



**Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA)  
Approved Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
February 7, 2020  
IYSA Conference Room**

Board Members Present: Salvador Arroyo, Gus Bender, Robert Berkley, Charlie Dyson, Flo Dyson, Kelly Fairwood, Dave Hicks, Dale Litney, Jake Mooney, Jane Raede.

League Representatives: Johann Arnason, Bob Berkley, Wayne Bernacki, Bill Bruno, Greg Cole, Beth Doran, Flo Dyson, Brian Fairwood, Jen Mateus, Jacob Mooney, Geoff Moore, Dave Piech, Jane Raede, Emina Zvizdich.

Guests: Mary Jane Bender, Bob Hansen, Adam Howarth, Chris Jamrozy, Ale Jurado, Meaghan Kinser (recording secretary), Louis Mateus, Katie O'Malley, Marek Radziszewski, Ivan Rico.

The Annual General Meeting was called to order by the President, Gus Bender, at 7:06 PM on Friday, February 7, 2020 at the association offices.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll Call was taken, and the following leagues were present: Barrington Area Soccer Association, Bolingbrook Soccer Club, Central Illinois Youth Soccer League, Collinsville Area Soccer Association, Crystal Lake Soccer Federation, Heat United Soccer Club, Illinois Women's Soccer League, Inter-Community Soccer League, Raptor Youth Soccer League, Schaumburg Athletic Association, Shorewood Soccer Association, Southern Illinois Soccer League, St. Louis Youth Soccer Association – Illinois, Thunder Soccer Club, Young Sportsmen's Soccer League.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 1, 2019 Illinois Youth Soccer Annual General Meeting were unanimously approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Gus Bender presented the President's Report. He thanked those in attendance for their continued support of IYSA. Gus discussed the challenges of enforcing compliance with the SafeSport requirements and how IYSA is working through them. Although US Youth Soccer has increased the per player fee by \$1.25 effective fall 2019, this increase was not passed on to the membership. Gus has always emphasized referee retainment and was pleased to announce that Peter Manikowski has been appointed to the Illinois State Referee Committee to implement procedures to keep referees. Gus was pleased to announce IYSA's partnership with the Rockford Park District that designates the Rockford Sportscore as the official player development, coaches training, and tournament center for IYSA. He finished by thanking the IYSA staff for their continued innovative ideas that help IYSA to remain in the forefront of the sport.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Kelly Fairwood presented the Secretary's Report.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Flo Dyson presented the Treasurer's Report and Budget.

**Motion: Bob Berkley moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and budget. The Treasurer's Report and budget were unanimously approved.**

## REPORTS

Dave Hicks presented the Central District Commissioner Report. He was pleased to report that the Central District continues to be well represented in both State and Regional competitions. Dave also thanked the IYSA office staff for their continued support.

Charlie Dyson presented the Northern District Commissioner Report. He was pleased to report that there continues to be an overall growth in the Northern District.

Jane Raede presented the Southern District Commissioner Report. She noted that there has been a constant growth in teams from Illinois in the Southern District.

Recreational Program Director, Dale Litney, presented the Recreational Program Report. He reported that IYSA had three new member organizations that joined in 2019 and he encouraged the member recreational leagues present to take advantage of the many free programs offered by IYSA. Dale also noted the Recreational Symposium that IYSA is hosting on March 3 and March 7 and encouraged those in attendance to register.

Executive Director, Mary Jane Bender, presented the Risk Management and State Office Report. IYSA has faced challenges enforcing SafeSport and Risk Management Policies and Procedures statewide. To meet the SafeSport requirements, starting June 1, 2019 IYSA requires all members to conduct their background search through the IYSA website. The search complies with the National Council for Youth Sports. In an effort to assist our members, IYSA absorbed this year's USYS per player fee increase and did not pass it on to our members. IYSA also absorbed the insurance increases that resulted from an incident of sexual molestation. However, starting fall 2020 the competitive per player fee will increase but the recreational player fees will remain the same. Mary Jane encouraged members to take advantage of the free 4v4 Grassroots Course offered to all member organizations which was made available in part by the Innovate to Grow Fund by US Soccer. She congratulated Louis Mateus for receiving the IYSA Meritorious Service Award and thanked him for his many years of service to soccer. Louis will be honored at the IYSA Awards Banquet on March 6. Lastly, Mary Jane thanked the leagues for their continued support of IYSA.

Illinois Youth Soccer Marketing & Communications Director, Chris Jamrozy, presented the Marketing Report. The Network News for 2019 was distributed to 80,000 homes. IYSA has done more e-communications including but not limited to the Illinois Kicks E-Newsletters, Coaches Connection, Sanctioned Tournament Registration, and ODP. In addition, there have been more E-Publications sent out to include a Spring Tournament Guide, Spring Tryout and Camp Guide, and a Recreational Directory where member organizations received a free full-page ad. IYSA has seen an increase in social media followers along Facebook (34%), Instagram (137%), and Twitter (7%), with plans to continue to engage members via social media. Lastly, Jimmy Johns was added as IYSA's newest sponsor with a recreational member league uniform sponsorship program.

Director of Coaching, Adam Howarth presented the Coaching Education Program Report. Adam noted that the number of Grassroots courses hosted by IYSA and conducted by Grassroots certified instructors continues to increase. IYSA is now offering a free 4v4 to member recreational organizations. IYSA

hosted two USSF National C License Courses in 2019 in Rockford. We worked with Chelsea FC to offer coaching clinics and to work with ODP players, a relationship that will continue to grow with more programming to come with incentives for all of IYSA programs.

Associate Director of Coaching, Marek Radziszewski presented the Olympic Development Program Report. He reported that there was a 10% increase in registrations in 2019/20. The ODP trainings for the 2002/03-2007 boys and girls age groups took place at Mercyhealth Sportscore Two in Rockford and trainings for the 2008 and Pre-ODP (2009-2010) boys and girls were at the Schaumburg Sports Center. Marek was pleased to announce that Illinois has seen an increase in players being identified to a USYS Midwest Regional Camp and the USYS National Pool.

State Cup Director, Bill Bruno, presented the Illinois State Cup, Presidents Cup, and Illinois Cup Reports. In 2019, there was a total of 27 teams representing Illinois in the USYS Midwest Region Championships, with 5 teams from Illinois competing in the USYS National Championships. This was the 20<sup>th</sup> year that Illinois had teams in the USYS National Championship Finals, with the 14U Boys Libertyville FC 1974 crowned National Champions.

Illinois had 16 teams represented at the USYS Midwest Region Presidents Cup with 5 teams moving on to compete in the USYS National Presidents Cup. At the conclusion, the 15U Boys Chicago Rush Select and the 17U Girls Chicago Fire Juniors West Red were crowned National Presidents Cup Champions with the 13U Boys SASA Spirits 2006 Blue taking 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

National League Midwest Conference Director for Illinois, Bill Bruno, presented the National League Midwest Conference report. IYSA has seen an increase in teams playing in the Midwest Conference from the 2018 to the 2019 season. Bill was pleased to announce that an unprecedented 35 Illinois teams won Midwest Conference titles in 2019. Promotion and relegation still remain for teams participating in the Midwest Conference.

Soccer for Success Program Director, Ale Jurado presented the Soccer for Success Report. The Soccer for Success Program is supported in part by a grant from the Department of Justice. The program was selected for a new grant for 2019 thru 2021. Ale was pleased to report that our program was also selected as a pilot for a new curriculum that will focus on social and emotional learning starting March 1. She thanked the IYSA Board of Directors for their continued support of the Soccer for Success Program and thanked the IWSL and the YSSL for their continued support of the Chicago Knights teams.

State Premiership Division Director, Chris Jamroz, presented the State Premiership Division Report. He thanked the IYSA Member Competitive Leagues for their continued support. Due to an increase in the number of teams participating in the USYS National League Midwest Conference, IYSA has seen a decrease in the number of teams registering for the State Premiership Division.

Meaghan Kinser presented the TOPSoccer Report. Shawn Danhouser, TOPSoccer Director, wanted to thank the IYSA Board of Directors and Staff for their continued support of IYSA's TOPSoccer program. He is optimistic that there will be 25 TOPSoccer programs affiliated with IYSA by the end of 2020. Shawn was also pleased to announce that Stefan Bjes, IYSA TOPSoccer Coach of the Year, was also selected as the USYS Midwest Region TOPSoccer Coach of the Year. He also noted that the annual TOPSoccer Summerfest for 2020 will be hosted by Schaumburg Athletic Association with a date to be determined and will be hosted by Trevian Soccer Club in 2021. Shawn was happy to announce that there are plans to partner with the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab to co-host 4 Paralympic Soccer Clinics to focus on coaching support in both Fall and Winter of 2020. There are also plans to partner with the Chicago Park District to co-host a Deaf Developmental Program Clinic in 2020 as well as a Blind Developmental Program in 2021.

Tournament Director, Jane Raede, and Tournament Administrator, Ivan Rico, presented the Tournament Report. There was a total of 48 new tournaments hosted by 42 different clubs in 2019, which was up from 2018. All sanctioned tournaments in Illinois fall in line with all risk management procedures required by IYSA and SafeSport. There are hopes to increase the number of sanctioned tournaments to between 55-60 in 2020 as more clubs are looking to host tournaments. Lastly, Jane Raede has taken over for Hugh Orlicz as the IYSA Tournament Director and is continuing to make site visits to sanctioned tournaments to ensure risk management procedures are being followed. Gus Bender thanked Hugh Orlicz for establishing and updating the tournament host procedures and for his many years of service to IYSA.

Gus Bender presented the Referee Report. He noted that there have be changes in the number of referees registered in Illinois. Gus also talked about the implementation of the new USSF Learning Center registration platform. Lastly, the Referee Committee will be focusing more on their mentoring program.

## **ELECTIONS**

Gus Bender conducted the elections.

Bill Bruno nominated Dave Hicks for the Central District Commissioner position. No nominations were made from the floor. Dave Hicks was elected by acclamation.

Gus Bender nominated Flo Dyson Director-at-Large position. No nominations were made from the floor. Flo Dyson was elected by acclamation.

Gus Bender nominated Jake Mooney for the Director-at-Large position. No nominations were made from the floor. Jake Mooney was elected by acclamation.

Gus Bender nominated Dale Litney for the Recreational Program Director position. Greg Cole nominated Bob Hansen for the Recreational Program Director position. The nominations were closed, and ballots distributed to the delegates. The ballots were counted.

Gus Bender declared Dale Litney as the elected Recreational Program Director.

**Motion: Gus Bender made a motion to accept the candidates as elected. Motion was unanimously approved.**

**Motion: Gus Bender made a motion to destroy the ballots. Motion was seconded by Kelly Fairwood. Motion was unanimously approved.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Gus Bender declared the Annual General Meeting of the IYSA adjourned at 8:21 PM.