**NCSL Board Meeting**

**August 28, 2023**

**Via Zoom/Teleconference**

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: Alexandria Soccer Association, Alliance Soccer Club, Arlington Youth Soccer Club, Bethesda Soccer Club, Blue Ridge United, Braddock Road Youth Club, Burke Athletic Club, Calvert Soccer Association, Clarke County Soccer League, DC Soccer Club, DeMatha Soccer Academy, DORADUS, 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, Lee-Mt. Vernon Sports Club, Loudoun Soccer Club, Maryland Rush, McLean Youth, Montgomery Soccer, Northern Virginia Soccer Club, OBGC (Olney), Old Dominion Football Club, Potomac Soccer Association, Premier Athletic Club, Prince William Soccer, Real World Futbal 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, Thunder Soccer Club, Vienna Youth Soccer, Villarreal Virginia Academy, Virginia Revolution, Virginia Soccer Association, Virginia Valor, VISTA, West Virginia Futbal Club

Roll call indicated that the following clubs were not in attendance and were not represented by a proxy: Annandale Boys & Girls Club, Calverton Soccer Club, Leesburg Football Club, Northern Piedmont SC

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

Staff in attendance:Alison Smith

Approval of Minutes

Takoma Park made a motion to approve the June 22, 2023 Board Meeting minutes. FC Frederick seconded. There were no objections, and the motion was approved by acclamation.

New Club Application: Top Rank Soccer Academy

Richard Smith noted that Top Rank Soccer Academy has been reviewed by the executive committee and is being recommended for membership. Potomac Soccer Association and OBGC are both sponsoring the club.

Manny Woldamanuel and Ramsey Freeman joined the meeting. They provided an overview of their soccer background and the club’s history, operations, and vision. The club has five teams in NCSL and two teams in EDP. The club has access to grass and turf fields, including the Maryland Soccerplex. Manny and Ramsey responded to questions about their team makeup, coaching education, and referee training and education. Given the gap in their teams, they explained their player pipeline; teams were playing under MSI. In response to a question, they noted that NCSL will provide the appropriate level of play for their teams.

Manny and Ramsey left the meeting.

OBGC made a motion to approve Top Rank Soccer Academy for membership in NCSL. Potomac Soccer Association seconded. The floor was opened to discussion. Richard noted that the Top Rank teams are currently playing in the league under Villareal. They were previously playing under MSI, but that club has changed its focus and that was no longer an option. He explained that if the club is approved, the teams will be relabeled under Top Rank rather than Villareal. OBGC spoke in support of the club and noted that Top Rank is filling a need in Montgomery County. Potomac also spoke in support of Top Rank, noting their responsiveness and cooperativeness.

The vote was called: the motion passed with one vote against.

Maureen Dalbec – NCSL Commissioner: Maureen asked reps to remind home team managers to send an email to visiting teams prior to games. She also noted that rosters (names and jersey numbers) need to be added to the team page before the season begins.

Doug Walls – NCSL Commissioner: Doug noted that many factors go into determining division structure and said that team input is valuable in this process.

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

Carol Coulter – Virginia Registrar: Carol reminded clubs to submit rosters to registrars as soon as possible. Richard acknowledged that some of the state systems can be difficult to navigate and noted that lead time is needed to review and approve rosters.

OBGC said they have developed how-to slides for GotSoccer and have not had many problems with the system. He offered to share them.

Anne Thompson noted that teams needs to have rosters and passes available at all games. Team admins should not hesitate to ask the opposing team to show their documentation.

Carol Montoya – NCSL Secretary: No report.

Eric Popiel – NCSL Vice President & NCSL Treasurer: No report.

Alan Paez – NCSL R&D: Alison Smith reported for Alan; R&D is working on finalizing the sit out owed list.

Alison Smith – NCSL Administrator: Alison thanked everyone for their responsiveness to questions regarding scheduling. September 3 is the deadline to reschedule any September games.

When Demosphere sends the “request to reschedule” email, Alison does not get it. Club reps should reply all so she gets the message. Home team club reps should confirm fields are available and field permits are loaded before approving a change. If club reps do not receive a response from Alison it’s because the email was received; please re-send to Alison.

Alison asked that rescheduled games not create single games or gaps on the fields. Efficient scheduling makes it easier to assign referees.

Richard Smith – NCSL President: Richard reiterated that U12 and above teams need to have their rosters in the system. He noted that there are many players who did not properly serve sit outs last year. The list of teams that do not have rosters completed will be circulated. He asked club reps to review the sit out owed list carefully prior to the beginning of the season.

Two New Team Admin Meetings have been held. On those meetings, club reps are noted as the main point of contact for the league and league-related questions. The meetings were recorded and are available on the website, along with the PPT presentation.

NCSL continues to work with SFL and plans to launch SFL under the NCSL umbrella in the spring. SFL will be treated as a recreational league, NOT a travel league. In consideration of the influx of teams that SFL will bring, NCSL plans to bring on a dedicated staff member. Gwen Stewart has been hired as an assistant administrator and will support the R&D committee as well as SFL.

New Business: U9 – U10 Structure and Scheduling

Richard explained that teams were submitted with rankings/relative level, but the information was not as accurate as expected. As a result, the initial schedule had coaching conflicts that were difficult to resolve and matches that would be uneven. After reviewing a sampling of matches, it was determined that we needed to start over with the scheduling. Richard enlisted the help of Ryan Rich to review and update the divisions, and Alison developed the schedules quickly. Richard apologized for the inconvenience and thanked those who brought the issues to his attention.

New Business: Executive Director Update

Richard noted that as Roger Friedman took on Executive Director duties, it become evident that Roger’s skill set is more big picture, and not the administrative details like division structure, scheduling, etc. that is required of the Executive Director. Richard said the search was re-opened and he is in talks with a prospective candidate.

Other Business

Dan Griffin said there are upcoming DC United home matches. October 7 is the last regular season match. There is a friendly match on October 14 against a Ghanian team. Potomac’s Laurie Lane is singing the national anthem at the September 2 game.

Anne Thompson thanked Richard for his work and acknowledged Alison’s dedication and hard work as well.

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 was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.