

**Northwest District
Of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association**

June 19, 2024, Heritage Hotel, Southbury, CT

Attendees: Bob Rinaldi & Robert Bostrom (Watertown), Lauren Janofsky (Brookfield), Nelson Dovalé (New Milford), Samantha Steinis (Shepaug), Jennifer Chmielewski (Woodbury-Bethlehem), Jay Zalewski (Pomperaug), Dyan Combs (Highlander), Jennifer Gode (Terryville), Ian McDonald (Torrington), Steven Quick (Thomaston), Corrado Perugini (Disc Chair), Chad Schaefer (New Fairfield), Dave Brouillette (District Rep), Paul Maloney (VP) (Wolcott), Karen Puskas (Admin), John Hester (District Ref), Rich Zimmerman (League Commissioner).

Not in attendance: Winchester United, Danbury, CT Impact United, Litchfield and Northwest United.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:41 pm by Paul Maloney

Public Comment: None

Minutes: May 2024 minutes motion for acceptance by Lauren Janofsky (Brookfield) and seconded by Samantha Steinis (Shepaug). All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Karen reviewed the current month's financials. She noted under league entry fees to add \$10,500 as this will bring all clubs up to date with spring team registration. She asked clubs to check their monthly invoice from CJSA and if there is anything outstanding to please pay it by July 1st as fiscal year is ending. Club affiliations are due July 1st and if there is any club changing presidents and/or treasurer to please contact her with updated information. Minimal expenses expected from now until June but include items like the all-star game and spring awards. Motion to accept June 2024 treasurer's report by Ian McDonald (Torrington) and seconded by Robert Bostrom (Watertown). All in favor, motion carried.

Registrar Report: Scott not present. Nothing to report.

Commissioner Report: Rich presented new updates beginning with the fall 2024 season for all clubs. These changes will be reflected in the team handbook which will be printed for distribution for the fall 2024 season. There is an addendum with all changes at the end of these minutes.

State Report: Paul spoke about the referee program mandating central assign.

Referee Report: John reported that recertification for the 2024 season is now closed. He reminded ALL clubs they now have to use central assign to put referees on their home games. There is a tutorial available on ctreferee.net and you can contact them for help. This is mandatory. Dean Mitral is contact for assistance.

All Star Game: Nelson reported all went well with game. Pictures have been posted on website with links to see all pictures from the game.

Roster Freeze: The Board has determined that the roster freeze will continue and be in place each season, two weeks and four days after the first Saturday of the season.

U19 league: After reporting in May several incidents that took place with this league, the remainder of the season went well. The Board will continue to review this league further after the fall season.

Fall 2024 season: The District released the following dates and timelines for the upcoming falls season:

- I. Fall 2024 Team Registration Important Dates
 - A. Team registration deadline – Saturday, August 3rd
 - B. Proposed league assignments sent to clubs-Wednesday, August 14th

1. Clubs get three days to review-deadline for review-Saturday, August 17th
- C. District pre-season meeting and league assignments presented-Wednesday, August 21st
- D. Coaches Meeting-Wednesday, August 28th-6:00 pm Boys/7:00 pm Girls
- E. Fall season begins Saturday, September 7th and ends Sunday, November 17th

New Business:

Sports Connect update about registration: The following is an update released from Sports Connect relating to online registration:

We're excited to announce a new feature coming to the Sports Connect platform—the "In Progress" Status for Tournament Applications, which will be live on **June 19, 2024**. This update will streamline the application process and ensure a smoother experience for everyone involved.

What's Changing?

1. **New "In Progress" Status:** When applying for tournaments, and payment is required, the application will now stay in "In Progress" status until the payment is complete. Once the payment is made, the status will change to "Submitted."
2. **Updated "New" Status:** The current "New" status will be updated to "Submitted" to make things clearer.

How It Affects You

For those using the Declare Multi-Team function, if payment is required, teams will stay in the "In Progress" status until payment is made. After clicking "Submit Applications," you will see a "Go" payment button. Completing the payment will move the teams to "Submitted." You can finish the process later if you don't want to pay immediately. When you're ready just navigate to the Teams Tournament tab, click "payment," and finish the payment process.

Similarly, registrars applying a team via the Tournament tab and coaches applying their team via the My Account screen will see teams in the "In Progress" status until payment is made.

Key Benefits

We believe these updates will enhance your experience and simplify the application process. These changes will provide clear status updates and streamline payments, ensuring that all applications are processed efficiently. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your Technical Account Manager. We're here to help!

Sanctions and Fines: The District Board has updated the fines and sanctions area of the team handbook that will go into effect for the fall of 2024. These are an addendum to the minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Puskas

Addendum 1:

Both Classic Boys and Girls leagues will be established based on age, and then team competitiveness (except U09, which is non-competitive).

- All age groups will have at least one league (L1).
- Additional leagues will be added as needed. (example: L2, L3, etc.)
- Within each age group the composition of each league will be based on competitiveness; L1 being the most competitive.
- All flights will have a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 11 teams.
- Combined Leagues (as needed):
 - When necessary, there may be combined leagues between age groups (U9&10, U11&12, or U13&15).
 - Combined leagues will have a minimum of 3 teams within each sub-league. If there are less than 3 teams, they will be placed in a league that matches their competitiveness as much as possible.
- Goal Differential:
 - Option 1: 6 goal max differential for ALL games, except those between two L1 teams, and applies to combined leagues.

The table below lists the game format, roster restrictions, minimum playing time, days of the week games are scheduled, and maximum goal differential allowed by age for both Boys and Girls Classic Leagues.

	U9	U10	U11, U12	U13, U15	U19
Game Format	7 vs. 7	7 vs. 7	9 vs. 9	11 vs. 11	7 vs. 7
Max Roster Size	22	22	22	22	22
Max Game Day Roster Size	14	14	16	22	22
Standings/Champions	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Scheduled Game Day	Sat	L1: Sun. All others: Sat			Sun
6 Goal Max Differential	Yes	L1: No. All others: Yes			No
Equal Playing Time	Yes	L1: No. All others: Yes			No

The following bullets apply to the preceding table:

- Notwithstanding the number of players on the roster, no more than 14 (U9/U10) or 16 (U11/U12) players will be allowed to participate in a specific game.
- A roster used for CUP play must be compliant with the limits defined by that event; 11U/12U - 16, U13/U19 - 22. A specific Cup roster may have to be made if your NWD roster exceeds these limits
- For U9 and up, standings will be kept on the district website nwdcjsa.org and champions will be declared for U10 and up. The district will provide league championship trophies each fall and spring season for U10-U12 leagues and championship t-shirts for U13-U19 leagues. The U9 leagues are not results oriented. As a result, no champions will be declared
- Equal playing time means that all players are to play the same amount of time for each game except in the event of illness, injury, or discipline. It does NOT apply to U19 or L1 leagues.
- Exceeding the maximum 6 goal differential will result in a forfeit, fines, coach suspension and loss of standings. (Loss of standing does not apply to U9.)
- Game day for ALL U19 and L1 leagues will be scheduled for Sundays. All other leagues will be scheduled for Saturday. However, ALL leagues may play on any day if mutually agreed upon by both teams; Coaches need to confirm which day well ahead.
- U15 teams cannot contain players currently in the 9th grade and playing on a high school team. All 9th grade players must play in the high school bracket (U16/19) in the spring and are not eligible for fall play.

*Exceptions are private schools that encompass an education model with the 9th grade in middle school.

Promotion & Relegation

Classic teams will be promoted/relegated each season in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Each season League Champions will automatically be promoted to the next most competitive flight.
 - When required to make viable leagues, additional teams with 4 or more wins per season may be promoted based on standings from previous season(s).
 - This will be done even if it means playing in a Flight 1 league.
- Each season the last finish team in a league may be relegated to the next less competitive bracket by request of the club.

Seasonal Team Commitments and Fees

Seasonal commitments and fees are submitted each season now through each club's Blue Sombrero registration page which is linked to US Sports Connect.

There will be a strict deadline for seasonal commitments and fees. The exact date will be announced (via District Meetings and website) to all Clubs in the Northwest District at least 2 months in advance, but in general the deadline will be 5 weeks prior to the start of the season. Teams will NOT be assigned leagues until seasonal fees are paid.

• Teams added or dropped to team commitments after the deadline but before leagues assignments are finalized 1 week prior to the Northwest District Meeting will be charged a \$125 per team and result in loss of \$500 bond.

• Team registration fees **MUST BE PAID** at the time of registration. If they are not, there will be no entry for the current season.

When Clubs input team commitments each season, they should designate which league (L1 or other) they feel the team should be assigned to. When submitting more than one team in a gender/age bracket they should indicate their relative strength. Clubs should also identify whether a team is "Returning" or "New". In general, returning teams should play in the same league (L1 or other) unless they have been relegated or promoted, and new teams will generally be assigned based on Club preferences as indicated in the Seasonal Team Commitments, except as deemed required by the Commissioner to create

viable leagues for all teams. U09 leagues will NOT be formed based on competitiveness. It is important that Clubs provide accurate information on each teams' status (New/Returning) and relative strength, since the league assignment timeline cannot accommodate fixing these errors.

Individual teams wishing to play up in the next age bracket can make the request when registering their team. It must be determined by the Commissioner, in conjunction with the District Chairman, that it is in the best interest of all teams affected. In addition, teams may be placed in leagues in the next age bracket or a combined age bracket if there are an insufficient number of teams to form a league at their age bracket.

Seasonal League Assignment

Final league assignments are reviewed with the Clubs at the Northwest District Meeting just prior to the start of each season. There will be no league assignment changes at, or after, this meeting except as deemed necessary by the Commissioner. The Commissioner, in conjunction with the District Chairman, have the final say as to competition assignment of any given team.

As a

· Teams dropped after the Northwest District Meeting final league review will result in a *loss of performance bond (\$500) and a fine of \$50 for each game not played up to a maximum of \$400.*

courtesy, each season the District will create and e-mail the draft league assignments to the Clubs 1 week prior to the Northwest District Meeting. The Clubs have 3 days to review them and confirm via e-mail there are no errors (such as: missing or extra teams, team identity errors, wrong age bracket assignments, etc.). Team strength and status (New/Returning) changes cannot be accepted at this time.

Addendum 2:

Sanctions

ALL club fines MUST be paid within 30 days of being given. ALL fines involving suspensions MUST be paid before said individual(s) can return to competition. Fines will be invoiced by NWD Administrator and payment is expected by cash or check.

OFFENSE	Minimum Sanction	Monetary Consequence to offending club
Referee abuse by coach (as defined by current CT Referee definition)	3 game suspension for all teams coaching in the NWD	\$500
Referee abuse by player (as defined by current CT Referee definition)	3 consecutive games for all teams rostered to in the NWD	
Referee assault by player or coach (as defined by CT Referee definition)	Remanded to state referee association	\$1,000 if found guilty
Team or spectator actions requiring any game official to summon police	Varied	\$1,000
Playing of an NWD match without presenting a valid roster	1 game suspension of coach	\$150
Alcohol possession by a coach or player	1 year suspension	\$1,000
Ejection of a player (red card)	Minimum 1 game suspension	
Refusal to leave the field of play after the ejection of a player	Game is terminated	\$250

Alcohol possession by spectator at playing field	is unacceptable and police will be notified	
Fighting, attempting to fight, threatening or attempting to threaten or otherwise engage or attempt to engage any other coach, player or spectator in an intimidating fashion (as defined by current CT Referee definition)	3 game suspension	\$500

This table is in supplement and serves to illustrate minimum sanctions to be imposed for various infractions, due in part to minimum sanctions presented by The US Soccer Federation. The District Vice President and/or DRA, reserve the right to remand any incident to the district disciplinary committee for further sanctioning of actions which, in their opinion, are contrary to the ideals and philosophies of this district.

Sanctions (continued)

OFFENSE	Minimum Sanction	Monetary Consequence to offending club
Ejection of coach (red card)	Minimum 2 game suspension	\$500
Refusal to leave field after ejection of coach and the game is terminated	Suspended for the season	\$1,000
Exceeding three (3) adult maximum on team side of field	Forfeit of match	\$250
Team dropped or added to commitments after registration deadline but before league assignments are finalized	Loss of \$500 bond	\$125 per team
Teams dropped/added/changed after league scheduling meeting	Loss of bond \$500	\$400
Non-reporting of played games		\$50/game
Forfeit/unplayed games	Loss of \$500 bond	\$150 and no championship
Exceeding the maximum 6 goal differential in the L 2 leagues	Forfeit of match/Loss of standings Coach suspended for 1 game	\$250

Sanctions (continued)

OFFENSE		Minimum Sanction
Illegal Players on team - 1st Offense		Coach suspended 3 games \$500 fine
	2nd Offense	Team not eligible to compete any further. \$1,000 fine
Submitting false player registration information and/or falsifying any other administrative document used to create a team roster - 1st Offense		Club needs to provide both parent licenses of town player is playing in plus a report card from the player's school. \$500 club fine
	2nd Offense	Club is suspended for one year and labeled "not in good standing". \$1,000 club fine