



## FC 814 Coach-Board Meeting Minutes Monday, May 19, 2024 Frohsinn Singing Society, Altoona, PA

**ATTENDANCE (B INDICATES BOARD MEMBER):** Pat Brady, Mickey Bumbarger, Jess Burlingame, Brian Diaz, Tim Dieter (B), Troy Fee, Marc Frye (B), Amber Johnston, Erica Kennedy, Mike Lytle (B), Mike Metrik, Toby Morelli, Eric Moore, Stephanie Patterson (B), Brian Parrish, Leonard Sapp (B), Damian Schimminger (B), Drew Sylvester (B), Moe Taylor (B), Chris Walter (B), Brian Wicker (B)

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### **5/19/25 ACTION ITEMS AND PAST ACTION ITEMS (METRIK)**

- Mike Pastore to reach out to all appointed board member positions to see who wants to return. *Completed 5/23/25; all members would like to return in current capacity.*
- MJ Marasco to recruit/convene meeting of tryout/eval committee.
- Mike Metrik to forward a copy of the players' Code of Conduct to the coaches for commentary. *Completed 6/8/25.*
- Tim Dieter to forward the player development curriculum around to all coaches. *Completed 5/20/25; also added to the link tree on the website.*
- Mike Metrik to update the board member email contact list on the website with the fc814.org email addresses. *Completed 4/12/25.*
- Devyn Little to work on conveyance of Urban Air Soccer Complex to FC814. *Current status: Attorney Stants has provided the deed of conveyance to the former HSA Board, and after it is recorded, will electronically file the articles of dissolution. Mike Pastore and Tristan delGiudice have not yet executed the deed; Pastore scheduled to do so 6/9/25.*

### **CALL TO ORDER: 6:15 PM**

#### **SPRING 2025 IN-SEASON DISCUSSION**

- Tim asked if any coaches had current in-season needs or items to bring up.
  - Jess Burlingame stated that she is having frustration with the attendance/participation for practices and games for her boys' academy team. She asked if there should be an attendance clause, especially for classic level. She asked how we hold them accountable. The following points were raised:
    - Discussing it in the parent meeting sets the expectation and hopefully keeps it from becoming a continuing issue.
    - Ensure that players commit to at least one practice and all/as many games as possible.
    - Mike Metrik will send the player code of conduct out around the horn for commentary.
    - Fall and spring is a combined commitment, you are not committing to one and not the other.
  - Damian Schimminger suggested changes to/replacement for the academy program: can we get a group of players together to have a "mix and play" game day on Saturday in place of academy games and travel? All players would show up and be randomly assigned to teams for the day for play.
    - We are not sure how to potentially structure it. Damian was encouraged to figure out details and get back to the group with this.

- Another idea brought up was having a big brother/big sister program – bring a team of older players out for a quick training, scrimmage for the kids. This idea met with positive response. Definitely something to look at for next spring.
  - In a similar vein, Brian Wicker suggested bringing back alumni for the same thing.

### **TRYOUTS/EVALUATION DISCUSSION**

- Mike Metrik reported that the dates are set, the equipment has been delivered, the number one need now is volunteers.
- Boys' evals have three volunteers. Total. Boys' classic not much better.
- Girls classic so far good on evaluators, very little elsewhere.
  - Parent volunteers can be used at check-in, players can volunteer as station assistants during sessions other than their own, and at younger levels, older players can run stations at evaluations.
- Tim Dieter encouraged coaches to sign up on nights and sessions other than when their own children/players are going to be attending.

### **TOURNAMENT DISCUSSION**

- Damian Schimminger reported that we are now less than two months out from the FC814 Summer Shootout. The final push is on – we need teams, sponsors, and volunteers
- Back-end items are all complete: DJ, food vendors, parking, field layout.
  - Referees and goals are fixed expenses – we need to exceed those. The goals should be good for years to come.
  - Kerri McCartney is also spearheading an effort for individual player entry forms: we can then generate teams from that. We can send the form for individual sign-up to the in-house families, for example.
- The team that gets the most sponsorships (number) or dollar amount gets a free registration.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- Tim Dieter reported on the Youth Board meeting:
  - Grassroots/D license courses to be set up – Tim will provide information on them.
  - Referee abuse policy has begun, and there are now automatic suspension no matter the offense.
  - New rules passed:
    - Harsher punishment for coaches who can't control their players when players get cards, especially violent conduct red cards. Violent conduct is a minimum of two games. Ref abuse is a minimum of three games.
      - Brian Wicker noted that violent conduct issues are not always something that the coach can see from a distance during the game.
      - Moe replied that if we manage behaviors in practice they don't become an issue in a game.
    - 1 yr suspension for coaches using illegal players. 5 game suspension for coaches being sent off with multiple dissent cards.
      - We have had coaches reported for referee abuse, and the Mountain District has dealt with several issues of violent conduct.
- Notes from Classic meeting:
  - State Cup - No More Regional starting next year to cut down on hotel expense for families.
    - Association winners will go straight to Nationals in June (Girls East Coast, Boys West Coast)

- Nationals will now be completed in June (5-7 day tournament)
- State Cup Association Competition completed by end of April instead of May.
- Teams must play in qualifying league to compete in State Cup
- Birth year change:
  - AYSO, USYS, and US Club all returning to school year
  - Changing back due to dramatic registration drop on girls' side

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Reporting on behalf of Jordan Bard, Mike Metrik introduced a payment tracking sheet. This must now be turned in with payments as coaches are not tracking them as advised and mixing up payments.
- Payments will go directly to Jordan now, no longer running through Frye's Sweeper (cash management/liability issue).
- Coaches will need to pay for the entire team at one time AND BEFORE THE SEASON. No payment – no activation. Jordan had told Metrik that payment was “a mess” this spring.
  - Jess Burlingame replied that money also needs to be deposited more quickly – people are carrying check amounts (especially coaches) for a long time without debiting.

### **REGISTRAR'S REPORT/PREPARATION FOR FALL DISCUSSION**

- Team formation will be 6/19. Fall classic rosters will need to be declared very shortly afterwards. With State Cup Regionals for Marc, and potentially nationals, he will not have a lot of time for processing.
  - He is hoping to have fall travel finalized by 6/23.
- Double-check Safesport and clearances now for upcoming season – BE PROACTIVE
- New coaches will need the minimal licensing as well.
- Please give standard information to Marc in the spreadsheet for new players:
  - Dates should be entered in the format of 06/12/2025, not 6-12-25.
  - Phone numbers should be 814-937-3796, not 8149373796
  - Marc ends up retyping your work and it makes it much more unnecessarily time-consuming for him.
- Coaches for new teams (and for added/new players) will gather birth certificates and player photos and will be responsible for uploading these documents themselves this year.
- Drew Sylvester also commented on ordering uniforms: send deletions, send team migrations, and send additions.
  - Existing players can order piece by piece.
  - Provide a valid email address to Drew, and have your parents check junk/spam folders. The email comes from soccer.com and not from Drew.
  - Get your info to Drew by July 1<sup>st</sup> after team formation.

### **IN-HOUSE DIRECTOR REPORT**

- In-house registration will run June 15<sup>th</sup> through the end of August.
- The season went much more smoothly this spring with Sam Rogers's help, even with the influx of AYSO players.

## **REFEREE REPORT**

- Chris Walter asked for feedback on the current season. He stated that in-house U8 enabled the new referees to teach and to correct in a low-pressure setting. They can call offside as well at U10. They get through pregame and postgame checks.
  - Mike Lytle suggested that the referees are able to coach a little bit as it's a teaching league. Walter and Wicker agreed that this also helps them manage the game better.
- Brian Wicker asked that coaches make sure that they stay in the technical areas. He has tried to get coaches and refs into the habit of following the guidelines on this multiple times.

## **FC814 CURRICULUM (BRIAN DIAZ) – 15-20 MINUTES**

- Brian Diaz, St. Francis University's Womens' head coach, introduced the FC814 curriculum, a modification of the system that he had put in place when working for the Columbus Crew's Academy system.
- The goal of the system is to ensure minimum competencies for all players. This is a way to bring those who are lagging up, and for accounting for those who are developmentally ahead that you have to challenge.
  - Implementation should be the same year to year allowing for variances.
    - Diaz stated that the issue tends to be that coaches are chasing deficiencies rather than building competencies. Building competencies, then coming back and reinforcing them later, will help to keep those areas from becoming deficiencies.
    - The further "meta" goal of the curriculum is to create a challenging and positive environment. Diaz asked: Are families coming back? Do they feel connected to the club?
    - The technical part of the game sets the foundation for all players and is the bedrock of the approach. He has seen many places where the youngest age groups were great technically, but then their edge fell off at older age groups because the technical skills were abandoned. He stated that you can't abandon the technical for the tactical. You can shift your focus, but don't abandon it altogether.
    - The curriculum also includes base formations.
    - Shorter practices for younger teams – get more practices in!
  - Tim Dieter will send it around to the coaches.

## **FIELD AND SAFETY DIRECTOR REPORT**

- Mike Metrik delivered the report on Alex Taylor's behalf.
- Mike Lytle asked if it would be possible to select another color than orange for buildout lines and in-house fields. It is almost impossible for colorblind people to see the orange lines.
  - Mike Metrik stated that we will look at doing so once our massive amounts of orange paint have been depleted.
- Mike Metrik thanked everyone's for their patience with the turf field scheduling this spring.
- Mike passed on a message from Alex Taylor asking that we please make sure that we are painting your fields during your assigned weeks, preferably closer to the end of the week.
- Urban Air had some minor flooding last week and the lines were almost lost because it hadn't been painted in a while.
- Tim asked that everybody please clean trash up after yourselves (all fields!).
- Drew Sylvester again noted that at every location, people are NOT throwing away their empty paint cans. It should not be only a few people throwing them out for everybody else. Drew

also noted that we are losing cases of paint due to freezing. We'll have to look at a better storage system for our paint during colder months.

- Kerri McCartney suggested that the painting schedule go more by coach; have them paint where they practice and not all over the place. Mike will relay this to Alex. In fall, perhaps the paint schedule won't come out until the practice schedule has been established to follow this more closely.

#### **ODDS AND ENDS/FLOOR DISCUSSION (DIETER/METRIK) 5 minutes**

- Chris Walter suggested having a spring highlighted "game of the week." This idea met with general acclaim.
- Moe, harking back to the referee discussion, stated to make sure that you tell referees what they're doing right and not just what they've done wrong.
- Drew Sylvester asked that everybody drop off ball bags at end of season. Drew will get them back to you, but we need them for tryouts and evaluations.
- Steph Patterson asked that we determine the 200 Club date for next year within the next month or so.
- Drew stated that kickback/rebounders will be installed at VV and Urban Air within the next month.
- Mike Pastore still in process of reaching out to appointed board positions to see who is interested in continuing in their current capacity – anybody at the meeting can also see Metrik after meeting for status.
- Upcoming camps:
  - Golden Tiger (Hollidaysburg): June 16-20 (grades 1-4), 23-27 (grades 5-7)
  - SFU summer clinics (Grades K-8): June 23-27 and July 14-18
  - Travis DiLeo (10-13 year olds): July 7-9, Urban Air
  - Brazilian Way: July 21-24, Urban Air
  - Potential June Altoona HS youth camp
- Upcoming tournaments:
  - NBCSC 3 v 3 Summer Showdown (June 21)
  - Dubois Summer Shootout 7 v 7 (June 21)
  - OURS! (July 12)
  - More Beach Blast (July 19-20)
  - Plum kickoff classic (August 22-24 – travel only)
- Open-ended discussion

#### **TEAMS NOT REPRESENTED (NOT INCLUDING SCHOOL-ONLY TEAMS):**

McCarter B13U, Elite U14B, Synergy U15B, Fusion U16B, Revolution U17B, Titans U19G

**NEXT MEETING:** Team formation (travel and classic for fall) June 19, 2025, Frohsinn, 7:00. Monday, July 28, 2025, Frohsinn Singing Society, 1108 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, 6:00 PM.