

STRATFORD YOUTH SOCCER MEETING

September 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ag Society Upper Boardroom at the Agriplex

The following members were in attendance:

Mike Binns, John DeBoeck, Graham Bunting, Don Herlick, Tony Hunter, Gabriele Nemeth, Kevin Machado, Carla Vancea, Mike Vancea

Staff: Maureen Mitchell, Lori Misuraca, Brendon Walkom

Guests: Cheryl Nickel and recipients of the Paul Nickel Memorial Award and their families

Regrets were received from Carla Binns, Lucy Doney, Anita Dubé, Frank Misuraca, Lynda Sauve, Todd Steel

Presentation of the Paul Nickel Awards

President Graham Bunting introduced Cheryl Nickel. Awards were handed out by Cheryl Nickel to this year's players who demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship. Age divisions were U8 boys', U9 girls' and U10 boys' house league teams and U10 boys' and girls' travel teams. Recipients were: Maddox Anderson, Ryan Cassone, Logan Hallock, Kieran Johnson, Violet Makohn, Avery McKay, Aiden McMahon, Oliver Moore, Ella Nigh, Hailey Richard-Lockwood, John Spillane, Dean Sousa, Claire Turner, Josiah Wiebe, Dakota Wynn

The Meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by President Graham Bunting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Moved by Gabriele and seconded by Kevin that the minutes of the previous meeting as distributed be approved. Motion carried.

Denied soccer refund appeal

Lori and Mike McLeod addressed the board regarding a previously made decision by the board to deny a requested travel team player's refund. The total amount paid by the McLeod's was \$435. The issue was discussed among the board members after Lori and Mike left.

Moved by Mike Vancea and seconded by Carla Vancea that a refund cheque in the amount of \$150 be issued to the McLeods. Motion Carried.

Moved by Mike Vancea and seconded by Mike Binns that a bylaw amendment be made to change the refund policy to state that no refund will be given after April 1 for travel league and no refund will be given after May 1 for house league.

Motion Carried.

Report from Brendon Walkom

Brendon gave feedback on the training he supplied to the travel teams. Overall it was good, however, difficult to co-ordinate with the individual teams. He suggested that in the future, specific nights for training of specific positions be scheduled and all teams be invited rather than training by individual team. Ages 9 to 12 and 13 to 18 can be trained separately. Sunday evenings worked well with teams' schedules.

Brendon also offered to provide indoor training to travel teams.

Brendon also touched on his role as micro co-ordinator. He suggested that an academy style of teaching would be better. All players would wear the same shirts and they would then be divided by pinny colour based on skill level and then rotate to different skill stations. This eliminates stronger players dominating the field.

President's Report

Graham reported that the new turf field opened in mid August just in time for the house league final day. Feedback has been positive so far.

Vice President's Report

Mike Vancea reported that the fees set last year for the indoor travel teams are too high. Discussion centred around the cost of \$240 per player and charging each player \$300. The ideal number of players is 12 per team. It was not decided how to change the fee structure especially when there are more than 12 players on a team.

The promotion of indoor house league will include an advertisement in October and November's LAC which is distributed to each family in the school boards. Lori will take care of his.

Mike reported on behalf of James Arnold that the Festival Cup was successful and easy to run. It was suggested that the board pays someone to telephone clubs to extend invitations to teams to increase the number of teams in attendance.

Goal frames on fields 1 and 2 at the Cooper Standard Douro St location will be replaced. Additionally, the box nets at Bentley field and NA Engineering field will also be replaced. This totals 8 new nets at a cost of approximately \$20,000.

Moved by Mike Vancea and seconded by Don Herlick to go ahead with the purchase.

Motion Carried. Mike Vancea will contact Nancy Baker.

Future Paul Nickel Memorial Awards was discussed. The decision was made to include house league players only. Graham will discuss this with Cheryl Nickel.

SYS is hosting the U14 boys challenge cup this weekend. Mike suggested that SYS apply to host each challenge cup as it is a benefit to our teams to not have to go out of town. A board representative needs to be present at the cup games. Games are scheduled to start on Saturday at 10 am and conclude at 5:30 and then again on Sunday at 10am. Gabriele volunteered to represent the board.

Referee Report – Holly Deighton

I don't have much of a referee report but:

This was one of the best years in terms of referee numbers since I have been CHR, and I am hoping we can keep these numbers up for next season. Advertising our clinic dates early on the website (Feb/March) will hopefully draw more in-town referees next year. The tournaments ran smoothly, and I had no complaints at all in the Festival Cup Tournament.

I will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow as I will be moving away to University.

Thanks for another great season !

Holly

Moved by John and seconded by Don to accept the referee report.

Motion Carried.

Holly has indicated that she will be available to schedule the referees next year but not do any mentoring. Mike Vancea will ask Holly to recommend someone who could take over the mentoring job.

Administrators Report – Maureen Mitchell

August 31 2017

Final Outdoor registration – 741

Final Camp registration – 35 (17 full day & 18 half day)

Classic – 50 Teams

Festival Cup – 41 Teams

Current Indoor registration – 10

Tasks completed this month:

- o Indoor Registration is set up and open on PowerUp.
- o Travel Indoor – 2 teams – GU16 & GU18
 - o Playing out forms have been sent in
 - o Registrations form are ready and due Sept. 15th.
- o House League – All scores were entered for the U13 & Senior divisions.
- o Travel
 - o Lots of questions from coaches.
 - o I have been to Kitchener to validate books a couple times.
 - o Created a travel team chart to track the fines for the bond return.
 - o Completed a price break down of the travel fees; this was sent to Kevin
- o Festival Cup –
 - o I did the schedule for the Festival Cup and the communication with the coaches.
 - o I was at the Festival for registration both Saturday & Sunday.
 - o The tournament report is complete and has been sent to the district.
- o Field calendar – continued to keep it updated. (This has been a time consuming task)
- o I contacted the City about Port-a-Potti end dates.
- o Bank deposits & financial sheets sent to Kevin.
- o Mass e-mails were sent out about final day & the Travel banquet.
- o Letter from Chase Paymentech – I contacted PowerUp and they said everything is OK. He suggested at some point we consider changing from Chase to a new merchant account (First Data) as he says the support is better.

Need to discuss at the meeting:

- o Refund policy for Indoor – camps – courses & tournaments
- o Price changes
- o Parent consent forms.
- o BU14 Cup on Sept 9 & 10 - we need a representative to be there.

Communications Administrator Report-Lori Misuraca

-created a photo gallery on the website (if anyone ever has great pictures just text them to me)
 -posted on face book and website re no soccer holiday Monday
 -updated all information regarding indoor soccer on the website
 -doing regular face book posts to promote indoor soccer
 -sent mass emails to all registrants about indoor soccer
 -sent the code of conduct to all registered players and posted it on our website
 -sent the end of the season house league newsletter to all house league players
 -sent year end surveys to all house league and travel families
 -designed a write up and sent out to all players registered about the turf grand opening and Melissa Tancredi clinics. Took registrations and managed the time slots available
 -collected and printed all completed surveys
 -updated the website with the 2017-2018 travel coaches application
 -posted the festival cup tournament schedule on the website
 -contacted the Paul Nickel award winners
 -sent info to all 2009 birth years about info session for travel/posted on face book and website
 Moved by Kevin and seconded by Mike Binns to accept the report as presented.
 Motion Carried.

Additional discussion included a preliminary review of next year's fees. Suggestions included establishing a refund policy for tournaments that would include no refunds given within two week's prior to the tournament, increasing the travel fee from \$410 to \$460 and offering a \$50 discount if paid by January 15, increasing the administration fee and NSF cheque fee to \$50. A full review will be held at next month's meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Kevin Machado

Moved by Kevin and seconded by Don that the report as submitted via email be accepted.
 Motion carried.

Travel Report – Don Herlick

- 2018 outdoor coaching applications were due in by September 1st.
 As of right now (Sept 3) we are about 8 coaches short for teams (boys' u15,u16,u17,u18 and girls' u9,u11,u12)
 - Travel year is winding down... Tryouts for the 2018 season will start in the next couple of weeks.
 - Mike, Lynda and I are in the process of holding information nights for all U9-U12 house league players interested in playing travel soccer next season
 - We have 2 age groups registered for the upcoming 2017/2018 indoor season at BMO the U16 & U18 girls
 - We have been informed by SWRSA that a SYS coach has been using ineligible players
 - The above issue will be brought up at the meeting !!
 - We will be asking a board member to take on the duties of collecting the coaches' bags and white jerseys

Additional discussion – The coach of the u13 boys' team has been caught using ineligible underage players. SYS has been issued a \$500 fee for this infraction. The fine would have been substantially lower had a board representative attended the hearing. The advice given was to not attend as there was no defence.

Moved by Mike Vancea and seconded by Mike Binns that \$250 be paid out of the team's bond and \$250 be paid by SYS.
 Motion Carried.

Currently in SWRSA, no player can play up more than four times in a season. In WRSL and EMSA, there is no limit. Mike Vancea has sent a letter to SWRSA requesting that playing up be unlimited or at the very least increased to 50% of the games.

House League Report – Gabriele Nemeth

Overall the season went well but there is still lots of room for improvement.

The fields were well maintained after the first week.

Some coaches did not communicate well with the players and parents. The schedules need to be easier to find on the website.

A solution for next year is to have teams play at the same time every week. I.e. The girls' teams would play at 6pm and the boys' teams would play at 7:15pm.

Uniform colours need to be more distinguishable. There were too many similar colours, such as maroon and purple and forest green and Kelly green.

There was an issue of forfeited games within the senior teams. In the boys' division, there were only 40 players spread across four teams. In the future, a four team division should only occur with a minimum of 48 players.

There needs to be clarification of the role of Technical Director for next season. Next year's duties should include the preparation of a weekly curriculum, coaching assistance when coaches are absent, coaching skills development.

Results from games and soccer superstars were published in the Beacon Herald weekly from June 12 to August 7. There were some complaints about the results not being published on the same day every week, however, it was not a paid ad. It was free coverage that was fit in at the paper's discretion.

SSA Update – nothing

Minor Sports Council Report - nothing

Adjournment

Moved by Tony and seconded by Mike Binns that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried.