**Northwest District**

**Of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association**

June 18, 2025 via ZOOM

**Attendees:** Nelson Dovale (New Milford), Don Ruppel (Woodbury-Bethlehem), Jay Zalewski (Pomperaug), Dyan Combs (Highlander), Jeff Hepp (Thomaston), Patrick Owen (Torrington), Kristin Swati (Northwest United), Alex Mendoza & Ricardo Schmidt (CT Impact United), Amy Shannon (Litchfield), Daniel Ifcher & Jenna Hubbard (Shepaug), Jen Gode (Terryville), Saria Audia & Eric Pond (Winchester United), Paul Maloney (Wolcott & Admin), Karen Puskas (Admin), John Hester (Ref Admin), Scott Shakley (District Registrar).

**Not in attendance:** Danbury, Brookfield, New Fairfield and Watertown

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by Karen Puskas

**Minutes:** Motion was made by Kristin Swati (Northwest United), o approve the minutes from May 2025. Seconded by Jay Zalewski (Pomperaug). All in favor. Motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report:** No current reports from CJSA but Karen believes the District is in good standing and following budget accordingly for fiscal year. Will have full report come August.

**Registrar Report:** Scott reported that the District saw some 668 new registrations for spring but noted that overall for the current year, player counts are down 6% which includes 3% for travel and 10% for recreation. Scott mentioned the procedure for players who play with one club in the fall and then show up on another club in the spring. That player needs to complete a player transfer request before he can be added to any spring roster.

**State Report:** Paul reported that club affiliations are due by June 30th with CJSA. Hard deadline of August 31st and then after that, CJSA will not recognize the club and they will not be in good standing. Please update your affiliations now before July 1st by going to CJSA and filling out the template.

Karen also asked Paul about US Soccer birth year changing for 26-27 and she has been telling clubs it is a September 1st birth date. Paul now states that CJSA is going to August 1st but needs to confirm. As soon as Karen receives the correct information from Josh at CJSA, she will pass along to the clubs so they can begin to prepare.

**Referee Report:** John reminded clubs that July 1st the entry level course for referees opens up. He is encourages clubs to let their community know so they may get certified.

**Commissioner Report:** Rich not present but Karen reviewed the dates for the upcoming fall season:

1. Team registration – August 1st – 10th. Late registration August 11th – 14th.
2. Proposed league assignments sent to clubs-Wednesday, August 14th
3. Clubs get three days to review-deadline for review-Saturday, August 17th
4. District pre-season meeting and league assignments presented-Wednesday, August 20th
5. Coaches Meeting-Wednesday, August 27th-6:00 pm
6. Fall season begins Saturday, September 6th and ends Sunday, November 16th
7. Roster Freeze date – Wednesday, September 24th

**All-Star Game:**  The 8th grade all star game is Saturday, June 21st. Girls will play at 2:30 pm and the boys at 6:30 pm. The event will take place at New Milford High School. Raffles, food, games and lots of fun will be provided!! Contact Nelson Dovale with Soccer Club of New Milford if you need more details.

**New Business:**

**Team Handbook:** Karen reported the board met to review and update the team handbook. Updates include adding US Soccer policy 531-9 for referee abuse, adding sanction and fine for referee abuse by spectators, adding clearer language regarding players and spectators being on opposite sides of the field, suggesting all rosters have as many assistant coaches, managers and club president on them in case the head coach is not available and firming up the language regarding failure to appear and the 24-48 hour time frame. Offending club will have to pay the referees for the day.

**Spring 25 season:** Season ends on June 22nd with all scores being reported by June 24th. Non reported games incur a $50 fine. League champions will be declared the last week in June and coaches will be notified for trophy and t-shirt counts to be delivered in July.

Meeting adjourned 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Puskas