



MDCVSA General Council Meeting
Saturday, August 25, 2012, 10 a.m.
Courtyard Marriott West, Richmond VA

1. Roll Call

Member Leagues

Capital Coed Soccer League	Ricardo Lasso
Central Virginia Soccer Association	Jamie Williams; John Roach
Commonwealth Soccer League	Adrian Kerr; Tom Leiss (by phone)
Northern Virginia Adult Soccer Association	Lou Chinchilla
Northern Virginia Soccer League	John Eskandary
Portsmouth Soccer Club	Dale Rosenfeldt
Soccer Organization of Charlottesville-Albemarle	Andrew Halley
Southeastern Virginia Women's Soccer Association	Michelle Martinez (by phone)
Washington Area Women's Soccer League	Jessie Kratz

Officers

James Sadowski	President
Marti Bevan	Vice President (by phone)
Lou Chinchilla	Registrar
Cara Rooney	Treasurer
Jessie Kratz	Secretary

Delegates

Anita Hood
Steve Long
Jamie Williams
Tom Leiss (by phone)

MDCVSA Admin Staff

Diane Larkin	State & National Cups Administrator
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2. Credentials Report

There were 115 of 184 eligible votes in attendance. A quorum was achieved.

3. Agenda

Motion to accept the agenda was approved.

4. Minutes

Jamie Williams recalled discussion about the budget for the men's state cup budget being held at the last meeting but not noted in the minutes. After some discussion it was determined the conversation was held at a previous meeting but the executive council would look into meeting recording options.

- Motion to adopt the minutes from the March 10, 2012 meeting was approved.

5. Officers' Reports

a. Vice President's Report

Marti asked all participants to speak loudly because it was hard to hear; noted nothing to report.

b. Registrar's Report

Lou reported that he is busy making new players cards.

c. Secretary's Report

Jessie asked for contributions to the new MDCVSA newsletter.

d. President's Report

- Online Registration—Jim reported that two leagues just joined online registration. He thanked SEVWSA again for being the league that got online started and now 6,000 players state-wide have been registered online which is about 40% of the membership and just short of his 50% goal. Jim asked if all members could encourage their leagues to go online because it reduces risk, reduces duplication registrations, ensures that everyone is covered by the insurance and provides a direct method of communication to the players.
- Insurance—Jim reported on the new insurance: the policy has a 25k limit, \$500 deductible with 80% usual and customary paid (the USASA insurance is more expensive, covers less and uses the schedule-of-benefits system which does not pay out as well). He stated now that more people are out of the workforce and that more people are aware of insurance that our claims have gone up. He reported that the board weighed all the options and determined for the 2012 – 2013 year we should move to a policy with a 15k limit, \$500 deductible and 80% usual and customary benefits; this contributed to the dollar fee increase.
- USASA fees—Jim reported the USASA is offering two categories of membership—a discount for recreational players and a premier player option. He explained that leagues must register all players under the same category. Jim noted that recreational players can play in Veterans and Coed Cup but not National Cups, and Premier players can play in all USASA events including National Cups.
- Jim noted the active.com contract is up this year and he will continue to try to find ways to reduce the budget but there aren't many more places to cut. He also stated he'd like to reinvigorate the state coed cup and veteran's cup. Jim ended by saying this would probably be his last term as President.

e. Treasurer's Report

- Cara went over the budget v. actual summary noting that income from 2012 – 2013 is already coming in so it appears we are under budget. She stated this will continue until we move to an accounting year that matches the calendar year which she is not recommending at this point because it's prohibitively expensive. She stated the main reason we should not go to an annual year is because USASA will require the state to pay for its players twice; once USASA goes to an annual year we will revisit the issue. Cara noted that we are in good standing with all of our accounts but we're not making much on our CD rates; around .5%. Steve Long asked if we were still getting income from international matches at RFK and in Richmond; Cara said that we are but it is hard to budget for that income because there is a 3-year time lag to when the match is held and when she gets the check.

- Motion to receive Cara's report was approved.

6. Referee Matters

In the SRA's absence Jim stated that Peter Walton was named general manager of the Professional Referee Organization. Jim stated that there is a movement to change the referee grading structure but that has been stalled until Peter gets established into his position. Jim ended by saying he'd like to get some referee development at local tournaments.

7. State and National Cups Administrator's Report (Diane Larkin)

- a. State Cups—Diane started by thanking CVSA and John Roach for hosting the state men's cup which was being held today with six teams and that Cara will cover their budget allotment. Diane continued by saying she hoped we could organize all of the state cups in a more orchestrated way because having all these cups will make our organization even more attractive. She stated she would like to propose dates for the various cups and contact local leagues to host the event stressing the importance of having the dates well in advance. John Eskandary stated that in the past the men's veterans' state cup has been too close to Neptune and he would like to look into hosting it in November 2012 in Northern Virginia. A discussion about the high cost/limited availability of fields followed including the possibility of using reserve-funds for investing in a field. Various possibilities were suggested such as partnering with youth groups, partnering with counties and applying for grants. The general consensus was that we have to be careful going into partnerships since the terms were not always met or the allotment of time received was minimal compared with the money invested, and grants were hard to get because we are adults.
- b. National Cups—Diane reported MDCVSA had 14 teams participate in the National Cups last year and that USASA is trying to make National Cups less expensive by instituting new, lower fees.

8. Old Business—Discussion of Travel Subsidy Policy

Cara reviewed the current travel subsidy policy—teams going to USASA events (Veterans Cup, Coed Cup and the national level of the National Cups) currently are allowed \$500 if at least 75% of their roster are MDCVSA players. Cara stated that only one team requested the money this year and they did not meet the 75% threshold. She reported that the executive board decided to give the team a proportional amount of the subsidy for attending Veterans Cup which was about \$350. She said the Board also asked our administrators reach out to the other two teams who qualified for a proportional amount should they want it. Cara recommended lowering the policy's MDCVSA player threshold to 50% for the future. Jamie Williams stated he knew of players that attended and played with USASA teams (not MDCVSA) and suggested going to a per player subsidy which Cara noted would be considerably harder to manage. Jim reviewed the origins of the subsidy policy: we wanted MDCVSA teams to represent us at national events but we want to be sure that money is used by MDCVSA teams only and the real question was what constituted a team. Anita said she thought 100% constituted a team but she would be okay with 80%. Marti said that it's harder for older teams to get a full roster of MDCVSA players; she also said we need to better advertise the subsidy.

- After general discussion Cara moved to set the subsidy policy to read: Teams requesting the national cups travel subsidy and meeting the 75% MDCVSA team requirement must contact the state within three weeks of the tournament to request the subsidy; these teams will get the full subsidy of \$500. Teams with at least 50% but not 75% of their roster registered with MDCVSA and having attended a USASA event will get a proportional subsidy from whatever funds are left over after payment to those teams meeting the 75% threshold.
- A motion was made to amend Cara's proposal to read: The executive board will notify all teams attending national cups of the travel subsidy policy in advance of the tournament and advertise it on the website. The amendment carried and Cara's motion, as amended, passed.

9. New Business

- a. New affiliation requests—Jim moved to admit the three new leagues listed in the agenda. Adrian objected because Fredericksburg Field house is a for-profit leagues who own their fields, pay their staff and have a competitive advantage over most of our leagues which are non-profit leagues run by volunteers. Adrian said he was not opposed to allowing the league to join per se but thought if we allowed them to join we needed to have a separate membership category for the for-profit leagues. John Roach agreed with Adrian and further stated fields were at a premium and allowing these leagues to become affiliated diminishes current affiliated leagues competitive advantage [of being affiliated]. John Roach also indicated that one of the leagues had a youth component and was using them to get field time for the adult portion of the league and thus taking time away from an existing MDCVSA league member who can't get the fields because they are adults. John Eskandary stated we should not let in any leagues that do not show up to the meeting to represent themselves. A general discussion followed about the lack of

good fields and the fact it has become harder and harder to compete against for-profit leagues as well as the proliferation of youth leagues who get field preference. Michelle noted competition in general is increasing and we need to look for new ways to promote ourselves, meet player needs and increase the player pool rather than deny new leagues membership. Most league members present came to a consensus that the state should not let in for-profit leagues. Jim stated that not allowing them membership when they met the criteria would appear discriminatory and could result in repercussions from the federation. He also stated there are other ways for these leagues to become affiliated and since they meet our current criteria for affiliation it will be hard to win any possible appeal as denial of their membership request would likely lead to an appeal. He further states that an appeal may also mean costs for the Association should an attorney be required. John Roach stated that the by-laws should be changed to either prevent the association from having to let in these leagues or have a different category for the for-profit leagues, and also the by-laws in general should be updated.

- A motion to approve the membership of the Roanoke Valley Women's Soccer League passed.
- A motion to approve the membership of the Dynamo Soccer Club failed.
- A motion to approve the membership of the Fredericksburg Field House failed.
- An action item was proposed to start a group to concentrate on fields.
- An action item was proposed to tighten the by-laws to prevent the membership of for-profit leagues or have two membership categories.
- An action item was proposed to pool resources and look into hiring a lobbyist to represent MDCVSA members. Jim noted the USSF Annual General Meeting is in Washington DC in June 2013 and members should come up to DC to lobby the federation and share their concerns directly.

- b. Budget—Cara went through the proposed budget first noting the numbers will be off because she included the new leagues to which we just denied membership.
- i. Income—Cara noted most leagues were paying \$20 for registration and one league is paying \$19 for liability-only. Cara reviewed the new guest player categories—\$24 for full guest and \$15 for three-day guest. John Roach asked if we had any income from sponsorships and stated we should be taking advantage of the companies such as Philip Morris and beer/alcohol manufacturers who can't advertise with youth leagues. He said we should seek sponsorships to get more income so we do not have to raise fees. John Eskandary asked why online registration was so expensive and said we shouldn't spend so much of our resources on online registration.
 - ii. Expenses—Cara pointed out a few important changes on the expenses side including removing the duplicate player reimbursement, moving to QuickBooks for payroll prep and a small increase in hours and salary for our administrators because they will now take on additional book-keeping duties in January. Cara stated the tournament hosting subsidy remains the same and while Neptune Soccer Classic and Commonwealth Soccer Classic traditionally use that subsidy it is open to anyone. Cara mentioned the subsidy for state cups and John Eskandary said that we should carry over the subsidy money from year to year if it is not used. Cara indicated this was possible but could make accounting and tracking of funds more cumbersome. Cara explained the subsidy amounts for the MDCVSA Men's Veterans and Men's State Cups. She noted that the subsidy amount per player based on a team of 18 players was in the neighborhood of \$36 per player as compared with the \$4 and \$2 per player subsidy provided for MDCVSA players attending the Commonwealth Classic and Neptune Tournament events that MDCVSA also sponsors. John Roach and Jamie Williams proposed a new travel subsidy policy for MDCVSA attended events that give \$200 to non-local teams to cover travel associated with participating in state cups.
 - A motion to add this MDCVSA Cups travel subsidy policy to stipulate that teams would be eligible if they travelled from a distance of 50 miles or more from the tournament site was proposed and accepted. The amendment passed.

Adrian and John Roach expressed interest in pursuing sponsorships and requested demographic data from the executive council.

Cara also pointed out that with USASA's new player categories and their requirement that any team wishing to participate in the National Cup events be registered as a premier player with premier players be designated by leagues that the budget assumed only 200 players as she thought players could determine their category rather than entire leagues doing so. As such, she stated, the budget would need to be updated to reflect four leagues being registered as premier at an additional cost of \$1 per player paid to USASA. The four league estimate comes from looking at the list of teams participating in the National Cups and the leagues they originate from. Cara continued the budget discussion by noting she included a budget for the USSF 2013 AGM which will be in Washington DC and would involve hosting duties that the Association would need to cover. She also pointed out she did not include money for an audit as we do that every other year. She indicated she included the cost of a spider-phone for the next meeting so call-in participants can hear well. John Eskandary reiterated his objections to online registration and requested we revisit the policy on duplicate registrations. He questioned the online registration player pass expense. Jim and Lou both said the player cards were a good portion of the cost as ribbon was expensive and the plastic they are printed on isn't cheap but that the design of the card could be used for sponsorships. Steve stated we should put back in the budget \$7000 for duplicate registrations and John Eskandary stated he thought removal of the duplicate refunds was forcing leagues to go online. Cara and Marti stated the money does not make its way back to the player and just goes to the league.

- A motion to continue duplicate player reimbursement failed.
- A motion to approve the budget passed. Cara promised to send an updated budget to the Council in light of the change to the total number of leagues/players, the premier player status, and the addition of the MDCVSA Cup travel subsidy. She noted that it's highly likely that the budget will now be in the negative rather than the surplus position the budget draft indicated.

- c. By-law proposals—Jim noted the by-law proposals were not distributed within the required time so we would just discuss them generally to see if we should pursue them at the next meeting.
 - i. Cara withdrew her proposal to move to a calendar budget year which means two of the bylaw changes were unnecessary.
 - ii. Requiring new leagues to register online—Jamie asked the status of USASA online registration; Jim said he would check into it. Cara said she knew USASA had selected a vendor but nothing more.
 - iii. Consensus for rolling registration—Cara said with leagues continually registering players throughout the season we need to address the 30 day registration deadline as a housekeeping item and perhaps just remove the text that references the requirement. She requested suggestions for changing the bylaw by members if they had ideas on how best to remedy this requirement. John Eskandary said the board was spending too much time on league management.
- d. NVSL's player eligibility questions—John Eskandary wanted to discuss an executive council decision to allow a disputed team to play in the National Master's Cup. He believed according the rules the team was not allowed. Diane pointed out that John was using State Cup rules for a National Cup event. Jim explained that the team in question had no local league in which to play and according to National Cup rules are allowed to compete.

10. Open issues from the floor

Jamie stated he will draft by-law text regarding for-profit league membership; Adrian said he would be willing to help in any way and will also help Jamie with the bylaw text. Adrian was thanked for his willingness to help and it was suggested that perhaps he look at sponsorships; John Roach said he would be interested in helping with that. Steve reminded everyone that any new by-law proposals must be distributed more than 15 days in advance of the

next meeting. Cara stated she would like to approve the budget for the next fiscal year (2013-14) in the March meeting so that we can set the fee based on the budget since leagues now start registering for fall in July and August. She requested we schedule a January meeting to discuss just fields (1 hour), new by-law on for-profit leagues (1 hour) and sponsorships (1 hour).

11. Officer and Delegate Elections:

Jim asked if anyone other than the incumbents were being nominated. The following officers were nominated:

Jim Sadowski—President
Cara Rooney—Treasurer

Motions to close and approve nominations approved; Jim directed the Recording Secretary to cast one vote each for the proposed slate.

Jim asked for nominations for delegates. The following delegates were nominated:

Steve Long—Delegate
Anita Hood—Delegate
Jamie Williams—Delegate
Dave Randolph—Delegate
Tom Leiss—Delegate

Motions to close and approve nominations approved; Jim directed the Recording Secretary to cast one vote each for the proposed slate.

12. For the good of the game

- a. Jim noted upcoming US National Team matches will be included in the next issue of the newsletter.
- b. Next meetings—January 12, 2013 [in Richmond to discuss fields, for-profit leagues and sponsorships] and March 9, 2013 [in Springfield to pass the budget and attend to other matters]

13. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jessie Kratz
Secretary