

High School Soccer Program Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2014 @7:30pm

Attendees: Mary Bevis, Mauricio Correas, Steven Lent, Tommy Lo, Karen McCann, Chris Siple,
Justin Wilt

1) Volunteer to take minutes

Steven Lent

2) Fall Season (Mauricio and Chris)

a. Team formation status

There are 16 girls and 13 boys' teams – this is a LOT. 10-12 for each has been more the norm. One boys' team has only 11 players, but should get more. The others are all at 15 or more, with one at 27(!) 8 of the 16 girls teams are (new) freshman teams. Two girls' teams may be low on players – 12-14.

b. Any problems?

Coach XX's team merged with a team from club YY, and a number of the players from club YY have complained the Coach XX is "too tough."

There has been some confusion early in the season over who has what practice space. Until all the issues are worked out, coaches are urged to 'make it work' rather than 'make scenes.'

c. Registration issues

The new date of birth verification requirement has led to some challenges:

- We may have lost some players*
- They need to show it in person and or use our secure site, but there have been some issues uploading to the secure site*

d. Teams dropping out

So far no teams have dropped. There was a merger (see above) on the girls' side.

3) Fall Tournament

a. Tournament location

Look at Long Bridge again and perhaps VA Highlands, but not official

b. Mauricio and food

His contact (Osvin Escobar) plans to be there with the food truck. We need to figure out the hours and day(s). Candy was suggested as a good seller for the food truck.

c. Karen tournament rules

These are in the works, but they will be simple and there likely will be no surprises. Teams will play at least 2 matches, and will play a team from the other division.

Target deadline for registration/commitment from teams is October 15, but this may change.

Tommy will circulate a draft of the tournament rules.

d. Advertise early and often

Teams should begin advertising (and getting commitments ASAP).

e. Season is 10+ games long

Coaches should stress that this tournament means the season is 10 games long now, not 8.

f. Pick tournament name (DC United?)

The tournament needs a name. The committee chose Arlington High School Cup.

4) 8th grader policy recap

There is only one 'grandfathered' 8th grader playing this year, and that should be it going forward. Tommy will look at the rules and propose an 8th grader rule if one doesn't already exist.

5) Coach t-shirts (Justin)

The club is going to get t-shirts for coaches. The design exists, and all that is left is picking a supplier and a shirt. Justin had some good recommendations on this. The shirts should be ready soon. Justin will also order shirts for the Arlington Cup.

6) Update on replacement for technical director (Justin)

Justin provided an update on the search for a new ASA TD, perhaps to be called the ASA Recreational Soccer Director. After one drop out, there are two remaining candidates. One is coming soon from Montana. ASA likes him, but \$\$ and affordability could be an issue.

7) Michael Swisher replacement

Two folks were discussed: Mauricio will talk to Tito, but he can be hard to reach, and Kevin Kelly, but he would likely be a short timer.

8) Conflict escalation policy

This is not a regular issue, but ASA would like us to have an official written policy, probably based on what the travel club has. The steps would be something like:

- *Coach*
- *Commissioner*
- *Technical/Recreational Soccer Director (i.e., the new guy/gal...)*
- *HS Committee*
- *Executive Director*
- *Board of Directors*

Policy issues would go straight to the ED/Board.

9) Sportsmanship question

The rec committee wants to promote good sportsmanship. They plan to open a feature on the score reporting site to allow coaches to rate the other team, and then give sportsmanship awards at the end of the season.

10) DC Stoddert team

The possibility of adding teams from the DC Stoddert club didn't work out –it's not off the table forever, but there are concerns about travel issues for teams.

11) Wednesday pool practice

There is a Wednesday night (full field) space available for 'pool practice' HS teams. The practice sessions will be run by the coaches that show up with their teams.

12) Spring dates

The date for the spring 'warm up' event was discussed. The weekend before spring break (i.e., the weekend before the weekend spring break starts!) was selected – March 21-22. We need to get that on the calendar ASAP. The need to check with Lizzy Stell regarding the CCL schedule was mentioned.

13) Open Discussion

A next tournament meeting was tentatively schedule for after October 15 (i.e., the signup deadline...)

The Need for volunteer help, with Bob Bigney gone, was noted – e.g., creating the schedule, getting refs, etc.

14) Upcoming reminders:

11/15-16 – Fall tournament

11/18 – HSSC meeting