

**NCSL Board Meeting  
January 10, 2023  
Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 p.m.

**I. Roll Call**

The following clubs were in attendance/represented by a proxy at the meeting: A3, Alexandria Soccer Association, Alliance Soccer Club, Annandale Boys & Girls Club, Arlington Youth Soccer Club, Blue Ridge United, Braddock Road Youth Club, Burke Athletic Club, Calvert Soccer Association, Calverton Soccer Club, DC Soccer Club, DeMatha Soccer Academy, Epic Soccer Club, Fairfax Police Youth Club, FC Charles, FC Dulles, FC Frederick, FCVA Ashburn, Fredericksburg FC, Great Falls – Reston, Gunston Soccer Club, Hagerstown Soccer Club, Herndon Youth Soccer Association, La Plata Soccer Academy, Laurel Soccer Club, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club, Leesburg Football Club, Loudoun Soccer Club, Maryland Rush Montgomery, McLean Youth, Northern Piedmont SC, Northern Virginia Soccer Club, OBGC, Old Dominion Football Club, Potomac Soccer Association, Premier Athletic Club, Prince William Soccer, Real World Futbol Club, Severna Park Athletic Club, South County Athletic Association, Springfield South County Youth Club, St. Mary's Soccer, Stafford Soccer Club, Sterling Youth Soccer Association, Takoma Park Soccer Club, Team America Football Club, Vienna Youth Soccer, Villarreal Virginia Academy, Virginia Revolution, Virginia Soccer Association, Virginia Valor, VISTA, West Virginia Futbol Club

Roll call indicated that the following clubs were not in attendance and were not represented by a proxy: Bethesda Soccer Club, Brookland FC, DORADUS, Maryland Rush, Montgomery Soccer, Player Progression Academy, Thunder Soccer Club

Executive Committee in Attendance: Eric Popiel, Dave Shannon, Howard Kohn, Richard Smith,

Staff in attendance: Ryan Rich, Alison Smith

Approval of Minutes

FC Frederick made a motion to approve the November 18, 2022 Board Meeting minutes. Gunston. There were no objections, and the motion was approved by acclamation.

Ryan Rich – NCSL Executive Director:

- Ryan said the deadline for all spring registrations is January 24. He has been reaching out to clubs to discuss Supergroup and Elite play. Next week, club reps will be receiving the links to provide feedback on teams for consideration during division structure. He noted that fall results and requests are considered during the process.
- NCSL still intends to work with SFL to offer recreational play in Fall 2023. We continue to do our due diligence as we plan to add them under the NCSL umbrella.

Doug Walls – NCSL Commissioner: No report (not present).

Maureen Dalbec – NCSL Commissioner: No report (not present).

Carol Coulter – Virginia Registrar: No report.

Maryland Registrar - Jessica Hafer: No report (not present).

Richard Smith – President: Richard said state associations have been providing feedback and suggestions to USYS to make changes to the registration process for players born outside of the United States. NCSL continues to voice the concerns raised by clubs and encourage FIFA to relax the stringent rules in place.

Richard noted that SFL players will be rostered as recreational players.

Alison Smith – NCSL Administrator: Alison thanked those who have started their registrations. The deadline is January 24. Reach out to Alison with any questions or issues. If teams are playing up, the age group should be included in the team name. Invoices will be sent out on January 25. The deadline to drop teams without financial penalty is February 16.

Eric Popiel – Vice President & Treasurer: No report.

Carol Montoya – Secretary: No report.

Alan Paez – NCSL R&D: No report (not present).

New Business: New Club Vote: Steel United NoVA

Howard presented Steel United NoVA as a potential new team. He noted that Woodbridge has closed down, and this club will serve that area. They are planning to enter seven teams in NCSL, six of which previously played in CCL. Howard noted that the club is a division of Steel Sports, a national organization of sports clubs.

Maryam Romero Chavez, Executive Director, joined the meeting and provided some background on Steel United. She explained that Steel United operates independently of its national organization. Maryam responded to questions from the club reps. She noted that the club uses fields in Lake Ridge. They are working on developing a referee base. Four of the teams in their club were previously with the Woodbridge club. They club does not have a pipeline of recreation players; they are relying on word of mouth. The club has access to fields on Saturdays.

Maryam left the meeting.

Richard noted that the standards for new clubs, including the availability of quality players without competing with other clubs, and a development program that attracts players. Other considerations include number of teams, coaching education, field conditions and availability, and referee availability. The Executive Committee reviewed the fields and met with Steel United

in order to develop a recommendation for the Board. The Executive Committee is unanimously, although not enthusiastically, recommending that the club be admitted.

In response to a question, Richard noted that many clubs that approach NCSL for admission don't make it to the Board for a vote, due to not meeting requirements. Clubs must pay a nonrefundable application fee in order to be considered. If an application is denied, a club needs to wait two years to apply again.

Howard made a motion to approve Steel United NoVA as a new member club. VISTA seconded. Discussion on the motion ensued. There was concern about the club's ability to find players without taking players from other clubs, along with the times they have fields available. It was noted that by making them a part of our league, we can help develop them as a club. Richard noted that league staff works hard to make sure that teams aren't traveling far for early morning games.

The voted was called and votes were submitted via Zoom poll. A majority of clubs voted against the motion. There was no request for a roll call voted, and the motion was denied. Steel United NoVA will be notified that they are not admitted to the league.

#### Motion for Permanent Club Pass Rules

Ryan provided background on the motion, mostly that many clubs feel this rule should continue and it would not be detrimental to competition to do so.

FC Dulles made a motion to make the following Club Pass rules, changed temporarily due to Covid-19, permanent:

1. Players may play in more than one game per day;
2. Teams can use unlimited Club Pass players for each game.

All other General Requirements regarding the Club Pass listed in the NCSL Rules & Procedures Manual are to remain in effect.

The motion was seconded by Great Falls-Reston.

Brief discussion ensued. The importance of having referees check club passes was noted. There was a question whether the two items could be separated into two motions. It was noted that when a club pass is used, there is also a requirement to show the roster of the team that the club pass player belongs to.

FC Frederick made a motion to amend the original motion to remove the requirement to show the rosters. Richard noted that rosters are no longer required (another COVID change), so the spirit of the amendment would be included in the original motion. It was noted in the meeting chat the player card indicates the team to which the player is rostered. The rules will continue to state that the club pass process is not to be used to seed teams with players in order to provide an unfair advantage in a game. It was noted that there are limited ways to police players playing in

only one game a day. In addition, teams are still being challenged with absences due to ongoing virus issues.

The vote was called. By voice, a majority of clubs voted against the motion. There was no request for a roll call voted, and the motion passed. NCSL Rules & Procedures Manual will be updated accordingly.

A motion was made by OBGC and seconded by VISTA to adjourn. There were no objections, and the motion was approved by acclamation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.