

**Lehigh Valley Youth Soccer League
General League Meeting**

Northampton Community College

March 8, 2016

7:30pm

Exec Director: Robert Rooney

Email: info@lvysl.org

League Tel.: (484) 319-7881

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League Web Site: <http://www.lvysl.org>

State Office;Tel. EPYSA
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Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
(800) 562-7485

Call to Order: Bill Ross called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections were noted by Bill Ross.

Northwestern motioned to accept the minutes and seconded by Nazareth
Unanimously approved.

Special Presentation

Bethlehem Steel

New program that is directly affiliated with the Philadelphia Union.

Discussion of both Parkland and Tri-boro as two of the first clubs who signed up as youth partner programs. Handouts were provided detailing the program.

Opportunities for clubs to be highlighted at games. Special drawing was held to raffle off four sets of four tickets to the home opener.

President's Report

Bill Ross

Shane Stone – nominated as Interim VP of Operations by Bill Ross. Shane provided a brief bio. Motion by Tri-Boro and second by Evergreen. Shane was approved unanimously.

EPYSA came out with recommended roster sizes for the different ages.

Rob Rooney clarified the following:

U9 and U10 – 7 v 7 (max roster size of 14 players)

U11 and U12 – 9 v 9 (max roster size of 18 players)

U13 and up – 11 v 11 (max roster of 22 with 18 available on game day)

Rob notes these are not official US Soccer roster sizes. EPYSA felt that a decision needed to be made for the leagues.

Bill notes that all roster and field sizes will be effective for the fall of 2016. One change that will go into effect for spring 2016 will be in regards to heading of the ball. Effective Jan 1, 2016 the decision was made that any intentional heading in a U13 and below game will result in an indirect free kick being award to the other team. U11 thru U13 can practice heading but it cannot be done in games. Below U11 cannot practice heading. U14 and above heading will be legal in games. Referees will be instructed to not call unintentional heading. Heading will be dealt with much like dangerous play. Discussion was held on the validity of the new rule. Bill Ross clarified that it is not our position to debate the rule but rather to follow the ruling as handed down by US Soccer. Rob encourages club administration to provide education to their coaches, parents and players early on so that they will be up to speed come time for training and games.

Sideline behavior – Bill did some research and found a very good system being used in Western New York. He explains that if someone is ejected for abusive sideline behavior, the club would be fined and then it would be up to the club if they wanted to absorb the fine or if they wanted to pass it on to the team or individual. He explains that this may be a good solution to a problem that is getting out of hand. He is asking for clubs to take the idea back to their individual meetings and discuss the idea and come back ready to vote on the proposal at the June meeting. (Any club with questions on the proposal is asked to email Bill directly.) He explained that Western New York was using an amount of \$250 for the fine. He believes this is a fair amount but agrees it should be up for club discussion and that any amount less than \$100 would likely be ineffective. Bill believes in a three strike rule. First infraction would be a \$250 fine, second offense could be a warning and \$500 fine and third offense would be removal of the offending individual from future attendance. One club recommended LVYSL prepare a parent / fan conduct agreement that everyone should sign.....Rob recommended this be done at a club level and that if anyone wanted an example they could email him.

U11 and U12 – with the games going to 9 v 9, should these age games go to a 3 referee system. It was pointed out this may help out the above discussed topic of sideline behavior. Rob was concerned about the availability referees. Gus also noted it would be an increase cost to clubs with the addition of 2 AR's. Bill

mentioned that recently a few classes were conducted for new referees. He explained that it would be a good idea for these new referees to not necessarily do game of this age from the middle but would benefit from being mentored by a seasoned referee who would take center. Bill asked clubs to discuss this and come back to the June meeting with input and for a vote.

Executive Director's Report

Rob Rooney

All spring dates are on the website.

Schedule will be sent out to clubs March 13 and you will have one week to complete them. Don't change dates of games when clubs have the schedule. Please just enter the times and field locations. We strongly encourage clubs to speak with their coaches so there are no misunderstandings. Please instruct coaches and parents that schedules are not final until Rob sends out a notice that they are final.

Cup conflicts are perfectly allowable reasons to reschedule games. Please contact other teams as soon as you know of a conflict. It is extremely difficult for Hal to coordinate referees when clubs are making changes the day before a scheduled game.

Please use the phone to communicate scheduling requests and changes....not everyone has access to email. Please also don't leave your games until the very last minute to enter your schedules. Rob encourages clubs to jump on the process early. He has seen those who take care of the schedules early tend to have the least amount of difficulty. Also if you need to reschedule a game and your two clubs are close in proximity it would be a huge benefit to Hal to choose a weekday to reschedule as he is assigning referees.

On the topic of the US Soccer initiative issues....Rob will create a document that will include all the areas of recent change and post it to the website in the next few days.

For the fall we will dual name each division. For example U14 (2003).

Tournament is June 11 and 12. March 15 is early registration for the discounted fee.

Question was raised....When painting the new lines on the field....should the large side end line be the same or run parallel to the touchline of the small sided field lines? Rob will research the question and add an item to the website where it is easy to find.

If you play on a field that you believe is larger or smaller than allowable sizes or if the conditions were unplayable you should send an email to the league and Rob will follow up.

VP of Operations Report

Shane Stone was appointed to this position on an interim basis pending the June annual vote. As such, no report was made.

Treasurer's Report

Rich Mitsifer reporting.

As of end of Feb 2016 balance was \$82,677. Compared to \$86,978 at the same time for the previous year. Decline of \$3,300.

Lost the round robin season this year which is normally around \$4,500.

Deposits in Jan and Feb 2016 \$11,440 vs \$14,480 the previous year for a difference of \$3,040. Rich believes this is mostly due to club payments being timed differently.

Expenses

Ref Fees to Hal \$2,343 (Nov and Dec for Fall Season)

Accountants \$2,035 (Annual Tax Return)

Crown Trophy \$359 (Fall Season)

Outstanding Bills

Lehigh Valley Soccer Scholar Athlete \$1,000

Demosphere \$375 (Website)

Bank statements are available for member review. See Rich to coordinate a viewing if you are interested.

Games Commissioner's Report

Bill Ross (Reporting as the position is open)

Board has been discussing eliminating the three games commissioner roles and amending the bylaws to reassign them to the Executive Director. Bill notes that the three positions have been open for some time and effectively Rob has been assuming the roles. We would like to vote on this change at the June meeting.

Registrar's Report

Kathy Garcia

Important dates

March 6 – all new teams to the Registrars

March 23 – PS1 changes in the system

March 30 – all teams ready to be approved

April 4 – teams frozen

EPYSA Representative Report

John Kukitz

Awards banquet is being held this Saturday. Erica Walsh to be honored. Penn State Women's team won the National Championship.

Referee fees will remain the same for the upcoming year.

Mike Barr is working on a concussion training video for the EPYSA website. This should be available shortly.

After 25 years of service to EPYSA John is resigning as the EPYSA Rep. Rob Rooney will step up and take the role as District 6 Commissioner.

Referee Assignors Report

Hal Grahn (Out of town, Bill Ross reporting)

Coaches need to have their lineups in order at the start of the game.

Field prep should be done prior to game time. Fields should be properly lined and flags need to be present on the corner. (Flags are a requirement per the laws of the game.) Goals need to be secured to prevent tipping. Please make sure you have the correct amount of money for your referees. Don't ask the referees to make change between the three of them.

We continue to ask for patience with new referees.

Old Business

(Reiterated from last meeting) Bylaws and league rules need to be investigated for updating and Bill encourages clubs to please discuss with their membership.

New Business

No new business

Good Of The Game

No items

Next Meeting

June 14, 2016 @ 730pm
Northampton Community College

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Ken Steenback
Secretary