


<u>Date:</u> 07-Feb-2009 <u>Event:</u> General Mtg. <u>Location:</u> Newark, NJ		<b>United States Adult Soccer Association</b> <b>Region I General Meeting Agenda</b>	
<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Topic Leader</u>	
11:00 – 11:20	<b>1. Roll Call</b> <b>2. Agenda Review / Approve Minutes from San Antonio</b> <b>3. Regional Financial Report</b>	Secretary / Director / Treasurer	
11:20 – 1:00	<b>4. Cups &amp; Tournaments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Cups; 60 min.</li> <li>• U20; 10 min.</li> <li>• Select Program / Donnelly Cup; 30 min.</li> </ul>	John Kahmke Pat Varsallona Director / Dan Roberge	
1:00	<b>5. Working Lunch</b>	All	
1:00 – 3:30	<b>6. Upcoming USASA 2009 AGM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USASA Elite Player Program; 30 min.</li> <li>• USASA 2009 Budget; 30 min.</li> <li>• Proposed USASA 2009 Bylaw Changes; 15 min.</li> <li>• Proposed USSF 2009 Bylaw Changes; 30 min.</li> <li>• USSF 2009 Budget; 30 min.</li> <li>• USASA Elections; 15 min.</li> </ul>	Director	
3:30 - 4:00	<b>7. Membership Topics</b>	Attendees	

Attendees: Region I Executive Council, Connecticut State Soccer Assoc., Eastern New York Soccer Assoc. Eastern Pennsylvania Soccer Assoc. Maryland State Soccer Assoc. Massachusetts Amateur Soccer Assoc. Metropolitan DC-Virginia Soccer Assoc. New Hampshire Soccer Assoc., New Jersey Soccer Assoc., Pennsylvania West Soccer Assoc., Rhode Island Soccer Assoc., West Virginia Soccer Assoc., Western New York Soccer Assoc., Champions League (Regional), Mid-Atlantic Soccer Showcase League (Regional)

Not Present  
 Delaware Soccer Assoc., Maine Soccer Assoc., Vermont State Soccer Assoc., National Premier Soccer League (NPSL), United Soccer League (USL), Women's Premier Soccer League (Regional)

Guests:  
 Werner Fricker Jr.;  
 National Cups Chair

## Summary Meeting Minutes

- **11:00 Call to Order / Roll Call: See “Attendees” / “Not Present” section on the agenda.**
- **Treasurer Report (Tony Falcone)**
  - Tony provided a handout to attendees.
  - MA asked about searching for CD rates to maximize interest.
    - Metro-DC recently performed this exercise and will provide Tony with rate information.
  - Question about the USL membership and USASA payments for Affiliated and Regional League Teams. USL affiliates through the PDL Division only.
- **National Cups (John Kahmke)**
  - **Previously emailed Regional Cup Guidelines and Regional Referee Guidelines were handed out. These documents are now considered Final.**
  - **International Clearance**
    - Agreement was reached that clearance would not be required within State Rounds.
    - Clearance will be required at the Regional Level.
    - Werner Fricker Jr. (National Cups Chairman) and Dave Laraba (WVSSA) caution that Int. Clearance is required at all levels of National Cup competition, and appeals at the State Level regardless of what the States agree to, would be overturned.
    - Questions were asked about clearance being filed but not getting a USSF reply or an outside Federation reply prior to the game being played. John to investigate with USSF.
  - **Team Contacts / Preliminary Schedule**
    - Still need information from some States.
    - Scheduling Procedure: 2008 Home Teams + New Teams will play away in the 1<sup>st</sup> round 2009 round.
    - Women’s Cup: In reply to a question about team eligibility;
      - W-League (unaffiliated - USL) teams cannot enter the Women’s Cup.
      - WPSL (affiliated - Regional League) teams can enter the Women’s Cup.
      - The newly formed Women’s Professional League (unaffiliated - WPS) cannot enter the Women’s Cup.
  - **NPSL Participation**
    - NPSL allows their Regional Champion the Open Cup entry (no NPSL member in attendance to confirm). The 2008 winner chose not to participate and gave the entry to the NPSL team from MD.
    - Buffalo’s NPSL team is also entering the Open Cup, doing so as a WNY representative. WNYSA’s Cup Commissioner is not involved with their entry form / fee, roster / int. clearance, etc., the NPSL is handling it.
    - Attendees felt that NPSL should explain / document their Cup Qualification format.

- **NPSL Participation Continued**
  - Is it fair that NPSL may be providing “automatic berths” for teams winning other competitions?
  - Membership agreed that the MD and Buffalo teams would playoff in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Open Cup.
- **U23**
  - An informal proposal by Bohdan (MSSL) to hold a Sub-U23 North and South tournament was discussed. Each sub-Regional finalist would then play-off to determine the Regional Champion going to the National Tournament. Bohdan justified the proposal as increasing the number of teams able to take part.
- **Women’s Regional Tournament**
  - Len Imielinski from an EPA League has requested a Regional Women’s tournament for those teams not suited for the National Women’s Cup.
  - Is there enough interest?
    - Holding this as a weekend tournament eligible to member teams not participating in the National Women’s Cup.
  - Richard appointed Fritz to Chair a committee that will bring a formal proposal with budget to the AGM. Members include; Bohdan, Sloane Bailey (Metro-DC), Len (EPA).
- **U20 Cup**
  - USASA has recognized this Men’s / Women’s tournament and provided \$3500 to Region I for hosting.
  - Tournament to be held on Jul-18/19 with the next weekend a backup if weather issues arise.
  - Jun-15 entry deadline, \$200 entry fee.
  - Open to USASA / USYSA members. Outside teams may register players with NJ to gain eligibility.
  - Not restricted to only Region I teams.
- **Select Program / George Donnelly Cup** *(An email communication from Chairman Dan Roberge was sent Feb-20)*
  - Region I provided with naming rights by USASA along with \$8500 for hosting.
  - Open to all Regions.
  - Dan Roberge (Cup Chair) handed out a rough budget.
  - Preliminary venue = Western CT University. 5 fields total, 2 turf, 3 with lights.
  - Dates were discussed.
    - Memorial Day weekend is best for the facility.
      - That weekend is a big youth tournament weekend.
      - May struggle for referees. Discussion on each participant team / State being required to provide referees mentioned.
    - Jun-14 was brought up and seemingly had a positive reception from attendees.
  - A poll was taken from the attendees on commitment to participate. (Dan holds specific State replies)
    - Men = 7 Yes
    - Women = 4 Yes

- **Select Program / George Donnelly Cup Continued**
  - Region II has expressed unofficial tentative interest in sending up to 4 teams.
  - Housing / Meal Costs will be finalized in time for the AGM.
  - Richard appointed Committee Members to assist Dan; Tony Dubrowski (Mass), Arman Capan (WNY), Peter Pinori (ENY), Dan Rooney (CT).
  - Dan asks that each participant State search for a feasible venue where future tournaments could be held. Requirements for 4 fields if lighted ones involved and 5 or 6 if no lights.
- **1PM Lunch**
  - The group moved to a pre-set lunch area. The 45 break for lunch was non-working and paid for by the Region.
- **1:45 Meeting Resumed**
- **USASA Budget / Audit Discussion**
  - There is currently a \$207K surplus resulting from an adjustment to the fee policy. The policy requires a portion of the player insurance fee to be placed into a reserve.
    - There was discussion on this reserve being further added to, or stopped at the current level.
    - There was discussion on this reserve being used to fund USASA programs, or to become a self-insurance payout fund.
  - Elite Player Program
    - Consensus among attendees was that the Elite Program did not serve a viable purpose in promoting USASA players to higher level opportunities.
    - After the NCAA expressed the position of Elite Players losing college eligibility by being individually funded to attend the player camp, the camp has been cancelled for 2009. A Program re-design is being done.
    - Attendees leaned towards a position that the U20/U23 Programs were much better suited for Developmental use.
  - Cezar (Mass) commented that USASA really needs a 3 – 5 year plan to determine an agreed to direction for the organization that funds can be allocated to.
- **Director's & Officers Insurance**
  - Discussion on the move to AIG originally didn't include State Director's & Officers liability coverage. Once noticed, coverage was added to the policy.
    - There was some question on State Committee Members / Appointed positions not being covered.
  - Fritz is Chairman of a USASA ad-hoc Insurance committee.
  - Richard has previously asked via email about adding League coverage for a nominal fee (~\$100) if possible. Replies were favorable.
    - With this meeting being centralized and attended by greater numbers of State reps and some Leagues, the absence of League coverage was raised as alarming to some attendees.
  - A request to follow-up on obtaining League coverage was stressed.

- **USSF didn't have AGM materials ready by this meeting so this topic was passed over.**
- **Membership**
  - **Sal (ENY)**
    - Has a situation whereby the former ENY Referee Administrator had his National Assessor renewal paperwork lost by the National organization. Rather than allow a re-submission, his assessment credentials were cancelled and an application must be resubmitted next year. Sal's position was that since it was an admitted mistake by the National Org. they should make it right.
    - Richard will contact both Brooks (USASA Director), and Sunil (USSF Director) to ask for a 2009 waiver.
  - **Sal (ENY)**
    - Unhappy with the California South Association being put by USSF under the Youth Association. As part of that activity, the youth structure has given the Adult Association 1 vote on a Board of 10.
      - The Cal-South situation (non-payment of collected player registration fees to USASA/USSF) not being directly handled at the outset had a great impact on the current situation. Continued attempts to work with the State administration and reschedule paybacks, allow workarounds, etc. let the issues pile up until becoming unmanageable. Once that occurred and the USSF had no choice but to step in, any decision reached had the potential to become less than beneficial for USASA.
  - **Youth Setting Up Referee Programs**
    - There's been mention made for months that youth plan to offer separate referee training programs from USSF.
    - What are the possible issues if USSF allows it's sub-organizations to offer their own referee programs?
      - Referees pay individual fees for each training program.
      - Does USSF force each organization to create a referee program and "get out of the business" by choice?
      - Because one organization creates their own referee program, do all the others need to simply to keep up?
    - Attendees agreed that this would create many unknowns, probably detriments, and certainly complications if allowed.
  - **Dan Rooney (CT)**
    - Is there a centralized repository for tracking disciplinary situations?
      - Richard to ask Stephanie.
    - It was specified that any suspension over 6-months should be filed with USSF.
      - Where is that documented?
  - **Online Registration**
    - How many Region I members are fully using the system?
    - Desire an evaluation committee be setup by USASA.
    - The Demosphere contract is up in July.

- **Cezar (Mass)**
  - The proposed USASA budget and its Veteran's Cup cutbacks outlook Mass to record a loss for hosting the event this summer.
    - Tony Falcone (Budget Committee) explained that there were many murky line items provided in the Veteran's Cup proposal that "didn't make sense". A \$5k office supplies line item was used as an example.
  - Cezar was urged to document viewed Mass funding shortfalls for review and potential support on gaining budget relief.
- **Adjournment at 3:45**

## MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Assign Date	Action	Who
Feb-7	Clarify with USSF what is a player's international clearance status if a team fulfills its reporting obligation but receives no word prior to the game.	John Kahmke
Feb-7	States that haven't provided Cup Commissioner / Cups being participated in / State Winners (as they become declared) to John Kahmke need to do so.	States yet outstanding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mass. - Need Cup Commissioner Info</li> <li>• NH: No info received</li> <li>• RI: No info received</li> <li>• WVA: No info received</li> <li>• WPSL: No info received</li> </ul>
Feb-7	Request NPSL provide information on their Cup Qualification Process	NPSL
Feb-7	Contact Brooks and Sunil asking for an acceptance waiver for ENY's former SRA's National Assessment to be reinstated after the National org lost his renewal paperwork	Richard
Feb-7	Ask Stephanie about USASA disciplinary records (reporting and accessing)	Richard
Feb-7 Added Feb-22	Request League coverage be offered and clarify Directors and Officers State coverage (Committee Members?).	Richard

## CLOSED ACTION ITEMS

Notice Date	Closure	Who
Feb-22	International Clearance (ITC) – Where USSF does not receive notice from a foreign Federation, Provisional clearance is provided on the 31 <sup>st</sup> day after submission. The player is NOT permitted to participate in any official matches until the team or Cup Commissioner has heard from US Soccer stating that either the ITC has been received OR the Provisional ITC has been issued.	John Kahmke through USSF

## Preliminary Corrections / Changes

- **Page 4 & Action Table Table:** Carlos Pais (NJ VP / Cup Comm.) requested the discussed Director's and Officer's Insurance coverage topic be added, especially the non-coverage to League's.
- A Closed Action Items table was added and populated with International Clearance information provided by USSF to the Regional Cup Commissioner.