



Gaylord Soccer League Open Board Meeting Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2021

I. Call to Order

Meeting held at Otsego Resort @ 6 pm

In attendance: Rebecca Hicks, Kristen Peyton, Sarah Skowronski, Chrissy Nowicki, Chuck Lawhorn, Roxanne Merrick, Danny Muzyk, Pat Cook, and Sara Miller

Also present, Tim Harbin, Past Director of Referees

II. Presidents Report - Rebecca

A. MSYSA board member requirements

All board members must activate their account and be current in the GotSports platform by December 15, 2021. Board members must be certified in GotSports to be in compliance with MSYSA. Additional information was provided at the September 2021 board meeting; new account information was distributed via e-mail.

B. NMSA Meeting this weekend

1. Update NMSA Bylaws
2. NMSA Policies

Presidents of MYSA clubs are meeting to review and discuss by-laws. E-mail Rebecca any question, comments, or concerns, relative to the by-laws before Friday, November 19, 2021. Some items already on the radar include this year's payment scheduled for ref when a game is canceled and the total payment for a single ref; enforcing no headers on younger teams; number of players on the field when there is a blow out; and the build-out line. Ashley has replaced Zach as lead of MSYSA.

III. Financial Report - Chrissy

Expenditures included a water bill. The money was drawn from the Otsego County Community Foundation grant.

**Rebecca to e-mail Roxanne financial report for the purpose of attaching to these minutes.

IV. Director of Referees Report – Roxanne and Tim

Recap October's conversation. Additionally, we discussed the need to have similar messaging as coaches, including checking pass cards at every game; use of headers; use of build-out line; etc.

Tim mentions that referee payment for recreation games was \$15 in 2005; then raised to \$20 in 2018; then dropped to \$15 in 2021. Roxanne mentions the fees for 2021 season were based on previous financial reports and documents. The board will have to review referee recreation fees before the next rec season. We would like to incentivize referees to cover rec games too.

V. Recreational Season Overview - Director of Coaching, Chuck

Overall, it was a good season.

A. Roster changes and drops mid-season

There were several rec teams where registered players never showed-up; this left some teams short players. What happens when a team doesn't have enough players? Is there a way to redistribute teams if this happens? One of the biggest hurdles of reorganizing teams is tied to the jerseys. Do you roster larger teams to cushion for absent players?

B. Academy Coaches

U14 has played academy style for the last three years. We may want to consider advertising this team as such during registration.

Motion by Chuck to advertise the rec girls and boys U14 as academy style in 2022. Motion seconded by Roxanne. All in favor; none opposed.

C. Build-out Line

Chuck suggests that U10 use the build-out line. This would require a rule change. While the group is generally in favor of this, we decide to revisit this item closer to next season.

D. Spectator Line

Spectators are crowding the soccer field. Rules do prescribe that spectator must be two meters off the line. There is enough room at the complex to paint in a spectator line.

Motion by Pat to paint a spectator line, in blue, two meters off the soccer field. Motions seconded by Rebecca. All in favor; none opposed.

VI. Spring Travel Registration

A. Policy for registration

General discussion on how to register travel teams for the spring. We either open on-line registration or manual register players. Our policy is designed to keep teams in tack for the soccer year (soccer year starts August). Opening on-line registration may give the appearance that teams are forming or recruiting players – which is not the case. Manual registration is the alternative. Overall, the board members choose to go with manual registration. While manual registration is a lot of work, this will hopefully avoid any miscommunication with the public.

Tim Harbin recommends that we adopt the philosophy that travel teams should roster players to the maximum, when there is enough interested players (i.e., coaches do not cut players and carry less than the maximum roster allowance). Additionally, teams are allowed to have "guest players", which would allow teams to exceed the maximum roster allotment for practices. Carrying the maximum number of players helps player recruitment throughout the all age groups.

**The president and registrar will reach out to coaches of travel teams and manually register teams. No player that is delinquent in payment will be registered for the upcoming season. There are currently three players in this situation.

B. Policy for teams with roster openings

There was general discussion around the potential for travel teams to acquire additional players for the spring season. For example, girls U12 had less than a full roster sign-up when forming teams in 2021. This means there were no try-outs, no cuts, and still room on the roster. Girls U13 team had try outs, but there were no cuts and still room on the roster. The current policy, which was revised in 2021 for the fall 2021-spring 2022 season, was intended to have travel teams form in the fall and remain in tack for one year. The current policy does not provide a mechanism to allow for spring recruitment. Overall, the board has maintained its philosophy that we to implement the new/current policy for one full year to evaluate its effectiveness before any revisions are considered.

C. Girls U13 & U15 Teams

Pat floats the idea of having the girls U13 & 15 teams “flex” or mix-mash for the spring season. The ultimate goal is to have a U14 team for tournaments. The theory is that the two teams will play three tournaments and players will participate in two tournaments. Plus, there may be alliance games. There is different rules that affect the age class of a team at tournaments vs. alliance games. The board discusses the logistics of guest players and pass cards. Overall, there is no action for the board to take at this time. The recommendation is that that this idea is floated to the parents of the girls U13 & U15 team.

VII. Facility update – Pat

Facility has been winterized. Treetops provided lawn maintenance for the fall season. We need to send a thank you. We recognize that Jason Price welded goals for us during the fall season

Motion by Pat to give one goal to Jason Price, provided that Jason is available for all our welding needs in calendar year 2022. Motion seconded by Rebecca. All in favor, none opposed.

**Pat to remove paint from shed to prevent freezing.

VIII. Open Board Position Interviews – Secretary

A. Nicholas Owens

B. Tim Miller

Applicants were not available for interviews during the November board meeting. Overall, the board wants the interviews to be in person.

**Rebecca to schedule interviews for the January board meeting.

IX. Schedule Next Board Meeting

No meeting in December

Next meeting: Monday January 10, 2021 @ 6pm, Otsego Resort.

X. Adjournment