MINUTES OF THE NTSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 6, 2020

Janet Campbell, President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

IN ATTENDANCE
Via Zoom - Janet Campbell, Carlos Quinones, David Osborne, Erin Pfarner, JC Whaley, Jim Mills, Paula McFarlin, Tony DeBruno, Trent McColly, and David Messersmith

NOT IN ATTENDANCE
Dick Metivier and Larry Hall

STAFF PRESENT
Gary Williamson and Lisa Skiles

GUESTS PRESENT
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The following minutes of the NTSSA Board of Directors Meeting were approved as submitted:
September 1, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
None

STAFF DISCUSSION
Gary Williamson stated ODP is underway and they have held their first training session after tryouts completed. Gary noted they are struggling to locate fields for ODP training and hope once league play has been scheduled some fields will open up. He also stated North Texas Soccer ODP had some players selected for the inter-Regional play over Thanksgiving and to date the event is still proceeding. Janet stated she has heard most states are seeing more players trying out for ODP and Gary stated we had more than 900 attend tryouts.

Gary also reported coaching education is hosting a Blended "C" with thirty-six (36) registered and a "D" course scheduled for November. These courses are combining online learning with in person field sessions.

Lisa Skiles stated all of our "of the Year" winners have been submitted to Region III for consideration. Lisa also updated the board on the number of associations still outstanding on submitting Affiliation Fee and Bylaws and Rules.

David Messersmith noted the staff has started back at the office on Tuesday's and Thursday's but the office is still closed to visitors. David reminded everyone we are starting the audit and to please complete the related parties' questioner that was sent out from Heather and she has to submit those on Friday. David also reported he received a call from FC Dallas requesting to pay a lesser amount on the sponsorship agreement for 2020 due to COVID and the limited fans allowed to attend games. David said he will bring to the board once he receives the dollar amount they are requesting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Appeals and Disciplinary Committee** - Carlos updated the board on the scheduled hearings.

- **Audit Committee**

- **Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations Committee**

- **Coaches Training and State Select Team Committee** – JC stated the committee would begin having Zoom meetings every other month.

- **Competitive Soccer Committee**

- **Cup & Games Committee** - Tony discussed hosting TOC for 2020 with fewer teams. The board was in agreement.

- **Finance Committee**

- **ODP Committee** – David Osborne noted he was amazed at the number of players attending the ODP tryouts. He also noted the committee would meet via Zoom every other month opposite Coaching Education.

- **Recreational Soccer Committee** - Jim noted several issues on the recreational side that he is addressing as well as reminder notices for the October 15th registration deadline. Jim also updated the board on meeting with GotSoccer regarding new registration system.

- **Referee Committee** - Trent discussed starting the Junior Elite designation program with their first training scheduled on October 15th.

- **Risk Management Committee**

- **Risk Management Policy Committee**

- ***The Pitch*™ / Committee** – Jim asked if they could receive at click through report on *The Pitch.* David Messersmith stated he would have Brad generate a report.

OFFICER REPORTS

Carlos Quinones – Nothing to add to written report

Dick Metivier – Absent

Erin Pfarner - Nothing to report

J.C. Whaley - Nothing to report

Jim Mills – Nothing to report

Tony DeBruno – Nothing to report

Larry Hall - Absent

David Osborne - Nothing to add to written report

Paula McFarlin - Nothing to add to written report

Trent McColly – Nothing to add to written report

CONSENT AGENDA
None

OLD BUSINESS
Carlos Quinones noted he held the A&D workshop with about 28 attendees and it is also now on the NTX Soccer website.

Tony DeBruno stated they will host at Tournament workshop via Zoom at the end of October.

NEW BUSINESS
David Messersmith presented an application from Henderson County to become a Joint Member Association. A motion was made and seconded to approve Henderson County for Joint Membership provisional status. The motion was approved. Henderson County will be brought before the membership in July for final approval.

David Messersmith also noted he received a request from Quickfoot that had a tournament scheduled in Wylie on May 16, 2020 to now hold it on December 5, 2020 which is TOC weekend. This is a small-sided tournament for 6U – 18U. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Quickfoot tournament date change to December 5, 2020 for this year only. After some discussion the motion was approved.

David Messersmith informed the board that Inwood Soccer Center has closed. They have sold their property.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Carlos Quinones
Vice President
October 6, 2020

During the month of September the following hearings were conducted:

	September	2020/2021 YTD
Appeals - A&D Committee Chairman - Vice President	3	**3**
Appeals - Executive Committee Chairman, President	0	**0**
Appeals - Risk Management Chairman, President	0	**0**
Competitive Committee Hearings Chairman, Youth Commissioner	1	**1**
Cup & Games Committee Hearings Chairman, Cup and Games Chairman	0	**0**
Indoor Chairman - Vice President	0	**0**
Outdoor Chairman - Vice President	0	**0**
Referee Assault / Abuse Chairman, President	0	**0**
Referee Misconduct Chairman, Vice President	0	**0**
Youth Commissioner Hearings Chairman, Youth Commissioner	0	**0**
Total Hearings:	**4**	**4**

Activities:
9/24/2020 Hosted Zoom A&D Process for Beginners

David Messersmith
Executive Director
October 6, 2020

Meetings held/attended since last board meeting:

1. South Region ED's weekly conference calls
2. Insurance renewals with K&K Insurance
3. Member Associations fall seasons in COVID
4. FC Dallas sponsorship issues
5. Begun gathering documents for audit
6. Board members on various issues
7. Input on USYSA Covid relief to State Associations
8. US Soccer Foundation Board Meeting

David Osborne
Chairman, ODP
October 6, 2020

Attended tryout sessions for 2004/2005/2009 & 2010 on Sunday 20th Sep 2020 at Fairview Soccer Park in McKinney

Attended a Zoom A & D 101 Session with Carlos on Thursday evening 24th Sep 2020

ODP Committee

Gary Williamson – Director of Coaching & Player Development - confirmed
David Tucker – BESA 2nd VP – Coaches Director - confirmed
Nadim Shabout – ODP 2006 Boys – confirmed
Alex Perez – ODP 2010 Boys – still awaiting confirmation
Kristin Cox – ODP 2007 Girls – still awaiting confirmation
Danielle Caro – ODP 2008 Girls – still awaiting confirmation

Joe Weber's Report – ODP Office Administrator

ODP Board Report – September 2020

Tryouts:

- Our final tryout for the 2004, 2005, 2009, & 2010 age groups was completed on Sunday, 9/20

Practice:

- Our first practice for the 2006, 2007, & 2008 player pools was held on 9/27
- Future practice dates are TBD for the duration of the Fall for all player pools

Paula McFarlin
Women's Commissioner
October 6, 2020

During the month of September, meetings I attended were via ZOOM.

Tues., Sept 1st, I attended the NTSSA Board Meeting
Sat., Sept 19th, I attended the NTWSA Board Meeting

There hasn't been a lot of activity going on within the Women's League, they have been playing their games on Sundays and will continue the season for 10 weeks (ending around Nov. 8th).

Tony DeBruno
Chairman, Cups & Games
October 6, 2020

At our past Cup and Games Meeting the committee was asked to present a recommendation to the board on a few topics related to the Tournament of Champions. Below is a recap of those topics, the recommendations, and discussion / calcification points.

Topic #1:

We need to make a 2020 TOC recommendation to the board as to whether we feel the 2020 TOC should be a go for 2020, postponed until spring 2021, or cancelled for 2020 - The recommendation is to move forward with hosting the 2020 TOC on the scheduled dates.

We will look to publicize best practices that are in place for return to play as part of the tournament communications. This includes but is not limited to:

- Players, coaches, volunteers, tournament officials, and especially spectators are reminded not to come to the complex if they are feeling sick - even if they believe it is only a cold.
- Wearing masks for all spectators at all times upon entering the complex,
- Wearing masks into and out of the complex for participants,
- Participants are not required to wear mask during active participation.
- No post game handshakes, but teams are encouraged to thank each other, and pass on good wishes, from a distance, as a team.
- Social distance seating, 6 feet from other family / supporters (family can sit together, but should maintain distance from other families)
- Wash / sanitize hands frequently, especially before, the game, at half time, and after the game.

Rob will obtain the cost to line the fields with social distance markings (A dash set of lines 6 feet from the touch lines, possibly a double set to create two rows of spectator seating).
We will not be limiting the number of spectators for this event.
We will not be the enforcement arm of return to play policies.

Topic #2:

We need to make a 2021, and beyond, TOC recommendation to the board about multiple associations hosting (locations that want and can meet our requirements to host a portion of TOC). We have several associations interested in being a host for future Tournament of Champions. I'm looking for your thoughts - pros and cons of hosting the TOC at other locations around the metroplex. For example, setting up quadrants to host such as the south west portion of the metroplex (Fort Worth, Arlington, Mansfield, Cedar Hill), The MidCities / Northeast Tarrant County such as Lewisville, Flower Mound (GLASA), GSSA,CSA,BESA, Keller, Irving, Hurst. - **The recommendation is to hold off on making a recommendation at this time.**

- We will do more diligence to ensure the requesting associations have adequate fields capabilities to host an entire age group.
- In addition we'll need to work with our current cities / field owners to ensure we can maintain a "first right of refusal" if we don't use the fields in any particular year.

- Obtain the costs of other fields to evaluate the cost / benefit of utilizing geographic area throughout the metroplex to host the tournament.
- Try to determine the impact in terms of association and team participation if we move to a geographic model vs our current model.

Topic #3:

It was suggested by the referee committee and Ann Hicks has agreed to champion, if approved, having the Tournament of Champions be an invitation only event for referees. **The recommendation from the committee it to proceed with this structure for referees.**

- It is felt that this event needs to have the same "profile" in all communities (associations, clubs, referees, assignors, etc.) as the State Cup and President's Cup
- It is also felt that there is still a major misconception in the referee / assignor community, and maybe the entire North Texas Soccer Community that this tournament doesn't pay well for our referees and assignors.
- That issues has more than been addressed in actuality, except for the issue of should we be paying separate rates for mini games and full games, especially since games are only 5 minutes per half (u 17-19 is 10 minutes shorter) shorter than normal, yet the referees time commitment is essentially the same. We'll look at the cost difference to pay at full rate for all games. **Note: the tournament full game pay is the same or better as all of the competitive leagues - GCl, Classic, Plano, Arlington, local leagues, etc. (actually better for the AR position on U15/16 games). The only places paying better are the Elite Leagues.**
- Ann Hicks will work with the assignors on the invitations to be sent to referees.
- We are anticipating less participation than in the past, as such we many not need as many assignors, and as many complexes.
- As part of social distancing, reducing the spread chances, we may also look to put more time in between games / stagger games to allow the fields to clear.
- **Note: our most expensive complex to use is that of Richland College. It would be the first complex we'd eliminate if we can adequately host the tournament on the other complexes.** - What political ramifications, if any does this have?, Does this impact our "first right of refusal" to use the complex in the future?, Does it impact the agreement with Classic League or the College?

Topic #4:

We need to setup a Committee Zoom / conference call on tournament hosting for our membership. Since we didn't have workshops at the AGM we are creating ZOOM meetings to replace the workshops. This meeting would be both informational on how to get your tournament sanctioned, but also tips to run and host a successful tournament. - We are planning to schedule this call for October 26th - 7:00 pm

NORTH TEXAS SOCCER REFEREE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 29, 2020

Trent McColly, SRC

The North Texas Soccer Referee Program continues to provide training for 2021 certification. We have transitioned to a new system for registrations. The referee committee, with the help of some of our instructors, created several new registration training modules. The new entry-level clinic format has received great praise from hosting associations and attendees.

The Referee Program is establishing a new development group to train and support Grassroots Referees who want to progress to higher levels. The academy will be led by a select group of top instructors, assessors and referees who can build the group's skills and understanding of the game.

Scheels Sporting Good Store reached out to the Referee Program about hosting clinics at its facility. After Ann Hicks visited the store, it was decided to partner up with Scheels to host a clinic at their store in which participants will receive their starter uniform kit after completion of the clinic. The clinic seems to be of great interest and is filling up quickly. Along with that training, the Program will be having an indoor referee clinic hosted by Fieldhouse USA in Frisco. A Regional Referee Advancement Clinic is being planned for the final weekend in January.

Working with Brad Grim, the program has introduced a website for referees that continues to be developed. Social media presence continues on Twitter and Facebook.

The referee committee is looking forward to helping with the Tournament of Champions and providing presence and support at the various venues. Also, the committee is developing 3-5 training modules that associations can choose from to have a highly qualified instructor visit and present to groups of the associations' referees.