

**Lehigh Valley Youth Soccer League**  
**General League Meeting**  
Northampton Community College  
March 10, 2015  
7:30pm

Exec Director: Robert Rooney

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4070 Butler Pike, Suite 100  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462  
(800) 562-7485

Call to Order: Gus Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:31pm

Roll Call: A list of clubs attending the meeting is attached.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Correction to the treasurers report was noted by Kathy Garcia that the check to Demosphere and should be correctly listed as being for \$1,740. Motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by ENCO and second by Northwestern. Unanimously approved.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Gus Garcia introduced Alex and Ethan from the Philadelphia Union. Alex discussed the youth partnership program and youth ticketing discount programs. Handed out was a list of the club contacts at the Union offices. Alex discussed the new off season signings and how MLS is growing very well with new players transferring in such as Altidore, Kaka and Michael Bradley returning. Two new teams Orlando FC and NYC FC join the league this year. At conclusion of the presentation, Alex gave scarves and tickets to several members of our league based on random drawing from the sign in sheets.

Link for more information on the Union Youth Sponsorship program may be found on their web page:

<http://www.philadelphiaunion.com/community/youth-soccer-partners>

### **President's Report**

Gus Garcia (Tri Boro SC)

Ken Steenback has been appointed by Gus Garcia as the acting Board Secretary. Gus asked for other volunteers and there were none. The vote to affirm Ken as the Secretary was unanimous.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Rob Rooney

Lehigh Tournament will be June 6 and 7. March 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day to secure discounted entrance fee. (Discount is \$50 of the cost of entrance) Two tournament websites still in operation, the old website will be phased out after the tournament. Right now if you go to the old website it redirects you to the new website.

### **VP of Operations Report**

Position is open

### **Treasurer's Report**

Rich Mitsifer (Unable to attend) Report presented by Rob Rooney

Current Year Combined Cash balance      \$86,978

Previous Year Combined Cash Balance      \$77,555

Increase of \$9,243 – this represents an increase in deposits in January this year vs the previous year.

Significant expenditures were:

- Routine payroll expenses for Rob and Kathy
- East Penn Software \$500 for the tournament website. (Last payment before it will be closed,)
- Hal Grahn – assignment fees of \$665
- Demosphere \$427.50 for the new website
- Lehigh County Soccer Field Assoc. \$240 for use of the fields for round robin
- Various referees were paid \$523 for fall game forfeits
- \$2,010 paid to the CPA firm for the annual financial review and tax reports
- \$1,000 to the Lehigh Valley Soccer Scholar Athlete Program

## **Games Commissioner's Report**

Rob Rooney

1 less team in the Spring than in the fall. Usually we drop 15 teams between the fall and Spring. 181 in the fall and 180 in the Spring. Entrance deadline was Feb 25. Most clubs did very well meeting that deadline. Divisional placements were posted last Wednesday. Approximately 8 appeals and 7 of the 8 appeals were approved. Demosphere continues to be very helpful in scheduling. Rob believes that most teams are getting 8 games with a few getting 7. There will be instances when teams will be scheduled for Sat / Sun games on the same weekend.

Rob has been spending the last few days working on the schedules. A small issue with Demosphere was identified where the system did not honor the 293 requested days off. Rob has worked with Demosphere and this is now fixed. Clubs are reminded they cannot request more than 4 days off. If you requested more than four days off the system honored your first four dates and you will have to work out the others. Schedules should be going out to teams on March 11, 2015 and they will have 7 maybe 8 days to complete them. Very specific instructions will accompany the schedule release.

Rob stressed scheduling your games in a block to facilitate referee assignment and also getting your coaches input to eliminate problems down the road. Teams schedule their home games but it is also encouraged for clubs to contact any away game teams with concerns prior to the schedules being done to see if anything can be worked out to eliminate the conflict prior to the schedule going live. The league cannot block specific dates in the system club wide for field availability issues. But if you know there is a global problem on one day clubs should contact Rob. All of these initiatives have led to few reschedule requests than ever in the fall.

In regards to state cup Rob stressed the importance of coordinating your cup schedules at the same time as your Lehigh schedule. Don't wait until the last second to help avoid fees being charged to reschedule the game. Reschedule requests are no longer automated online. You are to coordinate with the other club and then email the game # and change details directly to Rob.

Rob encouraged clubs who have games at County to contact Marty Schwartz at county since she is scheduling 4-5 clubs. If clubs are corresponding with Marty about game changes, Rob needs to be copied on that correspondence.

All games need to be finished by the end of May 2015.

## **Registrar's Report**

Kathy Garcia

### Important dates

3/25 – Moratorium on PS1 changes begins

3/28 – First day of Spring 2015 games

4/4-5 Easter Weekend (no games)

4/6 – Moratorium on PS1 changes ends

4/13 – LVYSL roster freeze for non-cup teams

5/18 – LVYSL roster freeze for non-cup teams ends

5/23-24 Memorial day weekend NO LVYSL games

5/31 – Final day for Spring 2015 games

Club Travel Pass –

League will continue to support secondary players

We will support club player passes to serve as substitutes on a game day basis.

We will not support guest players.

Question was raised by the floor if there were any firm plans to change teams to Calendar year. Gus explained that there were no plans for this change for the upcoming year. John Kuitz clarified that there was discussion that this proposal may start in 2017 and existing teams would be grandfathered. More information to come.

## **EPYSA Representative Report**

John Kukitz

EPYSA had their awards banquet this past Saturday March 7.

Frank Ortiz from the Allentown Youth Soccer Club was recognized as boys recreational coach of the year. Quakertown SC also was recognized.

Development grant applications for facilities are due by the end of March 2015.

Information on the grants can be obtained on the EPYSA Website

[http://www.epysa.org/programs\\_camps/development\\_grants\\_program/](http://www.epysa.org/programs_camps/development_grants_program/)

Red Card Cancer

Fundraising to help fight Cancer – Information on the website

“The world's biggest game is taking on the worlds biggest opponent”

<http://redcardcancer.org>

Revised Background Check Process

No changes for the Spring of 2015 or Fall of 2015

EPYSA is sponsoring concussion workshops – this information will be on their website.

There is also new Club Development seminar that will be on the EPYSA website to help enhance and maintain and grow our clubs programs.

EPYSA held their AGM. All current officers will continue in their roles.

The position of the Alternate District Commissioner was eliminated and the District Commissioner will be held to a higher standard.

### **Referee Assignors Report**

Hal Grahn (absent) Rob Rooney in his place.

Please make sure your fields are properly lined and you have corner flags and the goals are anchored.

Encourage new referees as they enter the league. Please instruct parents to not yell at the young referees.

From the floor – it was asked about the thought of having 2 referees for younger games. Gus and Rob clarified that they thought the two-referee system was not a very good system. Rob instructed clubs that if they had a problem with a specific referee they should email both Rob and Hal. Hal will often go to games and help monitor and mentor referees or takes game assignments himself so he monitors a coach's behavior. Gus encouraged clubs to set the tone of behavior for their teams and Coaches to do the same for their parents.

The cost to add a game report option to the website is cost prohibitive and is not an option. Rob will work to see if he can develop a online form / link and place it on the website.

For the small-sided games, the volunteer linesmen are only there to call the ball in or out of bounds. They have no role in any other game activity such as offsides or policing unruly spectators.

### **Old Business**

Coaching License Requirements (USSF License Language)

All coaches up to and including U15 will need an E level license.  
U16 head coach and above will need a D level and assts may have an E level.

The new online F level license is a rec license and is not accepted by LVYSL. Kathy Garcia will put together a cross walk between different licensing agencies to help clarify what other license are acceptable at the above levels.

Clubs were instructed to contact Mike Barr or Gary Stephenson at EPYSA if they would like to host a coaching class. If you setup a class, notify Rob and he will email our database.

VP of Operations position is still open. If interested please email Rob to discuss.

The next meeting will be our general election for all new officers. Gus indicated there is a high probability that he will not be continuing in the role as President but stepping down to the role of Immediate Past President. He encouraged clubs to step up and help, especially the larger clubs. Anyone who may be interested is encouraged to contact him.

### **New Business**

None

### **Good Of The Game**

Gus reminded everyone that the Women's world cup would be played this Summer. He encouraged clubs to find unique ways to have their girls follow players or teams through the event.

Army Navy Cup November 2015

### **Next Meeting**

June 9, 2015 @ 730pm  
Northampton Community College

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

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Ken Steenback  
Secretary