



**Illinois Youth Soccer Association (IYSA)
Approved Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
February 2, 2018
IYSA Office**

Board Members Present: Salvador Arroyo, Gus Bender, Robert Berkley, Flo Dyson, Kelly Fairwood, Dave Hicks, Dale Litney, Jake Mooney.

Regrets: Charlie Dyson, Stu Kasten

League Representatives: Johann Arnason, Jan Berkley, Greg Cole, Shawn Danhouser, Beth Doran, Flo Dyson, Dale Litney, Jay Ray, Michelle Ray.

Guests: Barb Baumgartner, Mary Jane Bender, Bill Bruno, Tim Deters, Bob Hanson, Adam Howarth, Chris Jamrozy, Ale Jurado, Meaghan Kinser (recording secretary), Katie O'Malley, Hugh Orlicz, Jonathan Orlicz, Marek Radziszewski, Ivan Rico.

The Annual General Meeting was called to order by the President, Gus Bender, at 7:07 PM on Friday, February 2, 2018 at the association offices.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken and the following leagues were present: Central Illinois Youth Soccer League, Chicago TOPsoccer, Crystal Lake Soccer Federation, Illinois Women's Soccer League, Inter-Community Soccer League, Perry County Soccer League, Saint Louis Youth Soccer Association-Illinois, Schaumburg Athletic Association, Southern Illinois Soccer League, Young Sportsmen's Soccer League.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 3, 2017 Illinois Youth Soccer Annual General Meeting were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Gus Bender presented the President's Report. He discussed the new US Soccer coaching courses and pathways that were being implemented in 2018. These have been challenging and he thanked the leagues and members for their patience. Gus noted that there have been many changes at US Youth Soccer who created a new General Manager position for each region – this person will report directly to Chris Moore, CEO for US Youth Soccer. The hope is to align the regional and national programs for more consistency across the country.

Illinois Youth Soccer continues to provide the *Soccer for Success* Program that is funded by a US Soccer Foundation grant from the Department of Juvenile Justice. Five competitive teams comprised of players from this program play in the Illinois Women's Soccer League and the Young Sportsmen's

Soccer League. He thanked the leagues for their ongoing support. Through the efforts of Shawn Danhouser, the Illinois TOPSoccer Program has increased the involvement of children with special needs. Illinois Youth Soccer continues to support the Chicago Red Stars Reserves as a pathway for women players. We are developing the youth referee mentoring program. The annual Illinois Youth Soccer Awards Banquet is on March 2 where Illinois coaches, referees, and players are recognized for their achievements. Illinois Youth Soccer will be an integral part of the United Soccer Coaches convention that is coming to Chicago in January 2019.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Gus Bender presented the Secretary's Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Flo Dyson presented the Treasurer's Report and Budget.

MOTION: Bob Berkley moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Budget. The Treasurer's Report and Budget were unanimously approved.

REPORTS

Executive Director Mary Jane Bender presented the Risk Management Report. She stressed the importance of conducting background checks. A Court of Appeals ruled that organizations owed a duty to mandate or require criminal background checks for all adults who would have contact with children. An employer, contractor or organization having third party knowledge of an abuser can be sued because the organization may have known or should have known that an offender had the potential to molest children. These third parties include sports organizations who must screen and supervise adults who could potentially abuse children.

Dave Hicks presented the Central District Commissioner Report. He noted that there was a 6% increase in enrollment. Dave was also pleased to mention that 2 teams that participated in the National Presidents Cup in Auburndale, Florida and 5 teams that participated in the National Championships in Frisco, Texas were registered with CIYSL. He hopes that the ODP registrations in Central Illinois will increase. Dave concluded his report by thanking the office staff for all of their support throughout the year.

Flo Dyson presented the Northern District Commissioner Report. She was pleased to note that there is continued growth in Northern Illinois.

Gus Bender presented the Southern District Commissioner Report. He advised the membership that Stu Kasten, who was serving on the board as the Southern District Commissioner, resigned his position on January 10, 2018 but will remain on the Investment Committee. He thanked Stu Kasten for his many years of service to Illinois Youth Soccer. There has been a healthy growth in Southern Illinois due to the addition of the SLYSA-IL league.

Recreational Program Director, Dale Litney, presented the Recreational Program Report. He reminded the membership that Illinois Youth Soccer is a tremendous resource for their volunteer coaches.

Mary Jane Bender, presented the State Office Report. She emphasized the importance of properly anchoring goals, tents and other portable equipment. An insurance company declined coverage for

damage to a vehicle caused by a tent that blew away. After a two-year old was killed by a goal that was inadequately anchored for the high wind conditions in another state, we sent another alert to our member leagues about the dangers of unanchored or improperly anchored goals, and to remind them to anchor and store all goals (used and unused) and portable equipment according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's and the goal manufacturer's guidelines for the environmental conditions.

Mary Jane also talked about abuse prevention. Both the United States Senate and House of Representatives have passed the **Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017** to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities. This Act was introduced by Senator Diane Feinstein last March has been sent to President Trump for signature. Additionally, US Soccer requires its members to adopt policies prohibiting sexual and physical abuse. In compliance with the Federation and ahead of the Federal law, the Illinois Youth Soccer Board of Directors approved Rule 029 to protect the children and those who coach them.

Illinois Youth Soccer was one of 13 grant recipients of the US Soccer Innovate to Grow grant that was established to help members launch new and innovative programs to stimulate growth with their membership. This grant will fund the Illinois Youth Soccer 1st Kick Training Program for pre-school children, 3-5 years old, in Illinois.

The United Soccer Coaches Convention (formerly NSCAA) will be in Chicago in January 2019 and will be working closely with Illinois Youth Soccer. There are plans to reach out to many of our members for help during this convention. The United Soccer Coaches CEO Lynn Berling will be a guest speaker at the Illinois Youth Soccer Awards Banquet on March 2nd.

Illinois Youth Soccer Marketing & Communications Director, Chris Jamrozy, presented the Marketing Report. Illinois Youth Soccer is currently working with Demosphere to redesign our website. Chris was pleased to announce that the newspaper distribution is over 130,000 unique home addresses and we continue to use e-publications, Chris thanked all of our sponsors and specifically Wintrust for donating uniforms to two member recreational leagues.

Director of Coaching, Adam Howarth, and Coaching Education Administrator, Ivan Rico, presented the Coaching Education Program Report. We plan to offer the US Soccer grassroots courses as they become available. Illinois Youth Soccer was granted two C License Courses: one in Rockford on April 20-27 and June 29-July 1, and one in Granite City on July 27-August 3 and October 5-7.

US Soccer has revised its coaching education in the last several months. In place of the E and F Licenses, US Soccer developed 4v4, 7v7, 9v9, and 11v11 grassroots courses that will include an online and in-person component. These new grassroots courses focus on the play-practice-play philosophy that ensure a more holistic approach to the learning process. A list of available courses can be found on the Illinois Youth Soccer website under the Coaches Section. Adam reminded the membership that Illinois Youth Soccer is a great resource and is happy to visit our member organizations who want supplementary coaching, player, or parent clinics.

Cup Director, Bill Bruno, presented the Illinois State Cup, Illinois Presidents Cup, and Illinois Cup Reports. He was happy to report that our registration numbers continue to grow for State Cup and Presidents Cup, but we continue to review our programs and make changes when needed. Bill was pleased that this is the 18th year Illinois Youth Soccer had teams that qualified for the US Youth

National Championships. US Youth Midwest Regional Presidents Cup is scheduled for June 14-18, 2018 in West Chester, OH and US Youth Midwest Regional Championships is scheduled for June 22-28, 2018 in Westfield, IN. Bill talked about the success of the Illinois Cup, a third tier competition that was added in 2017. Illinois Youth Soccer would run a division for recreational teams if there is enough interest and teams registered. Bill also talked about the newly, rebranded Illinois Soccer Festival (formerly Illinois Cup) as well as the Junior State Cup (formerly State Cup for the 11U and 12U age groups). Bill thanked the Illinois Women's Soccer League and the Young Sportsmen's Soccer League for sponsoring the face painters and the balloon artists at the Illinois Soccer Festival that will take place on May 5-6, 2018.

Associate Director of Coaching & Olympic Development Program (ODP) Director, Marek Radziszewski, and ODP Administrator, Jonathan Orlicz, presented the ODP Report. They reported that although there has been continued growth in ODP, there may be a slight decrease in the girls' registration due to the newly created Development Academy. Illinois Youth Soccer is planning to send teams to the Memphis Showcase involving ODP teams from 11 State Associations in the Midwest and South regions. The Pre-ODP has been successful. The majority of ODP trainings for older age groups is at the state-of-the-art indoor facility at Mercy Health Sportscore 2 in Rockford. Marek concluded that we are always seeking to provide more opportunities for our ODP participants and evaluating program coaches to ensure that the best coaches are working with the correct age groups to provide the best experience for the players.

Soccer for Success Program Director, Ale Jurado, presented the *Soccer for Success* Report. She reported that the program received a grant from the Department of Justice for the 2017-2018 season which provides essential resources needed for the program's success. Ale thanked the IYSA Board, the Illinois Women's Soccer League and the Young Sportsmen's Soccer League for their support. A *Soccer for Success* team took first place in Illinois Youth Soccer's inaugural Illinois Cup in June 2017. Eight *Soccer for Success* players are participating in ODP including three who made the state team and two *Soccer for Success* coaches are coaching in the ODP.

State Premiership Division Director, Chris Jamrozy, presented the State Premiership Division Report. He thanked the competitive leagues for their continued support of the program.

Midwest Regional League (MRL) Director for Illinois, Jonathan Orlicz, presented the MRL report. He reported that there was a slight decrease in the MRL registrations due to age group shifting that created uncertainty for some clubs and eliminated the 13U division. He was pleased to report that there is an increase in teams for the 2017/2018 MRL season due partly to the addition of a 13U division in the Spring 2018 season.

TOPSoccer Director, Shawn Danhouser, presented the TOPSoccer Report. Shawn reported that he is hoping for some significant growth in 2018 with the addition of the Mascoutah program. Additionally, Shawn offered two TOPSoccer coaching education courses this past year, one in Granite City and one in Plainfield. These unique TOPSoccer courses are geared to new coaches and volunteer buddies. Shawn will be working with Adam Howarth to host more TOPSoccer courses in Illinois. Shawn, who is also the Midwest Region TOPSoccer Chair, has created knowledge-on-demand videos in addition to his TOPS-in-a-Box video that are accessible on the US Youth Soccer Midwest Region website. He is also hoping to get a TOPSoccer Buddy online course.

Last year, Illinois TOPSoccer hosted an indoor tournament with Wisconsin. The quality of play was excellent and the kids had a lot of fun. Illinois will be hosting this event on March 18, 2018. Shawn was happy to report that the TOPSoccer Summerfest that was held at Maine South High School in August was a great success and the largest involvement thus far. The 5th Annual TOPSoccer Summerfest will be hosted by Chicago TOPSoccer on August 4, 2018 and they are always looking for volunteers. There are plans for Illinois to host the annual Midwest Regional TOPSoccer Symposium in August. Shawn thanked the Illinois Youth Soccer staff and the Board for all their continued support.

Tournament Director, Hugh Orlicz, presented the Tournament Report. He reported that he has been paying more attention to out-of-state tournaments to ensure that we are competitive with the trends in the industry. Third-party contracts are permitted for tournaments provided the tournament director from the hosting club is on-site and in control of all risk management related decisions. The third-party management company must name the host club and Illinois Youth Soccer as an additional insured under their general liability policy and conform to Illinois Youth Soccer risk management policies including background checks through the Sports Engine link on the IYSA website for persons having access to participant data.

Illinois State Referee Administrator, Tim Deters, presented the Referee Report. He thanked Illinois Youth Soccer and the Board of Directors for their ongoing support for the referee program. Tim was pleased to report that there were over 5,500 referees, an increase from last year. Tim was also pleased to report that Illinois sent 10 referees and 2 mentor assessors to the USYS Midwest Regional Presidents Cup and 27 referees and 3 mentor assessors to the USYS Regional Championships. Three referees were selected to attend the USYS National Presidents Cup and 7 referees were selected to attend the US Youth Soccer National Championships. Tim discussed the youth referee mentoring program and that they are working with referee assignors to use the designated mentors to educate the referees at their events.

ELECTIONS

Gus Bender conducted the elections.

Johann Arnason nominated Jane Raede for the Southern District Commissioner position. No nominations were made from the floor. Jane Raede was elected by acclamation.

Flo Dyson nominated Bob Berkley for the Director-at-Large position. No nominations were made from the floor. Bob Berkley was elected by acclamation.

Flo Dyson nominated Salvador Arroyo for the Director-at-Large position. No nominations were made from the floor. Salvador Arroyo was elected by acclamation.

ADJOURNMENT

Gus Bender declared the Annual General Meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM.