

Minutes for NTWSA Spring 2024 End of Season Captains Meeting



Date: May 20, 2024
Start: 7:22 pm
End: 9:04 pm
Location: 8330 LBY Freeway E,
Dallas, TX 75243
Executive Board: Christi Chapman – President
Sera Gervais – Vice President
Linn Hanusa – Secretary
Lori Stallbohm – Treasurer
Melissa Raymer – Interim Field Coordinator
Patti Callahan – League Commissioner

Introductions

- Introduce Board Members

Topics

- Roll Call taken (67 teams represented, 10 teams absent)
- Reports from Executive Board Members
 - President, Christi Chapman
 - Cards were created with contact information for captains to clip to their equipment which provides information regarding who to contact on the Executive Board and for what issues. Christi also reiterated being kind to the volunteers for the association when issues arise.
 - Vice President, Sera Gervais
 - Discussed how to submit game sheets using the email address on the bottom of the game sheet. Starting in Summer 2024, NTWSA will be switching to the new Sports Engine which will no longer allow photo uploads to the app.
 - Red cards and yellow cards must be reported to Vice President and League Commissioner. This information can be texted or emailed directly. Captains are instructed not to email issues to gamesheets@ntwsa.org. That email address is strictly for game sheets.
 - Treasurer, Lori Stallbohm
 - Financials shared via email for captains to review. Lori explained how the league has reduced the profit per player registration to approximately forty cents per game. This will not be sustainable going forward with the increase in costs of fields. Registrations are up to 1577 registrants.
 - Membership asked why we are not investing league money in a higher interest-bearing account. Lori explained that NTWSA banks with Chase, and it is important to keep all the funds in one bank due to the logistics of signors and changing positions within the board. Also, the funds must be readily available so cannot be tied up in CD's.
 - Secretary, Linn Hanusa
 - Prizes were not distributed tonight due to the number of divisions that have not been finalized. Prizes this Spring are clear stadium bags and a cooling towel.
 - Linn discussed an issue with sending bulk emails from ntwsa.org emails to Gmail accounts. Gmail has instituted a security measure that meters mail being sent in bulk, so email are delayed. NTWSA is working on a way to register the ntwsa.org domain with Gmail to prevent delivery of emails to Gmail accounts.
 - League Commissioner, Patti Callahan

- Fall Registration fees will be increasing along with referee fees. NTWSA is currently charging \$4/game. The Executive Board will discuss what the increase will be at the next board meeting. Insurance will remain at \$23/soccer year.
- Summer league will use one referee and no offsides rule. However, the referees will have discretion to prevent players from overtly abusing the rule.
- NTWSA will be switching to the newest version of Sports Engine starting with the Summer 2024 season. This will affect the functionality of the SE app.
- Sports Engine app issues discussed with respect to rescheduled games and retaining RSVP's from original schedule date. There is no solution to this other than to have the captain reset all the RSVP's to maybe and ask players to update their status. This is a Sports Engine issue, and captains need to be proactive in having players re-update their status if a game is rescheduled due to rainout.
- Tentatively, the Fall Season will begin on August 18th.
- Interim Field Coordinator, Melissa Raymer
 - Field availability is still an issue and fields are increasingly more difficult to obtain. Many cities are resting their fields for the summer, limiting availability.
 - Membership asked if the league could receive a credit from the cities when they double-book or are not prepared for games when arrangements have been made. Christi and Melissa are working with various cities to get fields and reimbursement when they do not fulfill their duties.
 - Prince of Peace is being utilized this season for make-ups due to the lack of availability of fields. NTWSA is not allowed to paint the fields, so tape is being used. Tape is ineffective. Cones are not visible to referees, and turf dots are a safety issue due to being slippery. Christi and Melissa are working on a resolution to allow this field to be used in a 9v9 format safely.
 - Melissa asked if anyone has input on fields to contact her via email.
 - Referee fees are likely to increase in the fall. NTWSA pays less than many other leagues. NTWSA needs to remain competitive with other adult and youth leagues.

● Standing Committees

- Appeals & Disciplinary Committee: Chairwoman – Sera Gervais, nothing to report
- Audit Committee, Budget & Finance Committee: Chairwoman – Lori Stallbohm, nothing to report
- Awards Committee: Chairwoman – Linn Hanusa; requested interested members to contact Gina Goudy or Linn Hanusa if they would like to have a part in selecting prizes for Summer or Fall 2024.
- Rules & Regulation Committee: Chairwoman – Patti Callahan. Discussed a rule change to allow Captains and Cocaptains to serve on A&D committee. Currently, during registration, captains elect two rostered players to serve as A&D volunteers. Captains are not permitted to serve on the panel at A&D hearings.

Amendments to Bylaws and/or General Rules

- Rule #1 Section V, Rosters/Add/Delete Transfer. Rule rationale read and discussed. Rule change voted on and passed. New rule to read as follows:

SECTION V

Rosters/Add/Delete/Transfer

Leagues created to play on the same day, the following restrictions apply:

An Open team and an Over-30 team are restricted to a maximum of 5 shared players.

An Open team and an Over-40 team are restricted to a maximum of 5 shared players.

An Over-30 team and an Over-40 team are restricted to a maximum of 5 shared players.

- Rule #2 Section V, Rosters/Add/Delete Transfer. Rule rationale read. No discussion. Rule change voted on and passed. New rule to read as follows:

SECTION V

Rosters/Add/Delete/Transfer

C. Add/Delete/Transfer

1. Each playing season the Executive Board will determine a “Roster Freeze Date”. No changes to the roster will be allowed after this date.
2. Roster Freeze Date will be established prior to team registration.
3. Players must register at least 72-hours prior to the game in which they will participate.
4. With approval from the League Commissioner and the required deletion procedures completed, a team may delete a player from the roster.
5. With approval from the League Commissioner and the required transfer procedures completed, a player may transfer to another team in the same league.

- Rule #3 Section IX, Games/Team Responsibilities. Rule rationale read. No discussion. Rule change voted on and passed. New rule to read as follows:

SECTION IX

Games/Team Responsibilities

F. Outcome of Game in Cases of Misconduct or Abandonment

1. If a game is terminated because of misconduct on the part of one or both teams, including a team’s spectators, the NTWSA A & D Committee will decide the outcome of the game and disciplinary sanctions. If a game is terminated due to violent conduct, the team(s) may be suspended pending an A & D Hearing.
2. If a game is abandoned, both teams will have 48 hours to file a written report with NTWSA League Commissioner. The League Commissioner will determine the outcome of the game, disciplinary action if necessary, and if a fee or fine is owed. In addition, it may be sent to the NTWSA A & D Committee for further review to assess additional sanctions they deem necessary.
3. Possible disciplinary actions by the NTWSA A & D Committee could take the form of awarding a forfeit win, issuing a double forfeit, declaring the game be replayed, or that the game stand with current score at the time of termination, and/or fines assessed to the team(s).

- Rule #4 Section X, Uniforms. Rule rationale read. No discussion. Rule change voted on and passed. New rule to read as follows:

SECTION X

Uniforms

E. Hazardous Apparel

All jewelry and watches/Fitbits must be adequately covered as determined by the referee. A cast made of soft, lightweight padded material is permitted. Metal cleats, hazardous apparel (e.g., visors/caps with a bill), protruding metal (e.g., zippers), and cut-off shorts are prohibited. Goalkeepers, at the referee’s discretion, may wear a soft bill visor/cap and/or prescription sunglasses. If the referee deems anything is a safety issue, then it must be removed in order to play.

Election of Officers

- Vice President
 - Incumbent Sera Gervais was currently running for the position of Vice President.
 - Nominations opened from the floor. Kristin Ahern nominated Gayla Kirk. Gayla accepted the nomination.
 - Kristin Ahern spoke on behalf of Gayla Kirk. Gayla spoke for herself.
 - Sera spoke on behalf of herself.
 - Membership voted by paper ballot.
 - The Nominating committee tallied the votes; the Executive Board verified the votes.
 - With a vote of 29 to 27, Gayla Kirk was elected Vice President
- Treasurer
 - Incumbent Lori Stallbohm ran for the position of Treasurer.
 - There were no nominations from the floor. Lori Stallbohm was elected Treasurer by acclamation.

- League Commissioner
 - Incumbent Patti Callahan ran for League Commissioner.
 - There were no nominations from the floor. Patti Callahan was elected League Commissioner by acclamation.
- Field Coordinator
 - Interim Field Coordinator, Melissa Raymer, was running for Field Coordinator.
 - There were no nominations from the floor. Melissa Raymer was elected Field Coordinator by acclamation.

Remaining Business

- No unfinished business to report
- No new business to report
- Announcements
 - Kelli Alexander is taking a few teams to Ruidoso for a tournament the weekend of July 27. She asked interested players to reach out to her if interested. She is also taking a team to Arvada, CO the weekend of August 10th. Her teams are full but if players are interested, they can contact her. Jeni Kuseski is also taking a few teams to Arvada. If players are interested, contact her.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm