

**American Youth Soccer Organization**

**Area Meeting Minutes**

**Area 8A**

**Date:** August 17, 2019 **Location:** Hesperia, MI **Start Time:** 9:00am **End Time:** 12:00PM

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

Meeting officially commenced at 9:00AM

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

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

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

1. **Calendar**
   1. We will be hosting an instructor camp in December. Tried to host one this summer but didn’t have any interest. If anyone is interested, please send them our way.
   2. There is a RC training in November as well.
   3. Area tournament will be in Ithaca and Section tournament will be in Coldwater. This past section tournament brought in $11,000. The hope is to get the section tournament up this way so it’s more accessible for our area.
2. **Sparta**
   1. There is a new region starting up this upcoming spring.
3. **Super Camp**
   1. Moving forward, we would like to have the regions handle the basic coach and referee classes and then Area will handle intermediate and Advanced coaching and referee classes at super camp. There were only 2 people who showed up for the basic coaching class this past weekend.
4. **Extra**
   1. Parents are complaining that there’s not enough competition within the program anymore. Neal’s proposal was to make an Extra team that was made up of players from various regions already playing on core teams. This would add another 4-5 games for those players. We would need an additional scheduler so that it doesn’t all fall on Trevor. The registration fee is just a suggested price. It includes prices of the extra tournaments and then the other half would go back to the core regions. If it is something, we’re interested in moving forward with, it can debut in the Fall of 2020.
      1. There was concern about some players making the extra team and then abandoning the core team, but we may be able to work around that so that core teams aren’t left struggling. If they’re not actively participating on the core teams, then they may not be eligible for the extra team.
      2. The tournaments could also be used to supplement some of the games for the extra teams. However, not all the tournaments currently listed are ones that need to be attended, especially if they interfere with core games. But it is to give the kids extra opportunities to compete.
      3. The extra team is the answer to parents who want extra for their kids but belong to regions who don’t have enough players to house both a core team and an extra team.
      4. The question was also brought up that if more than one region has a person interested in coaching, who decides who coaches? It would be up to the host RC who would be the coach.
   2. We will also be going back to a 6-week game schedule starting Fall 2020.
   3. National numbers are currently down. Most local regions are seeing that as well. This is just a way to try and combat that. Also, make sure that you’re staying organized and on top of things to help encourage parents to keep coming back.
5. **Section issues**
   1. Hopefully section tournament will run a little smoother next year because Neal did address an issue with forming a tournament team from the house teams and section leaders did agree to rewrite the rules and hopefully there won’t be as much push back over it next year. Neal may still need to sign off on the team, but if there’s nothing fishy going on, it should be fine.
   2. Assistant coaches now need to be trained at the level that they are coaching for section tournament games. This is to protect a team that if a head coach must be removed or needs to leave the game for any reason, the assistant coach can take over. If they are not up to level in training, the team will have to forfeit. This is currently only for tournament teams; however, Neal would like to see all the coaches properly trained for the levels they are coaching.
6. **Expo**
   1. Will be back in Naperville, IL February 28-March 1st.
7. **4v4 Tournament** 
   1. Packets will be going out today.
   2. There will be a T-shirt design contest will be run this year. Due date for designs will be September 7th and can be turned into Dawn. Winner will receive a free T-shirt.
   3. Eric and Jerry will be tag teaming the scheduling for referees. Please, send referees over and encourage your referees to come over to help. We need them to make this tournament run smoothly.
8. **Fundraising**
   1. Adrenaline fundraising is here to go over some options to the regions.
   2. There are coupon books, Jerky, cookie dough, etc. A lot of youth soccer teams have had good success with the jerky.
   3. They also offer incentive programs to help encourage the kids to sell. They offer things like Bluetooth headphones, coach jackets, T-shirts, Bluetooth speaker, Nike league backpacks, etc. All these prizes depend on how much the kids sell. The price of the incentives is split 50/50 between the regions and Adrenaline.
9. **Scheduling**
   1. Scheduling will be open after reports.

Reports:

1. **Lori-Treasurer:**
   1. Starting balance $1037.
   2. Tournament fees- Lakeview and Greenville’s fees are still missing. Area gets 25% of registration fees. This should exclude any income from t-shirt sales or concession sales. All other income from the tournament would go to the host region. Lori was able to get with Lakeview to figure out the issue.
2. **Eric- Referee Admin:**
   1. There are some rule changes, but there is a link for the power point that you can be sent out. There is also an app available call iFab to look up the laws of the game.
   2. There was a change to the coin toss: Team winning the coin toss can take the ball or side.
   3. A change to the drop ball rule. Only one player may be near the ball during a drop ball, all other players must be back. You still can’t score off a drop ball. If the ball hits a referee and it changes possession or turns into a promising attack, it’ll go to a drop for the team who last touched the ball before it hit the referee.
   4. Hand ball rule: A goal made off a hand or arm, it will be called back and called as a hand ball. Or if a goal scoring opportunity is made off the hand or arm, it will be called. Deliberate hand balls will always be called.
   5. Goalies can now pick up a ball from a pass back to them if there is an honest miskick. It will be at the referee’s discretion, but there must be an honest attempt to clear the field and there must be contact with the ball.
   6. Goal kicks: The ball will be in play as soon as contact is made with the ball. The team with possession of the ball can be in the penalty area while the shot is taken, but the opposing team must be out of the area (or behind the blue line for 10U).
   7. For defensive walls, where there are 3 or more defensive players in a wall, the attacking players must be at least 1-yard away.
   8. Coaches can now be carded, including red cards. Use steps of control first, i.e. giving a look, giving a verbal warning, etc. But if coach continues to be noncompliant, they will be giving a card. Additionally, two yellow cards still equal a red card.
   9. Please make sure your referees are educated so that there’s no inconsistency across the area. If anyone needs basic referee training or help with training referees, Eric is currently available to help wherever he’s needed.
3. **Mike-Coach Admin:**
   1. AYSO does require that coaches be trained up to the level that they will be coaching. Grant will be running another basic coaching class next weekend. They are not allowed to be out on the fields for practice or games if they are not certified.
   2. Intermediate and Advanced coaching classes cannot be taught on a one on one basis. There needs to be an opportunity for coaches to learn to coach, not participating in drills. 8 were trained this past weekend at Super Camp for Intermediate Coaching. In order to hold another Intermediate Coaching class, there would need to be at least 5-6 people interested to hold a class.
   3. There should be a technical box for coaches along the fields and spectators are to sit opposite of the coach/players.
   4. 16/19U player substitutions no longer must exit the field along centerfield, they can exit anywhere.
   5. Maximum of 2 coaches can be along the sidelines.
   6. Please make sure visiting coaches are contacting hosting coaches the week prior to the game. Voicemails and emails do not count. There must be an actual conversation between the coaches to confirm play time and field location.
   7. There is a referee shortage, but we still need to stick the rule of 3 referees to a game. And make sure that all referees are in proper gear and that they all have the proper patches.
   8. RC’s are the only ones allowed to cancel games.
4. **Yolanda-Auditor:**
   1. Yolanda did an audit for Cedar Springs in June.
   2. Tri-County had an audit through their regional auditor this week. They will send the results to Yolanda.
5. **Tom- VIP Coordinator:**
   1. Reach out to the schools, special education teachers, community resources to try and spread the word about the program.
   2. Tom is available to help in an aspect needed.
   3. Reach out to the other regions who have VIP to set up games or have other teams within the region come play with in house teams. Greenville has been having their VIP players play games with their 12U players.
   4. Each region is charging less for VIP program than the core program.

**Open Discussion**

**Next Board Meeting**

TBD

**Adjournment**

The Fall 2019 Scheduling Meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Gonzalez  
Secretary  
AYSO Area 8A  
Grant AYSO Region 1472