

Arlington Soccer Association

Rec Committee Meeting

January 14, 2014 7:00pm

Attendees: Tommy Lo (Tornados), Dave Hurren (Optimists), Mary Bevis (staff), David Gould (Lightning), Robb Tanner (Revs), Justin Wilt (staff), John Mingus (Lions), Tiffany Sawers (Crystal City), Kyle (Aces), Kassie Stewart (Arlington Kiwanis), Judy Stoker (Optimists, non-voting)

Admin

Our 2 year uniform cycle is coming up this Fall. Certain styles of uniforms are no longer available from our uniform provider, Score, so some clubs will need to choose new uniforms. Other clubs may want to consider changes to deconflict similar styles/colors. This topic will be covered during our February meeting.

The Spring schedule dates were posted on the board:

	1 st Grade and Above	Kindergarten
Team Formation Date	3/10	3/22
Divisions	3/12	n/a
Schedules posted	3/22	3/28
Games start	3/29	4/5

KINDERGARTEN SOCCER

The committee continued discussion of Bob's proposal regarding changing the Kindergarten program for the fall seasons. A decision has to be made before February. David Gould provided a summary of comments and concerns received since the last meeting. The two improvements that the committee is seeking are to provide are:

- additional time for new families to adjust to kindergarten while also learning of the need to sign their children up for soccer if they want to play with their classmates
- an opportunity to recruit and train new volunteer parent coaches that are just learning of the need for someone to coach their child's soccer team

There was a motion from John Mingus (and a second from Tommy Lo) to change the kindergarten schedule for the Fall season from 7 games to 6 games. This motion passed unanimously.

Notes and Discussion Items: The 7th game from the Fall would be moved to the Spring season so that kindergartners playing in the Spring would have 8 games. This extra time before kindergarten Team Formation Date (TFD) would provide opportunities for more children to sign up for kindergarten soccer while also providing additional time to recruit and train new kindergarten coaches. Clubs should be encouraged to limit coed kindergarten team sizes to 8 players to allow for last minute growth (to 10 players) within their club during the last week before TFD. Details of the new coach training program still need to be resolved based on Coach Bob's input and availability, but the intent is to use the extra time to provide a few opportunities for new coaches to attend ONE session only. Perhaps back to back sessions could be offered on Saturday(s) 1-2 weeks before kindergarten games start, with new player

participation (the coach's kids) encouraged. This would allow newly recruited coaches to get some confidence and still hold at least one practice during the week prior to their first kindergarten game.

There was also some discussion about how best to promote awareness of kindergarten soccer and needs for parent volunteer coaching in the community including use of the mini-soccer program as a feeder to identify potential coaches, PTA, Mothers Of North Arlington (MONA), neighborhood listserves, facebook, as well as limitations on school based flyers or in person solicitation.

No format changes are planned for kindergarten. There is still an expectation of 1 practice during the week and 1 game during the weekend. These are still coed teams with dual fields.

The mini soccer program (previously names little kickers) would still be available for kindergartners who sign up after the start of the first kindergarten games (game day 1).

There was a proposal, a second and a unanimous vote affirming that 1st graders should have 8 games this spring, just like the 2nd graders and above.

AGE GROUP COORDINATORS (AGC)

Tiffany Sawers provided inputs she received on the job description. The committee discussed the descriptions and the relationship the AGC would have with the club manager. There are concerns about the introduction of an additional point of contact (ASA Staff, Club Manager, AGC) that may interact with parents providing information that is not consistent with how the club manager intends to operate their club. There are benefits to what the AGC can pay attention to across all clubs, and solutions they could offer as advice to the club manager, but the timing for if/when the AGC would have authority to interact with parents or move players is still unresolved. The committee was asked to take another look at the job description and propose additional clarification to Tiffany by 1/28 with consideration of when the role/authority of the AGC may change before and after the pizza meeting, TFD, and the first game of the season.

February 11th at 730pm is the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.