



# **Exeter Youth Soccer Association**

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

### **Held on May 11<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, Jason Faria, Patrick Garrity, Maria Proulx, Chris Sera and Stephen Osborne. Luke Martel, Brian Mellick and Matteo Taormina had provided apologies for their absence.

#### **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the board meeting held on April 13<sup>th</sup>, having previously been circulated, were approved.

#### **3. Evaluations**

For May 22<sup>nd</sup>'s evaluations at Brentwood Rec, Randall will confirm which games, if any, on the same day will require to be rescheduled to allow for players to play and also attend the tryouts. Marc, Laura, Jason and Randall have volunteered to support Amy to the extent they can. Amy will reach out to all directors with a reminder. The evaluations will start at 7am, with set up at 6.30am.

It was agreed to not publicize any possible make up days to encourage full participation. The need for a make up day may be reviewed at June's meeting, depending on participation vs registration. Registration will remain open up until the evaluations. Jenn will ask Laura to indicate clearly on the website, via email and on associated social media that registration is closing soon. Academy registration will remain open through summer.

It was noted that Laura has collected fall coach feedback for all age groups. This information, along with the Seacoast United evaluation data will be used for the purposes of fall team formation. An approximate timeline for team selection was determined, with the intent of determining the number of teams per age group and initial line ups around the week of May 31<sup>st</sup>.

There was a discussion about the approach to team formation. Randall proposed that the team formation consider options for allowing 'bubble players', being those on the second team who show the most promise, to develop alongside the first team players. It was agreed that Randall would provide a further analysis to support the need for a change and to demonstrate how the issue plays out.

#### **4. Spring season**

Maria advised that the NNESL mask mandate has now been dropped and it has been left to each town to prescribe its own rules. All the COVID protocol information is now shared out among the coaching community, for their reference.

Maria said that the biggest issue for NNESL this season has been game changes. That said, given the guiding principles of the league, the board and administration has held off from issuing additional rules around this. NNESL is considering if there is need to change the season structure especially now that the league has grown.

A final challenge this season has been finding enough referees. It was agreed that the club would support referee recruitment among the membership base. It was agreed to subsidize the purchase of new referee



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uniforms for current and former players who successfully qualify as youth referees and complete two assignments. Maria will work with Laura to build out online information to support this initiative.

#### **5. Fields**

Patrick gave a debrief on the state of home fields for spring.

#### **6. Summer**

It was agreed that the club will continue to collaborate with Seacoast United for an August summer camp.

In addition, all teams will be entered for the usual pre-season jamboree.

#### **7. Financials and Scholarships**

Jenn, having previously circulated a summarized financial report for the club, had no further comments.

Jenn reported that the sub committee had considered ten applications and will be sharing recommendations.

It was agreed that the club should review the scholarship criteria and look for a stronger connection between the recipient and the club that is currently generally the case. This will be an item for the next board meeting.

#### **8. Player recruitment**

Two local community events, being Get fit in May and the American Independence Museum Festival were earmarked for potential club promotion. With Covid, there is no Get Fit in May in 2021. Stephen will make enquiries about the possibility of a stall at the 2021 festival, if it is to be held.

#### **9. Appreciation event**

Given the continuing COVID pandemic, it was agreed not to hold a spring end of season social event. We will review the practicality of throwing an event for volunteers at the end of the fall season.

#### **10. Nate Hardy Memorial**

Stephen confirmed that there had been a high level of interest among the high school boys team and, as agreed, he had entered the team to provide a few additional playing opportunities.

#### **11. Friends of the Rec**

Maria advised that the Friends of the Rec steering committee was becoming active again, following the previous unsuccessful campaign to secure a mandate at the 2020 Town elections for the redevelopment of the Rec. Marc recommended that the board review its ongoing participation on the steering committee, at the June board meeting.

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