

Blue Ridge Classic League Board Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2006
(Approved)

Attendees:

Board Members: Joel Coman, President; David James, Administrator; Joan Schumann, Treasurer; Lee Boehling, Conduct Committee Chairman; Suzy Sauerwald, Secretary; Sandy Patterson, VP of Operations; Dale Russell, VP of Administration.

Club Reps: Phillip Raintree, Joe Gallo, Pat Reilly, Todd Joyce, Debbie Smith, Bill Fleshman, Tim Horan, Harry Lance, Heidi Crandall, David Burch, and Steve Karras.

Guests: Paula Leonard, and Steve Trotta.

Quorum determined.

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Reading/discussion/approval of minutes from last minutes.

June minutes reviewed. Motion to approve. 2nd. Approved.

Introduction of Guests: Paula Leonard taking over orange cards from Bill Carstensen - Welcome to Paula. Steve Trotta.

Officer and committee Reports.

Report from Dale Russell - VP Administration.

He reported that the executive board asked him to look into non-profit status and to determine the benefit vs pitfalls.

Reports that it does not look like it will benefit us - registration fees, expenditure - will take several years to determine if it would be worth it. From a tax standpoint it would not be a lot of benefit.

Report from Sandy Patterson - VP of League Operations.

Competition committee meeting met and it was a good meeting. Club reps and committee reps - trying to get everyone in the right groups and right divisions. In placing teams he looked at experience, numbers, games, etc. and he feels like most teams have been placed appropriately. Only time will tell completely. Only 2 - 3 teams that requested changes after placement. Report from this past weekend: played 83 games in the first weekend with 80 reported as of Sunday afternoon. Out of the 80 games reported, 53 of them were 3 or less goal differential. Also, 53 games had scores not shut outs. There were 10 ties, 18 1 goal games, etc.

U16 boys white division - 4 games with 2 goal differential.

U13 boys played 3 games with goal differential of 1.

U10's, U11 - most goal differential - grouped together. Goal differential average 2.6.

Request to Gary Grant to look into spectator areas and technical areas on fields. Some had them, some did not and some are not possible. Discussion regarding exceptions with goal sizes. Field sizes look good. Reps need to report to David if you have any exceptions to be considered and noted so that Sandy has a list. David will provide the list to Sandy. David is our conduit for our league - needs to be going thru him and he direct to appropriate person. Note: **Review drawing and see if the line is correct.**

Spectator area enforcement - use common sense.

Request was made to Sandy to provide the numbers to share with the group. Interesting and factual.

Report from Lee Boehling - Director of Sportsmanship Report:

Information provided to reps regarding possible request that Charles David Akers will be making to be reconsidered for attendance at BRCL League games. He was convicted of brandishing a firearm. He was convicted in court and he is now appealing the decision of not being able to attend games. VYSA suspended him. He will have to be released from the National groups before BRCL. First from the U.S. Soccer Federation. Then, VYSA. Of note: his daughter is still currently playing in the BRCL. This does not affect his ability to go to high school games.

Report from Joan Schumann - Treasurer's Report

Starting balance \$24,164.13. Receipts of \$2,341.00. Deposits of \$12,803.24 leaving an ending balance of \$34,626.37.

Player registration: Starting balance \$1,418.50, deposits of \$225.00. Balance of \$1,643.50.

Registrar's Account: Starting balance of \$1,054.00, Receipts of \$100.00 (donation sent out to long time registrar in her memory - Brenda Down - Top Soccer), leaving an ending balance of \$954.00.

Overall balance of \$37,223.87.

Report from Suzy Sauerwald - Secretary's Report.

Nothing to Report.

Report from Gary Grant - Referee Liaison

Not in attendance but provided handout.

Gary Grant brought on last spring. Needed someone to bridge the gap between league and referees.

Of note: ADear Referee@ button is now on the website as well as a referee Liaison page on the website.

He is still looking for a male and female player for referee liaison advisory committee. He currently has 7 members on this committee. Reminder: Team Roster - Game Day Roster. Referees need to have it. Gary Grant observed referees this past weekend. He identified some

flagrant problems with referees not showing up on time, not checking the field, not checking the goals, not being dressed appropriately, not starting the games on time, and not going by the FIFA Laws of the Game.

Report by David James - Administrator's Report

New attendees as club reps recognized:

Todd Joyce from Radford
Tim Moran - Salem Sabers
Bill Fleshman - Rke. Star
Steve Trevit - Monu
Heidi Crandall - Nelson Express

All scores from this past weekend have been reported.
Of note: Only one team has to enter score. Ultimately, the team that won should make sure that the score is entered. Team contacts are allowed to do this with their pin. Team manager website has those instructions.

552 games scheduled for this fall. Payments went better. Teams did a great job. VYSA fees came in timely.

No play dates - teams did a great job this year. One change he wants to make is that the appeal period is not the time to tell David the no play dates.

This year there were so few appeals that he gave the assignors the schedules early.

On line field schedules are not working. Field link should be fixed by Wed. He will export and publish it if it is not out by Friday.

Map quest - addresses are not always on target.

Schedule - this was the best/smoothest season he has had. Clubs did great in getting field availability.

New emphasis - reporting of red/yellow cards. One red card last weekend and 26 yellow cards. 23/26 yellow cards were on boys. He puts first name and last initial, plus jersey number. Stats on that player re: red/yellow cards will be tracked. Teams will have total cautions and expulsions too. Helps him track when player can not play next. 4 yellows - player suspended in a game.

Concerned on reporting process - team reports to David if their player received the yellow/red card. Do not report the opponent. Not a new rule just a new emphasis. Reds within 24 hours. Reds do not affect tourney play.

Reporting red cards - coordinate with reporting of scores. Main emphasis is that the player can not play in the next BRCL game.

Season got off to a good start.

Report from Joel Coman - President's report

Expressed thanks to the Executive board and to the Reps -- we are only as good as you are.

Software for scheduling - 2 years now - doing much better and is easier to use. It is a really slick program.

Discussion regarding hand-out on AGag rule@. This has developed over the years due to the behavior of parents/spectators toward players, officials, coaches, referees, etc. This has been discussed previously.

Opened to the floor for discussion.

Opportunity for this rule to be abused.

Gag rule - too literal.

Bill Fleshman, Rke. Star - no reason to have a rule unless you enforce the rule. The language stating that you cannot engage in conversation for any reason . . . what happens when you are suppose to give the ref. a ride home or it is your brother and you want to go out for a beer.

Lee - trend evolved where a U13 girl player was threatened by a parent. Following weekend another incident where everything except a punch was thrown. Another incident where someone on the sideline made a derogatory comment about a girls appearance. If someone even says good game but the ref. did not like him then reports him it would still land on the conduct committee desk.

Todd from Radford - after games this weekend - told ref. good game. By these standards he violated the rule.

Modify language perceived as abusive . . .

David - New River - on website - referee can read it and decide that he can report coach for it and turn into BRCL and then have to set out the next game.

Harry - Piedmont - codes of conduct that parents/players/coaches have to sign. There needs to be some conversation at times for clarification, etc. Idea was to set up consequences that someone will think twice before doing something regarding a fine up to \$500.00 or up to 6 games. Then, it gives the committee a range of severity.

Linda - Nelson Express. It has been really bad and when this came about it became much better.

Steve Karras - VAFC - captains are suppose to be the mechanisms of contact with the referees.

Joe - Botetourt United - Are there any other ways or scenario's that developed other than the 8 v 9 team this past weekend?

Tim Moran - Salem - suggestive in wording - to approach or engage any

abusive and take out for any reason. . .

Debbie - Franklin County - "any contact" is not realistic.

Several ways to modify this language. Give the committee a chance to modify it and discuss it at the next meeting.

PASA - leave as much as you can in it.

Coaches, assistant coaches, acting coaches, and directors of coaching are never to approach or engage in conversation **with** any center referee or assistant referee **in an abusive or unreasonable confrontational manner not within the spirit of the rule of conduct and sportsmanship** during or following any BRCL game (for any reason).

Team officials will limit their contact during or following the game to the exchange of BRCL cards.

**See if we can make this tweak and then send it back to the committee for review.

Steve Karras motion.

PASA - 2nd motion.

Voice vote - all in favor - unanimous; oppose - 0

Motion is approved.

Bill Fleshman wants the minutes to reflect that he can talk to his brother before, after a game.

Proposal for change of bylaws, rules and procedures.

Membership status of clubs who fail to field teams for a seasonal year. Once a club no longer has teams in our league then their membership expires. They are eligible for re-application.

Consider the one year of inactive status period. We will bring this back up in November.

November meeting is November 28th, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.

Miscellaneous announcements:

Joel Coman stated he perused different club websites to see how they do things. One thing he found was how one club had someone on each team be responsible for the conduct of their team. This person was not the coach - either the manager or a parent but someone designated.

Unfinished business:

Lexington has approached us seeking membership. They have submitted their by-laws. They are working regarding their referees.

Adjournment. 8:50 p.m.