MINUTES OF THE NTSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 9, 2024

Janet Campbell, President, called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

IN ATTENDANCE
Janet Campbell, Elena Williams, Dick Metivier, Jim Wagner, David Osborne, Rach Badii, Trent McColly, David Tucker, and David Messersmith

NOT IN ATTENDANCE
Jerry Deaton, Jim Mills, and Erin Pfarner

STAFF PRESENT
Rob Martella, Lisa Skiles, and Warren Cottle

GUESTS PRESENT
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The following minutes of the NTSSA Board of Directors Meeting were approved as amended:

- November 7, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES
Janet Campbell reviewed the following with the Board:

- Janet Campbell introduced David Tucker to the board. He was appointed to take over the Cup & Games board position previously held by Tony DeBruno.
- The USYSA Workshops will be in Anaheim, California January 11-14, 2024.
- The USSF AGM, Feb. 8-10, 2024 will be in Dallas, which will allow for more North Texas attendees to observe. Janet reviewed the elections that will be held. Janet also discussed a policy revision she had submitted for review regarding Referee Abuse/Assault to better define what each consists of.

STAFF DISCUSSION
Rob Martella - Nothing to add to the written report.

Lisa Skiles submitted a written report but also added she received the dates for the USYS AGM from Jill Wiser for 2025, 2026, and 2027 hoping to get hotel bids for all three years. In discussing with David Messersmith and Rob we are looking at the weekend following our normal dates as well. Janet Campbell and David discussed moving the 2026 AGM to July 31 – August 2 so we do not run into no space due to the World Cup. Lisa stated she would keep looking for hotels with these dates in mind.

Warren Cottle noted ODP teams participated in the high school ID event. Warren wanted to acknowledge Boswell High School for allowing ODP to use their fields for free for spring training. Warren stated they have numerous coaches' clinics set around the metroplex. He also noted that we will be hosting the USSF B License coaching clinic and it filled up within eight (8) hours of opening the registration. Warren also stated we will be hosting our first coaches' Spanish-only webinar with Javier Perdomo hosting.

David Messersmith – David noted in addition to his written report the annual audit is complete and if you have not received a copy and would like one contact Heather in the office and she will send you a copy.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Appeals and Disciplinary Committee**
- **Audit Committee**
- **Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations Committee**
- **Coaches Training and State Select Team Committee**
- **Competitive Soccer Committee.**
- **Cup & Games**
- **Finance Committee**
- **ODP Committee**
- **Recreational Soccer Committee**
- **Referee Committee**
- **Risk Management Committee**
- **Risk Management Policy Committee**
- ***The Pitch*™ / Committee**

OFFICER REPORTS

Elena Williams – Nothing to add to the written report

Dick Metivier – Nothing to report

Erin Pfarner – Nothing to add to the written report

Jim Mills – Absent

David Tucker – Nothing to report

Jerry Deaton – Absent

David Osborne – In addition to his written report David thanked Javier Perdomo for helping out at the ODP event in Round Rock and for providing winter jackets for the coaches.

Rach Badii – Nothing to report

Trent McColly – In addition to his written report Trent stated with Game Officials going away in March he has added to the email he sends assigners each week concerning referees with expired background checks and/or SafeSport that North Texas Soccer will be moving to the new Assignr.com platform. We tested it out with the Tournament of Champions in December and overall it was a big hit and the customer service is awesome. If an association is interested in this program have them contact Rob Martella at the office. Rob noted we currently have eighteen (18) Member Associations that have joined the platform.

Jim Wagner – Nothing to report

CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED

- Territory previously known as Grand Prairie Soccer was split and provisionally granted partially to Arlington Soccer Association and partially to Irving Soccer Association.

OLD BUSINESS

Trent McColly mentioned the sanctioning of Beach Soccer through North Texas Soccer. Janet Campbell noted Elena Williams was appointed to a committee with USSF regarding Beach Soccer. Elena stated she had sent out emails to our Member Associations to gauge interest and received mixed responses. David Messersmith reported he has spoken with USYS regarding this but we are in the very early stages of what it would take to bring this to North Texas.

NEW BUSINESS

David Osborne noted with David Tucker joining the North Texas Board of Directors he would need to replace one of his ODP Committee members. David submitted Alyson Stallcup (ODP 2009 Girls Head Coach) for the ODP Committee. A motion was made and seconded to approve Alyson Stallcup. The motion was approved.

Janet Campbell discussed the three (3) candidates for USSF Vice President that will be voted on in February. Janet noted she has set times to meet with the candidates that will be attending the USYS Coaches Convention in CA this month.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM

David Messersmith
Executive Director
January 9, 2024

Meetings held/attended since the last board report

1. Audit report issued
2. 990 Tax return information
3. Check disbursement systems demos
4. Prime Hydration possible sponsor
5. Nathan Goldberg Crenier VP candidate meeting
6. USYSA and Region update calls
7. USASA Quarterly call
8. USYSA HOF Committee
9. Board members on various issues

David M Osborne
Chairman, ODP
January 9, 2024

Attended the Executive Board Meeting via Zoom on Tuesday 7th Nov 2023.

Attended ODP practice at the Alliance Park in Fort Worth on Sunday 12th Nov 2023. The sessions involved the 2007 – 2009 Boys.

Attended the HUSA Turkey Shoot Tournament over the weekend of the 17th – 19th Nov 2023. Was the Site Director for Green Valley – BAYFA that weekend.

Attended ODP Practice at the Gateway Park Soccer in Fort Worth on Sunday 26th Nov 2023. The sessions involved the 2007 – 2010 Boys & 2007 – 2012 Girls.

Was part of the Executive Board during a couple of A&D Hearings via Zoom on Wednesday 29th Nov 2023.

Attended the NTX TOC (Tournament of Champions) event at Warren Sports Complex on Fri 1st Dec through Sun 3rd Dec 2023. Was the Site Director for Warren the entire weekend. Nine others helped me out throughout the three days.

Attended an Executive Board hearing with the Arlington & Irving Soccer Association via Zoom on Tuesday 5th Dec 2023 regarding the Open Territory within the City of Grand Prairie.

Attended the NTX end-of-year Christmas Party with Executive Board Members & Staff at Eddie V's in Plano on Fri 8th Dec 2023.

Traveled with twenty ODP Teams plus Coaches & Staff, down to South Texas over the weekend of the 15th – 17th Dec 2023 for the STX Friendlies. Teams ranged from 2009 through 2013. In all teams played three matches each. Stats from the tournament below ---

Combination – P 60 W 32 D 7 L 21 GF 166 GA 130

Girls – P 30 W 20 D 2 L 8 GF 104 GA 54

Boys – P 30 W 12 D 5 L 13 GF 62 GA 76

Unbeaten Teams

Girls
09G – P 3 W 3 D 0 L 0 GF 10 GA 2
10G Red – P 3 W 3 D 0 L 0 GF 19 GA 1
10G White – P 3 W 3 D 0 L 3 GF 9 GA 2

Boys
10B Red – P 3 W 3 D 0 L 0 GF 7 GA 3

11B Red – P 3 W 3 D 0 L 0 GF 9 GA 3

Photos from STX friendlies are posted on the ODP site under the Photo Gallery

Held an ODP Committee Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday 3rd Jan 2024 from 7pm.

Minutes from the meeting ---

Informed the Committee that Alyson Stallcup is joining the group at the next committee meeting.

Upcoming ODP Event Schedule during 2024
Scott Dymond College Showcase – DFW – March 2023 – 2007 & 2008 Age Groups
Sub-Regionals – ATL – 7th – 9th June 2024 – All Age Groups 2007 – 2013
Region III ID Camp – July 2024 – All Age Groups 2007 – 2012

Discussion took place with regards to the Sport Source Showcase event which took place 2nd – 3rd Dec 2023 with the 07 & 08 age groups. Further discussion took place regarding playing a tournament out in Amarillo, the second week in Dec, and inviting sides from New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, El Paso & South Texas. Further discussion is to take place.
Warren & Javier gave an update on the College ID Event from the 10th of Dec 2023. Everything went well in both Lubbock & McKinney with the event and will probably become part of the ODP program to drum up more support for the ODP.

Discussed that several on the Committee will be attending the United Coaches Convention in Anaheim, California from the 10th – 14th Jan 2024.
Warren gave an update on Beyond the Lines. The program is working out very well.
Heavy winter jackets were handed out to the ODP Coaches during the South Texas Friendlies.
Practices for the second part of the ODP year will take place at Boswell High School in Fort Worth.

Asked Javier to again list the NTX ODP Players Pool 2023 – 2024 as it was not featured last season. This is being worked on. Informed the Committee that the ODP MVP Nominations will open on the 1st of Apr 2024. Asked the Committee to submit questions and ideas to bring up at the Budget Meeting in April.

Informed the members that David Tucker would be leaving the ODP Committee due to his appointment to the NTX Executive Board as the new Cup & Games Chair. Everybody thanked him for his time on the Committee. The meeting concluded at 8:05pm.

Was part of the Executive Board during a couple of A&D Hearings via Zoom on Thursday 4th Jan 2024.

FIELD ADDRESSES:

Alliance Park: 3800 Litsey Rd, Roanoke, TX 76262

Boswell High School: 5805 W Bailey Boswell Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76179

Gateway Park: 4323 E 1st St, Fort Worth, TX 76117

Rolling Hills Soccer Complex: 2900 Joe B Rushing Rd, Fort Worth, Tx 76119

ODP Practice Schedules for Feb & Mar 2024 ---

BOYS:

2007:

02/11 – Boswell High School: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

02/25 – Boswell High School: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

2008:

02/11 – Boswell High School: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

02/25 – Boswell High School: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

2009:

03/24 – Boswell High School: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

2010:

03/24 – Boswell High School: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

2011:

03/24 – Boswell High School: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

2012:

03/24 – Boswell High School: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

2013:

03/24 – Boswell High School: 10:00am – 12:00pm

GIRLS:

2007:

02/11 – Boswell High School: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

02/25 – Boswell High School: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

2008:

02/11 – Boswell High School: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

02/25 – Boswell High School: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

2009:

03/24 – Boswell High School: 10:00am – 12:00pm

2010:

03/24 – Boswell High School: 10:00am – 12:00pm

2011:

03/24 – Boswell High School: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

2012:

03/24 – Boswell High School: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

2013:

03/24 – Boswell High School: 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Elena Williams
Vice President
January 9, 2024

During the months of November and December the following hearings were conducted:

	November	December	2023/2024 YTD
Appeals - A&D Committee Chairman - Vice President	0	0	**0**
Appeals - Executive Committee Chairman, President	0	0	**0**
Appeals - Risk Management Chairman, President	0	0	**3**
Competitive Committee Hearings Chairman, Youth Commissioner	1	0	**2**
Cup & Games Committee Hearings Chairman, Cup and Games Chairman	0	0	**0**
Indoor Chairman - Vice President	0	0	**0**
Outdoor Chairman - Vice President	3	0	**3**
Referee Assault / Abuse Chairman, President	5	2	**9**
Referee Misconduct Chairman, Vice President	0	0	**2**
Youth Commissioner Hearings Chairman, Youth Commissioner	1	0	**1**
Total Hearings:	**10**	**2**	**20**

Activities:

Erin Pfarner
VP Development
January 9, 2024

Since our November meeting I have participated in the following activities:

- Supported the review of an open territory, Grand Prairie, and the board meeting to provisionally award the area to Irving Soccer and Arlington Soccer. The associations made a presentation to the board with an agreement to split the territory in the best interest of the participants and the associations.
- Attended and supported the Tournament of Champions
- Responded to multiple inquiries regarding territory as well as expanded services
- Supported A&D chair with several inquiries from membership

I have served as a panelist on a number of hearings.

Lisa Skiles
Director of Member Services
January 9, 2024

Activities since the last board meeting:

1. Continue working on locations for the 2025 and 2026 AGM to include International Coaching Symposium.
2. Registrations, flights, and per diem for the USYS Coaches Convention
3. USSF AGM attendees registered.
4. ODP Photo Gallery for the website.
5. Numerous hearings scheduled and processed.
6. Prepared paperwork and documentation for a USSF Appeal.
7. Working on Trademark renewal for "Igniting Passion For The Game".

Rob Martella
Director of Operations
January 9, 2024

Meetings/events and activities since the last board meeting:

1. TOC – December 1-3, 2023, scheduling, medical staff, ordering awards, merchandise, team advancement, logics for all complexes, assisting volunteers, and setting up Assignr.com for 7 different assigners.
2. TOC Housing Company – wrap-up meeting and how to improve for the next TOC 2024
3. US Youth Soccer National League Frontier Conference games: We have 4 boys' teams and 4 girls' teams participating this spring - January 13-14 Boys and Girls vs. OK Soccer teams at Gateway Park in Fort Worth, Texas.
4. Calls from members regarding Assignr.com.
5. USYS Convention – housing
6. Hosting the 2024 USYS South Presidents Cup, Russell Creek Park, Plano, TX

NTSSA January Board Report

Cup and Games / TOC Summary / Tournament Proposal

First of all I wanted to thank Janet, David, Rob (certainly deserving of US Youth Soccer Administrator of the year honors), the NTSSA board, the Cup and Games Committee, Abbie Craven and the volunteers, and Ann Hicks and the entire group of referees and referee assignors group for their support over the past years in my role of Chairman, Cup and Games and the execution of the Annual Tournament of Champions.

My decision to step down as Chairman, Cup and Games was solely based on not wanting the board to have to deal with a perception of a conflict of interest. In my mind if it has been brought up to the board, then it doesn't matter whether it is disclosed.

Evidently there are those that believe referees and assignors are either NTSSA or US Club Soccer. They are not, they are only USSF. They serve all soccer in the US. But the fact that that perception exists creates a distraction that I don't feel the NTSSA board, or its members should have to deal with, and thus my decision to resign.

I have enjoyed my time serving on the board adding to the service I have been providing the soccer community in North Texas for 30+ years, and increasing my responsibilities related to State sponsored tournaments, especially the Tournament of Champions which I have been a part of for 20+ years (coach, volunteer, site coordinator, assistant and Chairman).

I still plan to continue my service with other member organizations and am available to help volunteer as needed for the state and its events.

I want to welcome David Tucker (BESA) as the appointed replacement as the new Chairman, Cup and Games. His service to BESA, TOC and ODP will serve the North Texas Soccer community well in the future.

The 2023 edition of the Tournament of Champions proved to be the biggest tournament ever. Almost 600 teams were submitted via the intent to enter form. **We had 550 teams competing in the tournament. This expanded field also expanded the number of age group divisions to 44 divisions. Encouraging was the growth of Female teams playing. Hopefully that will continue to grow.**

The weather was fantastic (especially for the first week of December). We expanded the tournament outside of the Plano, Frisco, McKinney area for the first time in a long time by successfully playing one of the age group divisions at the Keller Soccer Complex (group play through the championship matches). Thanks for the support of the Keller Soccer Association board for helping to make this possible

The success of this enabled us to handle the expanded field of teams and shows we can expand the tournament to other areas of the metroplex without giving up any of our current locations. We could easily add complimentary sites in the area (Hurst, Grapevine, Southlake (adding turf fields this spring), Colleyville) if needed / desired, or add other areas of the metroplex. It could lead to more teams entering and certainly more youth referees being able to participate when they are nominated.

Despite sending a letter to each coach and association in advance of the tournament making them aware of expected sideline behavior for themselves and their supporters we did have some cases of poor sideline behavior. Some behavior rose to the point of dismissal from the game / sideline. We even have a few instances leading to A&D hearings.

We had a few people who wanted to file protests during the tournament. They complied with the tournament policy, completed the paperwork, and submitted the fee. They were reviewed and denied as they did not meet the requirements to be filed as a protest (they were not for mis application of the laws of the game that the referee acknowledges).

We had a couple of teams complain about the playoff seeding. This happened when teams from the same group would have played each other in the semifinals, thus a change was made. We may want to clarify this with an example for the future.

Again, we had instances of teams failing to play their player the required minimum 50% playing time even after the letter to coaches and associations specifically called this out with what needed to be done if a player(s) was not going to be playing the required 50%.

We may want to consider including the negative instances (sideline behavior, failing to play the required 50%) as a reason for the forfeiture of the performance bond and/or putting an association on notice that future inappropriate behavior could result in their teams not being accepted into the tournament.

A quick summary of entries over the past 6 years:

	Teams			Divisions		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
2023	312	237	**549**	24	20	**44**
2022	270	211	481	21	19	40
2021	259	217	476	21	19	40
2020	200	177	377	17	15	32
2019	279	214	493	20	19	39
2018	281	251	532	23	21	44

Once again, the talent throughout NTSSA is shown by the number of associations that had a team a medal. We had entries from 72 different member associations. Some sent only one team, while others sent a team in every age group of both boys and girls. 57 different associations (80% of the associations) had at least one team earn a medal.

There were 10 associations that combined to win 63 medals (39% of the medals) with each earning at least 5 medals. The top 25 performing associations earned at least 3 medals and accounted for 113 medals (71% of the medals). There were 40 associations that had at least 2 teams earn a medal.

Below is a summary of medals by association (attached are the results by age group and division):

	Association	Total		
1	Frisco SA	8		
2	Greater Wichita Falls SA	8		
3	Arlington SA	7		
4	Richardson SA	7		
5	Forney SA	6		
6	Heart of Texas SA	6		
7	Tyler SA	6		
8	Greater Longview SA	5		
9	Mt. Pleasant Youth SA	5		
10	Tri-County SA	5	63	39%
11	Allen Sports Association	4		
12	Carrollton Farmers Branch SA	4		
13	Cen-Tex SA	4		
14	Lake Cities SA	4		
15	Midlothian SA	4	83	52%
16	Amarillo SA	3		
17	Bedford Euless SA	3		
18	Birdville Area Youth Futbol Alliance	3		
19	Colleyville SA	3		
20	Eagle Mountain SA	3		
21	Ennis SA (ADD)	3		
22	Garland SA	3		
23	McKinney SA	3		
24	North FW Alliance SA	3		
25	Rowlett Youth SA	3	113	71%
26	Big Country SA	2		
27	Burleson Independent Soccer Association	2		
28	Cedar Hill SA	2		
29	Cleburne SA	2		
30	Grapevine Southlake SA	2		
31	Greater Northwest SA	2		
32	Henderson County SA	2		
33	Jacksonville SA	2		
34	Kilgore SA	2		
35	Lake Highlands SA	2		
36	Midland SA	2		
37	Mineola SA	2		
38	San Angelo SA	2		
39	Stephenville SA	2		
40	Texoma SA	2		

41	Canton SA	1
42	Coppell Youth SA	1
43	Denton SA	1
44	Duncanville SA	1
45	Graham SA	1
46	Greater Lewisville Area SA	1
47	Irving Soccer Association (ADD)	1
48	Kaufman SA (ADD)	1
49	Keller SA	1
50	Little Elm Area Youth Sports Assoc	1
51	Lubbock SA	1
52	Mesquite SA	1
53	Odessa SA	1
54	Palestine YMCA	1
55	The Colony Youth SA	1
56	Weatherford SA	1
57	Wylie Youth SA	1
58	Big Spring Youth SA	0
59	Burkburnett SA (ADD)	0
60	Cooke County SA	0
61	Destoto	0
62	Fairfield Soccer FC	0
63	Fort Worth Youth SA	0
64	Henderson SA (ADD)	0
65	Hurst United SA	0
66	Lindale SA	0
67	Mansfield SA	0
68	Oak Cliff SA	0
69	Plano Youth SA	0
70	Red Oak SA	0
71	Royse City SA	0
72	Sulphur Springs SA	0
	Totals	160

One last item. **A new tournament proposal.** **A Spring "Association All Star" Tournament.** While a committee is exploring a "championship league" format that would have teams playing their league game and then a Championship league game during the spring, I'm proposing an All Star tournament similar to what Little League baseball does at the end of their spring season that ultimately leads to the Little League World Series.

I would propose we start with a limited age group vs all the age groups, for instance U12 and / or U14.

I see this as a way to have member associations "host a NTSSA State Sponsored Tournament" in their area.

The member associations would be placed into 8 "regions / areas". (4 regions outside of the metroplex and 4 within the confines of the metroplex). There would be a host association to host these regional / area tournaments (ideally all regions hosting on the same weekend locally)

These 8 winners would then advance to Championship weekend hosted in the metroplex.

If possible, we would have the Championship weekend be the same weekend as the NTSSA State Cup Championship weekend. This further elevates the importance of Recreational soccer by including it as part of the State Cup tournament.

The regional tournaments would ideally be hosted locally on the same weekend of the first round of the NTSSA State Cup. This allows the spring to be the Championship of both Club soccer and Recreational "All Star" Soccer.

If this is something the board would like to explore, I would be willing to work with the board / committee and member associations to put together a complete proposal, regions / areas (member of each), host organizations and locations, etc.

Once again, thank you for all your support over the past six years and supporting the Tournament of Champions with your presence at the event venues.

Tony

Trent McColly
State Referee Chairman
North Texas Soccer
January 9, 2024

The fourth year of having the Tournament of Champions as an invitation-only event for referees representing as many North Texas associations as possible was successful again. Over 450 referees provided their services for almost 1,000 games. The North Texas Soccer Referee Program successfully switched assigning platforms at this event with the sunset of GameOfficials. The new platform is Assignor. With its successful implementation and by providing assignors weekly messaging, many associations have also transitioned to this platform.

Late recertification for 2024 began January 2 with a $10 late fee. We currently have 2,412 registered referees—1,413 returning and 999 new. There are currently 82 registered assignors with a new assignor clinic being held on January 15, 17, & 18. More than a dozen clinics are scheduled so far with dozens more expected to be requested by associations.

Our development groups continue to provide training and support for their respective groups.

Elite

The Elite group continues to provide training for Advanced and Regional Referees and will have an in-person session on Monday, January 15.

Jam Sessions

Our Jam Sessions that are held on Zoom monthly and were originally designed new referees is being expanded to all Referees (formerly Grassroots Referees) for 2024 after seeing a gap in instruction and training for the Referee level. The next Jam Session will be on Wednesday, January 17.

Junior Elite

The Junior Elite group that provides training to Referees seeking to advance and Advanced Referees will meet again on Thursday, January 17.

Female Officials' Recruitment, Coaching, and Empowerment

The FORCE group which was started with the help of the US Soccer Innovate to Grow grant by and for female referees to provide training and support to development will be meeting twice in January—January 24 and 28.

WhistleMania™ 2

Using funds from the US Soccer Innovate to Grow grant, the North Texas Soccer Referee Program will host WhistleMania™ 2 on Saturday, July 20, 2024, with the goal of having over 600 referees and 30 assignors attend.

We want to congratulate many of our officials who successfully completed the National Camp. Referees include Lorenzo Hernandez, Olvin Oliva, Emmy Nonso-Anywako, and Habeeb Hooshmand. Assistant Referee candidates include Jason Guillen. Two other officials who work in North Texas but are registered in other states completed as well: Emily Gomez and Ezekiel (Shay) Yinka-Kehinde.

The North Texas Soccer Referee Committee currently has a vacancy at State Youth Referee Administrator with the resignation of Fernanda Harlett. We are working on finding a motivated replacement and hope to report to the Executive Committee next month.