



FC 814 Coach-Board Meeting Minutes Monday, July 28, 2025 Frohsinn Singing Society, Altoona, PA

ATTENDANCE (B INDICATES BOARD MEMBER): Jordan Bard, Zach Beckel, Russ Buchmann (B), Jess Burlingame, Tim Dieter (B), Troy Fee, Marc Frye (B), Tim James, Kiel Knisely, Tony Lang, Mike Lytle (B), Kerri McCartney, Mike Metrik (B), Eric Moore, Ryan Rutherford, Leonard Sapp (B), Drew Sylvester (B), Chris Walter (B), Brian Wicker (B), Travis Young

7/28/25 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.*
- ☒ Mike Metrik to forward a copy of the players' Code of Conduct to the coaches for commentary. *Completed 6/8/25; no commentary received.*
- ☒ 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.*
- ☒ Devyn Little to work on conveyance of Urban Air Soccer Complex to FC814. *The deed has been recorded, the remaining HSA funds added to FC814's account, and the Articles of Dissolution have been filed.*
- ☒ Mike Metrik to email modified PA West laws of the game to all coaches.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:13 PM

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW COACHES

- Mike Metrik noted that all appointed board members are returning in their current capacity:
 - Assistant Registrar/Child Protection Advocate: Leonard Sapp
 - Referee Assignor: Chris Walter
 - Referee Coordinator: Brian Wicker
 - Director of Coaching: Patrick "Moe" Taylor
 - Field and Safety Director: Alex Taylor
 - Equipment Manager: Drew Sylvester
 - Tournament Director: Damian Schimminger
 - Recreational/In-House Director: Mike Lytle
 - Marketing Director: Russ Buchmann
 - Fundraising Director: Stephanie Patterson
 - High School Liaison: Matt Stoehr
 - Member-at-Large: Mike Pastore
- Mike also introduced our new coaches, who told a little bit about themselves: Kiel Knisely (U10G), Tim James (U10B), Zach Beckel (U10G), Travis Young (U10G), and Ryan Rutherford (U13B).

TRYOUTS, EVALUATIONS, AND TEAM FORMATION DISCUSSION

- Tim solicited feedback from the tryouts and evaluations held in the second full week of June. The following items were noted:

- Things ran smoothly on the girls' side, but there weren't nearly enough volunteers on the boys' side to make it run as well. The weather issues forcing all evaluations into a single session resulted in mild chaos.
- It was simply too difficult to get all of the groups coordinated and onto the field in a timely manner, then to do it again for the later session.
- There were too many players on the field at one time. Some parts of the field were also still gross from all of the rain.
- There weren't enough size 4 balls for the travel evaluations.
- There needs to be better communication leading up to the events. There were no committee/organizational meetings in the weeks prior to the sessions.
- One coach asked if there were such a thing as "too young" for travel; Dieter answered that U8s should probably not be playing travel.
- Russ Buchman brought up that in HAMPA (Hollidaysburg's school music program), everybody is required to volunteer X amount of hours. The discussion following this is that such a policy would then also need "teeth" for enforcement – what are the penalties when someone doesn't follow through?
 - Metrik stated that we also need incentives too, not just penalties. What if we track the top three teams' worth of volunteers? Do we pay for a tournament for them the following season?
 - It was also suggested that we need to get the schedules to the parents ahead of time along with the volunteer options, and to reach out to the schools in the area to coordinate with organizations (like NHS, etc.) requiring service hours and getting those opportunities in front of students as well.
- Tim also asked for feedback on team formation:
 - Kiel Knisely noted that he wasn't invited.
 - Coaches said that we needed to publicize this more.
 - Wicker noted that we spend too much time trying to pick "our" teams. Instead, we should be looking at the first 15 going on one roster, the next 15 to the next, etc., and assign coaches accordingly.
 - For established teams, we keep the core together and then simply add a player or two.
 - The general consensus is that this method made more sense for the classic side than the travel side.
 - It was suggested that we should have a gap between the classic and travel tryouts rather than running everything around the same time.
 - Travis Young said that we need more transparency for parents and coaches in the process.
 - There needs to be a tryout/evaluation committee to expand on our single-session model.
 - Jordan Bard said that we need to have a more uniform model for scoring, and that we cannot have scorecards turned in without comments. What Gino Morelli gives might be different than what Jason Stephens gives might be different than what Wicker gives. A rolling process of evaluations will give us more eyeballs and opinions and should give a more well-rounded score.
 - Further discussion is tabled to the next meeting.

TOURNAMENT RECAP AND DISCUSSION

- In the place of the absent Damian Schimminger, Mike Metrik requested feedback on the tournament. The following was provided:
 - Very well organized.
 - We heard lots of positives from parents and participants.
 - On the scheduling side, we need to avoid having split teams play each other if possible.
 - Get rid of the "clean sheet point" or slide it into the tiebreakers.
 - We have a ton of leftover T-shirts, what to do with them?
 - Sell them on the cheap at future tournaments.
 - Put them on a table for \$5 at the Summit

- Next year, pre-order and have a smaller amount on-hand for late purchases.
 - More logical field numbering; put fields 5 and 6 next to each other.
 - On-site fundraising: Wicker said he'd definitely sit in a dunking booth.
 - More trash cans in the center lane between fields.
 - Add a misting tent if possible.
 - Pick either throw-ins or kick-ins instead of offering the option for both.
- We're looking at future sponsors, and also on how to expand the footprint of the teams further from Blair County.
- As with tryouts and evaluations, it was noted that we needed more volunteers.
 - Metrik noted that multiple app/website admins will be needed, once he started coaching it was difficult to update the app.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Jordan Bard reviewed the payment sheet again, and stated that the MUST be turned in moving forward with team payments.
- Payments will go directly to Jordan now and will not run through Frye's Sweeper – it's too much cash to leave hanging around there.
- One coach suggested removing the FC814 Venmo option (which Kiel Knisely didn't even know about). It's breeding confusion.
- Jordan stated that coaches need to turn in the payments for the entire team. No pay = no activation. Payment was a mess this spring.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT/PREP FOR FALL SEASON

- Marc Frye reported that submission for approval for fall classic was today. Submission for travel is Friday 8/1/25. Marc cautioned the coaches that players will come off your rosters without photos or birth certificates. Coaches will come off without SafeSport certification or clearances.
 - Marc asked that coaches complete these items in a timely fashion. They should double check rosters and also make sure that their assistants are listed.
 - For uploading documents, use the PA West risk management portal. You will know right away if you uploaded them correctly because you'll get an email stating that your documents are under review.
 - For coaches who just attended the coaching classes this past weekend, please send your certifications to Leonard Sapp (asstregistrar@fc814.org) so that he can upload them.
 - All coaches need licensing to be listed on the roster. Managers need their clearances only.
 - All coaches need a minimum of the Intro to Grassroots course – this gets you on the field for one year.
- Marc also explained about coaches creating a binder for their team. It should hold all relevant player paperwork: medical releases, media releases, codes of conduct for players, as well as the official roster. Game day rosters should be placed in them. You can use it as a drop-off point for money. It is suggested that you laminate your official roster.
 - Marc reminded all coaches to follow the instructions on the email he recently sent out on entering jersey numbers in Affinity. Game day rosters are not to be accepted by referees without numbers on them.
- Marc will create a Got Sport account for any younger teams without one that would like to enter tournaments that run through GS.
- The classic fall scheduling meeting will be on 8/9/25 at Westmoreland County Community College.

IN-HOUSE REPORT

- Mike Lytle stated that the in-house numbers are way down – 500 in spring to 105 right now. Registration is open through 8/10.

- The parent clinic for new coaches and parents will follow the new parent meeting prior to the season.
- An equipment order is in progress for Valley View, as the various local AYSO regions have come to claim most of the equipment. New goal frames with wheel kits have been ordered. One of the coaches suggested not getting the cheap wheel kits that rust out quickly.
 - New small goals are also being purchased.
- We will also be getting the snack shack at Valley View up and running. For right now, the big push is to get our registration numbers back up.

REFEREE REPORT

- Brian Wicker stated that the upcoming referee clinic will be 8/9 at the IM field. We will need to promote this.
 - Chris Walter reminded the coaches present that the fall season is typically when we have a number of new referees, and to please be patient as they find their way.
 - Almost all of our adult-certified referees will be officiating school games.
- The new coaches asked if they could get a copy of the modified laws of the game. Mike Metrik will distribute them.

MARKETING DIRECTOR REPORT

- Russ discussed walk-on opportunities for teams to accompany various local college teams onto the field at the beginning of matches. This is currently open at Mt. Aloysius, St. Francis, and Juniata.
- We will also be holding a tailgate at a Penn State women's game in August and will have a walk-out opportunity there as well.

FIELD AND SAFETY DIRECTOR REPORT

- Mike Metrik substituted for Alex Taylor on this report.
- Field setup will be the weekend of 8/2-8/3, rain day the following week.
 - Sat 8/2 – Valley View, Greenwood, Keith
 - Sun 8/3 – Urban Air, Leopold
- Mike asked for feedback on the line painting schedule from spring. He was advised that the coaches would like to paint the fields at which they practice if at all possible, for convenience's sake. Drew also noted that some perfectly good paint was thrown away – you have to shake the can until it rattles and mixes properly.
- Mike and Tim discussed the meeting they'd had with the school district about Keith field. The neighbors were complaining about overflowing trash. The can was overflowing all spring long and was still overflowing in July. We will make sure that there is a supply of bags, but Tim asked that the last coach out please either take the trash with them or let Alex know when it's full. We don't want to lose the fields by being poor neighbors.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER REPORT

- Drew Sylvester reported that new coaches can reach out to him to obtain a "practice bag" (6 practice balls, a set of cones, and pinnies) and we'll provide them to you.
 - Experienced coaches can replace worn/soiled equipment via Drew as well, just reach out to him. He suggested keeping game balls that were no longer game-worthy as practice balls.
- Drew also discussed the VEO policy: let Drew know by Tuesday if you want a camera for the weekend. Upload/charge Sunday, return by Monday so that the ask is done by Tuesday.
- We now have 12 heading trainer balls, rebounders, agility sticks, and more pugg goals available. Reach out to Drew if you would like to borrow any of these.
 - Drew also advised not to use weighted pugs on grass. Use the correct goals for the surface.

ODDS AND ENDS/FLOOR DISCUSSION

- Upcoming tournaments:
 - West Branch Color Fun 3 v 3 (August 16)
 - Plum kickoff classic (August 22-24 – travel only)
 - Fall President's Cup
- Strawberry Hills has broken ground!

TEAMS NOT REPRESENTED (NOT INCLUDING SCHOOL-ONLY TEAMS): Little Crushers 2016-17G, Assault 2016B, Dragonflies 2013G, Warriors 2013B, Hotspurs 2012B, Rebels 2011G, Crushers 2010G, Fusion 2009B, Revolution 2008B

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 17, 2025, Frohsinn Singing Society, 1108 12th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, 6:00 PM.