

Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association, Inc.  
 East Central Soccer District, INC.  
 Kimberly Municipal Center  
 October 17, 2022

Roll Call:

<u>Club</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Electric City	Nate Laabs	Kimberly	Matt Walters
FC Green Bay	Quinn Ros	Neenah	Sean Breitzman
Fox Cities United	Ryan Decker	Niagara North Stars	Greg Kulas
Heart of the Valley	Tracy Hengst	Synergy	Jeff Jones
Fire - Howard	Armando Martinez	United of Allouez	Abdul Nur
Kiel	Tina Murkowski	WI United	Vicki King

Clubs absent: Fond du Lac, Green Bay Lightning, New Holstein, Oshkosh, TASK, Water Cities,

<b>East Central Officers</b>	
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	Absent
EC Academy Commissioner	Vacant
EC Referee	Absent
EC Adult Commissioner	Vicki King
EC TOPS	Jeff Jones
WYSA Rep	Christopher Billstrom
Executive Director	Sue Ann Evers

Meeting call to order - Quorum (17)

## Quorum Report - 2022/2023 Season

Position	Name	Votes 2022-2023	Club No	Club Name	2021-2022 Total Players	Votes 2022-2023
President	Christopher Billstrom	1	032	Electric City Youth Soccer	482	1
Vice President	Jeff Pozniak	1	006	FC Green Bay	230	1
Treasurer	Noelani Smart	1	024	Fond du Lac Soccer	307	0***
Secretary/Adult League	Vicki King	1	078	Fox Cities United Soccer Club	688	2
Executive Director	Sue Ann Evers	0*	121	Manitowoc Futbol Club	0	0****
WYSA State Board Rep	Christopher Billstrom	0**	027	Green Bay Lightning	78	1
Games Commissioner	Mike Jones	1	117	Heart of the Valley Soccer Club	75	1
League Chairperson	Brian Casey	1		Howard FC	185	1
TOPSoccer Commisioner	Jeff Jones	1	036	Kiel Soccer Club	64	1
Referee Commissioner	Justin Oshelsky	1	037	Kimberly Area Soccer	683	2
Academy Commissioner	VACANT	0	058	Neenah Soccer Club	1,479	3
<b>Total Executive Board Votes</b>		<b>8</b>				
			052	New Holstein Soccer Club	14	1
			099	Niagara Northern Stars	68	1
			057	Oshkosh United Soccer Club	489	1
			003	Synergy Soccer Club	64	1
			071	Thunder Area Soccer Kids (TASK)	336	1
			084	United Soccer of Allouez	131	1
			096	Water Cities Soccer Club	360	1
				Wisconsin United	1,530	4
			<b>Total Club Votes</b>		<b>7,263</b>	<b>24</b>

\* 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  
 \*\*\*\* Manitowoc currently registers their players with Lakeshore United and had 0 players so do no longer have a vote

### Summary

<b>Total Executive Board Votes</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total Club Votes</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>32</b>

**2022/2023 Season Quorum is 17 (50% of Total Votes plus 1)**

We will have a meeting, but we will not be able to approve or vote on anything until we reach quorum. Quorum was not met for this meeting.

#### Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- Minutes for August will be approved at the January AGM

#### President Report

- Correction of player counts for 2021/22
- Fall has seen an increase in reschedule requests
  - Weekend game dates mean more conflicts with higher league games

- Also, a rash of teams going to tournaments on dates when they have EC League Games
- Once the 2022 fall season is over we will do an overall review and then potentially be looking at more tweaks to the rescheduling process to be presented at the AGM
- We will talk a bit more about the January AGM in New Business but if anyone has a topic, they would like to be discussed at the AGM please let me know

Discussion: It much easier to review the schedule in Spring, but Fall schedule was much harder to get coaches look at the schedule. Plus, the state league schedule came out late adding more conflicts into the scheduling process

Note: If you have a game that was postponed due to lack of referees, the club can make the change to the schedule. They will contact the referee scheduler to notify them of a rescheduled game.

### **Executive Director Report**

Please update your officer list with current email addresses

- Each club president and club representative will be sent emails with the current list of club reps and will be asked to confirm or update the information.

### **Treasurer's Report**

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

### **Academy**

- East Central would like to have an Academy director for Spring of 2023. If you are interested in this position, please contact one of the East Central Officers.
- Thank you to the clubs that have added fields so that we can have host events
- East Central feels like the season has run smoothly so far this year. Feel free to offer suggestions for improvement.

### **Adult League Commissioner's Report - Vicki King**

No Report

### **Referee Commissioner's Report- Justin Oshefsky**

- We are running at 70% of filling the games with referees
- Whatever clubs can do the promote people to sign up for referee courses would be appreciated
- Some people who took the referee course do not referee. Reason they are not longer interested
- Clubs can link up to Wis ref website on their Facebook feed to help promote referees classes.
- Most of our referees are ages from 13-18 years
- East Central allowed teams to play games even though referees were not present. Teams were not to post any scores and should consider them a scrimmage. Some teams have gone forward and played the game without the referee

## GRASSROOTS “NEW” REFEREE COURSES

Registration for New Referees is now available! A New Referee is someone who has not previously been registered as a Referee OR is a previous referee whose registration has lapsed (2020 or prior). Candidates successfully completing the course will be eligible to referee games in spring, summer and fall 2023 (license expiring 12/31/23).

Grassroots Referee courses for New Referees require a combination of independent learning and in-person instruction. The independent learning starts in the U.S. Soccer Learning Center, is followed by a WisRef live session (either Classroom/On-Field or Virtual). Total instruction time is estimated at 12 hours, with the final four hours being the live session. The independent learning content can be completed at your own pace. Dates and times\*\* for the live portion of the course are:

**December 3 | 8:00am – 12:00pm | Classroom/On-Field Milwaukee**

**December 11 | 8:00am – 12:00pm | Classroom/On-Field Madison**

**December 17 | 8:00am – 12:00pm | Virtual**

If demand warrants, an additional Virtual(s) may be added. Per the steps in the link far below, the Referee candidate must complete steps 1. through 4. prior to requesting a Field or Virtual date or slot. \*\*please refer to the [Learning Center](#) for most up-to-date dates and times

The total cost of the course is \$70; a background check, if 18 or older is an additional \$30 (for a 2-yr period). New and lapsed Referee candidates who successfully complete all the requirements will receive a full reimbursement of their registration fee and background check fee, plus, if they complete all of the requirements, including the live session by 12/31/2022, a 10-piece referee uniform starter kit.

NOTE: U.S. Soccer Policy mandates a minimum age of 13 to start the certification – there are no exceptions or waivers to this U.S. Soccer Policy.

To register to become a 2023 USSF Referee please [follow these steps](#).

Recertification information will be available at a later date.

## **TOPSoccer – Jeff Jones**

**FIRE** - We were finally able to reschedule our big TopSoccer event for October 28th (5-6p) ... We are renting the Capital Credit Union Park for TopSoccer fun! Feel free to join us (registration is free on our website), or if you want to invite your own players and buddies, please just let us know so that we can plan accordingly. We are hoping to also have a small raffle to raise some money for the next year, and the concessions will be open that night. Thank you and hope to see you there. (Submitted by: Armando Martinez)

**KASA** - No update.

**SYNERGY** - The fall TOPSoccer session is scheduled to run Sunday, Nov 6 (3p-4p @ Purdy Performance) and every Sunday through Dec 4. (Submitted by: Jeff Jones)

**WCSC** - No update.

## Games Commissioner Report- Mike Jones

- Mild fall as far as cardings go
- Clubs took it upon themselves to handle some issues with coaches.

## WYSA State Rep Report – Christopher Billstrom

Issues in process with WYSA State Board

- Demosphere Evaluation - **Still ongoing**
  - Possible Task Force to look at other systems
  - At earliest, would not go into effect until 2023-2024, possibly later
- State Referee Administrator change - **Still ongoing**
  - In March, WYSA Board issues a statement requesting change in the SRA position
  - Currently working with Adult (WSL) side to vet potential candidates
  - Cannot talk about most of the details due to Executive Session restrictions
- Board Configuration Changes - **Issue is DEAD!**
  - A 5 district/10-member board proposal is currently being voted on
  - If this passes, look for State to request feedback from Districts and Clubs on new district lines
- Bylaw Changes - **Still ongoing**
  - Most of this is contingent on above
  - Possible Special Council Meeting in January to vote on Bylaw Changes
- **2023 WYSA AGM -**
  - **In person meeting is planned (first since 2019)**
  - **Saturday March 11, 2023 / Harley Davidson Museum in Milwaukee**
  - **State is currently exploring different voting options, should clubs need to be present physically or can they attend virtually and still be able to vote?**

## Old Business

**These motions were on the table to be voted on, however East Central did not reach quorum and will table the following motions until the January 21, 2023, at the East Central AGM, Kimberly Municipal Center.**

**Motion 22/23-5:**

**East Central will no longer have referees assigned to 8U Recreation League Games**

- 1) Most 8U games in spring did not have a referee already.
- 2) Coaches can be prepared to know there will not be a ref and the unknown if a referee is going to show up or not is eliminated.
- 3) Saves clubs money

Discussion:

- Do we have any standards on how coaches ref the game. Many coaches that volunteer do not have the background and may need some guidance on how to work with the players.
- Neenah gives their coaches a 15-minute overview of the games.
- East Central may need to put together something so coaches know what to do when asked to ref their game.

- Is there a liability to the clubs if they have place someone at their fields to help facilitate the game? (The club assigns someone that may know more about the game so the coach can coach and not referee)
- Try to make it simple: Tell the coaches to keep the game going. People who volunteer to coach should know the basic rules of the game. At the end of the day, we want kids to love the game. Let them play. If it goes out of bounce to have the other team do the throw in.
- Let's look to see if we have some simple things to have on the website.
  - Neenah has a simple document for their McDonalds inhouse program that they give their coaches
- WYSA had a simple pocket guide: Jeff Jones provide the following link
  - [USYS Soccer Pocket Guide.pdf - Google Drive](#)
  - It has also been placed on the East Central website. Coaches>Coaching resources>Soccer Pocket Guide

Motion 22/23-6:

If clubs are unable to provide a full referee crew for at least 50% of their home games the prior season, the district may to move that club's home game(s) to other venues to allow both teams a full referee crew

Justin Oshefsky would like to TABLE this motion until the AGM where a larger discussion of how best the district and clubs can work together to alleviate some of the problems with the referee shortage

**Tabled for the AGM**

**Motion 22/23-7:**

**East Central will no longer offer an Adult League**

**Rationale:**

- Difficult working with WSL
- Declining interest/Number of teams
- There are other adult leagues out there
- Referees unwilling to take games
- When issues arise, they tend to explode immediately into big problems which need a lot of attention to deal with
- Takes time away from youth programs

**Alternative Options:**

- Clubs can work independently/collaboratively to run an in-house adult league
- Clubs can petition WSL to administer an adult league in our area
- Clubs can find enter teams in other local adult leagues

**New Business**

**2023/2024 East Central Budget**

- No major changes planned from our current split team fee/player fee system

- With inflation and adjustment to overall team counts there will most likely be a need for across-the-board increases to all fees

### **Bylaws Amendments**

Revision to Bylaws Article V requirements of District Rules and Regulations

- Move away from a “one document” format and to a format that our website contains the rules, regulations, policies and procedures that are mandated by the district

Revision to Bylaws Article VI requirements of Elections

- Add provisions that implement a nomination timeline/process
- Eliminate uncomfortable nominations from the floor process
- Earlier nominations give clubs the opportunity to consider when we have multiple candidates

### **Fines/Enforcement for clubs not complying with Scheduling Process**

- While our scheduling process of late has been running like oiled machine, all it takes is one club to not do their part to grind the process to a halt
- Currently, repeated emails begging clubs to comply and get their part done is about all we can do
- The District would like to add a bit more bite to the rules for unresponsive clubs such as:
  - Losing home games
  - Fines

### **Potential AGM Topics**

- Further discussion on how best to deal with 15U players in the district, potential idea to drop 14U divisions entirely
- How to address the High School age Coed Division in Spring?
- Season Length (specifically in Fall)
  - Should this always be a set number or more flexible based on division size?
  - Brian Casey and the Division Placement Committee will be presenting some options to discuss
- How can the district and clubs work together to help alleviate the Referee Shortage?
- Allowing Non-East Central teams to participate in our leagues
  - Is the current way working as intended?
  - Does there need to be changes or adjustments to the current system and/or additional requirements made on those outside clubs wishing to put teams in our leagues?
- East Central will be exploring potential gender balance rules for these Coed Division over the winter.
  - East Central will not be offering 14U girls division.
  - 14U coed is the only division available.
- East Central will be exploring if we will allow players younger than 15 to play up on the High School Rec League.

### **Announcements**

January 21, 2023

East Central AGM, Kimberly Municipal Center.

At the East Central Executive Board Meeting in November, we will determine the number of votes per club and the number of representatives the club are able to bring to the meeting. More information will be provide in late November or early December.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm. Motion made by Mike Jones and Sean Breitzman

Adjournment

**Respectfully submitted by**

**Vicki King**

**East Central Secretary**



