

Arlington Soccer Association
Rec Committee Meeting
January 13, 2015 7:40 p.m.
Approved on February 10, 2015

Attendees

Justin W. (ASA Executive Director), John M. (Rec Chair & NWL), Matt C. (T), David G. (L), Chris M. (FC), Ron M. (PK), Dave H. (AO), Liz (Revs), Tiffany S. (CC), Mary B. (ASA Staff).

1. Modifications to minutes from December 2014 Rec Committee meeting to be revised and re-published by Dave H.

2. Discovery Elementary – Need to Determine Club Alignment
 - Discovery opens in the Fall of 2015. The new re-districting will pull in kids from schools within NW Lions and PK.
 - NWL (Tuckahoe, Nottingham) and PK (Jamestown, St Agnes) already have two elementary schools apiece, and AO has one school (Glebe).
 - PK is estimating that Discovery will get about 100-150 current PK players due to the new boundary. NWL will have a smaller number of players move to Discovery.
 - Possible options on how to treat Discovery starting in Fall 2015.
 1. AO expands to include Discovery.
 2. PK gets Discovery and AO gets St Agnes (~100 players).
 3. Discovery forms a new club – early years the club might be too small to form teams in certain age groups.
 - If AO is expanded to include Discovery, Dave H. wants to start a reach out campaign to coincide with the other new school activities (PTA, etc.).
 - Other consideration:
 - We could do start slowly and include only rising Kindergartners initially.
 - Need to consider multi-player families that might have a Kindergartner in one club (AO) and older grade player in another (NWL, PK).
 - Tabled until next Rec meeting. NWL and PK will solicit feedback from club families.

3. Age Group Assistant (AGA)
 - Rec Committee created a job description for the AGA role in July 2014. The Rec Committee deferred implementing this role until this current Spring season. This is a volunteer position.
 - John has someone that will do any age group. David G. has someone that can do 5th grade boys and will provide contact info to John. Dan L. may have someone interested as well. Club Managers are to check within their clubs for any interest.
 - The AGA will assist the club managers, and the CMs will have overall authority on player placement. The AGA will look across clubs for players that are misplaced or need a team.
 - We are targeting 5-6 AGAs for the Spring season. We are looking at AGAs initially for 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, and 8th grades. It will be easier to introduce this new program in the Spring as compared to the Fall.
 - David G. recommended a change to Section 1.C.1 of the current job description:
 - “Ensure the team is within ASA size guidelines. If a team exceeds the limit, the AGA should inform the appropriate Club Manager who **should** adjust the roster as needed”.

- David is requesting to change “should” to “can”.
- John stated he will update the role description accordingly.
- Questions:
 1. When would the AGA need to be fully capable and in the role?
 - Registration will be open in one week and the “return to team” deadline is Feb 16th, so we should get the AGA(s) trained as soon as possible.
 - We do not want to onboard them in the middle of the team formation/registration process. It is better to bring them on board sooner and ease them into the role.
 - We should develop a uniform onboarding process starting with these initial AGA volunteers. We can bring on more AGAs in the Fall if this “pilot” is successful.
 2. What kind of training is needed for this position?
 - Maybe train them in the office with John (computers, projector)
 - Train with live data shortly after the “return to team” date of Feb 16.
 3. Do we have a synopsis of the role (e.g. just a few sentences to entice interest)?
 - David created a short description that he will send to John.
 - We can send the AGA candidates the full role description if interested.
 4. What is the expected time commitment per week?
 - This may depend on the age group and the season (Fall vs Spring).
 - John will provide some time estimates for the role.
 5. Will the AGA stay with the grade as they go to 6th grade and beyond? TBD

4. Age Verification for 2nd Graders

- Several mass emails were sent to the parents reminding them of the 2nd grade age verification requirement. One more mass email will be sent from ASA. CMs can send out any follow-on club-specific emails at the end of January.
- Registrations without age verifications are not complete, and players cannot be placed on a roster. This could affect players expecting to return to their Fall team.
- ASA will stay open late one weeknight per month (e.g. 5-7 p.m.) during busy registration months for in-person registration, age verification, etc.

5. Recreational Soccer Director Orientation

- Justin has asked Dan to meet with each of the club managers to get a sense of any issues or challenges within each club.
- For Dan, much of the Spring season will be mostly observation, but he will start owning the coaching education program. There is an F course in March. Dan will be getting his instructor license with VYSA and get connected with NSCAA, so that he can facilitate coaching classes with both of them.
- Dan is starting to think about how to multiply his efforts to all of the coaches/clubs without having to be everywhere all of the time. He is exploring on-line and in-person help for coaches. This may include something like the club head coach model that the Rec Committee explored last year.
- CMs should think about how they want to engage Dan. He is here to help shape the Rec soccer program and review what is appropriate for each age group (e.g. playing format matrix).

- US Soccer has handed down very firm recommendations on how many players should play on the field at different age groups. ASA is mostly, but not fully, aligned with the previous guidance from US Soccer. One of the decisions will be how we apply the new guidance, if at all, and why or why not.
- Another pending change by US Soccer is a shift of the “soccer year”
 - Currently, the soccer year begins on August 1st and runs through July 31st.
 - The soccer year may change to the calendar year (Jan-Dec).
 - ASA will need to review the effect on the Rec program.
 - The ASA Board will be reviewing what other soccer associations are doing with their rec programs as it relates to the age/grade divisions.

6. Kindergarten Soccer Coordinator (KSC)

- Coach Othmane is the KSC, and he is charged with helping kindergarten soccer coaches and players. This could help with recruiting kindergarten coaches and answering their questions.
- He is a dedicated resource, so please engage him. He can help run clinics and provide individual or club mentoring to coaches.
- Coach Othmane will report to Dan.

7. Board Strategic Meeting and Planning Overviews

- Michael Swisher (Arlington Partnership for Children and Families) provided the board members a 2-page handout with a list of 40 “developmental assets” that help kids develop the right life skills as they grow. John will invite Michael to one of our subsequent meetings to discuss this approach and how it aligns with ASA.
- Board asked the Rec Committee for input regarding the strategic goals for the rec program. John is looking for input from the CMs.

8. General Topics

- Pizza meeting is March 18th.
- Next meeting is Tue Feb 10.
 - Sub-groups should talk about their progress at the next meeting.
 - This includes the middle school and sportsmanship sub-groups.
- VYSA conference is Friday evening 1/29 and all day 1/30 in Crystal City.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.