



FC Exeter (Exeter Youth Soccer Association)
Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 11, 2023
Exeter Recreation office

President's welcome

Maria Proulx, president, called the meeting at 7:10 p.m. In attendance were directors Jenn Young (treasurer), Luke Martel, Matteo Taormina, Porter Hayes, Eric Kelley, Jessica Costa, Christie Farris, Patrick Garrity (vice president), Geoff Meadville, Ben Bailey, Shane Bradt. Absent with regrets was Jason Faria.

Minutes

Christie Farris made a motion to approve minutes from the February and March meetings. Matteo Taormina seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Spring season and fields

Patrick Garrity provided an update on the spring season:

Fields

Seven total game fields (3 7v7s, 2 9v9s and 2 11v11s) will be lined at Exeter and Brentwood. Time constraints caused by conflicts with softball have tightened our window for game scheduling. The 11v11 field at Brentwood will be ready for play this weekend.

Knowles Field will be available on a case-by-case basis for scheduling makeups. Practice fields will not be lined.

April vacation games

At least four games originally scheduled for 4/22 have been rescheduled already. The coaches have been urged to work together to provide guest players to fill out rosters rather than trying to reschedule games.

Academy

The Academy program kicked off successfully at Brentwood Rec on Tuesday night. Eight teams were on the field, with lots of space and lots of energy. Ben was on site for support. He reported that a coaching wrinkle with one of our U10 boys teams could be ironed out with some tweaks to the schedule.

Spring coach evaluations

Responding to a suggestion during the coaches meeting, the board agreed to solicit coach evaluations of players from the spring season in addition to the fall. The feedback will be added

to the previous fall evaluations and the Seacoast United evaluations to help determine player placement for the upcoming fall season.

Academy program

The health of the club's Academy program — for our U9 and U10 teams — was discussed. Our numbers at the youngest ages are strong, but there is some concern that the deterioration of the support Seacoast United can provide will have an adverse impact on the program. The board agreed that collective training at one time and location is beneficial to the youngest players and many of the coaches who commonly are new to the club. The board also agreed that having Seacoast United — or similar — support is critical for several reasons, including providing our youngest players with proper fundamentals and coach retention.

Maria Proulx will have further discussions with Kim Foley at Seacoast United about what we can expect from them in the coming fall season.

Equipment

Luke Martel reported that all coaches have been equipped with a practice bag and all working pop-up goals have been distributed. Patrick Garrity recommended purchasing more pop-ups to replace the broken ones.

Fall evaluations

Scott Craig shared the preliminary schedule for fall evaluations, planned for May 13 in Brentwood. Scott has asked Rob Hadfield of Seacoast United to review the schedule to ensure he and his coaches can staff the event. Once finalized, Scott will send the schedule with Laura Skaal for the purpose of sharing it in a call for fall registrations as well as set up a sign-up sheet for board members to work shifts. Jenn Young will prepare SportsEngine to open registration for the fall season. She also will order new number tags for players to wear at evaluations.

Finances

Jenn Young, treasurer, reported on the club's financial position, noting the cash balance was up 20 percent from last year, mostly because of increased player registrations for the spring season. Jenn said requests for financial assistance had also increased.

College scholarship applications are due this week. The submissions will be shared with Jenn, and Maria Proulx, Matteo Taormina, Luke Martel, Porter Hayes and Jessica Costa volunteered to serve on an ad-hoc committee to review the submissions and present a recommendation to the full board.

Other business

Maria Proulx shared with the board a club night opportunity with the Seacoast United Phantoms USL2 club. The board agreed that Friday, June 16 would be optimal timing as a spring season wrap-up. The board voted in favor of a \$300 expenditure to reserve the club night. Maria will advise on next steps, including signing up youth players for the night.

The board engaged in a preliminary discussion about the club's participation in the preseason tournament hosted by Seacoast United. The consensus is that participation is an important

opportunity for our players and families but that the board can improve the experience by helping our coaches communicate with their teams and to plan ahead of the tournament. Gathering teams beforehand, especially for our youngest age groups, would be beneficial.

The topic of new uniform kits was briefly discussed. The fall 2023 season brings with it a new two-year cycle. The kits will be consistent across all age divisions.

Geoff Meadville asked a question about playing time expectations in the older age divisions. Maria advised that there should be no expectation of equal playing time among our older age groups — everyone will play, but not necessarily equal minutes — and emphasized the importance for coaches to convey that to players and parents at the outset of the season.

Geoff reported that he has spoken with Amy Faria of the EHS boys athletic boosters, and Amy is planning to attend a U14-15 practice to help prepare the boys who are moving into ninth grade in the fall.

Adjournment

A motion was made at 8:40 p.m. to adjourn, seconded by many and approved by all.