

WSSC Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, Feb. 8, 2021  
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm via Zoom

Attendees: Goss (Pres.), Oltyan (VP Admin.), Wiener (VP Coaches), Persson (VP Players), Allan (Treas.), Lucas (Sec.), Conway, Larsen, O'Byrne, Foulk, Russell

Excused: Hinthon

**Jan. 11, 2020 Minutes:** Goss moves, Larsen seconds approval; unanimous pass.

**Club Finances:** Reports were circulated by Allan in advance of the meeting. Allan reports that not much has changed since last month as there has been little or no activity. We had some low balance fees at the bank; he has transferred funds so as to avoid this in future. Regarding the following Action Items from last meeting:

*1. Determine whether any families donated instead of getting a refund for fall, and if so, how much was donated;*

*2. Assess the profitability, or not, of the mini's clinic program and report back with that finding.*

Allan reports that he was unable to get the new system to produce reports that itemize these questions. After refunds were completed, we still had \$18,000, some of which was fees from the co-ed clinic and some of which was donations but he could not detail the breakdown with any more specificity than that. Allan will do additional training on the new system.

**Questions Raised:** Larsen has received questions about whether a player who is 4 at the time of registration but who will turn 5 before season play begins can register. Because we are not promoting this spring, there will be even fewer spots for 5 year olds. Also, it has been past policy not to register 4 year olds unless their parent is coaching them, as 4 year olds are likely to require extra supervision.

Goss asks why the spring season is called "HSA Champions League" and not "WSSC Champions League"? It was recalled that we combined our spring season with HSC in 2015 under the banner of our shared association, HSA. WSSC had approximately 75% of the spring teams then and that percentage has been increasing. It was noted that we have also included some Vashon teams in our spring season at older ages.

This question led to a broader discussion of the relationship between WSSC, HSA and HSC. Given that the large majority of teams are WSSC, it was noted that if WSSC aligned with SYSA, then HSA/HSC and perhaps even SSUL may no longer be viable.

Benefits of HSA to WSSC include: access to league play for older teams; access to HSA fields; scheduling matches, fields and referees; publishing schedules and results; running select

and premier teams which are available to WSSC players. It was noted that being a good soccer neighbor is also an important consideration.

It was recalled by a long time board member that historically WSSC has had the choice to continue with WYS, with what some describe as less-than-admirable management, and with its mandate that only via Associations are clubs allowed into league play, or to switch to US Club soccer, which has a bit of a “wild west”/lack-of-any-management-at-all reputation, but which will permit individual clubs to join and compete without belonging to an association.

**Alignment:** Goss reports that he is in discussions with SYSA regarding terms under which some or all of our U13+ teams could play in that association. He will keep the group advised so it can make a decision when all the information is available.

**Registrar:** The candidate for registrar has agreed to accept the position and will work with the outgoing registrar during spring season to learn the role.

**Spring Season:** Washington State’s new Covid regulations appear at this time to permit a return to play. A question has arisen about WSSC registering its own U13+ teams into SSUL for spring season, which has historically been done through HSC, because there are administrative difficulties registering those teams through HSC for spring and then back to WSSC for fall. Historically, at least part of the reason for this is that WSSC does not have the field availability in spring due to baseball taking so many fields. HSC has had access to full fields in spring. It was noted that this year will be very complicated for field scheduling because the high schools have decided to try to field all of their sports for the year, for boys and girls, in two shorter seasons during spring. Thus, in addition to those teams that have in recent years been competing for field space in West Seattle (SASS Frisbee, etc.), this year there will be boys and girls high school soccer, baseball/softball, football, track, Frisbee, etc. needing field space and at most if not all fields, schools have first priority. In addition, the Highline school district, from which we have historically rented field space, has decided not to open their fields to anyone until they open their schools, which decision has not yet been made.

**Birth Year vs School Year Registration:** Goss renews this discussion in order for a decision to be made. Conway opines that rec soccer is all about the kids, kids want to play with their school friends and this is easier for the parents. Lucas raises concerns about splitting up existing teams and ensuring our messaging provides teams who want to stay together assurance and options. Allan asserts that coaches must have authority to choose their players in a transition. Members recall that the last time we changed registration, to birth year, there were some difficult transitions, but allowing teams to play up their younger players will address some of the concern about splitting teams. It was noted that these play-up teams can be disadvantaged when they face league opponents who are all the standard age. Board member experiences of the prior transition differed. O’Byrne recalls that part of the problem with the

last transition was poor communication; it needs to be better. Russell is very much against a return to academic year. While playing with school friends makes sense for younger players, there will be a significant pain point when those teams reach U13.

Persson suggested possibly phasing in the change, leave existing teams as is and register new U6/7 teams under the new system. After discussion, consensus was that this would be too complicated and stretch the transition over too long a time.

Foult notes that HSC would have to adopt this change as well. Goss reports that HSC will not make this change. Persson notes we will have a point of conflict with the HSA board.

Goss moves, Larsen seconds, that WSSC move to an academic year registration for spring season, which is U12 and below. The vote:

Yes – 6

No – 2

Abstain – 2

Undecided – 1

We recognize that, in fall, our older coaches may prefer to choose their league placement, but this is not yet known and could be very complicated over time, especially if teams attempt to move back and forth. It was noted that there is substantial administrative work involved in teams playing SYSA, which our HSA scheduler is no longer willing to do. Persson noted that SYSA's registration schedule is much earlier than ours, typically registering for fall in late April/May, so this option will need to be resolved soon.

**RMA Clearances:** These continue to expire April 30 each year, unless you apply after Feb. 1, in which case your clearance is good through April 30 of the following year.

**Covid Note:** Foulk reports that a player on an HSA Select team tested positive after scrimmaging at practice, which resulted in three teams quarantining for two weeks. He notes we will need to be prepared for events like this.

**Good of the Game:** Larsen reports on the very positive experience her daughter is having getting her C coaching license, and she thanks Foulk for mentoring her daughter during the process.

### **Important 2021 Dates:**

Friday, Feb. 26: Covid numbers are reported by the state.

Sunday, Feb. 28: Decision Day Number 1 – are we in Phase 2? If yes, registration is March 1-15; if no, are we close to Phase 2? If we are close, postpone Registration to March 15 – 31. If we are not close, cancel season.

Monday, March 1 - Monday, March 15: Spring Registration Window Number 1, assuming Phase 2 by Feb. 26.

Monday, March 8: Board Meeting

Sunday, March 14: Decision Day Number 2, if needed; Are we in Phase 2? If yes, Registration is March 15 – 31; if no, spring season is cancelled.

Monday, March 15 – Wed. March 31: Spring Registration Window Number 2, assuming Phase 2 by March 14.

Thursday, April 8: Spring Coaches' Meeting, Annual Meeting and Election

Monday, April 12: Board Meeting

Sunday, April 18 - Sunday, June 13: Spring Season, except Memorial Day

Sunday, April 25 - Sunday June 6: Minis Clinic (Memorial Day?)

Monday, May 10: Board Meeting

Monday, June 14: Board Meeting