

## **AYSO Board Meeting Minutes – 21 October 2020 – via Zoom**

Attendees: W. Murdoch, B. Murdock, W. Welch, P. Hamel, A. Siegel, B. Caseres, E. Pedersen, G. Ferguson, L. Manth, R. Lin, A. Kossoff, B. Gardner, E. Mendez, A. Lem, Dean, D. Jahns, J. Jacobsen, B. Kim, M. Roberson, J. Ignacio

Brian Kim even joined us from the ER!

Meeting called to order @ 7:04pm

Minutes: Two corrections to the minutes from our September meeting: First correction to name spelling – Tiegh (not Ty) Simpson. Second correction – both he and Michael Regan agreed to help out with Regional Referee Administrator duties, but not necessarily to hold the actual position of Regional Referee Administrator.

The September meeting minutes were approved with the above changes.

Ladera Linda litigation update: Mediation meeting scheduled for this coming Monday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom. Will be mediated by a retired judge, and both sides have agreed to split the cost of the mediator.

Currently scheduled as an all-day meeting.

The School District has a new attorney, with whom we are working, and the attorneys seem to be getting along, which is good.

Open positions: No change from last month. We're still searching for a Treasurer, Regional Referee Administrator, DCs for B&G U7, DCs for B&G U6, and a referee game scheduler (to replace Julie Norayi).

Budget: Just received another high water bill from Ladera. The water has been on and off for a couple of months now (just watering enough to keep it alive). Alan K. spoke to Fabian about it, and leaving the water schedule as is should allow us to grow it back easily. But there appears to be a leak, as the water bill was much higher than we expected.

No recent invoices from Jennifer Taggart (attorney), but Alan K. confirmed that her bills are now going to National, and it appears that National is paying them.

No additional refunds requested since last meeting, re: Galaxy Night or registrations.

Area/National: Area had a meeting this past Monday, the 19<sup>th</sup>. Several of the Torrance regions are doing something similar to what we've done with UK International (drills/skills clinics), but they're just running themselves. Torrance Unified is now allowing those regions to use the district fields, if they're elementary-aged kids, and they have a field monitor there to check to make sure they're abiding by the requirements.

Blue Sombrero / Sports Connect: They're implementing a mobile app for registration. Per Alan Lem, it's pretty user friendly. We may need to manually copy some of our existing wait listed / registered players to the new version. During the implementation, the system will be down for about 4 weeks.

Registration: About 200 kids on the wait list plus about another 325 or so fully registered. The registered number includes EXTRA players that have been moved off the wait list to the regular Fall season.

EXTRA: Five (5) fully registered teams, most with full rosters – couple teams still want to add a couple players.

Referee Training: Whether we continue training will be dependent on whether we have a season where we play games, as opposed to drills/skills.

UK International: Completed their Academy clinics this week. Went off really well, and Wendy got a lot of good feedback from parents. The coaches' visas are up, so we're not sure if we're going to have any available in January. They may be able to have someone stateside participate. They will be doing a similar Academy in the Spring.

Plans moving forward: We had previously decided that we would have an 8-week season in Jan/Feb 2021, similar to Winter Soccer (see last month's notes). Would potentially start the weekend of Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, through to end of Feb. We had agreed to decide on this in our November meeting. There has been a suggestion that the volunteer coaches run clinic-style practices like UK International (UKI) has, but there are a lot of challenges with that. As an alternative, it was asked if UKI could run clinics again. But per Kieran at UKI, their coaches have to return back to the UK at end of November. Bob C. said Challenger coaches are in the same boat. Wendy & Bob will check with both organizations respectively to see how many coaches they think they could provide – even former coaches that have remained in the US.

We need to be good about making sure that whatever we do in Jan/Feb adheres to the CDC and LACHD guidelines and requirements.

We have to make a firm decision in ~3-4 weeks, and the way things are looking with LA County still being in the purple zone, it's looking grim. Unfortunately, we may also find that causes us to lose players, as OC and SD counties have moved into less restrictive tiers and therefore have started play.

The Board discussed the possibility of a skills/drills format like what UKI did, rather than a regular season with games. We have Highridge and Ladera Linda fields for sure, but right now don't have the school district fields. But the key to this plan will be getting experienced coaches out there to volunteer for this kind of thing. So the DCs will need to reach out to their better coaches to see if they would be willing to do this. Max player/coach ratio is 12:1, per LA County guidelines. Possibly have one UK coach sort of leading everything, with a volunteer coach managing their 12-player cohort? Might be more manageable and easier on the volunteer coaches. Again, this wouldn't be teams or team play, it would be skills and drills, in cohorts. This needs to be very clear to all families possibly registering.

Regardless, we do need a backup plan. And be prepared to adapt quickly if the guidelines change either way.

Next Meeting: We agreed to move up our next meeting from 11/18 to 11/11 (Veteran's Day), so that we can earlier decide on our plans moving forward.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:05pm