improve transparency and consistency
- Serve as a single source of truth

### Considerations

- Platform sustainability (potential move away from SportsConnect)
- Audience targeting to avoid information overload
- Use of embedded links rather than attachments

**Next Steps:** Further exploration; no vote taken

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## 10. Volunteerism & Referee Development

### Challenges Identified

- Volunteer requirements misunderstood by parents
- Referee certification process seen as intimidating
- Coaches often bearing disproportionate volunteer burden

### Ideas Discussed

- Clearer upfront messaging at registration
- Incentives for referee certification (points, recognition)
- Onsite referee training during practices or Spring Academy
- Supporting coaches with tools to manage volunteer expectations
- Emphasizing assistant referee roles as entry point

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## 11. Belmont Cup & Seeding Discussion

### Issues Raised

- Seeding format sometimes results in mismatched games
- Teams qualifying on referee points alone without competitiveness
- Parents misunderstand Belmont Cup purpose

### Potential Improvements

- Separate Belmont Cup from regular season playoffs
- Flighted brackets (Gold/Silver)
- Pool play followed by tiered competition
- Clear referee point requirements to qualify

**Outcome:** Topic to be revisited with proposals

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## 12. Potential Small-Sided Format (U8)

### Proposal Overview

- Transition U8 to **4v4 format**
- Benefits: more touches, development, confidence, retention
- Supported by US Soccer guidance and regional comparisons

#### **Next Steps**

- Detailed proposal to be distributed before next meeting
- Formal discussion and vote planned at a future board meeting

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#### **13. Expo & Training Opportunities**

- Upcoming AYSO Expo discussed
- Board encouraged attendance for leadership, referee, and coach development

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#### **14. Closing & Adjournment**

General appreciation expressed for volunteer effort and engagement.  
Meeting adjourned with holiday well wishes.

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