**NCSL Board Meeting**

**March 20, 2023**

**Via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

**I. Roll Call**

The following clubs were in attendance/represented by a proxy at the meeting: Alexandria Soccer Association, Arlington Youth Soccer Club, Blue Ridge United, Braddock Road Youth Club, Burke Athletic Club, Calvert Soccer Association, Calverton Soccer Club, DC Soccer Club

Epic Soccer Club, Fairfax Police Youth Club, FC Charles, FC Dulles, FC Frederick, 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, Loudoun Soccer Club, Maryland Rush, McLean Youth, Montgomery Soccer, Northern Virginia Soccer Club, OBGC (Olney), Old Dominion Football Club, Potomac Soccer Association, Prince William Soccer, South County Athletic Association, St. Mary's Soccer, Stafford Soccer Club, Sterling Youth Soccer Association, Takoma Park Soccer Club, Thunder Soccer Club, Vienna Youth Soccer, Villarreal Virginia Academy, Virginia Soccer Association, Virginia Valor, VISTA

Roll call indicated that the following clubs were not in attendance and were not represented by a proxy: Alliance Soccer Club, Annandale Boys & Girls Club, Bethesda Soccer Club, Brookland FC, DeMatha Soccer Academy, DORADUS, Hagerstown Soccer Club, Leesburg Football Club, Maryland Rush Montgomery, Northern Piedmont SC, Premier Athletic Club, Real World Futbal Club, Severna Park Athletic Club, Springfield South County Youth Club, Team America Football Club, Virginia Revolution, West Virginia Futbal Club

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

Staff in attendance:Alison Smith

Approval of Minutes

OGBC made a motion to approve the January 10, 2023 Board Meeting minutes. Takoma Park seconded. There were no objections, and the motion was approved by acclamation.

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

Maureen Dalbec – NCSL Commissioner: No report.

Carol Coulter – Virginia Registrar: Carol reported that VYSA is changing platforms and will be using GotSport. They will be hosting in-person training sessions, with at least two in the Northern Virginia area.

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

Alison Smith – NCSL Administrator: Alison thanked everyone for their patience while the league worked out the spring break scheduling issues. Alison asked the club reps to forward FLEX Reschedule requests to her, even if it is from the away team. She does not receive the requests until they are forwarded to her.

Friday, March 24 is the last day for FLEX Rescheduling requests for April games. Teams can only change a game’s schedule one time. Alison asked club reps to make sure the official field name is used on the requests. Rain dates are reserved and can not be used to reschedule games. Alison may need to move games to close gaps on fields.

FLEX Reschedule requests do not have to be submitted if there is a conflict with a President’s Cup or State Cup game. They will be automatically rescheduled. Games that need to be changed because of permit issues will also be automatically rescheduled.

When a game is being forfeited, the club rep should be notified. In turn, the club rep should inform Alison.

All teams, for all age groups, are being asked to input their scores (access information is on the website).

The Q&A session for team managers is March 23. All are welcome to attend.

Carol Montoya – Secretary: No report.

Richard Smith – President: Richard said the New Team Administrator meeting was held last week. The recording and the PPT from the meeting are available on the website. The content is applicable for all team officials. The Q&A session later this week is a follow on for any questions that team officials now have. Richard reiterated that FLEX Rescheduling forms be submitted by March 24. He said it is very important to confirm fields are available and the permit is in the system before submitting the FLEX request.

The next Board meeting is May 1. It will be virtual. The Executive Committee is working on a fee increase proposal to be presented at the meeting. Per communication from former Executive Director Ryan Rich, team fees will likely increase by 10%.

May 20-21 is the date for Supergroup playoffs, which is the path to Region 1 championship. The games will be held in Richmond.

On behalf of Alan Paez, NCSL R&D, Richard asked the club reps to check the sit outs owed list. There are currently 20 people on this list. All team information should be updated on team pages, including jersey colors, names and jersey numbers for U12 and above. Alan suggests emailing team managers the NCSL Codes of Conduct (for players, coaches, and spectators).

Richard asked club reps to make sure fields are reviewed before the season starts. This includes equipment like nets and flags, field markings, access to locked equipment for teams, and confirming permits.

Richard said a new club application has been received. The New Club Committee is reviewing and the application may be ready for presentation on May 1.

Richard said we have the largest number of teams than we have ever had in the league.

As a reminder, referees should be treated with respect. Typically the only discussion with a referee after a game should be confirming the score or confirming cards. Richard said that there is a drop-off of 50% of referees each season. The most frequent reason for not returning is being yelled at. The league continues to look at new ways to recruit and retain referees.

The league is still in talks with the Suburban Friendship League. Former executive director Ryan Rich had met with all clubs that are in SFL to talk about what they like, don’t like, suggestions for improvements, etc. He took notes and has shared them with Richard. NCSL is ready for the transition; we are waiting for SFL to confirm the timing. SFL will be a rec league; no travel players will play in SFL and no rec players will play on NCSL league teams. Registration and scheduling for SFL will be done electronically (it was previously done by hand).

There was a question about SFL fees and how field loading will be handled. Richard said that SFL had fees that supported the league but then reduced the fees as they were preparing to transition out of managing the league. NCSL will look at the costs of managing the games and price the team registration accordingly. Richard said we will work with the clubs once field permits are loaded, e.g., prioritizing rec games on Saturdays, He expects field use to be more efficient with access to more permits. Referee coverage may be boosted as well.

In response to a question, Richard said that SFL will be a Virginia rec league only.

Richard said that we have access to the SFL Board meeting minutes and some concern is being expressed about NCSL’s ability to take over SFL operations. If any club reps hear concerns from their rec programs, they should reach out to Richard.

Richard said that Ryan Rich was NCSL’s first Executive Director and was with the league for about five years. Ryan was a leader in the day-to-day operations of the league and brought great coaching education opportunities to the league. Ryan will stay on as a Technical Advisor. A new Executive Director will be hired. In the interim, Richard, Alison, and other officers will be stepping in to cover the Executive Director responsibilities. The job description was circulated to the club reps; Richard encouraged everyone to share it with any interested parties.

Eric Popiel – Vice President & Treasurer: No report (not present).

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.