

NCSL Board Meeting
August 29, 2022
Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 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, DORADUS, Epic Soccer Club, Fairfax Police Youth Club, FC Charles, FC Dulles, FC Frederick, FCVA Ashburn, Front Royal Soccer Association, 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, Maryland Rush Montgomery, McLean Youth, Northern Piedmont SC, Northern Virginia Soccer Club, OBGC (Olney), Old Dominion Football Club, Player Progression Academy, Potomac Soccer Association, Premier Athletic Club, Real World Futbol Club, Severna Park Athletic Club, Shenandoah FC Elite, 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, Thunder Soccer Club, Vienna Youth Soccer, Villarreal Virginia Academy, Virginia Revolution, Virginia Soccer Association, Virginia Valor, VISTA

Roll call indicated that the following clubs were not in attendance and were not represented by a proxy: Bethesda Soccer Club, Brookland FC, Fredericksburg FC, Montgomery Soccer, Prince William Soccer, West Virginia Futbol Club

Executive Committee in Attendance: Maureen Dalbec, Howard Kohn, Carol Montoya, Eric Popiel, Dave Shannon, Richard Smith, Doug Wall

Staff in attendance: Ryan Rich, Alison Smith

Approval of Minutes

FC Frederick made a motion to approve the June 23, 2022 Board Meeting minutes. OBGC seconded. There were no objections, and the motion was approved by acclamation.

Ryan Rich – NCSL Executive Director:

- Ryan reported almost 100 coaches attended the coaching course put on by APFC. It was hosted at the St. James. He has received requests to host another training.
- The Winter College Combine is scheduled for November 27. It was included in the Club Reps email today; an email will be sent to players and it will be promoted on social media.
- Ryan and Alison emphasized the season checklist and game day checklist during the New Team Admin meetings. Ryan said many managers were confused by the various

platforms and logins (e.g., TeamSnap, GotSoccer, NCSL). Club reps may want to help their managers understand the different portals that each club used.

Alan Paez – NCSL R&D: (Not present; report given by Ryan Rich) Club Reps are reminded to ensure that sit out forms for Spring 2022 have been submitted. U12 teams and older need to enter their roster into the NCSL database. Reminders will be sent to individual teams that are not compliant.

Alison Smith – NCSL Administrator: Alison thanked everyone for their help in getting fields loaded so games could be assigned.

The FLEX Schedule deadline is Friday, September 2. She asked reps to encourage team managers to finish any requests by the deadline. Alison reminded reps that emails requesting changes need to be forwarded to her; this can be done by either club rep. Alison is willing to add field permits if reps needs help with that. Alison will confirm receipt of FLEX requests; if a rep doesn't receive the confirmation, they can try to send to Alison's Gmail account. Alison noted that games can only be rescheduled one time.

Alison reminded reps to let her know as soon as possible when fields are closed due to inclement weather.

A call for field space in Virginia for referee training was sent out and the response was great. Alison thanked clubs for their support of this training.

Rain dates are November 5, 11, and 12. Games can not be rescheduled for these dates.

Carol Coulter – Virginia Registrar: Carol asked teams to submit their rosters to the registrars as soon as possible so they can be approved prior to the start of the season.

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

Doug Walls – NCSL Commissioner: Doug reminded reps that all necessary information should be inputted into the website before the start of the season.

Maureen Dalbec – NCSL Commissioner: Maureen noted that the database updates include player names and jersey numbers.

Richard Smith – President:

Richard asked reps to make sure field information is updated (e.g., directions, parking instructions, availability of restrooms, etc.), He noted that player information is used to track cautions. The list of teams that need to complete the information is included (via a link) in Ryan's weekly email. Failure to input the information will result in a fine to the team

Richard noted that the Sit Outs Owed list includes carry overs from last season. Red cards earned in the last game of the season carry over into the fall. The sit outs follow the coaches and the players, even if they change clubs.

Richard asked reps to confirm that fields are ready for the opening weekend of games, including that teams know lock combinations as needed, that grass fields are mowed, and that goals and corner flags are available.

Richard has been working with other soccer organizations to address and find solutions for the referee shortage. In the case of NCSL, the pay scale of the referees was evaluated. We want to increase the rate for referees, but not have a significant amount of the increase go to assignors. The bonus program was also evaluated, and changes are being considered to make referring in or league more attractive. Richard said some assignors were approached with a request to lower their percentage. The Executive Committee has discussed a new pay scale: \$1.00/minute for a center referee; \$.50/minute for assistant referees. In response to a question, Richard said this scale is fairly average. Richard noted that referee fees have typically been about 75% of the operating budget; this increase will also increase this percentage.

In response to a question, Richard noted that the league has contracts with assignors that dictate how they get paid for assigning referees. Our contracts are for a percentage of referee fees, not a flat rate.

In response to a question, Richard said that many options to address this issue have been considered. One option was a tiered bonus system rather than a rate increase. The challenge is getting the information needed to calculate these bonuses from the assignors.

In response to a question, Richard said that there will not be a team fee increase for the fall season. He noted that we budget for a loss, which is offset by not having to pay for games where there is no referee coverage.

FC Frederick made a motion to approve the changes to the referee rates. OBGC seconded. There was brief discussion. Richard noted that we need to be supportive of referees and find ways to recruit more referees. The vote was called. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Richard said the league will be promoting the pay increase via emails and social media.

Carol Montoya – Secretary: No report.

Eric Popiel – Vice President & Treasurer: No report.

Other Business

OGBC said that NCSL night at DC United is September 18. There are group ticket and play-on-the-pitch opportunities. Audi Field is hosting the NWSL final; DC United is organizing the seating and there will be team opportunities at this event as well.

VISTA reminded everyone that VYSA State Cup and Presidents Cup applications are due tomorrow (August 30).

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.