



## FC 814 Meeting Minutes Thursday, July 20, 2023

**ATTENDEES (“B” – indicates Board Member):** Jordan Bard, Russ Buchmann, Ryan Dibert, Tim Dieter (B), Troy Fee, Marc Frye (B), Joe Landi, Jeff Lane, Jordan Long, Kerri McCartney, Mike Metrik (B), Brian Parrish, Mike Pastore (B), Leonard Sapp (B), Damian Schimminger, Drew Sylvester (B), Moe Taylor (B), Chris Walter (B), Brian Wicker (B)

---

### 7/20/23 ACTION ITEMS AND PREVIOUS ACTION ITEMS

- ☒ Executive Board to determine if Stacy LoCastro or Amy Hite will serve as Fundraising Director. *Locastro was selected.*
- ☒ Metrik to send out reminders of important dates to coaches, along with field setup signup link. *Completed 7/21/23.*
- ☐ Coaches to send rosters/uniform numbers to Drew Sylvester no later than 7/23/23.
- ☐ Coaches are to email top three choices for field/night/time slot for practices to Metrik.
- ☐ Executive board to determine club fundraising policy and add to policies/procedures document.
- ☐ Mike Pastore to work on HSA dissolution plan for the eventual deeding of Hoss’s to FC 814. *Devyn Little has contacted Attorney Dan Stants. He suggests potentially holding off on dissolution. The existing board can still deed the property to Hoss’s.*

**Call to order: 6:39 PM**

### TRYOUT, EVALUATION, TEAM FORMATION REPORT (PASTORE/DIETER)

- Mike Pastore reviewed the suggestions that he has received for next year’s tryouts and evaluations:
  - Having goalkeeper evaluations beyond facing the shooters in drills.
  - Don’t permit coaches to evaluate their own players – we discussed that we do permit the coaches to do so, but with a second, unbiased set of eyes from another evaluator. The coaches should see the players to see who might fit in with their team.
  - One station should demonstrate individual skills in isolation
  - Add snacks and food – especially for the volunteers.
  - Update the evaluation forms – Mike noted that we were going to update them, but before we were able to do so, his computer failed, so we went with the original forms as an emergency backup.
  - Get shirts to identify staff, like we did via RC Print in 2020 for our first set of tryouts.
  - Better shooting drills (some 3 v 2s clogged up) – shooting to targets with power and accuracy (suggestion from Jordan Bard).
  - Have a warmup activity while we are waiting to get started and the evaluators are getting organized.
  - Jeff Lane suggested reversing the order of travel and classic sessions so that we can encourage good players from travel to go to the classic sessions.
- For next year, we will keep the same week – second full week in June.
- Mike stated that you can let him know at ANY time about when you can think of suggestions or input.

- Damian Schimminger asked why, for new coaches/teams, it wasn't more of a "draft" and it seemed like many teams were already determined.
  - Dieter stated that for tryouts, this is for a placement at appropriate level.
  - Metrik added that for evaluations, where all players get a spot if available, it's also a numbers game. There's no need to blow up existing teams if we can form a completely new one.

### **AGE BRACKETS/DIVISIONS (AS REQUESTED BY COACHES)**

- **TRAVEL – DIVISION 5/MOUNTAIN DISTRICT** is the regional travel recreation league and plays on Sundays.
  - If there are enough teams to establish a separate U10 Division, there will be a U10 Division playing 7 v 7.
  - U11: 7 v 7
  - U13: 9 v 9
  - U11 and U13 play both fall and spring. In spring, there are also U15 and U19 brackets for Mountain District D5.
- **DIVISION 4** is a higher-level recreational league composed of teams that have finished first or second in Division 5 play in their District. Teams in Division 4 play in Pittsburgh, Erie, and Northern West Virginia as well as in the Mountain District. It also plays on Sundays. It begins at U10 and goes on every individual birth year.
  - U10 Division 4 and below play 7 v 7
  - U11 and U12 Division 4 play 9 v 9
  - U13 and up Division 4 play 11 v 11.
  - Division 4 plays fall/spring at any age group for which there are sufficient teams. It also has varying levels. Community clubs that can win their way up to the A bracket, then win it promote to classic. Typically, classic is only composed of so-called "classic clubs", which FC814 became in Spring 2022.
  - Division 4 is very competitive as many Classic players play for their community clubs on Sundays.
  - Tim stated that the Mountain District is attempting to put together an "I-99" Division 4 composed of Mountain District teams and some of the western PA East clubs for whom travel to the Mountain District would be shorter. Age brackets would be the same as in the "regular" Division 4. Tim will follow up with Toni, the Mountain District president, on the status and to determine when this Division 4 group would play, Saturday or Sunday.
- **CLASSIC** is PA West's Competitive league. It plays on Saturdays. Classic teams start at Division 3 and can promote up to Division 2, then 1. The top two teams in the league each year promote, and the bottom two in D1 and D2 are relegated to the league below (you cannot be relegated from D3).
  - Classic starts at U12. Below U12, there are classic "academy" leagues where scores and records aren't kept.
  - U12 classic plays fall and spring and plays 9 v 9.
  - U13 and U14 classic plays fall and spring at 11 v 11.
  - U15 classic and above play spring only at 11 v 11.

### **REGISTRAR'S REPORT (METRIK FOR FRYE)**

- Mike Metrik provided reminders about upcoming season:

- Coaches are responsible for uploading photos and birth certificates to Affinity once their team has been established on the site. Your team cannot be approved without them.

- Good headshot – neutral background, head and shoulders at most, clear lighting



- Bad headshot – full body, tough to make out on a GDR, confusing background



- Coaches are responsible for uploading clearances through the risk management portal once obtained.
  - All coaches need to complete their SafeSport certification prior to the team being activated.
- For teams participating in the Hershey Cup, Marc is working on getting the teams approved now as they need current documents for registration. All player fees must be paid for documents to be released.
  - Chris Walter asked how to ensure payment so that he doesn't have to spot players who haven't paid; it was suggested that all coaches mandate that payment is made by the first practice.
  - Russ Buchmann asked why we don't pay through the website instead of to the coaches; Mike replied that two years ago, when we attempted it, we were chasing payments clear into the second-to-last week of the season.
- Teams participating in tournaments that require a GotSport account can have one created for their team through the club; contact Marc Frye for details.

### **NEW APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS (DIETER/METRIK/NEW MEMBERS)**

- New Fundraising Director: Stacy LoCastro (absent, Dieter covered).
  - Dick's Coupon Book fundraiser – We will be ordering 500, which works out to about two per player to sell. We'll buy for \$5, sell for \$10.
  - We'd like to set up a 200 club for January; Jeff Lane noted that for a "300 club", you've exceeded Bavarian's capacity and would probably need the Convention Center.
    - We'd prefer to hold it in January. Drew Sylvester will reach out to local fire departments to find out when they're holding theirs so that we don't conflict. Once we establish an annual time and a following, it'll be self-sustaining afterwards.
    - It was agreed that a cornhole tournament by August 20<sup>th</sup> is not feasible. However, we can look at renting out Urban Air Soccer Complex for leagues and/or tournaments over the summer when the space is underutilized.
- New Field and Safety Director: Alex Taylor (absent, Metrik covered)

- Field setup is set for August 5-6, rain makeup 12-13. Metrik will send out link to Google signup sheet. The 5<sup>th</sup> is Greenwood and Keith, 6<sup>th</sup> is Urban Air Soccer Complex.
  - Teams will not be permitted to select practice times until after setup; volunteers needed to assist. The more volunteers provided, the higher in the order your selections are considered. Coaches should email Mike Metrik with their top three choices.
  - There will be two 7 v 7 fields at Greenwood again. 9 v 9 is moving back to Keith as Great Commission typically occupies Leopold during the fall. Urban Air will remain at current configuration, one 7 v 7, one 9 v 9, one regulation, plus in-house fields. The regulation field will be needed for classic teams playing in fall as we don't have access to turf in fall.
- Alex will send out a line painting schedule once field setup is completed. ALL TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO PAINT FIELDS WHEN SCHEDULED. Some classic teams skipped on their duties and it resulted in pregame scrambles to paint fields Sunday mornings.
- Chris Walter asked that we prepare a "how-to" on using a paint machine.
- It is suggested that fields are painted Wednesday at the earliest, weather dependent. The closer to the weekend, the better so that they look nice for games.
- DO NOT PRACTICE IF FIELDS ARE CLOSED. Starting this season, if you are found practicing on a closed field, you will lose that slot for the remainder of the season. The Field and Safety Director makes the decision to close fields for the good of the fields and the players. It is not a coach's call to make.
- New Equipment Manager: Drew Sylvester
  - The gear allotment per team will be 3 game balls, 3 practice balls, 10 pinnies, 20 cones. Additional equipment is at coach's discretion/cost. Mike Metrik suggested making sure all have a ball pump as well. Kids will bring flat balls.
    - Drew will work on getting this initial allotment to coaches who need them.
  - Drew asked that all coaches send their whole roster to him, and note any additions/deletions so that he can clean up the team stores. These are due this weekend. It typically takes 4-6 weeks for a uniform to arrive, and the first week of the season is a little over 7 weeks away.
    - If there are two players with the same numbers, someone will have to give that number up.

### **REFEREE REPORT (WALTER)**

- Chris Walter stated that you can reach out to him with any feedback. He takes it all seriously.
- A referee course is being scheduled for either 8/12, 19, or 20 depending on availability.
- The fall meeting for the referees will be the last weekend in August.

### **LAND USE REPORT (DIETER)**

- Westfall Field has been secured from the city. The city will remove the infield mixture, refill with topsoil, and seed. They will also fill in the dip in the outfield and decline by the outfield fence. Still need this in writing. Field likely won't be ready for actual use until spring or fall 2024. Keith can still be used in the meantime.
  - It was suggested that we gate the entrances and lock them since people walk dogs there and shoot off fireworks as well.

### **ODDS AND ENDS/FLOOR DISCUSSION**

- Blair Sign did not paint the pole at Urban Air – we will check bid and get back to them to have them do so.
- Russ Buchman suggested getting a default calendar of events. We are working on that as a Google Doc or Google Calendar, which we will make shareable and embed on the website. In the meantime, Mike Metrik will send out important upcoming dates.
  - Russ also stated that it would be nice to know about upcoming tournaments, as well as what tournaments work best for what age/talent levels.
- For next year, the following dates are established:
  - Beach Blast 6/29-30
  - Glory on the Grass 7/13-7/14
  - More Beach Blast 7/20-7/21
- PA West Annual General Meeting is 7/29/23, Dieter cannot attend. Can anybody attend as proxy? Can be virtual or in-person, club gets \$300 fine if we don't attend. It is 10:00 AM at the Marriott North Hotel in Cranberry Township.
- In-house registration numbers are down. Please like/share post on socials to increase the numbers. Does anybody else have suggestions on promoting?
- What interest would there be in a 6-8 week once-weekly in-season goalie training? Feedback at the meeting was positive.
- A grassroots 9 v 9 and 11 v 11 in-person course will be held locally first weekend in August. Registration is open via PA West website: click Coaching, then Scheduled Courses on main page.
  - 9 v 9 virtual session 7-9 on 8/1, field session 9:00-11:00 8/5 at Northern Blair Rec.
  - 11 v 11 virtual session 8-9 on 8/3, field session 1:00-3:00 8/5 at Northern Blair Rec.
- Tim is setting up a board-to-board meeting with Celtic to finalize partnership.

### **ADJOURNMENT: 9:05 PM**

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, September 11, 2023, Frohsinn Singing Society, 1108 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, 6:30 PM