

WCSOA membership meeting

Minutes of meeting held Aug. 31, 2022

Location: Tyrrell Middle School, Wolcott

Meeting: Opening meeting for 2022 season

Time: Meeting called to order by vice president Brad Fidler at 7:03 p.m.

*** Note: President John Murphy was absent due to COVID illness*

*** Meeting began outside school as building was locked; it was eventually opened and we moved inside*

Secretary report

Lee Lewis briefly reviews procedures for reporting cards (yellow and red) and reminds members that the steps are all detailed on the WCSOA web site.

Joe DelBuono adds comments to that discussion, stressing importance of getting reports correct.

MOTION: To approve minutes from Nov. 22, 2021 banquet meeting. PASSES

Treasurer's report

Presented by Kurt Miller.

Balances as of Aug. 31:

- Checking (\$4,844.99)
- Savings (\$13,316.91)
- Total (\$18,161.90)

During his remarks Kurt reports that the WCSOA lost a total of \$368 last year. Since we didn't purchase hard copy rule books this year (we buy them every other year), that will be a big savings and likely mean we don't lose money this season.

MOTION: Andy McConnell to approve the treasurer's report as presented (Al Schoenbach second). PASSES

New members

Brad introduces two new members, one of whom is in attendance: Vezir Memeti and Barnaby Rushton.

Joe reports that there is a possibility for a handful of other new members being active by the start of the season.

As always, we need more new members.

Probationary members

MOTION: By Al Schoenbach to elevate two probationary members – Jesufi Feti and Richard Safran – to full WCSOA membership. Second by Robinson Leetch. PASSES

Nominations

Brad tells members that since this is an election year for officers that all nominations will be considered by the nominating committee. Further, Brad reminds that the EX Board will accept nominations for the Paul Bourdeau Award.

Need for new members

Joe makes lengthy presentation on our need for new members. He says that as of this meeting the active total is 92, which is the lowest since 1990. He adds that in 2010 the WCSOA had 150 members.

This is not a new problem for our board, but has gotten dramatically worse in the last few years.

Joe asks for ideas from the membership after pointing out that other state soccer boards this year had new members in the double digits.

Some members ask questions: one of issues is time of games on weekday afternoons; behavior of coaches/crowds a deterrent; can we do a better job of soliciting new members from the ranks of USSF officials?

Game fees

Joe, answering a question from a member on sub-varsity game fees, explains how that is calculated by the CIAC. He also adds that the fee for these games will increase slightly NEXT YEAR, but that it is set by the CIAC and there is no debating that.

CT official fees overall among highest in the country.

The only sport in CT that is sharply higher is hockey, to which Joe says if you want those fees, “learn to skate”.

Rules interpretation

Art Hamm makes his presentation, starting by pointing out how difficult the job can be with coaches/parents yelling, disputing and generally causing trouble for game officials. Art reviews some questions from the annual rules test, highlights:

1. Same player may not touch ball twice in row on goal kick. Indirect to other team.
2. Should spectators cause trouble, find site director or if there is not one on hand, head coach of home team.
3. When a player is cautioned, clock stops. The proper time to restart clock is when ball is put into play.
4. Inadvertent whistle by a ref: drop ball is restart ... to team that had possession in field, or to goalie in the box.
5. Deflection leads to offside (difference from a defender 'playing' the ball)
6. No offside on throw in, goal kick or corner kick.
7. On PK, player can't play ball twice before it is played by another player.
8. All bench personnel need to have full names listed on roster. They can be added as game progresses.
9. Beads in hair now legal as long as secured to head.
10. If the team in lead subs in last 5 minutes of second half clock must stop.

Commissioner's report

Joe's points of emphasis:

1. Keep availability updated in Arbiter.
2. No. 1 official as listed in Arbiter contacts partner before game and files postgame report.
3. Any cards (Y or R) should be noted in the game report filed in Arbiter.
4. Official giving the cards must be the one who reports to CIAC (and WCSOA secretary if it is a red).

5. Fines will be issued for missing meetings. Question asked on whether we can have virtual meetings ... Joe's view is those don't work well; further, he says that a by-law change would be necessary to allow them routinely.
6. Meeting site: After explaining why WCSOA meetings are at Tryell (we can use for free), Joe says that any member who can secure a site should contact the EX Board about future meetings being held elsewhere. The EX Board would consider for the 2023 season.
7. Tech schools are now offering direct deposit.
8. Update on 2019 Torrington-Derby incident

Joe gives members an update on legal situation that developed out of the 2019 incident at Torrington High.

The two officials involved have been deposed and the WCSOA has been served seeking information. We have an attorney representing us in this matter, and Joe gives short description of the incident from 2019 for the benefit of members who might not have been aware of it.

Jamie-Lyn Schieb asks what we can learn from this incident as an association.

Joe says that it shows how important it is to document all testing and meetings and how important it is to attend meetings and stay up to date on rules, training and association policies.

Jamie stresses the need to be professional in all elements of officiating games at all times, no matter the game or level.

Uniforms

Brad reports that starting next year (2023) the standard uniform in the state will be the USSF style shirt (no grid). These are easily available online (Amazon, for example) and are typically around \$20 per shirt.

Joe says that the colors we will go with are yellow and green.

BUT, he also points out that two officials at any time (this year or in following years) may wear the grid jerseys we are now using as long as they match.

As long as the shirts are same for all officials, any style is OK.

Special presentation

Brad made a special presentation to official Al Schoenbach for his 45 years of service to the WCSOA. Al was unable to attend the banquet last November.

Adjourn

MOTION: Mike Evans to adjourn; second by Davor Psorn. PASSES

Next meeting: Sept. 7 at Tyrell (mandatory interpretation meeting)

Meeting adjourned at 8:45-ish p.m.