

Montrose Soccer Club
Avalanche
Minutes

Special Meeting to address incident with Joe Maher during Match #2510033, Sunset Mesa Fields
10/21/23

10-25-2023

Called to order 5:10 pm

In Attendance:

Board Members: Jeremy Sitton

Bob Cooling

Bethany Maher

Cecy Aquilar

Matt Weed

Shannon Weinberg- via phone call on speaker

Dani Gore – Club Registrar

Club Members:

Josh and Emily Vigil - parents of U12 player

Jeremy Brailsford - off duty state patrolman at soccer field

Kody Parkinson - U12 girls coach

Ryan Potter - U12 girls coach

Kelly Fox - Referee Assigner

One unknown member of the public, which was sitting next to Joe M. at the game
10/21/23

Club Members listed above were all present the day of the incident, as well as Dani Gore, Bethany Maher & Matt Weed.

Jeremy Sitton opened meeting:

Stated tonight's meeting is being held so that anyone who wanted to comment on what happened at the game in question could as only 2 board members were present at the field during the incident. Made known the CSA ruling which is a lifetime ban for Joe Maher from all MRL/CSA sanctioned events, which include practices as well.

Jeremy Brailsford:

States he arrived at the incident after the original altercation. Jerney tried escorting Joe off the field (video confirms this).

He states he was standing nearby within earshot when Bethany, Joe and Brian were talking to police officers, his observation and opinion are that Bethany acted poorly towards the police officers and Brian the referee in general, especially since Bethany is a board member and identified herself as such. His observation and opinion are that Brian acted aggressively and antagonistic. He stated that he thinks the situation escalated quickly. Stated Joe broke two laws (disorderly conduct & harassment), the latter of which could carry jail time if convicted, had charges been pressed by Brian.

Bethany Maher:

States she is speaking up to try and give her point of view. She talked to the police to try to diffuse the situation. She originally did not realize that Brian was standing there, because he was not in the yellow

referee shirt, and he was wearing a hat. She feels like she was trying to speak with Brian and try to work through the problem but felt like Brian was combative towards her. She feels like there is no excuse for what Joe did and that there should be some ramification for what he did, but also feels like Brian acted poorly as a referee in the situation as he came off the field “to get in Joe’s face and continued to engage as Joe was leaving”. States that she feels it was definitely a 2-way engagement. She feels like there most definitely need to penalties for what he did but feels like a lifetime ban is excessive and hurts her 3 children emotionally more than anything.

Josh Vigil:

States he was at the game close to Joe, but down a little ways. Stated there were a lot of people complaining about the refereeing and it could very well have been heard. Heard Brian telling the crowd he could make them disappear. Witnessed Brian leaving the field of play to confront Joe. States he was curious why Brian did not Red Card Joe first, Josh states he does not agree with Brian actions. States he does not agree with the lifetime ban that CSA has implemented. Josh also states he was also curious why the Roaring Fork Coach came across the field and got involved in this incident and thinks there should be some consequences for that.

Kelly Fox:

Told board that Red Cards cannot be given to parents/spectators. Referees should first have the coaches deal with the parents/spectators. She did not feel the game was out of control & saw one foul she thought should be called and it was.

Unknown Lady that was sitting with Joe at game:

Had been talking with Joe the entire game. Heard what she felt was Brian telling Joe he could make him disappear, and then Joe telling Brian back that he (Joe) could make him (Brian) disappear. Witnessed Brian coming off the field “getting in Joe’s face” and Joe shoving Brian away. She states she has been involved in soccer her whole life in New York State and has seen it all. She also does not agree with the punishment towards Joe.

Board Open Discussion:

- The club needs to work on and update the code of conduct.
- We discussed as a Club, the disciplinary action handed down the CSA. Most people in attendance agreed that substantial action needed to be taken. Most people in attendance also felt a parent’s first time offense, although bad, should not constitute a Lifetime Ban.
- All felt Joe should be the person to reach out to the Board and take responsibility for his actions.
- Discussed the appeals process. We as a Club agreed that as a Club we should not get involved in the appeal. In general, most Board members at tonight’s meeting were not at the field/incident, so we are just going off of very emotional testimony on both sides. Joe needs to be the one appeal the ruling as he was the one that committed the act resulting in the ruling.
- Discussed whether Brian should have also been disciplined, and what that might look like.
- Discussed referees’ responsibilities and job performances and how this is reviewed by us as a Club or by CSA.
- We as a Board need to work harder and put more time into improving our Club for the better.
- Need to do a better job of educating our parents and fans on how behavior on the sidelines influences our Club, our players, and our reputation, and what our Club consequences should be for poor behaviors.

Meeting Adjourned 6:35 pm