

**American Youth Soccer Organization**

**Area Scheduling Meeting Minutes**

**Area 8A**

**Date:** August 22, 2020 **Location:** C.B. Leaver Park (190E Muskegon St. Kent City, MI 49330 **Start Time:** 9:07AM **End Time:** 11:10AM

**Call To Order:** **Neal Ausema-AD**

Meeting officially commenced at 9:07AM

**Approval of Agenda:** **Neal Ausema-AD**

**Approval of Minutes:**  **Megan Gonzalez- Secretary**

**Reports:**

1. **Treasurer: Lori Rasmussen-**
   1. We currently have about $5000 in the banks. Due to lack of activity, there really hasn’t been any deposits or income.
2. **VIP Coordinator: Tom Fawcett-**
   1. Nothing new to report.
3. **Coach Administrator: Mike Gesler-**
   1. Not present for meeting but did send an email. Covered below.
4. **Referee Administrator: Tim Reed-**
   1. Not present for meeting.
5. **Auditor: Megan Reed-**
   1. Not present for meeting, but did send a note in.
   2. All prepped and ready to go. Grant and Greenville need audits due to RC change; all others need audits due to the end of the fiscal year. Right now, she has postponed moving forward until the fall season gets underway to avoid extra work for the RC. AYSO does not require an audit every fiscal year, but they do require one for every RC change. It is recommended, however, to have one done every 3 years.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

1. **Return to Play Guidelines:**
   1. Neal sent out an email with the guidelines. So far, there is still no spectators. All major sports are not allowing spectators, but local baseball and softball groups have been able to have spectators. We’re still waiting on the Governor to make her decision.
   2. From that standpoint, we’re assuming spectators will be allowed at outside sports. Outdoor gatherings are maxed at 100, so if we can keep everything under 100, we’ll be good to go.
   3. One suggested on the zoom call with Rick, that their venue is requiring masks for every spectator and if one refuses to put one, we have the right to halt the game until they either put a mask on or until they’re removed.
   4. Referees will be allowed to decide whether they wear masks while they’re on the field or not.
   5. When you’re projecting your voice, your spit goes farther so that it can affect more people. Due to this, it does put our sideline AR’s at a greater risk when on the side with shouting parents.
   6. AYSO fields are not there for political stances, so if we have people fighting the rules we enforce, we can immediately remove all spectators. There will be a zero policy if any arguments come up over this. There will be those that are medically unable to wear a mask, so we should respect that but also encourage those individuals to stay home. 5U parents are still allowed to help, but they’ll need to be masked up and sanitized.
2. **Mike’s Update (email will be forwarded out):**
   1. Practice as normal, inter-region scrimmages can occur.
   2. Do not run drills that require players waiting in line. Keep physical space between players when possible. May have an issue with 5U/6U players, but hopefully parents can help keep them separated.
   3. During water breaks, keep water bottle separate and the players apart. Keep sanitizer at the fields so players can sanitize before and after. No sharing of pinnies or gloves between goalies. It would be a good idea to have each player take a penny and wash them in between practices. Any shared equipment must be sanitized before the next practice.
   4. No handshake/high five tunnels. Sparta Varsity has been doing toe taps in lieu of handshakes. All equipment should be cleaned after set-up before play starts.
   5. Team parents are going to be vital this season to help keep contact and mix ups down.
   6. One captain per team for coin toss, and everyone wears a mask to coin toss. It would be a good idea to have a 4th official or a volunteer that can have extra balls that are sanitized and ready to go. We should have sanitizer on the benches so kids can sanitize when they come in between quarters. Create additional space between AR’s and spectators when possible.
3. **National Crisis:**
   1. Financially, they are in trouble. They need $2.5-3 million to keep the lights on. In CA, where most of the money comes in, they can’t play so they’re losing a lot of income.
   2. They have gone from a staff of 47 to 12. They are asking that each region either donate or pre-pay 5% of their reserve to keep things going. They could go to an outside lender to repay later next year. But the issue comes to if this continues, and they can’t pay it back, the collectors will come to local regions for the money.
   3. If you chose to do pre-pay, you get credit on incoming player fees. The way things are looking, the Midwest is what’s keeping National floating. Right now, they’re asking nicely for us to help bail them out. The alternative is they go under and we no longer have a program to provide.
4. **AD Elections:**
   1. The Neal’s term is up April 4th, but he would like to step down after the end of this season. He will not up for re-election.
   2. Megan Gonzalez, Tom Fawcett, and Shannon Carpenter will head up the Nomination committee, with Shannon heading up.
   3. There are no underlying qualifications to be AD aside from being an AYSO volunteer, although experience does help.
   4. Neal would like elections to be held in November. He will also be around for help where needed.
5. **Extra Program:**
   1. Neal, Anna, Dawn and Wendi met with Daisy De Leon about starting up an extra program. They would like to look at possibly starting up a team in the spring.
   2. They would like to start with 10U teams because almost every region has multiple 10U teams so they could possibly field their own house team. It will be a learning process, but it’ll be a good move for the area because it helps compete with the more competitive club programs.
   3. There are concerns, though, about how Extra falls in line with the philosophies of AYSO. Extra really just becomes an extension of your region. They still need to follow the philosophies; the only difference really is that they hold try-outs.
   4. It’s something to keep an eye on to make sure that people aren’t trying to go outside the philosophies.
6. Social Media Advertising:
   1. We can advertise among other Facebook pages, but make sure you specify what region you are and where you’re located.
   2. United is a separate program, so they need to be careful advertising in other regions because it does pull players from those regions.
7. **16/19U Issues:**
   1. Right now, we have 4 16/19U teams within the Area. 2 full girl teams and 2 co-ed teams. We can do the first two games between the 2 girls teams and then split up teams with co-ed teams (the co-ed teams will share the boy players) it allows them to play more than just the same team every single time.

**Open Discussion**

* Neal will let everyone know if a new decision is reached. MHSAA has basically thrown the decision at the governor to make the choice. Hopefully, we’ll know by the end of the season. If MHSAA cancels the season, we as AYSO are supposed to still follow the guidelines. And they can still cancel the season and then a week later decide we can resume with practices, just no games.
* If it does come down to schools close due to illness, it will come down to individual regions to make the decision on if they allow that region to visit for games or if they continue with a season.

**Next Board Meeting**

TBD

**Adjournment**

The August 2020 Area Board Meeting was adjourned at 11:10AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Gonzalez  
Secretary  
AYSO Area 8A  
Grant AYSO Region 1472