**Northwest District**

**Of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association**

March 20, 2024, Heritage Hotel, Southbury, CT

**Attendees:**  Mike Desjarnis and Mark Zaccagnini (Watertown), Dave Shannon (Litchfield), Lauren Janofsky (Brookfield), James Bishop and Nelson Dovale (New Milford), Joe Abdella and Danielle Quijada (Shepaug), Dan McGuirk and Mike Losh (Woodbury-Bethlehem),Jay Zalewski (Pomperaug), Kristin Swati (Northwest United), Dyan Combs (Highlander), Jennifer Gode and Kim Hotchkiss (Terryville), Stephanie Remillard (Torrington), Jeff Hepp (Thomaston), Corrado Perugini (Disc Chair), Edwin Salazar and Ricardo Schmidt (CT Impact),Chad Schaefer (New Fairfield), Dave Brouillette (District Rep), Paul Maloney (VP) (Wolcott), Karen Puskas (Admin), Scott Shakely, (Registrar), John Hester (District Ref), Rich Zimmerman (League Commissioner).

**Not in attendance:** Winchester United, Danbury

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Paul Maloney

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** January 2024 minutes motion for acceptance by Joe Abdella (Shepaug) and seconded by James Bishop (New Milford). All in favor, motion passed.

**Spring League Items:** Paul asked all to review the current timeline for spring and note ROSTER **FREEZE TO BE Wednesday, April 17th.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Karen reviewed the current month’s financials. The current year so far has us in the black and the bank balance is around $45k. The biggest expenses come from banquet in January. Kristin Swati (NU) made a motion to accept financials and Dan McGuirk (WBYS) seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**Registrar Report:** Scott mentioned that we have registered 393 new players since January. Everything is going well, and rosters are about halfway done. Players that turn 18 during the spring 2024 season must do SafeSport training. Joe Abdella (Shepaug) asked if there were anyway rosters could go to 25 for U19’s but this can’t happen as State has a statute of 22. Scott mentioned if players are not US Citizens, they have to provide proof of age and then run in parallel so players could be put on roster and play. There is other paperwork to provide but proof of age will get them moving on the roster until all else is completed.

**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 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 stated that some 1,000 referees in the state have yet to recertify for 2024. He is encouraging club assignors to use central assign for scheduling referees. He also encouraged referee reports after games as they are needed if any corrective action needs to be taken after a game.

**State:** Paul reported that the AGM will now be held in February instead of January. The new date for 2025 is February 22, 2025. Paul also stated that the state referee association is looking at making coaches who get red cards during the season take the referee course to get back on the field. There is also a new app everyone can use for updates to the laws of the game – IFAB.

**All Star Game:** New Milford and Nelson Dovale once again agreed to host the All-Star Game for our graduating 8th graders. Date will be Saturday, June 1,2024 with times TBD. Nelson will be getting in contact will all teams with 8th graders to see how to send a couple from each team to the games.

**Hartford Athletic:** Karen brought up the possibility of the district purchasing tickets to a Hartford Athletic game Memorial Day weekend and distributing to the clubs. Depending on the package, players could be on the field with the Athletic, perform the national anthem or be on the sideline. The district decided that was a bad weekend and will look at June 21st instead and see what kind of package is available. Looking at a price of 15.34 compared to 17.50.

**General:** Lauren Janofsky (Brookfield) made a motion to allow the district to purchase items up to $1,000 as needed to conduct business, in particular, a laptop for Karen to bring to meetings and use. Mark Zaccagini (WTN) seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

**League set ups:** Rich and Karen took the clubs through leagues and divisions for the spring which will start on April 6th. Coaches meeting on March 27th.

**New Business:**

Nothing to report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Puskas