

**NCSL Board Meeting
November 14, 2022
Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

I. Roll Call

The following clubs were in attendance/represented by a proxy at the meeting: Alexandria Soccer Association, Alliance Soccer Club, Arlington Youth Soccer Club, Braddock Road Youth Club, Brookland FC, Burke Athletic Club, Calvert Soccer Association, Calverton Soccer Club, DC Soccer Club, DORADUS, Epic Soccer Club, Fairfax Police Youth Club, FC Charles, FC Dulles, FCVA Ashburn, Fredericksburg FC, Great Falls – Reston, Gunston 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, Prince William Soccer, Real World Futbol Club, Severna Park Athletic Club, Shenandoah FC Elite, South County Athletic Association, Springfield South County Youth Club, St. Mary's Soccer, 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, West Virginia Futbol Club, Woodbridge Soccer Club

Roll call indicated that the following clubs were not in attendance and were not represented by a proxy: A3, Annandale Boys & Girls Club, Bethesda Soccer Club, Blue Ridge United, DeMatha Soccer Academy, FC Frederick, Front Royal Soccer Association, Hagerstown Soccer Club, Montgomery Soccer, Stafford Soccer Club

Executive Committee in Attendance: Eric Popiel, Alan Paez, Maureen Dalbec, Doug Walls, Howard Kohn

Staff in attendance: Ryan Rich, Alison Smith

Ryan opened the meeting by congratulating everyone on a successful Fall season. He thanked the club reps for the work they do as liaisons and helping to make everything go smoothly. He also thanked Alison for her work.

Approval of Minutes

OBGC made a motion to approve the August 19, 2022 Board Meeting minutes. Takoma Park seconded. There were no objections, and the motion was approved by acclamation.

Ryan Rich – NCSL Executive Director:

- Ryan announced that Roger Friedman of Burke has been named the Virginia Girls Coach of the Year and US Youth Soccer 2022 Girls National Competitive Coach of the Year. Congratulations to Coach Friedman and Burke!

- The spring season will include Supergroup play; Ryan has reach out to teams, with copies to the club reps, that he thinks would do well in this competition. Supergroup is open to all teams who are part of a member club of NCSL. The league championship playoff will be held in Richmond and the regionals will be held in Loudoun. The national championship will be held in Orlando. Any questions about Supergroup can be directed to Ryan.
- The Winter College Combine is scheduled for November 27. It will be held at the St. James. The information has been emailed to team contacts and club reps.
- NCSL is again partnering with the St. James for a winter futsal league. Registration closes soon and schedules will be posted by November 30. Some games will be plated at the Chantilly location.
- Ryan conveyed thanks from the referee assignors; they were provided field space to accommodate approximately 20 referee training sessions. Space will be needed again in the spring.
- Ryan reported that there have been reported instances of racial and verbal abuse by coaches and players. He asked club reps to review expectations and codes of conduct with teams.
- Due to COVID, some league rules were changed, including unlimited club passes and allowing players to play more than one game per day. We did not receive negative feedback after implementing these changes; clubs actually noted that the changes were helpful. Ryan expects a motion to be presented at the next meeting to make these changes permanent in the league rules.
- VYSA is still looking at the referee shortage issue. Last week, MSYSA sent a message to leagues to ask them to include in their rules that coaches are responsible for the actions of their players and spectators and that a coach can receive a card for the behavior of others. Ryan said the coach's responsibility is already included in NCSL's code of conduct. He noted that MSYSA is doing this to mitigate referee abuse.

Doug Walls – NCSL Commissioner: No report.

Maureen Dalbec – NCSL Commissioner: No report.

Carol Coulter – Virginia Registrar: No report.

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

Alison Smith – NCSL Administrator: Alison thanked everyone for a great season and their efforts to make sure games get plated and everything goes smoothly.

Alison noted that all teams play nine games a season, but due to odd numbers of teams in some divisions, some teams may play a 10th game. Th system randomly selects these games and does not count the 10th game towards standings. All standings have been adjusted and are posted.

Alison reminded the club reps that we no longer send division winner awards. This is in response to awards being declined or not picked up in the last few years.

Registration for the spring season is open through January 24. Invoices for the spring season will be sent on January 25 and the due date for payment will be a couple of weeks after invoices are generated. If clubs want the electronic payment option activated, which involves a few, they should let Alison know.

Alison circulated the spring calendar to club reps. Instead of having opening weekend be the first Saturday and Sunday of spring break, the first games will be played on Saturday, April 1, and the big weekend of games will be Saturday, April 15 and Sunday, April 16. April 2 will be the last date for scheduling. Hopefully this adjustment will reduce the number of FLEX requests that are needed.

Eric Popiel – Vice President & Treasurer: No report.

Carol Montoya – Secretary: No report (not present).

Alan Paez – NCSL R&D: Alan reported that there were some reports of the use of racial epithets on the pitch. Unless the referee hears the remarks and can report it, it is difficult for R&D to do much to address it. Alan said that in all instances where R&D raised the issue with clubs, the response was great. In one instance, a player wrote a letter to another player apologizing. Alan believes the clubs are doing a good job in helping players address the wrongs committed.

Alan said the online feedback on referees is now under the control of NCSL, rather than the referee assignors. He noted that positive feedback is greatly appreciated by the referees.

Alan asked club reps to remind teams to submit sit out forms.

Other Business

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 7:54 p.m.