

Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Inc.
 East Central District All Club Board Meeting
 Virtual Meeting
 May 17, 2021

Meeting called to order at 8:02 PM
 Quorum was reach by attendance.

<u>Club</u>	<u>Representative</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Electric City	Sam Bass	Menasha	Kevin Otto
FC Green Bay	Jenna Ryan	Neenah	Sean Breitzman
FOX Cities United	Jenny Wendt	New Holstein	Tim Ehlenbeck
Goalgetters	Steve Meyer	Niagara North Stars	Jim Laydon
Green Bay Lightning	Cory Romdenne	Oshkosh	Brian Casey
Howard FC	Matt Bellisle	Synergy	Kenneth Vaughn
Heart of the Valley	Trac Hengst	TASK	Sarah Wolslegel
Kiel	Joe Muehlbauer	United of Allouez	Abdul Nur
Kiel	Laura Markham	Water Cities	John Rather
Kimberly	Jeff Pozniak	WI United	Derek Rhodes

Roll call by virtual sign-in
 Absent: Fond du Lac,

East Central Officers

EC President	Christopher Billstrom
EC Vice President	Scott Frisch
EC Treasurer	Noe Smart
EC Secretary	Vicki King
EC Games Commissioner	Absent
EC Rec Commissioner	Vacant
EC League Chairperson	Brian Casey
EC Academy Commissioner	Sean Breitzman
EC Registrar	open
EC Referee	Justin Oshefsky
EC Adult Commissioner	Vicki King
EC TOPS	Wayne Stoflet
WYSA Rep	Absent
Executive Director	Sue Ann Evers

Approval of February Minutes

Motion to approve the March Minutes as made by Brian Casey (Oshkosh) and seconded by John Rather (Water Cities)

Motion passed

President's Report –

1. RTP Protocol and 3 Strikes
 - a. **ZERO incident reports on RTP protocol violations**
 - b. East Central did update our RTP in April when WYSA issued their revised protocol. Revisions were only to remove the references to stricter WYSA language.
 - c. WYSA revised RTP is now very much in line with the East Central RTP passed in March.
 - d. The RTP passed in March never had a mask mandate, only encouragement for: spectators to wear masks, and non-playing players/coaches who could not social distance themselves.
 - e. Even with the latest CDC guidelines, we need to remember that a very large percentage of our players are under 12 and are not able to be vaccinated. And even those 12-16 who just recently have been cleared will not be fully vaccinated until likely the end of June.
 - f. We need to keep up the good work that we have already been doing though the remainder of the spring season.

Clarification was asked if parents and players should remain on the same side of the field, since some of the Covid restrictions were removed from the state. Christopher replied that we are still following WYSA Return to Play rules along with the East Central rules. Much of our soccer community are school age children who we still need to protect.

2. June Tryouts, Open Promotion, and Poaching
 - a. A reminder for ALL CLUBS to refresh their knowledge of the WYSA policies (which East Central also enforces) on the above items.
 - b. They can be found either on the WYSA website, or on our own website at: <https://www.eastcentralsoccer.com/district/wysa-policies-forms>
3. 2021 Player Counts/Teams
 - a. We will be pulling final player counts in June, but we do have some preliminary information on Team Count trends for 2021 **(see chart below)**
 - b. There are some factors that currently we cannot include that may impact the player counts even more.
 - i. Number of East Central teams playing in Spring 2021 WYSA State League and National Leagues
 - ii. Number of players in In-House Rec programs.

- c. We will be looking at the numbers more thoroughly in the next few months to see if they may have a significant impact to the East Central budget for 2021/2022

Spring Team Counts 2017-2021					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Classic	159	156	144	N/A	111
					23% decline
Academy			102	N/A	104
					2% increase
East Central Rec League	103	84	90	N/A	71
					21% decline

Director of Operation's Report

- Naming teams – Future item
 - Creating a uniform naming process for teams in each club.
 - Suggest mandating it for upcoming teams in 11U or 2011 birth year (season 2021/2022). The older ages would be grandfathered in and can keep any team name they have already created.
 - Many clubs are already name their teams by birth year.
 - We have a naming process for academy and clubs seem fine with it. This would give our league a more uniform look and all information would be in the same order.
 - Using a common language in naming teams would be more parent, coach, and player friendly.
 - When selecting an age group in the team naming process, the team would select the oldest player's age as the only age in the name.
 - Team Naming by club, birth year, gender, then other description
 - Examples
 - KASA 2011Girls Fire
 - MASC 2009 Coed Small Town Magic
 - WSC 2004 Coed Splash
- Scheduling age groups – (Divisional naming) Future item
 - Example not 14/15U girls, just 15U girls or 2007 (season 2021/2022)
 - Naming a division of play. Birth year and age
 - 2007/15U Girls Classic 1
 - This will clear up confusion:

- Age determines game day rules for the teams.
- Referee fees

Motion: Kevin Otto (Menasha) made a motion to wave the two-meeting rule for the motion of team and divisional naming. John Rather (Water Cities) seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

Motion: Kevin Otto (Menasha) made a motion to have clubs start naming the incoming 2011 birth age teams in the following format. Club, Birth Year, Gender (spelled out) and if the club wants to put a team identify they may at the end. In addition, East Central will name their divisional names by birth year and playing age. Brian Casey (Oshkosh) seconded the motion.

Motion Passed

- Player placements that are not in the realm of the guidelines must be approved by the East Central Registrar. If playing 11U-14U players may only play up by two years. 15U and up are considered high school age and there is not restriction on number of years playing up.
 - Players need to be within the two-year age group for both classic and rec.
 - If a club wishes to use the WYSA Age Exemption Policy for a recreational team and the team is playing in East Central Soccer District, they must receive district approval.
 - https://www.wiyouthsoccer.com/assets/75/6/wysa_age_exemption_policy_approved_0519.pdf

Discussion:

East Central would like to know when clubs are doing this so that questions can be addressed if they come up. This is not meant to be restorative, but more of a sharing of information. Clubs indicated that this is a great way to help players play on teams that are more suited to their playing ability.

Guidelines for future schedules – This was just touched on. More discussion about this for next spring.

- Every year in spring East Central District runs into the same issues:
 - Not enough teams to play in the 15U-19U Girl's age group.
 - East Central waits until the teams have applied for scheduling and then try to make a league out of what we have.
 - Clubs may turn players away because they are trying to keep the team all 15U players and that one 16-year-old is turned away.
 - Should we just have a "High School Division"? (Yup I know it has been brought up before)

- Reason to suggest this is to allow clubs the freedom to create teams without the restrictions of age groups once they enter 15U.
 - If East Central High School League has lots of teams, we can have a Classic 1 and Classic 2 division or a Minor and Major division or a Blue and Red division, (Selecting a divisional name to split up the teams) depending on number of teams, and the comfort level they want to play at. The point is, once in high school there is just one team with lots of ages on it.
 - It seems that most teams that want to play in state league are set and the teams that play in East Central are girls that play in their High School and want to keep their skills fresh.
 - Clubs can decide what division their team wants to play in if there are enough teams to create two divisions. (Scheduling Committee would be involved)
- Is this also a problem for the High School boys?
- East Central got together with the High School Girl's teams that were submitted this spring for scheduling. Only 5 teams were submitted for scheduling. The (graduating 8th graders) 15-17 girls and created one division this year. The girls just want to play, and this is the idea we came up with. Everyone is working together to make this a success, and it is great to see the cooperation among the clubs.

Approve dates for Fall Scheduling. See attached document.

Motion: Brian Casey (Oshkosh) made a motion to approve the fall scheduling dates for East Central Fall League. Kevin Otto (Menasha) seconded the motion.

Motion Approved.

Treasurer's Report – District financial reports are available by request.

Commissioner's Report

WYSA- Jay DeBruin

- State system sync
 - Reminder all programs must be set to sync with the state system to ensure proper insurance coverage.
- 2021 Tryout policy – Amended
 - The offer time for the 2021 tryouts has been changed to noon. All dates are the same.
- Covid Protocol
 - Friendly reminder – the COVID protocols are still in effect and clubs should be following both East Central and WYSA return to play.
- Club Manual

- WYSA has completed a comprehensive Club Manual to serve as a reference for the board and staff of member clubs. This is a great resource that everyone should have all board members and staff read. It will be updated on an ongoing basis.
- Olympic Development Program
 - Tryout registration is now open for the 2021/2022 program year. Pre-registration is required. See the ODP page for links.
- Fall Grassroots course schedule
 - The state is starting to schedule Grassroots and Y courses for the fall. Please see if you have space and contact Julie Schmitt to schedule one.
- Referees
 - The state has created a committee to try to develop ways WYSA and Wisref can work together better. The first step is the appointment of a new State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA). If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let me know.

TOPS – Wayne Stoflet

- Synergy: Planning a summer session, but nothing scheduled yet.
- Water Cities & Oshkosh YMCA; Nothing at the present time.
- Kimberly: Summer session planned starting June 19th
- Howard Fire:
 - Outdoor session April 25th over at Capital Credit Union park. A total of 15 players (3 of them blind).
 - Howard Fire TOPS also had the opportunity to be on the field at the Green Bay Blizzard (arena football) game on May 7th and had 11 players show up.
 - An outdoor session on Wednesday evenings in July, and a fundraiser event in November or earlier.
 - Fall session in November.

Referee – Justin Oshefsky

- Mentoring program at Howard and Neenah tournaments received great feedback from refs and coaches. Many of these referees were out on their first assignment and were very hesitant. Providing mentors, gave them great feedback, gave them confidence, and referees wanted to do more games after.
- Working with Mike Jones and others to set up mentor day at an Academy location in June.
- With no games last spring many 1st and 2nd year referees are working their first couple of games. Please remind coaches to be respectful of referee development.
- State referee program is looking at new assigning system for next fall or spring. We have had a lot of issue with Game Officials and referees not receiving emails or assignment information.
- At last count, East Central was down about 50-75 referees from last year. The shortage around the state is way greater than in East Central. We should investigate promoting parents to sign up and be referee's not just our 13–14-year old's!

Adult League – Vicki King

- Currently 112 players registered. Team Registration was due to East Central on May 12. There will be 7 teams in the league – WI United Appleton, Synergy, Howard Fire, and Electric City. Kimberly did not have enough players to host a team so players have option to join one of the other club's teams.
- Working with WSL on rosters and if pictures will be on the roster or if adult players will need to bring a picture id. Registration will remain open for clubs that have openings on rosters.

Academy - Sean Breitzman

- Games and playdates seen to be running smoothly as we get through the spring.
- A couple minor things here or there, but for the most part, we are safely getting players playing again.

Old Business

WYSA has announced that they will eliminate player pass cards for the coming 2021/2022 season. They will be using expanded an information roster. All details have not been released on how this process will work. East Central would like to follow along with that philosophy and eliminate player pass cards for the upcoming 2021/2022 season.

Motion: Kevin Otto (Menasha) made a motion to wave the two-meeting rule for the motion of eliminating player pass cards. John Rather (Water Cities) seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

Motion Kevin Otto (Menasha) made a motion that East Central Soccer District Leagues will no longer require individual player pass cards beginning with the 2021/2022 season. They will be replaced with an expanded information roster being developed by WYSA. East Central reserves the right to revert back to the individual player pass card system should the WYSA expanded roster system not be ready by August 1, 202. Matt Bellisle (Howard Fire) seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

New Business

See Executive Director Report for items not acted on.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Brian Casey (Oshkosh) and seconded by Kevin Otto (Menasha)

Moton passed.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm
Adjournment**

**Respectfully submitted by
Vicki King
East Central Secretary**

East Central League -Fall 2021

Approved May 17, 2021

Classic- 8 Games	Academy- Saturday Morning Games 8 Games
Monday/Wednesday	
August 30 or Sept. 1, 2021	August 28, 2021
September 6 Labor Day - No Games	No Event Labor Day Weekend
Saturday/Sunday	September 11, 2021
September 11 and 12, 2021	September 18, 2021
September 18 and 19, 2021	September 25, 2021
September 25 and 26, 2021	October 2, 2021
October 2 and 3, 2021	October 9, 2021
October 9 and 10, 2021	October 16, 2021
October 16 and 17, 2021	October 23, 2021
October 23 and 24, 2021	

Games would be scheduled on a Monday or Wednesday in last of week of August and first week of September to avoid weekend tournaments and holiday weekend. Clubs may move dates to any night as long as opposing team/club is contacted about the move. Both genders will be scheduled on either Saturday and/or Sunday. There is no longer a specific date for gender.

***Combination 14U/15U boys playing – 8th Grade teams.**

Division will be called 2007/15U Coed Classic 1 and if enough teams 2007/15U Coed Classic 2

Scheduling Dates

July 1, 2021 – Update or add fields/permits in Demosphere for Fall

All deadlines are at noon of the date listed.

Classic

- July 19, 2021 team application deadline **(Including 4 blackout dates)**
Note: Blackout dates, and odd divisions pushes the season out into November and the club scheduler will need to bring the dates back into the seasonal timeframe of August 30- October 24
- July 22, 2021 a complete list of teams will be forwarded to all clubs participating.
- July 26, 2021 Team placement committee meeting
- July 29, 2021 Final day to appeal team placement.
- Monday, August 2, 2021 first draft of schedule.
- Sunday, August 8, 2021 Final Day for scheduling adjustments
- Monday August 9, 2021 schedule goes live.

Academy

- Monday, August 2, 2021 team applications due
- Wednesday, August 4, 2021 first phase draft of schedule – Week 1
- Thursday August 5, 2021 first phase revision – Week 1
- Monday, August 9, 2021 first phase schedule posted – Week 1
- Thursday, August 12, 2021 second phase draft of schedule Weeks 2-8
- Tuesday, August 17, 2021 second phase revision – Weeks 2-8
- Thursday, August 19, 2021 entire schedule posted Weeks 1-8