

Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA)
Approved Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
February 6, 2009
IYSA Office

Board Members Present: Salvador Arroyo, Gus Bender, Robert Berkley, Flo Dyson, Dave Hicks, Peter Glon, Stuart Kasten, Gary Seyring.

Delegates: Robert Berkley, Greg Cole, Flo Dyson, Jose Fereira, Vago Galounis, Stuart Kasten, Scott Kegaris, Louis Mateus, Jay Ray, Peter Richardson, Ryan Snyder, Jeanne Top.

Guests: Janet Adkins, Mary Jane Bender (recording secretary), Jan Berkley, Jeff Bradley, Charlie Dyson, Daniel Gonzalez, Chris Jamrozy, Ale Jurado, Tony Kees, Meaghan Kinser, Chris Krasaly, Ian Mulliner, Hugh Orlicz, Jonathan Orlicz, Jose Plaza, Fran Pope, Christine Righeimer, Joseph Smith.

The Annual General Meeting was called to order by the president, Gus Bender, at 7:20 PM on Friday, February 6, 2009 at the association offices.

ROLL CALL

Barrington Area Soccer Association, Central Illinois Youth Soccer League, Chicago Latin American Soccer Association, Crystal Lake Soccer Federation, Perry County Soccer League, Chicago Suburban Soccer League, Greater Chicagoland Soccer League, Illinois Women's Soccer League, Northern Illinois Soccer League, Perry County Soccer League, Raptor Youth Soccer League, Schaumburg Athletic Association, Spring Lake Sport League, Young Sportsmen's Soccer League.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 1, 2008 IYSA Annual General Meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gus Bender presented the President's Report. Although the IYSA has been jeopardized by a former Board member who recently withdrew the majority of his league membership, the IYSA will continue to provide member services including reasonably priced background searches, changes in State Cup requirements, club rosters and inter-league competition. For over 30 years, the IYSA has been the official state association and charter member of the US Soccer Federation (USSF) and US Youth Soccer (USYS), the largest youth soccer association in the country with over 3 million members. The IYSA is the administrative body authorized by USSF and USYS to carry out their programs in Illinois, including the Olympic Development Program (ODP), Illinois State Cup/US Youth Soccer National Championship Series, Illinois Cup, Copa Chicago, Chicago International Invitational, Chicago Beach Soccer Tournament, Inner City Programs, Soccer Expo, Network News, coaching and referee education. Although the Academy Program has removed some players, the ODP continues to be a successful program for identifying and developing players through its partnership with The Everton Way. The IYSA has funded and supported the referee program for 18 years. With the support from the US Soccer Foundation and the Women's Sports Foundation, the IYSA continues to provide soccer programs to at-risk children in their inner-city communities. The IYSA is a non-profit organization that remains at the forefront of youth soccer, provides youth soccer programs to organizations, offers coaching and referee education, and implements the necessary rules and guidelines to make soccer a positive experience for everyone involved. Gus expressed his appreciation to the IYSA Board, leagues, directors and staff for their support and positive direction.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Stu Kasten outlined the insurance coverage.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Gary Seyring presented the Treasurer's Report and budget. He was pleased to report that the certified audit indicated that the financial statements presented fairly the position of the IYSA and conform with generally accepted accounting principals. The IYSA received a grant to implement soccer programs and to construct a field in the inner city. Program revenues exceeded expenditures but the IYSA anticipates a budget deficit due to an unexpected decrease in membership. The IYSA has not raised its fees in five years. The budget was approved by the Board and submitted to the membership for approval.

Motion: Bob Berkley moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Mary Jane Bender provided the update on the background search system.

Central District Commissioner, Dave Hicks, reported that Central Illinois Youth Soccer League has implemented changes to attract membership. He thanked the IYSA Board and recognized Gus Bender for his leadership through the challenges.

Southern District Commissioner, Stu Kasten, stated that the number of players and teams has increased. Southern Illinois will be the home of St. Louis Athletica of the Women's Professional Soccer League. He thanked the Board for their leadership through these troubling times and staff for their efforts.

Northern District Commissioner and Hispanic Program Director, Salvador Arroyo, explained that part of his job is to reach out to Hispanic clubs in the city and suburbs to give players the opportunity to compete at the highest levels. He reported that the Mexican professional clubs are recruiting Chicago clubs and players.

Recreational Program Director, Gary Seyring, stated that he was pleased that the IYSA office is reaching out to the recreational leagues and always welcomes suggestions to improve the recreational programs.

US Youth Soccer Midwest Region 2 Recreational Director, Hugh Orlicz, stated that Region 2 is in the process of testing an accreditation program for recreational leagues. The Region has asked US Youth Soccer to develop orientation tools directed at recreational leadership. Many resources have been directed at educational coaching tools. There is a focus is on referee development and risk management.

Executive Director, Mary Jane Bender, reported that in 2007/08 fiscal year, the IYSA had an increase in the number of players, Network News and e-newsletter circulation. Travel permits, guest player and friendly game permits are processed online through the e-travel system. ODP, State Cup, coaching education and player registrations are processed online. In addition to conducting ODP, State Cup, Illinois Cup, coaching education courses, Inner City Programs, Chicago International Cup, Copa Chicago, Beach Soccer Tournament, the office implements Board policies, responds to countless inquiries, develops sponsorships, publishes a newspaper and e-newsletter, and continually looks for ways to improve its member services and benefits.

Director of Coaching, Ian Mulliner, stated that there is a need for indoor facilities for coaching courses during the winter months and asked anyone that has access to an indoor facility to contact him.

ODP Administrator, Janet Adkins, reported The Everton Way online curriculum has enhanced our ODP process. The following professional players participated in our ODP as players and some as coaches-in-training: Brittany Bock, Jen Buczkowski, Brad Guzan, Brad Ring, Peri Marosevic, Baggio Husidic, Bryan McBride, Julianne Sitch, Jonathan Spector, Erin Walter.

State Cup Director, Bill Bruno, presented the State Cup report. There was an increase in the number of teams participating in the 2008 Illinois State Cup. 20 Illinois teams qualified for regionals and half advanced to the semi-finals. Five Illinois teams won the US Youth Soccer Midwest Regionals, four advanced to the US Youth Soccer National Championship, two were finalists and one team received the FIFA Fair Play award.

Inner City Program Director, Ale Jurado, reported that the IYSA Inner City Program continues to increase and provide hope and opportunities to at-risk children.

Gus Bender presented the TOPSoccer report. He thanked Joe Smith for his commitment to children with disabilities in our Inner City Program.

Tournament Director, Hugh Orlicz, reported that the IYSA sanctioned nearly 60 tournaments in Illinois this past year. In order to assist our tournaments, the IYSA radically changed its sanctioning process and simplified the paperwork and post tournament requirements.

State Referee Committee Director of Operations Tom Landi presented the Referee Report. The referee registrations increased by 36%. The average age of referees across the U.S. is sixteen. Tom Landi's offered to address league coaches regarding referee issues; only one league took advantage of his offer. The IYSA requires referees aged 18 and older that participate in IYSA programs to conduct an IYSA background search.

Recreational Referee Program Director, Hugh Orlicz, encourages clubs to certify Grade 8 referees but some programs are using Grade 9 referees very effectively and recommended using Grade 9 referees as linesmen.

ELECTIONS

Gus Bender conducted the elections.

The Nominating Committee nominated Stu Kasten for the Southern District Commissioner position. No nominations were made from the floor.

Motion: Bob Berkley made a motion to accept the candidate as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

The Nominating Committee nominated Bob Berkley for the Director-at-large position. No nominations were made from the floor.

Motion: Stu Kasten made a motion to accept the candidate as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

The Nominating Committee nominated Marcia McDermott for the Director-at-large position. No nominations were made from the floor.

Motion: Bob Berkley made a motion to accept the candidate as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Gus Bender declared the Annual General Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.