



FC 814 Board & Coaches' Meeting Minutes **Monday, January 27, 2025** **Frohsinn Singing Society, Altoona, PA**

ATTENDEES ("B" indicates Board Member): Andy Aveni, Jordan Bard (B), Patrick Brady, Jess Burlingame, Tim Dieter (B), Troy Fee, Chris Foster, Marc Frye (B), Derrick Hoffer, Amber Johnston, Tony Lang, Jeff Lane, Mike Lytle (B), Mike Metrik (B), Eric Moore, Mike Pastore, Stephanie Patterson (B), Damian Schimminger, Nikki Spanik, Matt Stoehr (B), Drew Sylvester (B), Aidan Taylor, Alex Taylor (B), Moe Taylor (B), Nick Wanyo, Brian Wicker (B), Heather Wisor

TEAMS NOT REPRESENTED: Lightning U11B, Fury U11G, Blazers U11B, Force U13G, McCarter U13B, Lightning U13G, Elite U14B, Rebels U14G, Crushers U15G, Revolution U17B

1/27/2025 ACTION ITEMS AND PAST ACTION ITEMS

- ☒ Tournament committee to schedule meeting to reconvene. *Meeting online 2/10/25, 7:30.*
- ☒ Thomas Andersen/Mike Metrik to establish fc814.org email addresses for board members. *These went live week of February 9th.*
- ☐ MJ Marasco to recruit/convene meeting of tryout/eval committee.
- ☐ Jordan Bard to provide Steph Patterson with template of "thank you for your donation" letter.
- ☐ Devyn Little to work on conveyance of Urban Air Soccer Complex to FC814. *HSA Board met 3/11/24 and voted on resolution to dissolve and donate assets to FC814. The proposed dissolution plan was sent to the Office of the Attorney General on 5/3/24. A "letter of no objection," signifying AG's approval, was issued 6/25/24. Attorney Dan Stants is preparing to file the petition to dissolve. Assets can then be transferred from HAS to FC814. The petition has been drafted, but we also need a Tax Clearance Cert from PA Labor & Industry and from the Dept of Revenue. Devyn Little delivered HSA's Application for Tax Clearance Certificate and the Petition for Citation for Permission to Dissolve the Nonprofit Corporation and Distribute the Assets of the Nonprofit Corporation to Attorney on 9/25/24. Word was received on 11/25/24 that the petition was filed, and the PA Department of State is not objecting. Post-meeting, tax certification received from Department of Revenue. Attorney Stants is drafting the deed of conveyance and after it is recorded, will electronically file the articles of dissolution.*

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

- Marc Frye reported that registration for Presidents Cup and State Cup are closed. These are three level tournaments. Commitment to the state round implies commitment to the regional and national rounds; the club is fined \$5,000 if you pull out once the games have started.
 - The club will pay the registration fee if you advance to regionals; PA West will pay the national registration fee if you advance that far. You will be responsible for all other incidentals.
- Classic registration is closed, and teams are declared. Marc asked coaches to review rosters, collect fees, and enter jersey numbers. No roster changes will be made after 2/1/25; Marc says that if changes are being contemplated, he at least needs an email to state that a change will be made prior to the deadline.
 - 22 classic teams this time around. With his other duties, Marc has one night to work on registration each week, so bear that in mind when asking for additional

favors/roster moves. Cheryl Mignona, the PA West registrar, is retiring after the spring season.

- Marc also noted that teams playing in Presidents or State Cup have to be declared to be registered, and that the tournament registration deadline is earlier than the actual classic deadline.
- Travel declarations are due by 2/9/25. Roster change cutoff is 2/23. Remember to note A or B as spring tends to have more teams and a greater chance of there being an A and B bracket in your age group.
- Payments are due by 3/1/25. Teams will not be activated without payment. Payments can be dropped at Frye's Sweeper, 1400 Valley View Blvd. in Altoona.
 - Please keep your information organized (e.g., list out on the envelope which checks or cash inside of it cover which players).
- Marc touched on Safesport licensing/clearances. For Safesport, you cannot take the next course until within 60 days of the due date. He also noted that you can update State Police, Childline, and FBI clearances before their expiration dates.
 - Coaching course certifications and clearances have been sent to Leonard Sapp, who will get it attached to your account with PA West.
- State Cup's fee is \$695. Starting in 2025-2026, there will no longer be a regional round of State Cup. Winners will advance directly to nationals. This fee is \$2,700 per team.

AYSO MERGER AND IN-HOUSE DIRECTOR REPORT

- While the Valley View lease is still being finalized with the County Commissioners, we have received permission to begin using the complex this year. Mike Lytle reported that this will create more options for both Altoona and Hollidaysburg's soccer communities.
- We will need to complete an inventory of equipment that AYSO brings to the table. Mike Lytle's preliminary inventory: only pointy cones, 6-8 Franklin pugg goals, one crappy paint sprayer, one good one.
- Registration is running through 2/28/25. We are getting flyers completed and into schools to help with numbers.
- Practices will be at both Urban Air and Valley View based on coach's request/need. The Taylor boys will mow Valley View as well. Alex has requested that we try to keep the fields that they maintain empty at least one night a week to permit mowing – this goes for all fields, not just Valley View and Urban Air.
- Help promote and volunteer to help program if able. It's our future and even stopping out an evening to help a new parent coach goes miles. Mike Lytle suggested getting teens to help out with the parents – skills demonstrations, for example.
- Planned season dates are 4/12 to 6/7, with breaks for Easter Weekend and Memorial Day. Could potentially have 500 kids depending on how many people come over from AYSO. Mike will need more help than just Sam.
- We will need to advertise for volunteers via social media. Even as simple as helping with setup and tear-down. Moe: "Would it be possible for successful teams to mentor/show for in-house teams. Kids Learn Best from Kids." This can be teens all the way down to younger travel age groups.

REFEREE REPORT

- Laws of the Game updates for this coming season: balls must touch the penalty spot and not just overhang them on PKs. Shin guards are to be appropriate to the size of player. Concussion substitutions are unlimited (only applies to teams playing in limited-sub situations), and teams

MUST have a captain on the field with an arm band. The club is ordering captain's armbands and will distribute to the coaches for use during the season.

- Spring ref clinic will be 8-11 at the Summit on 3/2 with Ross K. Kleinstuber.

TREASURER'S REPORT/RECRUITING AT TOURNAMENTS

- Jordan Bard has been working on club tax return and reporting. Referees should not be assigned to games until a W-9 is completed. He asked that if you know a new referee, you make sure that they know this.
- Reimbursement checks will be signed once per week; coaches should plan ahead when requesting reimbursements.
- Reminder that the club Venmo account is active, but payments to it must include the 3% service charge amount (e.g, classic players would pay \$309 if paying directly to club, and need to reference team/coach/age group in the subject line of the payment). As a reminder, the club account is @fc814soccer.
- We will be working with team Energy on a Go Fund Me campaign for their Texas trip. Use of the club's GFM account will be at the discretion of the executive board. \$38K for Arizona and Texas just to get there and back.
 - Damian Schimminger asked if these tournaments the same as showcases? Marc explained that they are not. The players right now are in their junior years, which are the big contact years for players who want to play in college. Prospective players can't be contacted directly by college coaches until June 15th of the summer after their sophomore year.
 - Marc has QR codes available for all players, coaches can scan them. Players can put their clip highlights from the VEO together and have the QR direct to these repositories. Marc suggested that coaches in these age groups schedule tournaments in the regions that their players are looking to go to college in.
 - Marc stated that attending ID camps are also huge. Showcase tournaments are big as well. Of 32 girls on Pitt's current roster, 29 were from their ID camps. Some tournaments also publish which college coaches will be there, but some scouts will attend without identifying so that they can evaluate someone unseen. Semifinals in Texas will have 250+ coaches there.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR REPORT

- Damian Schimminger gave an update on current status of tournament:
 - We are using the TeamSnap tournament app for signups. We also have our first two sponsors secured. We will need everybody to send flyers and promote – will blast out via email distribution list when these are finalized.
 - We are also developing physical flyers to hand out to local businesses. Please carpet-bomb businesses with them! These will be 5 X 7 postcards with a flyer and QR code on them.
 - We will also be printing yard signs for the area as well, and will put into divided-highway medians.
 - The committee will start meeting regularly again and covering master list.
 - Teams and sponsors will be listed on the tournament t-shirts. We will be able to screen print shirts with players' numbers on-demand at the tournament.
 - Mattas has billboard areas that he is donating for advertising to us.
 - Coaches will also get cards to hand out to spring season opponents, and you can also send links/codes whenever you contact them for home game directions.

TRYOUTS/EVALUATIONS

- Dieter noted that dates and locations are established for evals and tryouts:
 - Girls evals – 6/9, Urban Air
 - Girls tryouts – 6/10, Tiger Stadium
 - Boys evals – 6/11, Urban Air
 - Boys tryouts 6/12, Tiger Stadium
 - The thought was that anybody who impresses at evaluations can then attend tryouts the next day.
- Coaches will need to reach out to MJ Marasco, form committee to work on activities, volunteers. We have a repository of activities and the lists of equipment needed, but we will need volunteers to make this work.
- Damian Schimminger asked whether teams will be broken up when tryouts are held for academy and classic level teams. Tim Dieter answered that at those levels, it should be an open tryout for the top talent, and the D5 option exists to give players the continuing option to play with their friends.
- Mike Metrik suggested that coaches not only volunteer their time at tryouts/evals when their players are on the field, but other times slots as well.
- Heather Wisor, whose daughter plays U15G classic, came to the meeting with a proposal
 - The team that her daughter plays on does not have a lot of commitment due to multi-sport athletes and non-responsive parents. There is nowhere for her to advance because the paths are blocked by this lack of commitment.
 - Heather asked if we can we put together a tournament team? This would be something similar to what ODP does, or to the “old” Celtic model. This would increase the fee (5-600 for those players) and could cut across several age groups, so that the girls who want to play at higher levels can do so. Heather asked if possibly, would the club pay for 1-2 tournaments per year?
 - The tryout process would need to be as much about commitment as talent.
 - Wicker mentioned that this was Celtic’s old model: you can go the USYS route and play in a league, or you can go to US Club Soccer and play in tournaments only. One advantage to the US Club Soccer route: it’s good for showcasing opportunities.
 - The executive board will take us and discuss this proposal. There are a lot of details that would need to be hashed out.
 - Andy Aveni stated that the club should mandate attendance at certain tournaments – “this is what we recommend.”
 - Moe Taylor stated that “when you sign up for a team, you are also signing up for the people who are running the team.” The issue here is that Heather’s daughter’s coach isn’t being respected.
 - Any model like this would have to keep within two birth years, as more is probably not feasible. The major concern is that tournament teams will definitely blow up other teams at multiple levels. Tim and Moe will meet with parents of Heather’s daughter’s team to try to figure this team out.
 - The proposal is tabled for the time being.

FUNDRAISING REPORT

- 200 Club update:
 - Tickets have been printed and handed out.
 - Basket donations – one per team
 - Sales expected per team – 5 tickets
- Stephanie asked that coaches please reach out to her if you have not yet received your allotment of five tickets. There are currently 80 tickets unaccounted for; the take for the fundraiser is much less if they go unsold.
- Stephanie asked whether or not there is a letter template acknowledging donations to provide to donors for tax purposes. Jordan Bard will give her the letter template so that we can write off donations.
- We will have to nail down the date earlier next year. We are apparently one of three cash bashes going on that weekend.
- Apparel now completed and distributed. We are leaning towards offering a spring one as well as a decal sale.
- Upcoming restaurant nights:
 - Texas Roadhouse Tuesday 2/18
 - Chipotle Tuesday 4/8
 - Sweet Frog may be interested in doing the discount cards.
 - ALTUS never got back to Steph.
 - Discount cards like Altoona Junior Football – please reach out to Steph if you know how these are solicited/made.
- Tim reported several donations to the club: UPMC Health System is offering \$1,100 for spring and Panda Cookies has donated \$1,000 for spring.

MARKETING DIRECTOR REPORT

- Reminder, especially to the younger players, to take advantage of Urban Air's FC814 nights. We'd like to keep a major sponsor happy. Free tickets that we distribute are good for anything other than our night.
- Nobody had any feedback on what they would like to see marketed more and less.

FIELD AND SAFETY DIRECTOR REPORT (ALEX TAYLOR) 5 minutes

- Field setup weekend will be 3/22 and 3/23, rain date 3/29-30. We are now adding Valley View. Sign-ups will be posted as we get closer.
- Alex is looking at getting estimates to fix Valley View's parking; anything into the hillside gets into the home's property..
- Saturday will be Valley View, Greenwood, Keith. Then Sunday will be Urban Air and Leopold.

EQUIPMENT DIRECTOR (SYLVESTER) 10 minutes

- All teams and players that did not play in the fall season still need to purchase uniforms. Get information to Drew if you have not yet done so. Soccer.com time gets tight quickly on turning around uniform orders.
- Drew reported that we have now acquired header training balls, agility poles, and rebounders. These will be available for sign-out.

- Matt Stoehr offered a uniform buy-back proposal. Teams playing at older age groups that are buying kits and getting less than the full cycle's usage out of them could sell the kits (aside from socks) back to the club. The club could buy back at \$50, sell to the next player for \$75.
 - We will have to lay out the criteria for qualification and get that sorted and also check with New Balance to see if a buy-back program breaks out contract with them.
- Our New Balance promo amount for spring will likely be used mainly for new balls.

G-SUITE/@FC814.org REPORT

- Mike Metrik reported that the club is using its free Google G-Suite program and will be obtaining email addresses for all board members. These email addresses will run with the position instead of with the person.
 - Board members will be able to set up their accounts so that an email to their fc814.org address will also go to their personal email address.
 - New email groups will be set up once we have had some time to dedicate to this.
 - This now means that there will be mass distribution lists where you only need email coaches@fc814.org and all of the coaches will receive it; these lists will be maintained centrally so that when someone comes off the list, it comes off for everybody.
- Each board member will get access to a separate positional Google Drive, google sheets, etc.
- Look for the addresses of items such as the home game schedule to change as they will no longer be through Metrik's personal drive.

ODDS AND ENDS/FLOOR DISCUSSION (DIETER/METRIK) 15 minutes

- Moe Taylor spoke on several issues:
 - First, can we put a big rebounder wall somewhere, like Urban Air or Valley View? Similar to what they have at some other sites. Kids love using a rebounder wall.
 - Moe has been observing games at the Summit. He asked why coaches are in such a rush to get their teams to a +10 differential. Why are you so eager to have your players play less of the game? Do you really need that 15th goal? Work on something to get better – that way, a player doesn't tie their worth merely to scoring goals. Moe cautioned that we need to fix this mentality now, or down the road, players will be losing their love of the game. He likened it to "don't break your toys, or you'll have nothing to play with", with the toys being your opponents in this case.
 - Amber Johnston stated that her U8 team getting crushed every week and she can see them not wanting to play.
- There were no other nominations for club president and secretary, the two positions coming up for election this year, aside from Tim Dieter and Mike Metrik, respectively.
- Summit Partnership – would teams want to continue practicing indoor once spring starts? Exec board looking to meet with Summit leadership next month, what feedback do you have on the partnership so far?
- Mike Metrik has been selected as PA West Volunteer of the Year, will be honored at the banquet at the Pittsburgh Marriott North in Cranberry Township, 2/22 at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$50 if anybody would like to attend and support him.
- Goalkeeper training will be at the Summit 2/8 through 3/15, with a 9–12-year-old session and a 13-17 year old session. We are working with Joe A to determine options for younger players and also should have our outdoor training structure in place by the AGM in March.
 - Any other requests for specialized training?
- REMINDER: the club sets aside \$1,000 per year as a scholarship fund to assist players who may need to use it. Please reach out to MJ Marasco if you have a player in need. Currently we

have disbursed \$150 in funds, so there is \$850 remaining. *Post-meeting update: the remaining scholarship funds for the season have been disbursed.*

- Jess Burlingame asked if we could develop a breakdown of costs that shows why we need the money that we do for player fees, etc. We have provided this in the past but need to update it. Parents on her team are questioning where the money is going and why we need fundraising. Tim Dieter noted that it included items like funding for a bathroom, fields, walking trails at Strawberry Hills.
 - She also asked if we can post the Strawberry Hills plans to the website.
- Nick Wanyo stated that we are asking a lot from the coaches. He suggested that the coaches get a stipend. The club should have a discussion about this. \$100 for one child? Pay dual roster amounts? We go the cheapest route to help the parents, but how does this help the coaches?
 - Jess Burlingame is taking her D license she suggested that instead of reimbursement for the cost of the license, offer \$100 off every registration fee for their child for every season as long as the coach keeps coaching.
 - For younger teams that cannot enter President's Cup, can we provide an equivalent costs for the younger age groups, too? Perhaps to enter into a tournament of equal or lesser value?
- Brazilian Way Camp will be July 21-24 at Urban Air.
- Upcoming tournaments:
 - West Branch Ice Breaker 2/8-2/9
 - Bedford Bison Stormin' Into Spring, 3/8 (MS & HS), 3/15 (U8, U10, U12)
 - Baltimore Mania – Boys 3/22-23, Girls 3/29-30