

Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association, Inc.
 East Central Soccer District, INC.
 May Meeting
 Kimberly Municipal Center
 May 16, 2022

Roll Call:

<u>Club</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Electric City	Terra Vosters	Neenah	Mike Jones
FC Green Bay	Quinn Ros	New Holstein	*Angela Koeck
FC Menasha	Kevin Otto	Niagara North Stars	Greg Kulas
Fox Cities United	Renee Sullivan	Oshkosh	Brian Casey
Green Bay Lightning	*Cory Romdenne	Synergy	Jeff Jones
Heart of the Valley	Becky Pamperin	TASK	*Sarah Wolslegel
Howard FC	Matt Bellisle	United of Allouez	Abdul Nur
Kimberly	*Matt Walters	WI United	Vicki King
Manitowoc Futbol	Steve Meyer		

*Virtual sign-in

Clubs absent: Fond du Lac, Kiel, Water Cities

East Central Officers	
EC President	Christopher Billstrom
EC Vice President	Jeff Pozniak
EC Treasurer	Noe Smart
EC Secretary	Vicki King
EC Games Commissioner	Mike Jones
EC League Chairperson	Brian Casey
EC Academy Commissioner	Sean Breitzman
EC Referee	Justin Oshefsky
EC Adult Commissioner	Vicki King
EC TOPS	Jeff Jones
WYSA Rep	Christopher Billstrom
Executive Director	Sue Ann Evers

Meeting call to order - Quorum (18)

Roll Call

Quorum Report

2021/2022 Season

Position	Name	Votes 2020-2021	Club No	Club Name	2020-2021 Total Players*	Votes 2020-2021
President	Christopher Billstrom	1	032	Electric City Youth Soccer	419	1
Vice President	Scott Frisch	1	006	FC Green Bay	255	1
Treasurer	Noelani Smart	1	024	Fond du Lac Soccer	244	0***
Secretary/Adult League	Vicki King	1	078	Fox Cities United Soccer Club	327	1
Executive Director	Sue Ann Evers	0*	121	Manitowoc Futbol Club (Goalgetters)	0****	1
WYSA State Board Rep	Christopher Billstrom	0**	027	Green Bay Lightning	95	1
Games Commissioner	Mike Jones	1	117	Heart of the Valley Soccer Club	142	1
League Chairperson	Brian Casey	1		Howard FC	320	1
TOPSoccer Commisioner	Wayne Stoffet	1	036	Kiel Soccer Club	54	1
Referee Commissioner	Justin Oshelsky	1	037	Kimberly Area Soccer	640	2
Academy Commissioner	Sean Breitzman	1	058	Neenah Soccer Club	1,300	3
			052	New Holstein Soccer Club	17	1
			099	Niagara Northern Stars	43	1
			045	Menasha	161	1
			057	Oshkosh United Soccer Club	537	2
			003	Synergy Soccer Club	80	1
			071	Thunder Area Soccer Kids (TASK)	285	1
			084	United Soccer of Allouez	154	1
			096	Water Cities Soccer Club	154	1
				Wisconsin United	1,443	3
				Total Club Votes	6,683	25

* Executive Director is a Non-Voting Member of the Executive Board

**Per Bylaws: No individual may carry more than one position's vote

*** FDL club is not in good standing and have no vote as a result

**** Per agreement Manitowoc currently registers their players with Lakeshore United but retain voting rights for corresponding players

Summary

Total Executive Board Votes	9
Total Club Votes	25
Total Votes	34

2021/2022 Season Quorum is 18 (50% of Total Votes plus 1)

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – Approval of March

Motion to approve the March 21, 2022, Minutes as made by Mike Jones (Neenah) and seconded by Brian Casey (Oshkosh)

Motion passed

President's Report

It will be covered more in other reports, but East Central was the recipient of a large donation from the Fox Cities Referee Unit (over \$10K) to create a fund to help drive referee retention and registration in the district. While we don't have any set plans on how we will do that as of yet, it is a GREAT example of the positive relationship we have between referees and soccer leagues/clubs in our area. A situation that does NOT exist in many other parts of our state.

2022 Fall Scheduling

1. Divisions Offered
 - a. Girls 11U, 12U, 13U 14U High School (one division, multiple divisions if situation allows)
 - b. Coed/Boys 11U, 12U 13U, 15U

2. Classic Schedule Process
 - a. Application for Fall Classic Teams will open in late June/early July with all teams due mid-July
 - b. Exact dates and timeline for the Fall Classic Schedule will be released in the coming weeks
3. Classic Scheduling Reminders – In order to spread games out and reduce issues caused by too many games on one weekend
 - a. East Central will continue to schedule games for the Monday/Wednesday evenings the week before Labor Day (8/29 and 8/31)
 - b. Games will be scheduled the weekend of October 29/30th but will be less prioritized in the schedule creation
 - c. If teams choose not to play in those time periods or any other weekends, blackouts should be used. (4 dates allowed per team)
 - d. Moving games in the pre-scheduling phase is more difficult in Fall and should not be Plan A for teams with conflicts
 - e. The revised scheduling and rescheduling process implemented this Spring will also be in effect for Fall.

Spring 2022 Scheduling Recap - so far

1. While more games have been moved to the Secondary day of play, the Primary day still accounts for the majority in all divisions
2. We will tweak the process a bit now having a season of practical application but overall, the process went well, and clubs responded positively to the changes
3. Most clubs are adapting to the new process of Game changes having to go through the district with a few hiccups
 - a. A few field changes that should have been made in the pre-scheduling process. Be PROACTIVE not REACTIVE!
 - b. Club Leaders Must fill out the rescheduling request form to start the process.
 - c. Teams coordinating ahead of time to find a new date is fine and encouraged but should not be prioritized over getting the process started with the district.
 - d. Weather Cancellation create a huge influx in requests and can slow down the process (weather cancellations addressed in Games Commissioner Report)
 - e. We have not denied any Rescheduling requests so far (not because we are nice, but because we have not gotten any bogus reason reschedule requests)!
 - f. A big thank you to everyone for getting on board with these changes!

Future All Club Meetings

As I've become more involved with how soccer things are run in other parts of the state of Wisconsin. I think one major advantage that we have in East Central is our ability to communicate with each other. The district, clubs, referees, etc.; all work together to solve issues and resolve problems that benefit the youth soccer players of our area. While in the past 2 ½ years, virtual meetings have become a way of life for many of us, they are not the best to facilitate communication with a large number of people. To get back to the process of communicating and having great discussions, it is imperative that going forward it must be a priority to attend East Central ALL CLUB meetings in person.

- With a quorum for our All-Club meetings of 18, it means we can potentially have 18 to 36 plus members in attendance at our meetings. Whether on the high or low end, that number of people on a virtual call does not accommodate a productive, discussion focused meeting

- The number of meeting clubs are required to send a representative has been reduced to 5 per year (AGM + 4 All Club) While we all have busy lives, clubs must make the effort to send a representative in person to those meetings.
- As in the past. clubs still have 1 Free Pass to miss a meeting each year, beyond that clubs can and will be fined for missed meetings
- Beginning with the August 2022 Meeting, attending virtually will only be allowed for clubs who present a request more than 48 hours in advance of the meeting and provide a reason for that request that goes beyond the inconvenience of having to take time out and travel to the meeting.
- Clubs who make too frequent requests may have their request denied even if the same request was approved previously

Academy

1. 25% growth in Academy teams this Spring. A Good problem to have but a problem nonetheless
2. Currently the schedule is a battle of conflicting priorities
 - a. Travel
 - b. Diversity of Competition
 - c. Completion of game by noon
 - d. Everything else

Ideas to begin to address the problems

1. Clubs need to own their own problems and come up with solution that are not “have the district fix our problem through scheduling”
 - a. No more limitation on team playing doubleheaders. All teams could potentially be asked to play a 2nd game on a day if it needed.
 - b. No more limitation on teams playing at the same time whether for player sharing or coach pooling.
2. All Clubs should be able to host events, making lined appropriately sized fields and goal a priority for you Academy Program (minimum fields to host start at two 8U and two 10U fields)
3. Clubs must do a better job of explaining to parents that just because you played the same club earlier in the season, that same club has multiple teams at a given age level.
4. Clubs must accept that the limitations of the Academy Festival Scheduling and understand that it is not always possible to play every other club or not see a common opponent more than once in a season.

Executive Director Report

- Scheduling has been completed
- Classic and Recreation - completed
- High School Girls did not have enough teams to schedule a division
- Academy - completed
- Adult League – completed

Treasurer’s Report

Information presented is not for public release. Please contact the East Central Executive Director with any information requests.

Player invoices will be sent out later this month.

WYSA State Rep Report – Christopher Billstrom

1. WYSA is currently taking coaching courses requests. Would clubs like the following courses offered in our area?
 - a. Grassroots
 - b. Y1 – Youth Module
2. After 2 plus years of only virtual meetings. The WYSA State Board will be finally meeting in person in June. Major projects currently underway with action expected in the next 6-9 months include:
 - a. Board Composition- currently the WYSA State Board has 19 members (17 currently seated) and options to reduce the size of the board as well as where those people come from are being looked at
 - b. Bylaws changes – currently WYSA Bylaws do not accurately reflect the current state of how the state is run.

TOPSoccer – Jeff Jones

- FIRE: Had one day event at Capital Credit Union stadium last month. Was a really nice day for it. We will be doing our summer sessions at Calavera field starting in June. We have not finalized a day of the week yet. (Submitted by: Heidi Haroldson)
- KASA: Kimberly TOPSoccer will be holding the last session for the 2021 – 2022 TOPS season this Saturday, May 14. TOPS will restart in September 2022. For this past season we ended up with eleven registered players.
 - Starting in the fall Dorothy & I will be stepping away from the leadership of the Kimberly TOPS. Jane McCormick who has been with us for more than 15 years will be leading the TOPS program. (Submitted by: Wayne Stoflet)
 - Wayne and Dorothy were given a round of applause.
- SYNERGY: The spring TOPS session had 15 players registered and ran on Sundays beginning April 3 through May 8. The next session will be in the fall. **Following is a short video of one of our sessions: [SYNERGY TOPS](#)** (Submitted by: Jeff Jones)
- Water Cities SC: Not currently active with TOPSoccer. (Submitted by: Mark Friedich)

Referee Commissioner's Report- Justin Oshefsky

- April 2/3, we did some mentoring at the bubble dome in Oshkosh. Experience was great for referees that attended.
- Mentoring was recently done at Flatgrass Tournament and will have mentors at Menasha tournament this year.
- Working on recruiting more officials especially in the Green Bay area as we have very low number of refs that take games.
- Look at areas that host games, which have less than 5 referees within 25 plus miles. These games are not getting filled and are not getting a full crew on any games due to travel distance

for refs. With rising price of gas, only have 1 game, and younger age groups refs are not willing to travel.

- Lots of opportunities to referee at academy events on Saturday's many open games over the next few weekends.
- Reminder that Referee pay increase starts on 8/ 1

Games Commissioner Report- Mike Jones

Games have started, no major issues in the 1st week.

Weather Policy by club or district:

All Clubs need to have a weather policy if they don't already have one or should East Central have a general policy to cover East Central games.

Simple policy could be:

Game cancellation will be determined and posted to the Club's website and social media pages by (either 3:00 PM or 4:00 PM – whatever works best for your club) on gameday. Any cancellation after that time will be made at the soccer field.

Soccer is played in the rain and will only be called off if there is thunder/lightning or if the fields are flooded. If storms look like they will end by game time we will not cancel the games; in these cases, the referees will be responsible for cancellations.

If it is a younger age group with in-experienced refs, then coaches can help make that call also.

If there is a "Watch" of some type in our area, games should automatically be cancelled.

If there is a "Warning" of some type in our area, games should continue?

There will be 11 teams in the Adult League for Spring 2022. Currently 162 players registered. Game scheduling is started.

Discussion:

- *Clubs need to have a weather policy that their coaches are aware of. Some clubs look at who they are playing and the travel time. Due to travel distance, they may adjust when they decide to call a game due to weather.*
- *Posting things on your website*
- *Calling the coach of the opposing team so they can communicate to their players and parents*
- *It was decided that the clubs need to have their own policy at this time. It is not a function of the district.*
- *Demosphere only sends notices out to the people that the club has decided to alert of game changes and the coaches that are listed on the team application. The teams are responsible for sending out notices to the players and parents.*

Adult League Commissioner's Report - Vicki King

There will be 11 teams in the Adult League for Spring 2022. Currently 162 players registered. Game scheduling is started.

Academy Commissioner's Report - Sean Breitzman

Academy games are being played and all looks like things are running smoothly

Old Business

None

New Business

1. Proposed 2023 Summer Recreational Divisions
 - a. 8U-12U Recreational will be both Girls and Coed
 - b. 14U Recreational Coed
 - c. High School Recreational Coed 15 and up
2. Proposed 2023 Spring Classic
 - a. Girls Divisions – 11U, 12, 13U, 15U Girls
 - This past Spring, we did make a Girls 14U division. That was a decision by the Division Placement Committee to address a particular situation and clubs should still plan that in the Spring there will only be a 15U division which will be filled with 14U and 15U players.
 - East Central will NO Longer offer a Summer Girls High School Division
 - b. Coed Division – 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 17U, 19U
 - At this time is there any interest in creating a Coed High School division that would encompass 15U, 17U and 19U divisions or just the 17U and 19U divisions
 - The Spring
 - 15U Coed – 8 teams
 - 17U coed – 6 teams
 - 19U coed – 9 teams

Announcements

FC Menasha has joined the Wisconsin United group and will have a campus in Menasha

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mike Jones (Nenah) and seconded by Jay DeBruin (TASK)

Moton passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted by

Vicki King

East Central Secretary

