

Oshkosh United Board Meeting Minutes - March 1, 2009

Present: Chris Nelson, Brad Cirrcionie, Charlotte Stich, Karla King, Amy Schneider, Amy Leach, David Seekings, Lynn Lorensen, Matt Callahan, Meghan Callahan, Sean Steele

Motion made to approve February minutes, seconded and approved.

Chris attended the AGM this past weekend. The main subject was developing of league organizer. This is a great new online registration application that we will be switching to next season. There will be another meeting in April if anyone would like to attend. This is going to end up costing us about \$1.50 per player. We can either incorporate it into a try-out fee or processing fee.

\$335 per player is the current cost and for U15 girls and above it is \$285 per player (the girls season starts later and includes one less tournament). Maybe what we want to look at doing is charging a flat \$5 fee so as this fee gets raised over the years we're not uping our rates each and every year. Even though this is online everyone will have to pay by check, on there though forms can be filled out and photos can be uploaded. New players will still have to bring birth certificates with them to try-outs so we can verify ages. League organizer will also catch and send us a notice if a player registers for 2 clubs. We will have to work with the registrars to update their computers to have internet access and also update parents as to how to use this. Privacy concerns were raised at the AGM meeting, but we were told that it's very secure and many clubs/states currently use this program with no problems.

March 2, is the pre-scheduling meeting, Chris, Matt, and Sean will be attending. Scheduling meeting will be March 14 at Kimberly High School as well. Sean, Meghan, Steve, and Brad will be attending.

We do need to start looking at the fees for next year then with the new league organizer, we need to decide if this is going to be in our regular fees or in our try-out fees. (Also we did loose Kristen as a our try-out coordinator, we thought Christina had volunteered to do this position for us this year, but we will have to double check). It was decided to re-visit these fees on the April 5th meeting once David has a chance to look at the numbers more. Sean had another issue that is incorporated to the fees, and that was talking about doing one less tournament next year for all teams. Would this be better for player development and help players develop less of a burn-out for the sport. Each tournament costs each player about \$25-30 that is incorporated into these fees. If teams are developed and feel they need to do more tournaments, maybe what they need to look at doing instead of doing more tournaments is traveling and finding better, more competitive tournaments. What do other clubs in the valley do as far as how many tournaments do they do. Clubs like Appleton does it a little different, where they play more year round and then where do those players end up? Do they end up playing more later in life or do they end up becoming burnt-out and develop a dislike for the sport. Then clubs like FC Milwaukee limit how many games their teams can play and pick about 2 tournaments that are U.S. Youth Soccer approved and only play one game a day. We need to turn and ask our club parents to see if it's something they would like to do or not. (what's the overall opinion, stay tournament eager or decrease tournaments and increase quality). This is something we will have to discuss at the spring meeting with our teams. Then after that we will have to look at our fees and see if we can't then decrease them a bit. The other question about fees is should we be paying our coaches more, right now we pay our coaches not as much as other clubs. Do we need to look at raises fees a bit to cover it to get higher quality coaches. Each year we are running short on finding coaches and we just lost one last week (Kim Kriese) but hopefully gained 2 more for other teams. Sean will work out a new coach schedule to see if he can find a dollar number he would like all the coaches to be getting paid. David will also work out some numbers to see where our fees can be currently set.

Please let coaches know that if they want to practice at any other field in the city besides county park they need to let Chris know. We need different insurance forms for these fields.

Spring Meeting is scheduled for March 22 at Oshkosh West in the O and F room at 6:30, board meeting at 5:30.

There are a few people we are still waiting on payments for. U16 Boys is a where we are really looking for payments for. David will be working with Lynn to get in contact with these players. We also keep getting applications for scholarships. If anyone has an issue with denial of scholarships please direct them to the scholarship committee. We do try to keep these applications as discrete as possible.

We should maybe look at developing a fund-raising committee. We ran out of money to give this year to families in need and with the economy going the way it's going we need to look at ways to raise more funds to continue to give out scholarships and not deny anyone like we've been having to do this year.

Remember supplemental try-outs for the U13s are March 9 and March 14, if anyone is interested in playing for this age please let them know about these.

Motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded and approved.

Next meeting is before the spring meeting, March 22 at West High School at 5:30, next regular board meeting is April 5th at station 17.