**Northwest District**

**Of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association**

January 17, 2024, Heritage Hotel, Southbury, CT

**Attendees:**  Mindi Davidson & Matt Geer (Watertown), Dave Shannon (Litchfield), Lauren Janofsky (Brookfield), James Bishop (New Milford), Joe Abdella (Shepaug), Dan McGuirk (Woodbury-Bethlehem),Jay Zalewski (Pomperaug), Kristin Swati (Northwest United), Stephanie Genao (Highlander), Jennifer Gode (Terryville), Jeff Hepp (Thomaston), Corrado Perugini (Disc Chair), Edwin Salazar (CT Impact), Dave Brouillette (District Rep) (Wolcott), Karen Puskas (Admin), Rich Zimmerman (League Commissioner).

**Not in attendance:** Winchester United, Torrington, New Fairfield

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm by Dave Brouillette

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** November 2023 minutes approved. All in favor, no objections.

**Spring League Items:** Jay Zalewski (Pomperaug) asked if we could move the roster freeze date from Monday, April 15th to Wednesday, April 17th to give clubs some time after weekend games. Clubs agreed and Board approved. **ROSTER FREEZE TO BE Wednesday, April 17th.**

Dan McGuirk (WBYS) brought up the possibility of adding a C league to the tournament. Kristin Swati (NU) agreed, and the item was open for discussion. Dan spoke about how WBYS doesn’t have a rec league and it would be good as many of these players can’t compete even at the B level with other clubs who have A players, and some premier players play down. Kristin agreed. Rich spoke about how the district used to have a C league many years ago but then it was eliminated due to lack of teams. Many clubs in District don’t have enough rec players to offer an in-house league so this could possibly give those clubs a travel league with a couple others in the same boat. After much discussion amongst the clubs, the Board asked Dan and Kristin to produce a definition for the C league and then we can put it out to all and add it to the tournament offerings. They will get to write to Karen this weekend who will in turn send to the Board.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Karen reviewed the bank accounts and current year-to-date statements. Statements showed or $25,000 investment with Webster Bank under our assets. Currently about $31k in bank and we are $12K plus in black for this fiscal year. Karen handed out a expense sheet to clubs showing what clubs owed for player/coach registrations through December 2023, fines for not reporting scores, banquet fees and then t-shirt/trophy difference. All this amounted to some $17k the district is waiting for. The Board asked those clubs to be diligent in catching up with their invoices. Kristin Swati (NU) made a motion to accept the treasurer report. Dan McGuirk (WBYS) seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**Registrar Report:** Scott not present but wanted to make sure all know when the roster freeze is – **Wednesday, April 17th.**

**Commissioner Report:** Rich to work with Karen again on the best possible way to get schedules on website and out to teams. Will have better idea about league as deadline approaches in March.

**State Report:** Dave spoke about the upcoming President’s Awards Dinner on January 26th and then the AGM on January 27th. He asked clubs if they could attend and explained the events of the weekend. Karen provided workshop information for Saturday as well. Dave mentioned that in the future, the AGM will be moved to another date to due to many conflicts in trying to get speakers, vendors and workshop instructors as other states have their AGM the same weekend.

**Referee Report:** John not present but asked to remind clubs that some 1,300 referees from last year need to recertify before the spring season so please get the word out. The state is also always looking for more to become referees. Information on ctreferee.net.

**Sports Connect:** Karen spoke about issues we had in the fall and look to rectify this spring:

1. Registrars who create teams now in CJSA must use that same team when registering for the tournament upon registration. DO NOT CREATE ANOTHER TEAM. This caused havoc for coaches who could not log into the system to report scores as the newly created team for the tournament had no coaches or roster attached. Use the drop-down menus in the team registration section to select the teams you already created to enter that one in the tournament. All teams MUST have a coach attached to them to register or they won’t be accepted. This can be changed later.
2. Coaches who have two or more profiles in Soccer Connect need to get their accounts merged to make life easier. Coaches can’t keep going in each season and creating another profile with the same cell and emails as it wreaks havoc with the system. Coaches who are in this scenario must submit a ticket to Sports Connect and ask to have their accounts merged.
3. When registering teams for the tournament, it is best to bulk register them at once and pay only one $5 service fee. If you register teams a few at a time, you will be charged that $5 every time you register. If you want to avoid all internet fees, just let Karen know you are mailing a check which is fine.

**Westport WIN Tournament:** Karen informed all clubs of indoor/outdoor tournament in Westport March 16/17, 2024. Great kick off to season if you can get a team in.

**Northwest District VP position:** The VP position for the district which Paul Maloney is now in is up for election next week at the AGM. Lauren Janofsky (Brookfield) nominated Paul to stay in the position. Dan McGuirk (WBYS) seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Paul, while not present, said that if he was nominated again, he would accept.

**New Business:**

Nothing to report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Puskas