



Illinois Youth Soccer Association
Approved Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
October 9, 2021
Zoom Conference Call

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

Board Members Absent and Excused: Dave Hicks

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

The regular Board Meeting of the Illinois Youth Soccer Association was called to order by the president, Gus Bender, at 9:08 AM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gus Bender moved to approve the Minutes of the July 17, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved.

OFFICE REPORT

Mary Jane Bender presented the Office Report. IYSA has signed an agreement with Players Health for 2021/22 insurance coverage after being advised that our former insurance company is unable to offer a quote that would include Sexual Abuse & Molestation (SAM) coverage. The enormous cost for SAM coverage has not been passed on to our members at this time but all leagues and clubs are advised to comply with the U.S. Center for SafeSport requirements to protect the children and avoid future claims.

National Health Plan

Player's Health is offering the very first National Health Plan focused specifically for IYSA member leagues and clubs. IYSA member staff, coaches, referees, and volunteers are eligible for this health plan, with additional reduced rates for those who don't have health coverage and are of W2 or 1099 status. Club/league employees and their dependents who normally participate in individual group insurance plans are entered into *one* (fully-insured) large group plan. The more leagues and clubs that participate, the greater the impact on group pricing and affordable rates.

SafeSport League and Club Abuse Prevention Training

The Center for SafeSport and U.S. Soccer requires all employees and Board members of member leagues and clubs to complete the Center for SafeSport abuse prevention training (the "SafeSport Trained" Core), regardless of whether those individuals have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes.

SafeSport Parent and Player Trainings

The Center for SafeSport and U.S. Soccer require all member leagues and clubs with minor athletes to offer both the Center for SafeSport's Parent Training and the Minor Athlete Training on an annual basis. They are not required to track completion of parent or player training but must document how and when it was offered. The Center's Parent and Player Trainings are available free of charge without an access code. Parent training is accessible here: <https://athletesafety.org/training/index>. Minor athlete training modules are available for minor athletes ranging in age from preschool up through high school and can be accessed free of charge here: <https://athletesafety.org/training/index>.

Mandatory Reporters

The SafeSport Act, a congressional law, and U.S. Soccer require all Mandatory Reporters including but not limited to administrators, coaches, referees to immediately report suspected child abuse or sexual misconduct to both their local Law Enforcement Authorities and the US Center for SafeSport at the following link <https://uscenterforsafesport.org/report-a-concern/> and copy IYSA at rmc@illinoisyouthsoccer.org. Reporting may be made anonymously to the Center and retaliation against individuals making good faith reports of child abuse is expressly prohibited. All member leagues and clubs are required to maintain a procedure for reporting misconduct to the extent required by the SafeSport Act, Public Law 115-126 Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 that was passed by Congress on February 14, 2018.

Referee Assaults

According to US Soccer, there has been an increase in the number of referee assaults and abuses reported across the country this fall. It is important that referees report assaults to the police.

What to do if you are assaulted:

1. Don't Hesitate - Call the police
2. If you are a Minor (under 18), Also Report to SafeSport
3. Report to your League
4. Report to your Referee Assignor

IYSA Mental Health Webinar

The stress of Covid has increased the number of mental health issues including suicides for men in their 40s & 50s. Special appreciation is extended to Dr. Jessica Bartley, the Director of Mental Health Services at United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, who presented the IYSA Mental Health webinar on September 15 that contained important information and questions from the attendees: https://youtu.be/hx_wYy12tJo

IYSA Child Abuse & Molestation Webinar

Please watch and distribute the attached link to the September 8 Coaches Connection webinar regarding Child Sexual Abuse & Molestation. Special thanks to the webinar presenters from Players Health and particularly Paul Cadwell of the Chicago Fire who presented one of the most relevant information regarding prevention: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0_812DUetw

U.S. Youth Soccer Women Equality Day Webinar

Following is the link to the Women's Equality Day Webinar by the USYS Diversity & Inclusion Committee that discussed women's issues and included a shout-out to the IYSA: [US Youth Soccer Women's Equality Day Webinar 2021 - YouTube](#)

REGISTRATION REPORT

Meaghan Kinser presented the Registration Report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Flo Dyson presented the Financial Report.

MARKETING & EVENTS REPORT

Chris Jamrozy presented the Marketing & Events Report. The Fall State Cup Finals are scheduled on November 6 in conjunction with the Rockford Raptors College Showcase to utilize resources and attendance by college coaches. IYSA's first All-Star Rec Showcase, which is sponsored by SCORE, is scheduled on October 23 in Schaumburg. Scores will not be kept and champions will not be declared. We are particularly grateful to Score for donating jerseys and socks to all participants. We thank SAA for helping coordinate the event and assigning referees. Futsal State Cup will take place in Rockford on January 29-30, 2022; the champions will advance to compete at the USYS National Futsal Championship in Oklahoma City on February 25-27, 2022.

Following are the dates for the Spring 2022 State Cup, Presidents Cup, and Illinois Cup:

- April 23-24: Open Cup Play-Ins
- May 15: Home Team Host Play by Deadline
- May 20-22: State Cup & Illinois Cup Group Play & Presidents Cup Quarterfinals Weekend
- May 27-30: State Cup Quarterfinals & Semifinals & Presidents Cup Semifinals & Finals
- June 3-5: State Cup Finals & Illinois Cup Semifinals & Finals

IYSA continues to be active with social media and is working on ways to create and share in the IYSA Kindness Campaign. A new section has been created on the website with premade graphics for the clubs' use. The premade graphics include the club's logo and a unified message across the competition. The clubs just need to download the image and post it to their social media. The same thing was created for the start of the IWSL and YSSL Fall 2021 season for clubs to download and insert their club logo to promote. Lastly, IYSA started boosting posts on Facebook to reach a larger audience.

COACHING REPORT

Adam Howarth presented the Coaching Report. IYSA has conducted 22 courses and 5 recreational clinics since January 2021. The coaching courses continue to be in a blended learning format involving 2 hours via Zoom and 2 hours in-person, a format that has been very successful. The first 'C' License of 2021 was completed in August and the second one will finish in November. The next Coaches Connection meeting will be virtual on December 8.

ODP REPORT

Marek Radziszewski presented the ODP Report. Registration for 2021/2022 is now open. IYSA has conducted several webinars to explain the ODP process to the parents.

SOCCER FOR SUCCESS REPORT

Ale Jurado presented the *Soccer for Success* Report. The program is currently running in-person training at 4 parks. The program just started in-person trainings at 4 schools which were previously done virtually and will add 3 more schools in the next couple weeks.

PERMITS & PASSES REPORT

Katie O'Malley presented the Permits and Passes Report.

TOURNAMENT REPORT

Ivan Rico presented the Tournament Report. Jane Raede has been visiting the majority of sanctioned tournaments in Illinois to network with the tournament directors and referee assignors. A total of 16 tournaments have taken place since the start of August. The annual Tournament Directors Meeting is scheduled on January 9, 2022 and the Tournament Assignors Meeting is set for January 10, 2022.

REFEREE REPORT

Ivan Rico presented the Referee Report. The ISRC currently has 3,720 certified referees and is expecting to certify 1,200 new referees annually. 125 attendees participated in the September 29 ISRC webinar for those looking to become a referee that resulted in 13 new referee registrations. IYSA has continued to help market upcoming referee courses and webinars. Lastly, Rico has reached out to Youth Commissions, colleges, and high schools about participating in job fairs or the possibility of posting referee course information.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board agreed with Bob Berkley's proposal that before an Applicant will be considered for IYSA Member League Affiliation, all Board Members and Employees of the Applicant whether or not those individuals have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes must successfully complete and submit to the IYSA their IYSA Background Check, the Center for SafeSport Abuse Prevention Training (the "SafeSport Trained" Core) Completion Certificate, Concussion Training Completion Certificate from the National Alliance for Youth Sports or Heads Up Concussion in Youth Sports, the IYSA Emergency Medical Release & Liability Waiver and the IYSA Communicable Disease Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered executive session at 11:14 AM and exited at 11:34 AM.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board Meeting of Illinois Youth Soccer is scheduled on December 11, 2021.

Gus Bender declared the Board Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.