



FC 814 Coach-Board Meeting Minutes Monday, November 17, 2025 Frohsinn Singing Society, Altoona, PA

ATTENDANCE (B INDICATES BOARD MEMBER): Jordan Bard (B), Zach Beckel, Pat Brady, Russ Buchmann (B), Jess Burlingame, Tim Dieter (B), Troy Fee, Marc Frye (B), Tim James, Kiel Knisely, Jeff Lane, Julia Lane, Tony Lang, Mike Lytle (B), Pat McKinney, Mike Metrik (B), Pat Miles (now B), Eric Moore, Gina Morelli, Brian Parrish, Ryan Rutherford, Leonard Sapp (B), Damian Schimminger (B), Drew Sylvester (B), Moe Taylor (B), Josh Wagner, Chris Walter (B), Brian Wicker (B),

11/17/2025 ACTION ITEMS AND PAST ACTION ITEMS

- ☒ Mike Metrik to send out modified PA West laws of the game. *Completed.*
- ☒ Drew Sylvester to order additional size 4 balls as we were short of needs at evaluations.
- ☐ Mike Metrik to draft “no pay” letter for “deadbeat” parents and guardians. *Submitted to executive board for review 12/3/25.*
- ☐ Mike Metrik email the sprit wear link for soccer.com to the coaches, put it on website as well.
- ☐ Mike Metrik to post positions that are up for election (Vice President, Treasurer, and Registrar) by the January meeting, along with job descriptions.
- ☐ Evaluation committee to review current rosters to see if any would have continuity under the school year age grouping.
- ☐ Brian Wicker to provide blueprint for other club’s rating
- ☐ Mike Metrik to send out updated policies and procedures document including changes noted at meeting.
- ☐ Club to circulate proposed amendments to bylaws and constitution (change in AGM month, removal of high school liaison position in favor of technical director) to the coaches and board for commentary prior to vote at the next board meeting 30 or more days from proposal.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:03 PM

VICE PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT

- Tim Dieter announced that MJ Marasco has stepped down from the Vice President position.
- Per constitution, when an elected position aside from the President resigns partway through their term, the Executive Board appoints a replacement, who is then submitted to a vote of the full Board for approval.
- Executive Board would like to appoint Pat Miles to serve out the remainder of MJ’s term. There were no objections.
 - Jeff Lane moved that the board vote on the appointment of Pat Miles to serve out the remainder of MJ Marasco’s term. With twelve of the full board members attending, there was a quorum present. Pat Miles was approved by the full board by a vote of 12-0.
- Mike Metrik announced that Mike Pastore is resigning as Member At Large so that MJ can take his place. This does not need to be put to a confirmatory vote as it is an appointed position.

FALL SEASON RECAP

- The classic coaches noted that Pittsburgh teams remain terrible to deal with as far as scheduling, then wanting to reschedule games. Tim stated that there are now fines and penalties in place for teams that refuse to come out to play in Altoona or State College, and he intends to begin enforcing them.
- Mike Lytle asked about division settings, asking us how much influence can we have on splitting teams up so that we don't end up with so many FC814 teams playing each other.
 - It was noted that there are not as many young kids playing. The Mountain District is hoping to map where the players are coming from in an effort to increase turnout and participation.
 - Marc stated that one further issue is that division designations are "on the honor system" – if the coach says that they're a B-bracket level team, they're placed in the B bracket. In his words "Celtic shouldn't have any B teams."
- Jeff and Julia Lane also noted that the skill level has dramatically dropped off compared to where it used to be for incoming junior high school students. Nobody can use their non-dominant foot and barely anybody will head a ball.
 - Marc opined that touches should be done at the beginning of every practice.
- Mike Lytle and Damian Schimminger proposed the idea (which Damian had proposed at a previous meeting) of expanding the in-house program or having in-house/travel pickup night for younger age divisions where there are no designated teams and just a "show up and play" format.
- Moe Taylor stated that a lot of coaches don't go to practice with an actual plan. What you have identified from the last practice or game as items to be addressed should be the focus for the next one. While the curriculum is a good tool, must be meet the team's needs as well. Players who play to avoid making mistakes, is an issue that should be addressed (as an example, he cited awarding two points for non-dominant foot goals in scrimmages as an incentive.
 - He also noted that coaches should remember the enjoyment factor. Competition isn't everything!

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR REPORT AND DISCUSSION

- Damian Schimminger reported that the tournament ran smoothly for an event with a lot of moving parts to get going for a first time. Now the blueprint is in place and we are hoping to do things the same or better. The date for next year's tournament is set and will be July 11, 2026.
 - Damian would like to start getting the word out, beginning with getting the postcards out earlier. While we had 50 teams, there was available time and space to accommodate 90 teams.
 - We would like to get more levels of play (e.g. in-house) rolling.
 - Sponsorship and team interest forms will be going out soon.
- Kiel Knisely asked what the sponsorship levels get for the sponsor. Jordan Bard has a sheet that he can provide.
- Drew Sylvester stated that we should start aiming at Harrisburg, Hershey, Baltimore, Philly, and start drawing from them.

TRYOUT/EVALUATION DISCUSSION / CHANGE TO SCHOOL YEAR

- Pat Miles will head the tryout/evaluation committee that will draft rubrics based off the curriculum for player evaluation.
- We hope to have multiple in-season evaluations in addition to the June session.
- Rosters will be to see who would still have continuity under new age bracket rules.
- Brian Wicker asked if we can look at specific coaches for specific age groups? Mike Metrik noted that it is difficult to do so with as many parent coaches as we have; the parents typically aren't motivated to coach anybody other than their children.
 - We get better comments and better feedback when someone is concentrating on one team over a time period.

- Ryan Rutherford asked what happens to players who fall through the cracks, like some of the 2012 girls who didn't have a team to play with this fall? Dieter replied that moving forward, we won't be trying out for a specific team, it'll be for best 18 in age group. Then next 18 kids in age group, etc.
- Eric Moore asked if we can get templates from other clubs to see exactly how they rate players? The blueprints have to be out there. Wicker stated that he could get one from "Clark." [secretary's note: I have no idea who Clark is]
- Moe stated that we should be inviting local players who you might be looking to evaluate to your practices 2-3 weeks before tryouts.
- Tim stated that we may look at board selecting teams once evaluations/tryouts are completed and assigning them to coaches.
 - Mike Metrik noted that ANY COACH is welcome to join Pat's committee to steer the discussion and offer feedback.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Jordan Bard issued a reminder of policies and procedures regarding fundraisers. Team fundraising can't use our tax number (EIN). A team wishing to fundraise must create their own account.
 - If a business wants to donate to a specific team, they can donate to the club, earmark it to that team, and receive a letter from Jordan to write it off for tax purposes.
- Zach Beckel stated that he can help out with setting up fundraising accounts, how to get your own EIN, etc..
- Introduction of new Policy for Expenditures (\$250/\$500) rule
- Payments for teams will now go to Jordan directly for indoor and outdoor. Jordan asked that parents be detailed in Venmo entries – player name, team, coach, etc.
- Brian Parrish suggested that if we have Venmo, let's put the charge in, make it what it needs to be, everything gets funneled directly to Jordan, no need for coaches to cover it.
 - Brian further suggested that if we have the website capability to run payment through it. We have tried it in the past, maybe it is time to try again moving forward.
- After some discussion, it was decided that moving forward, we'll collect "status quo" for spring, and make payment through the website mandatory for the fall. We should have time between now and then to figure out logistics and tracking.
 - Mike Metrik will draft a "you don't pay, you don't play" letter to be used for those who skip fees.
- Jordan reviewed payment issues this fall with timeliness: potential penalties for non-payment of player fees, including loss of practice scheduling privileges and possibly loss of discount to make coaches accountable for collection.
- Jordan also stated that all referees will need to have W9 forms submitted prior to the beginning of spring 2026 if we don't have one on file. Referees who don't submit a W9 will not be paid.
- The Executive Board looking at assembling budgets for certain events/programs. This is a work in progress for the time being.

POLICIES/PROCEDURES/POTENTIAL BOARD UPDATES

- Mike Metrik stated that we are looking to move the Annual general meeting from March to May. It puts us more in line with our constitution and bylaws – advertise for elections in January, nominate in March, elect in May, when they take office in July, they then approve/appoint the appointed board members.

- This is simply a policy/procedure change; as there were no objections, this will be updated in the P/P document.
- The board would also like to terminate the board position of High School Liaison and replace it with Technical Director.
 - Mike noted that this change requires a constitutional and bylaw amendment, so the proposed amendments, once drafted, will be circulated to the full Board via the Vice President, and will be voted on at the next meeting following a 30-day notice period.
- Mike Metrik also stated that Mike Lytle has requested that we pay Sam Rogers a stipend of \$300 each season for fall and spring for assistance with in-house.
- Tim Dieter proposed several additional stipends: a \$2,500 stipend annually for the Treasurer, increasing the Registrar to \$5,000/year, and the Secretary to \$1,000/fall and \$2,000 spring. We will likely also eventually pay the Technical Director as well.
 - Jeff Lane moved and Tony Lang seconded to vote on this slate of changes. The vote was unanimous in favor to approve the updated stipends. Mike Metrik will update the P/P document with this.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT(FRYE) – 10 minutes

- Marc Frye reported that registration for the spring season is open and he is ready to take team rosters. The classic deadline will be January 16th, Travel January 23rd.
 - For players being added to/subtracted from rosters, please use their date of birth, it's the easiest way to locate them in the system.
- Marc reiterated the clearance and Safesport deadlines; coaches now need to upload Safesport at the US Soccer Digital Learning Center or your licensing will lapse.
 - Marc stated that coaches need to stop sending clearances to him and should send them to Leonard. That's Leonard's role.
- For tournaments outside of PA West, coaches need to fill out a permission-to-travel form and submit to Erin at the PA West office. It's part of the check-in for some of the tournaments. PA West needs to know where its teams are playing for insurance purposes.
- Marc discussed college recruitment preparation for the older teams. Coaches should have recruitment sheets containing the coach's contact information, player name, jersey number, GPA, graduation year, phone number, and email address.
 - Marc suggested that players start soccer-only Instagram accounts. They can send these to the coaches to show their highlight reels.
 - When contacting coaches, players should email assistants as well as head coaches, as the assistants often handle a lot of the recruiting work. Send follow up emails. Go to ID camps – 80% of Pitt's roster, for example, came from their ID camp.
 - Recruitment starts June 15 after sophomore year. They want to talk to the coaches and the players, but not the parents. Asshole parents will knock you out of consideration.
 - They need to know you are actually interested. Do you know what formation they play? What needs they might have? What experience you have in that formation?
 - Players should provide game times, location, address.
 - Other coaches suggested adding a QR code to recruitment sheet.
 - Marc stressed that your recruitment sheet should be legible.
 - Talk to your parents on your team, what are they looking for? What are the expectations? Use that to guide tournament choices. There are specific tournaments that attract college coaches. If that's the end goal, go to the showcases.

MARKETING DIRECTOR REPORT

- Russ stated that the Google form will make a comeback for score reporting in spring. Anybody with further marketing suggestions or opportunities should contact him.

REFEREE REPORT

- Brian Wicker asked for a show of hands of coaches who had an away game with less than three officials. 10 total coaches had, as opposed to only two for home games.
- Chris Walter reminded coaches that 13 years old is the cutoff for refereeing for anybody interested.
- Mike Lytle suggested not putting the newest officials at U8 on their own at in-house, but rather putting them in an older age bracket and pairing them with someone else. Brian Wicker answered that this needs to occur to help give them the confidence to make calls, as long as someone is there to monitor the referees and offer feedback.
- Next referee course will be in March, date/site/instructor TBD, and likely the Summit for the site.
- Tony Lang suggested that some referees gave players at U13B multiple talkings-to and seemed hesitant to pull cards to take the temperature down. Brian noted this for future feedback.
 - Moe Taylor stated that for coaches, the biggest beef is typically to keep it consistent. Have the conversation first, then card on a subsequent one. Coaches shouldn't be begging for cards for an 11 year old.
- Brian stated that a change to the offside rule is coming.

FIELD AND SAFETY DIRECTOR REPORT AND EQUIPMENT MANAGER REPORT

- Filling in for Alex Taylor, Mike Metrik reported that all fields are now torn down. More paint to be ordered before spring.
- Mike solicited feedback on the painting schedule: coaches responded that it was generally much better and more convenient for them to paint where they were practicing.
- Mike Lytle asked that we add U6 fields onto painting schedules.
- Drew Sylvester reminded coaches to practice in offline areas. Respect the fields and equipment. Do not spend your whole practice in the 18 or goal mouth.
 - Final cost was \$20K to replace goals at Valley View.
- Drew – might look at additional wheel kits for VV goals. It was suggested to pull them off 7 v 7 and put them on 9 v 9 and 11 v 11 since the 7 v 7 goals are more easily portable.
- Rebounders are in place for Valley View and Urban Air.

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.
- Drew asked for Spring needs to let Drew know now:
 - Pinnies and balls are coming.
 - Drew asked that coaches use weighted pugs on turf only. They are not designed for grass use.
- Drew stated that once your players have ordered the full kit, they can order individual pieces via their soccer.com team store.

- We will look at figuring out how to get the 3rd jersey on the team store as an option (but not a necessity).

ODDS AND ENDS/FLOOR DISCUSSION

- The Board will be hearing pitches from New Balance and Capelli on competing uniform proposals.
- Soccer.com has an online store for spirit wear. We no longer have to run apparel fundraisers; families can order on their own. Metrik to email out to coaches. We can also put it on website.
- Strawberry Hills Phase 1 will be laid out and seeded in spring 2026. Will begin play spring 2027.
- Upcoming tournaments:
 - Northern Blair Rec indoor (u8 through U12) – Boys 1/11, girls 1/18
 - Icebreaker futsal (2/7-2/8)

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

NEXT MEETING: Monday, January 19, 2026, Frohsinn Singing Society, 1108 12th Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601, 6:00 PM.