

Club	Attending
Aces	Brinton
Arlington Kiwanis SC	Kassie
Arlington Optimists	Michal
Civitans	Chuck
Crystal City	
Falls Church	Jimmy
Lightning	David
NW Lions	John
PK Soccer Club	Ron
Revolutionaries	Ben
South Arlington SC	Doug
Tornados	Matt
ASA Staff	Justin, Dan, Mary
Guests	

1. **Approval of notes.**

Approved, no changes.

2. **ART.**

- Fairly few teams signed up - not wholly surprising but managers encouraged to reach out; guest players allowed since that has been an issue in the past.
- Urge people to sign up sooner rather than later. Price goes up after the 15th (end of early bird registration). Teams can combine without problem - but there is a five guest player limit. Want representation from each club with teams - looking to help staff tournament. Want more Rec people.

Club Managers should please reach out to their coaches to encourage them to sign up.

3. **USSF Age Group Discussion.**

- REC committee does not make final decision on this, but makes recommendations.
- Dan presented USSF guidance on birth-year registrations and small-sided games guidance. USSF is mandating that players be registered by birth year to get the US into line with international calendar, to get everyone on the same page. However, how we organize our teams and leagues is up to us. Received written confirmation from USSF that our understanding is correct. Given that this is for international considerations, Dan recommends that Rec remains grade specific (even as Travel and ADP make minor adjustments). Rec may get slightly out of whack from Travel but we can deal with that. Push to keep by grade due to the social aspect of Rec.

- Discussion: Kids who skip a grade or are held back will still be allowed to choose. Kids who are already in the “bubble”, playing the “wrong” year would be grandfathered in. Other local/regional associations do not yet seem to be discussing this, so ASA can make decisions without fear of it throwing us out of sync with other local Rec programs.
- Question of Travel players in second grade and first. Not resolved. Possibly group those teams with kids like that into a single division? Small numbers.

Rec Committee approves unanimously Dan’s recommendation that Rec age divisions not change.

4. USSF Game Formats Discussion.

- K to 1st is ONLY Rec; 2nd to 12th will require discussion with ADP and Travel. Therefore not our decision to make alone – but to recommend.
- Discussion: There will be some costs if there are changes - but fairly minor. Goal size is close enough. Smaller field encourage more time under pressure and more transitions, faster play. Some concerns about balls going out more. Bigger numbers on the field could also allow slightly bigger teams. The “futsal” effect of more ball control.
- Dan recommends that K and 1 game formats be changed to conform with each other: one field of 4v4; one gender. Splitting by gender may cause some heartache. Would recommend doing a change in Fall 2016 if we choose to implement. Would allow additional time for discussion.

Rec Committee will discuss further at next meeting.

5. Age Group Coordinators

- Question: should we continue with the AGCs? Did it work? Could it work better?
- Discussion: People liked the AGC. Some discussion that AGC could have been stronger - more assertive with recommendations to split teams or move kids. At same time, some managers uncomfortable with the idea of those recommendations. Are there ways to make them more active, less passive? What is the right role for them? Positions are growing and evolving.
- Issue of what constitutes a “minimum viable” team, especially re: team size.
- Idea of possibly moving middle school to a HS-like set-up.

Mingus will ask Skye and Haewon what their impressions were. Did they feel a limitation? Did they get enough questions or participations? Did they feel included?

- Mary would like to know what division teams should be if teams combine from different clubs.

Mary asks that Club Managers ask coaches with combined teams as well as teams that have drastically changed (i.e., lost all the travel players, etc.) what division they feel is most appropriate and please send her that information prior to the division distribution as well, particularly in the case of combining teams.

6. Fall Registration Cycle

- Are there things that worked well, that didn’t go well? Did it feel too compressed? How much was due to the extra week of summer and not just normal Rec chaos?

Tabled for further discussion next time; Mingus will create a google.doc for people to take notes into.

7. Information and Support for New Club Managers

- Is there a guide book or is it just 'tribal knowledge' imperfectly passed along?
- Answer - no guide book. Too much information, and also constantly changing. But yes, it would be good to have a framework we can fill in.

Ron and David will help with this effort; Dan will help with a framework for the information.

8. Improving Field Utilization

- Justin - Is there perhaps a way to let ASA teams help ASA teams? What happens when artificial turf is not being fully utilized due to rain or a party or whatever?
"turf@arlingtonsoccer.com" or possibly a calendar with self-service.
- Suggests mechanism to send an email to someone on staff if a field is not going to be utilized. That person can serve as a clearinghouse. Would have to be voluntary. And quick-turnaround, quick decisions by coaches requesting turf fields
Justin thinking through ideas but interested in pilot effort. Rec Committee likes idea.

9. Civitans Donation

- Brought in a \$750 donation for TOPS, etc. Yow!

10. Rec Soccer Summary by Dan

- 93 more coaches got concussion certification; brings total to 183.
- Weekly updates/practice plan suggestions are being accessed – with Kinder, 70% of coaches open the email; declines slightly to 50% with older groups.
- Oversized Kinder teams - 10 teams are bigger than 12 kids, and many of these have only one coach. We agreed to limit it. He told us he would be watching (and is!).
- Question about volunteering to coach - issues we encounter trying to find coaches, easing them into the system and into the habit. Mingus, for example, offered to coach a team's first practice to help show the coach how it is done (and enjoyed it).

11. Rec Soccer Summary by Mary

- Close to 400 games moved - Saturdays are done, Sundays being done; match-up games may need to be moved again.

12. Next Meeting Date

November 3rd, election day. 7:30 here.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21.