



United States Adult Soccer Association Region I

USASA Region 1 Annual General Meeting
San Francisco Marriott Marquis
San Francisco, California – February 13, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Preliminary Matters/Agenda

Regional Director Fritz Marth started the Region 1 AGM meeting with a moment of silence in memory of fellow members who we lost during the previous year.

Roll Call & Credentials

Two of the Regional Officers, the Deputy Director and Secretary, cast their votes during the meeting for their respective state associations and not in their individual roles. Roll call was taken and credentials presented:

<u>State Associations</u>		<u>Regional Leagues</u>	
CT	4	MSSL	1
DE	1	NPSL (not present)	-
ENY	5	USL-PDL (not present)	-
EPA	4	WPSL (not present)	-
MD	2	Subtotal	1
MA	5		
MDCVA	5	<u>Officers</u>	
NH	1	Director (Fritz Marth)	1
NJ	4	Deputy Director (Tony Falcone)	-
PAW	3	Treasurer (John Kahmke)	1
RI	2	Secretary (Scott Mapes)	-
VT	2	Subtotal	2
WNY	4		
WV	<u>2</u>		
Subtotal	44		
Total General Votes	45		
Total Election Votes	43		

Approval of Region I September 27, 2014 Mid-Year Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as presented.

Officers' & Committee Reports

Regional Director – Fritz Marth recapped the Region's successes over the last five years and thanked the membership for their support and for allowing him the privilege to serve as Regional Director especially in the centennial year of both the Federation and of numerous Region I state associations.

Deputy Director – Tony Falcone gave web site updates and requested that state associations send him information on sanctioned tournaments as well as any other news. Tony gave an update on USASA Board relations and directions including changes to cups and loss of the Werner Fricker Open Cup. Tony recommended that the Region continue the Werner Fricker Open Cup of which Region I teams have always shown a strong presence. Tony noted that the Werner Fricker Open Cup is the second longest running open cup in the world and expressed concern that if the Werner Fricker Open Cup goes away, another organization may step in and seek to provide something in its absence. Tony explained that the USASA Board has a different view of the Open Cup. Beginning in 2016, USSF will conduct qualifiers among USASA, US Club Soccer and USSSA clubs. The Board thinks teams will no longer have interest in the Werner Fricker Open Cup as they deem it duplicative with the Lamar Hunt Open Cup. The Board is also looking to cut travel subsidies provided to those teams. John Zangrilli (NJ) asked why USASA Board has taken this action and not sought to take it up with the membership. Dave Borts (RI) suggested that the Board decision is not yet final and that this remains a decision to be made by National Adult Council. Tony felt that the decision made by the Board was made as a matter of bad process. He also noted that Board actions must be approved by the National Adult Council. Richard Groff (DE) noted that the Board vote was unanimous and that US Soccer announced it is running Lamar Hunt Open Cup (all costs), which seems to make the Werner Fricker Open Cup less relevant. Tony Falcone feels there is a misconception that the sole purpose of Werner Fricker Open Cup is to qualify for Lamar Hunt Open Cup and that there is interest among the Region 1 teams to continue competing for the Werner Fricker Open Cup. Jim Bollinger (EPA) asked what the budget implication for discontinuing the Werner Fricker Open Cup would be. Regional Treasurer John Kahmke advised to not push a National Council vote on the issue but suggested the Region continue running the Werner Fricker Open Cup at the Region I level inviting teams from any of the other three regions. Cesar Wasecki (USASA Board Member at Large) noted the Board's concern was that there were three competitions with a lot of redundancy and that eliminating the Werner Fricker Open Cup was not just about cost savings. Werner Fricker (National Cups Chair) noted his biggest concern was USASA losing a long standing competition important to our teams and referee development and that many of our teams look forward to the Werner Fricker Open Cup. Werner also noted that while this would be a great debate to have on the National Council floor, he advised against doing so to avoid the risk of losing that vote. Tony Falcone added that the Amateur, Werner Fricker Open Cup and Lamar Hunt Open Cup are not redundant and that there are more than 40 Region 1 teams participating in Amateur Cup and the Werner Fricker Open Cup. Tony urged not to discontinue cup competitions. Peter Pinori (ENY) made a motion of running of the Werner Fricker Open Cup on the Region 1 level for 2016. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Dave Borts (RI) also noted that the Board minutes have not been approved or ratified.

Secretary – Scott Mapes presented the 2015 Region 1 AGM Credentials report (see voting strength above).

Treasurer – John Kahmke presented the year-end report for 2014.

Unfinished/Ongoing Business

Cups – (see also Deputy Directors report above) Regional I Cups Chairman Gus Xikis gave an update and distributed the Region 1 Cups draws. Tony Falcone brought-up the cup start times per Regional Policy. Discussion on changing the start times to give teams more flexibility in scheduling games. A motion was made to allow start times between 1:00 to 4:00, which was seconded. The motion passed. Andy Weiss (MA) asked for Region 1 cup policies clarifications.

National Championship(s) – Veteran's Cup National Chairman Cesar Wasecki gave an update on Virginia Beach 2015 National Championships which will include Veterans Cup, Men's Amateur and Open Cup, Women's Premier and Open Cups, and Men's U-20 and U23 Cups.

Referees – Regional Referee Administrator Andy Weiss reported that the four-man system will be employed at the Virginia Beach National Championships. For the 50 out-of-state slots for the Veteran's Cup assignments, 30 are filled. A separate pool of referees will be used for the other for National Championship matches.

Region 1 is setting up Referee Grade 6 training for March 2015.

Tony Falcone reported that \$10,000 had been budgeted by USASA for premiums for Participant Accident Insurance for USSF referees doing USASA games. Tom Hayes' (DesChamps, Gregory & Hayes) review indicated that USASA needed \$23,000 to be set aside. USASA Board will allocate this amount for one year (the period from September 1, 2014 through 31 August 2015). The USASA office should be contacted for claims being made. No list of players or referees from any state association is kept by the insurer as they rely on and state association verification when claims are filed. The limit of coverage is \$5,000. Scott Mapes further explained the claim filing process.

Player Suspensions List – States were reminded to send player suspensions to the regional Secretary. USSF currently maintains a suspension list and we as a Region can post a list of basic suspension, however with details left out. Region list will not necessarily be included on USSF list. Dave Laraba (W. VA & USSF Appeals Committee) advised that in order to have a player suspension on the USSF list a state must follow USSF's simple procedures to do so especially. Only this way will the suspension have affect USSF/USASA wide across all regions and states. Jim Bollinger (EPA) noted that the USSF listing is for suspensions of 6 months or more, covering those associated with referee assault. Tony Falcone will draft Regional Suspension Policy for Region 1. Jim Bollinger made motion all state associations use the Region 1 web site to provide notice of any suspension of 6 months or more. Pat Varsallona (NJ) seconded the motion. A question was posed whether we want to follow Federation Policy or simply post a suspension list to give each state association knowledge of the suspension? Dave Laraba added that for the Federation-wide suspension, each state must send notice direct to Greg Fike at USSF and Greg will review. Only once the time for appeal has been exhausted will the suspension be recognized by every member of the Federation. Once that is done then we should post the suspension on Region I notice list. Jim Sadowski (DC/VA) asked what is it that we are we trying to fix by availing ourselves of the Federation process. Dave Laraba responded that a state must give the suspension notice to USSF if we want that suspension universally enforceable. Must show USSF you gave player full due process and once appeal period runs it will be universally enforced. Dave Laraba offered that he would help you through the process. Jim Bollinger's motion that all state associations use the Region 1 web site to provide notice of any suspension of 6 months or more passed unanimously.

New Business

Elections

Deputy Director: Nomination was made for Tony Falcone (MD). Tony Falcone accepted. As there were no other nominations, approval was by acclamation.

Treasurer: Nomination was made for John Kahmke (W. NY). John Kahmke accepted. As there were no other nominations, approval was by acclamation.

2015 Budget – Regional Treasurer John Kahmke presented the budget, which had previously been distributed for approval. Tony Falcone moved to adopt the budget. Jim Bollinger (E. PA) seconded the motion. The budget was approved unanimously.

2015 Spring Meeting – Fritz Marth suggested that there was no need for spring regional meeting. Dave Borts (RI) noted that if Fritz Marth is elected USASA Vice President, the Regional Deputy Director will become Regional Director and then Region Executive Committee will appoint an interim Deputy Director until the next meeting, which would be the 2015 Mid-year meeting if no spring meeting is held, at which time an election for Deputy Director will take place.

Pending USASA Bylaw/Rule Change Proposals – Tony Falcone reported that there are no proposed USASA bylaw changes and only a few policy changes at the USSF level.

Werner Fricker Open Cup – Peter Pinori (E. NY) made a motion to keep running the Werner Fricker Open Cup as a regional event for 2016. Jim Bollinger (E. PA) seconded the motion. John Zangrilli (NJ) noted that we need to reorganize the program. Marti Bevan (DC/VA) asked what is the financial implications would be? Fritz Marth does not foresee any effect on 2015 budget and that any expenses for 2016 in this regard will not likely be different from 2015. Fritz Marth will appoint a Region I cup competitions group to run 2016 Werner Fricker Open Cup if the motion passes. The motion passed.

Cup Entry Fees – Tony Falcone proposed a flat fee of \$200/state association to enter the National Cups regardless of how many teams per state enter. Richard Groff (DE) seconded the motion. Discussion took place regarding the financial impact. Based on the current entries which result in \$12,000 collected, such a change to flat per state fee would likely result in a loss \$5,000-7,000, i.e. only \$7,000 to \$5,000 collected. The motion passed.

Good of the Game

Sal Rapaglia (E. NY) presented Peter Pinori (E. NY) with the Livio D'Arpino Award.

Peter Pinori (E. NY) asked the Region to stay united and support Fritz Marth on the USASA elections.

Jim Bollinger (E. PA) announced that E. PA will be having a Centennial Celebration on March 21st and that all are welcome.

Guests

Arthur Mattson (FL) candidate for USASA Vice president addressed the body. Richard Groff (DE) asked Arthur to elaborate on the national cups program discussion. Arthur noted that only 4% of our membership participates in USASA Cups.

Shonna Schroedel (Women's Competitions National Chairwoman) encouraged women's teams' participation in National Championship.

Richard Groff (DE) noted the USASA Board changed the cup funding allocation to regions.

Tom Hayes (DesChamps, Gregory & Hayes) gave a brief overview of the participant accident coverage for the referees officiating USASA games. Tom noted that there are no participant accident coverage insurance rate changes for 2015, and that a participant accident coverage rebate of \$50,000 will be coming back to USASA. General Liability has had a rate increase but USASA has not passed this on to state association. Two major General Liability claims have been made: 1) a player accident at an NPSL try-out in Miami resulted in a player becoming a quadriplegic; and 2) the referee assault resulting in death of referee in Michigan.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.