

CMO35 2017 ANNUAL MEETING SAC PARK

Meeting opened: 10:20 am

Roll Call: All teams represented except; Brimfield & Nashoba

Presidents opening statement: Peter discussed the need for better relationship with the referees. There were many ongoing concerns by both players and referees. He also stated that the problem is nationwide and that something needs to be done as the number of qualified referees is getting smaller every year because of it.

Fall 2017 meeting minutes: Accepted

Old Business: The AR's for the A division was discussed and determined that the league would not fund AR's for the Spring season due to the difficulty in finding available referee's. Team managers also said they didn't see a major difference in the officiating with AR's, partly because many games had one or no AR's show up. The total referee count for the Fall season was 17, this was the first season the available referees was below 20. It was felt that the field conditions this season have improved due to a few teams able to secure new and better fields. The roster system seems to be working well. Jack will send out a final request for player DOB confirmation. There are only a few players left needed to submit driver's licenses.

Officers Reports:

Competition Committee Chair – Jay – Discussed the procedure for appeals. Team managers must submit an appeal by Tuesday following the game. The CC will review the referee report and request team manager's opinions and contact the referee for further details if needed. A decision will be made prior to the second game suspension going into effect. He reminded everyone that players may NOT submit an appeal.

Secretary/WebAdmin – Jack – Held his report for new business to discuss bylaw changes.

Treasurers Report – Peter – Report the league balance as of Nov. 2017 was \$7658.91. There are a few expenses yet to be paid and a couple of league fees to be collected. A new report will be submitted when all income and expenses are completed for the Fall season. It's estimated the ending balance will be approx. \$5500.00. It was thought that we may need to increase team fees in the near future. Further study will be done.

Referee Assignor – Vacant – The members were told that the referee assignor (Trish) had resigned with four weeks of the season remaining. Her reason for resigning was she felt that the league was not supporting the referees and did not want to further assign for CMO35. Peter mentioned that he had a prospect for the position.

New Business: The need for qualified referees was again discussed in length with many suggestions made on how to correct the problem. Among them were the possibility of a player code of conduct and requiring each player to read and agree to comply by signing it. A referee league instruction sheet was also discussed with the possibility of having the referees also sign an agreement to comply. It was felt it would help get everyone on the same page as to what is expected of them. Peter and Roland discussed the writing of a code of conduct for the managers to review.

It was agreed to change the division distribution. It was voted and approved to have eight teams in division A, seven in division B and 6 in division C. To accomplish this the last place team in division A is to remain in division A and the first place division B team is moved to division A; the last place division B team is to remain in division B and the first place division C team moves to division B; all remaining teams in division C to remain. It was also voted and approved that in future seasons the Board of Directors will determine the division make-up using the existing bylaw requirements as a guide.

It was voted and approved to have the league scheduler schedule the games as soon as the new division make-up is determined without any input from team managers regarding field availability. This was done to expedite the scheduling so that individual teams could know the dates needed for their fields and could schedule them accordingly. Each team will be responsible to schedule a field for their home games as scheduled.

An increase in red card fines as well as a new fine for yellow cards was also discussed as a way to help reduce dissent etc. No fine increases were made however there were a few bylaw changes, mainly clearer wording as to what the league expects from players. The meeting ran long and several managers had to leave before all the bylaw changes could be considered.

The following bylaws were amended:

2.5 Competition Committee – Referee assignor added as a committee member.

2.7 Referee Assignor – Added to CC

4.0 Legal Players – CC's authority to suspend players was further defined

7.0 Game Cancellation, Abandonments – Spectators added to sanctionable offences.

8.2 Fouls – Sliding tackle penalty further defined.

8.5 Fouls – CC's increase in game suspensions appealable through MASA.

8.8 Fouls – Presidents ability to act on an appeal further defined

8.9.8 – Violent Conduct – Added reason

10 League fees – Section 5 added regarding Mass Adult Soccer Asso. Bond requirements

For the complete wording of the bylaw go to the web-site. The updated bylaws will be posted there.

Meeting closed 12:50pm

Note: Election of officers and date of Spring meeting was not completed prior to meeting close.