



# Exeter Youth Soccer Association

## Minutes of a meeting of the board of directors

### Held on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via Zoom video conference

#### 1. Chairman welcome

The Chairman, Marc Chabot, noting that the meeting had been convened properly and that a quorum was present opened the meeting at 7pm. Also in attendance were Amy Farnham, Jenn Young, Randall Skaal, Matteo Taormina, Jason Faria, Patrick Garrity, Luke Martel, Brian Mellick and Stephen Osborne. Chris Sera had provided apologies for his absence.

#### 2. Minutes

The minutes of both the annual meeting and the regular board meeting held on January 26<sup>th</sup>, having previously been circulated, were approved.

#### 3. Spring Season 2021

Randall advised that, with registration now closed, it appeared as though we would be able to form 16 teams evenly split between boys and girls. Included in these teams would be 3 high school teams: 1 for boys and 2 for girls.

It was noted that some of the team rosters would be tight, with only one or two subs, as proposed. It may be necessary to look at how teams should play based upon the ages represented. In the past, it has been appropriate to play spring teams up a year, particularly with mixed aged rosters and where players will benefit from practicing the next progression in team size (e.g., 9v9 transitioning to 11v11), ahead of fall.

It was agreed for a sub-group of the board to convene and finalize recommendations on team formation, based on prospective player placement.

There was a discussion about the high school girls teams and that, given there are 28 players registered, two teams would be the intended approach, noting that the numbers are low for this and that some double rostering may be needed. The sub-group will also consider the high school age group and coaching options.

Maria will attend the NNESL meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> and report back on how the league sizes are shaping up, which may be relevant for age placement in to leagues.

#### 4. COVID-19

It was agreed that Jason would finalize an update to the COVID-19 plan. It was noted that infections are currently around the same level as they were at Thanksgiving 2020, but the numbers have been improving and vaccines are being administered. The COVID-19 plan should take account of the NH guidance for youth sport.

Issues such as whether masks should be worn in practice or in games need to be kept under review along with any requirements that NNESL may have. It was noted that under the fall protocols EYSA had had no reported cases suspected from soccer related transmission. Affected players, who isolated away from team activities, were linked to indoor sports such as hockey. Maria will ask the NNESL board at the upcoming meeting if there are any COVID related requirements set out by the league.



## **Exeter Youth Soccer Association**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the board of directors**

### **Held on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via Zoom video conference**

If not mandated under the COVID-19 protocols, players will be allowed to wear masks at practices and games if they want to. Once again, we will have the screening tool available and it will be preferable to maintain time gaps in between players arriving and leaving fields for practices and games. We will encourage coaches to recruit COVID-parents to help with field logistics.

We are waiting to hear from Greg (Parks and Recs) about whether the town will have any conditions for travelling teams to play on Exeter town fields. It was agreed that if we COVID-19 protocols are agreed with Exeter, we can apply the same approach at other fields, for example In Stratham and Brentwood.

It was acknowledged that Exeter teams may be subject to local protocols in towns for away games. In the absence of local protocols, one approach may be to defer to EYSA protocols. COVID rules, issued by towns or opposition clubs, should be made available by NNESL for coaches to review. Maria will recommend this at the NNESL meeting.

There was a discussion about parent attendance, which without competitive games, had not been a problem in fall. It was agreed to approach the issue of spectators without restrictions on numbers and to keep the situation under review as the season progresses.

Jason, having circulated a draft protocol, requested comments by Friday March 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **5. Uniforms**

Luke set out the current position for uniforms. A new uniform will be launched for fall 2021. This uniform is not expected to be available in time for Spring 2021. This gives rise to an issue whereby families needing new uniforms for the spring season, will only get one season's use before they need to buy another bundle for fall.

It was agreed to investigate whether a cheaper single season alternative may be offered to families needing a shirt for spring. Luke will report back with options.

#### **6. Fields and equipment**

Patrick reported that at Exeter Rec, availability for weekday practice nights is limited to Fridays only, with adult softball being held Mondays through to Thursdays. No other activities are permitted while the adult softball is on. While we have priority in the fall, softball has priority at Exeter Rec in the spring.

CMS will be available after 6pm which, given the daylight situation for spring, provides ample time.

Brentwood will provide EYSA with the lower fields, these are suitable for 11v11 and 9v9. Maria will ask Seacoast if for Academy, the practices can take place at Exeter on Fridays, if not we will stick with Tuesday, but move to Brentwood.

Stevens Field provides an 11v11 field which may also be used as two 7v7s. It was agreed that having the Academy at Stevens may result in overuse, due to the numbers involved, even though the players are lighter of foot.



# **Exeter Youth Soccer Association**

## **Minutes of a meeting of the board of directors**

### **Held on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via Zoom video conference**

Patrick is waiting to hear further from Stratham Memorial School.

Regarding equipment, Brian advised that he will order two nets, connectors and some more corner flags for the sum of approximately \$1,000. Goal relocation may be needed, once the specific allocation of fields to age groups is made.

#### **7. Evaluations**

These continue to be set for Saturday May 22 and Amy is confirming with Andy at Brentwood that the fields may be used.

#### **8. Finances**

Jenn had provided a financial report to board members in advance. This showed a cash balance of \$100,326 compared to approximately \$95,000 one year ago. At this point, consistent with prior years, no bills for spring have been received and player fees for spring registration are largely in. Year on year, spring youth registration is only approximately \$1,000 lower than last year, despite the high school registration being approximately \$4,000 lower (down 35%).

The board approved three requests for financial support at \$400.

Jenn advised that she would coordinate with the High School on the usual EYSA scholarship.

#### **9. Other business**

Given the availability of open seats on the board, it was agreed to put a link onto the website for interested members. Marc will write a short piece to be used as content and Stephen will provide a standard application which can be made available for download.

There being no further business, the Chairman called the meeting to a close at 8.15pm.