

**Minutes of the MASS Annual Meeting
Held on the 13th of August 2007**

I. Roll Call

BSSL
EMWSL
LASA
NEOTHSL
VFA

CASL
FRASL
MPS
OCSL
WAYS

CMO35
GWASA
MSSL
OCWSL

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Registrar*
CRA*
SRA*

* Non-voting

BOLD: Meeting Participants

Quorum: 39

II. Notices

Leagues not in good standing: None Reported

Voting strength errors corrected:

MPS: 22 teams with 3 votes

CASL: 22 teams with 3 votes

III. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes from semi-annual meeting 03-27-07

Motion proposed to accept the minutes as written.

Motion Second.

Motion Passed.

IV. Officer's Reports

Secretary's Report

Would like everyone to recognize the executive committee members for all the hard work, time and dedication involved in running the state association. Much of the work is done behind the scenes and glossed over in the reports made at the meetings.

Use of an online registration database will soon be required by USASA. All leagues must submit their player database to MASS with a complete listing of their players. This database will be used to verify a player's eligibility for the USASA medical insurance and will also be used to accurately determine how many players each league registers. If anyone needs assistance in getting their database into an electronic version, contact Diana for help. Everyone should be in receipt of the MASS Contact List. Please check your own listing and notify Diana of any errors.

Treasurer's Report (See written report)

Treasurer's report stated the Association is in a solid, healthy financial status with total equity as of August 10, 2007 at \$227,304.56. This reflects an increase over last year's report of \$34,650.53. MASS is still expecting payments for International games.

Budget proposals include:

- Increase to Select Teams in order to travel to Donnelly Cup in CA
- USSF meeting is in HI which will be more expensive a trip than usual (MASS has no say as to the location but must attend in order to cast our state votes).
- Additional funds in order to invite 1 league president to attend a national meeting.
- Upgrades and administrative increases will be encountered in order to comply with USASA use of Demosphere electronic registration.
- Referee Development Academy
- Website update
- Hall of Fame/recognition awards
- New Committees

Discussion took place regarding increases in data entry line item.

Described as a temporary increase to assist leagues in transferring data to electronic files.

No motion

Discussion regarding Promotion line item.

Would like to reallocate \$5000 spent on Revolution tickets to the Select Team.

Originally, deal was struck where MASS would purchase tickets in return for a percentage of international game gate.

Clarification offered that promotional items have been purchased in bulk so items are available to give at tournaments, conventions, regional meetings, etc.

Motion proposed to change promotion line item from \$8000 to \$6000.

No Second

Discussion regarding USSF Registrations

Motion to accept the Annual Budget report as proposed.

Motion Second

Motion Passed (1 opposed)

Vice President's Report

Registration program by Demosphere has been given to MASS by USASA. All leagues are expected to be electronic. All leagues must submit their database. To date, only 2 have been received. Bare essentials are name, address, and DOB. We don't want any extraneous information. Send information in any format.

Changes in the National Select Program include going to a camp format rather than a regional tournament as of January 2008. Region I members have expressed interest in staying with the tournament format. Tony Dubrowski has been promoted to National Director of the Select Program. USASA Men's and Women's National Select Teams were chosen and sent to play international games. The men's team went to play in Ireland against the Irish National Team and won both games. The women's team will be going to play in Mexico against the Mexican National Team.

Tony Dubrowski attended the National Cup tournament in Seattle and was very proud of the Boston Olympiakos team. Their performance was very impressive.

On September 12th, an international game, Mexico v. Brazil, will be played at Gillette. If anyone is interested in getting tickets, act fast because tickets are going quick.

President's Report (See written report)

Presented award to Boston Olympiakos for National Cup Championship representing MASS.

Recognized NELASA team, Fidos Terra, for their State Cup Championship.

Congratulations to Paul Athanasiadis and the Women's Select Team for their Region I Select Championship and advancement to the Donnelly Cup coming up in January in CA.

Under the leadership of Alex Tsalagas, Region I has broken 15 records related to the National Cups including the best participation in the Cup tournament.

V. Standing Committee Reports

National Cups

1929 was the last Open Cup Championship for MASS, 49 years since the last Amateur Cup Championship.

Congratulations to Nick Pseudoikononou and Boston Olympiakos for bring the Cup back to MASS.

Thank you to Alex Tsalagas for all your hard work.

Would like to change the structure for registration for the cups. From now on, there will be an open registration with a final deadline announced.

Notification will be sent to the leagues. Application and fee can be submitted any time. Fee is \$150 for Amateur and \$200 for Open Cup.

State Cup

Congratulations to all the teams that entered. There was a good number of teams registered with 16. Looking forward to increased registration.

State Cup bracket was distributed in a handout.

Recognition (Awards and Hall of Fame)

A couple of nominations have been submitted. Last Hall of Fame was 2 years ago. Pasquale Puleo is searching for someone to take over as the Chairperson of the Hall of Fame Committee.

Coaching

Pasquale Puleo would like to resurrect the coaching program and will be working toward that end.

Select Teams Program

See Vice President's report

Women's Program

No report

Massachusetts State Referee Committee

Handout distributed of Initiatives for 2007.

Registrar and Insurance Officer

No report

Disciplinary Committee

2 instances of referee assault during the State Cup

Appeals Committee

No report

VI. Election of Officers

Vice President:

Nominated: Tony Dubrowski

Motion Second

No other nominations were made.

Tony Dubrowski re-elected unopposed.

Treasurer: Nominated: Alex Tsalagas
Motion Second
No other nominations were made.
Alex Tsalagas elected unopposed.

Secretary: Nominated: Diana McKee
Motion Second
No other nominations were made.
Diana McKee elected unopposed.

VII. Committees Appointments

List of Committee Chair Appointments distributed as handout.

New appointments and new committees proposed.

State Sanctioned Tournaments (Alex Tsalagas)

Sponsors (Alex Tsalagas)

State Adult Referee Administrator (Del Rainho)

Comments from Del Rainho include:

- o Don't expect miracles
- o Will look for help from the leagues (ie. Reduce the abuse toward referees)
- o Will work to recruit
- o Retaining referees is key. Abuse and life situations drive them out.
- o Goal is to increase quality referee number by 50 refs/year – 5% increase.

Legal Affairs (Larry Frisoli)

Website (Diana McKee)

Select Program (Tony Dubrowski)

Players' Database (Tony Dubrowski)

Fields Safety and Development (Larry Frisoli)

Elections (Larry Frisoli)

Motion to accept appointments as proposed

Motion second

Motion Passed

VIII. Constitution and By-Law Amendments Proposals

Motion to change all instances of the word "amateur" to the word "adult" through out.

Motion passed

Article II – MASS has been trying for a year and a half to change our IRS status from 501(c)(4) to 501(c)(3). It is required by the IRS to have it listed in our constitution as 501(C)(3) before it will be approved. Eventually, we will get notification from the IRS that we have been approved. No changes.

Section 2.11 – Fiscal year change.

Currently fiscal year runs from September 1st to August 31st. US Soccer and USASA fiscal year runs from January 1st to December 31st. This change is to be in line with them.

National insurance contract runs from September 1st to August 31st. If the injured player is confirmed, the insurance will pay the claim. Previous year certificate covers games prior to September 1st.

Motion to accept change in fiscal year to January 1st to December 31st.

Motion approved

Alex Tsalagas noted that the budget will follow this change as well.

Section 3.1 – Constituency

Change number of delegates able to vote at MASS meetings from 4 to 2. Unless otherwise informed, MASS will accept votes from the president of the league only.

Motion to accept change in number of delegates

Motion approved

Motion to add 3.1a – Make MASS meeting mandatory to all leagues. Failure to attend semi-annual meeting fine \$100, Failure to attend AGM fine \$200.

Discussion: All leagues should attend to hear important information and have their voice heard but fine will not be the solution.

Motion Failed

Section 3.2 – Executive Board, Officers elections, Board of Directors

Motion to add Past President

Discussion: Past President should not be a voting member. This issue will be addressed in a later section.

Motion Approved

Motion to implement term limits on executive board members.

Discussion: Effect will be felt at the USASA level where it is necessary to build relationships and gain trust. Anyone aspiring to work within USASA will not be able to achieve this rapport.

Anyone is free to run in the state elections. If the membership appreciates the current officer's work, they will vote them in, if not, that person will be voted out.

Motion Failed

Section 3.6

President #4

Motion to allow president to appoint ad hoc committees and make special appointments to avoid conflicts of interest, subject to the approval of the executive committee.

Discussion: Each league should designate to the president someone to serve on the disciplinary and appeals committee so president has a pool of people to choose from.

Motion Approved

President #12

Motion to remove president from the Appeals Board

Motion to clarify the president is entitled to vote at all general membership meetings

Motion Approved

Vice President #2

Motion to clarify the vice president is entitled to vote at all general membership meetings

Motion Approved

Vice President #3

Motion to include vice president as a non-voting member of the Appeals Board.

Motion Approved

Secretary #5

Motion to clarify the secretary is entitled to vote at all general membership meetings

Motion Approved

Secretary #6

Motion to include secretary as a non-voting member of the Appeals Board.

Motion Approved

Secretary #10

Motion to add secretary as a member of the Credentials Committee.

Motion Approved

Treasurer #2

Motion to reduce reports to constituency to bi-annual rather than quarterly

Motion Approved

Treasurer #8

Motion to clarify the treasurer is entitled to vote at all general membership meetings

Motion Approved

Treasurer #9

Motion to add treasurer as a member of the Credentials Committee

Motion Approved

Past President #1

Motion to allow the past president, as a member of the executive committee, a vote at all meetings.

Discussion: Changes the voting structure/balance

Position would be only 1 past president

Anyone who works on the committee should get a vote.

Allowing the past president to vote will help to shift the vote to balance out the OTHSL's large vote.

Motion postponed and later Approved

Past President #2

Motion to include past president on the Rules Committee

Motion Approved

Section 3.7

A.3 – Motion to reduce number of voting delegates per league to 2 rather than 4.

Motion Approved

A.4 – Postponed

B.5 – Motion to give a 30 day period after commencement of league season to pay fees to MASS. After that initial 30 days, a notice will be sent. If no payment is received within 30 days after notice, the league will be considered resigned from membership.

Motion Approved

C.2 – Motion to allow Executive board to approve use of MASS or any of its trademarks, trade names or that of its sponsors.

Discussion: It is known that an unaffiliated league is using the USASA passcard. Alex/Tony will follow up.

Motion Approved

F.1 – Motion to disallow all proxy votes

Discussion: Leagues should continue to have a voice.

If a representative of a league can not attend, that league should not have a vote.

Proxy defined as written permission to vote in place of another.

One league can go out and collect votes from absent leagues by proxy.

Motion Failed – 2/3 vote of total voting power needed (38) and not achieved. (13 in favor/32 against)

Section 3.8

Motion to require each league to designate a representative to serve on the Appeals Board and Disciplinary Committee to be in a pool for the president to appoint as voting members on each committee as needed. No person shall sit on a committee where a conflict of interest exists.

Motion Approved

Section 3.8A

Motion to change Appeals Committee to Appeals Board

Motion to include the vice president and secretary as non-voting members along with 5 persons (with a minimum of 3 in attendance) from different leagues as voting members to the Appeals Board

Motions Approved

Section 3.8C

Motion to require any person who intends to be a candidate shall notify the president and nominating committee at least 14 days prior to the election of what position they will seek. A nomination may be made at the time of the election, with approval of 60% of the BOD.

Motion Approved

Motion to require any candidate to have served as a league officer for at least 2 terms in order to be eligible for candidacy. Friendly amendment accepted to 1 term instead of 2.

Motion Failed – 2/3 of total voting power needed (38) and not achieved.

Motion that any candidate can not be an active member of the MSRC.

Discussion: Conflict of interest

Candidate should be able to run then step down from MSRC position.

Motion Failed

Motion that a candidate must not be a paid individual from any soccer organization in any capacity.

Motion Failed

Section 3.8F

Motion to change the Central Referee Assignor to Central Referee Assignor Coordinator

Motion Approved

Motion to remove Mass Premier Leagues and simply list "any affiliated" leagues.

Motion Approved

Section 3.8I

Motion to require the Disciplinary Committee to consist of at least 5 members, at least 3 in attendance at meetings.

Motion Approved

Motion that members of Disciplinary Committee can not vote in a matter that involves their league.

Motion Approved

Section 3.8N

Motion to abolish the position of Director of International Games

Motion Approved

Article IV Section 4.4

Motion to require notice and agenda to be posted on the MASS website and emailed to BOD 30 days prior to the meeting and written notification sent by USPS mail 14 days prior.

Motion Approved

Section 4.7

Motion to conduct all meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws.

Motion Approved

Article VI Section 6.3

Motion to declare game precedence as National Cup Games, State Cup Games, Playoffs, League Matches, and Rescheduled games.

Motion Approved

Section 6.4

Motion to require a financial report from the home team when international matches occur.

Motion Approved

Section 8.1

Voted at March 27, 2007 meeting to require proposed amendments to be sent to Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting.

MASS Bylaws

Bylaw 1.2

Proposal to add letters to each point in bylaw

Motion Approved

Bylaw 1.2F

Motion to increase number of players per team selected by the state team to 4 before team can request a postponement.

Motion Failed

Bylaw 1.2G

Motion to allow a team to request a postponement if their goal keeper is selected to a state team.

Motion Failed

Request made to give better notice to players/teams with regard to selection to a state team.

Bylaw 1.3

Motion to increase fine to \$200 to leagues whose MASS fees have not been paid on time.

Motion Approved

Bylaw 1.4 Premier League Referees

Removed

Bylaw 1.5 Out of State Registration Fees

Removed

Bylaw 1.7 Reimbursement of Expenses (New #1.5)

Motion to add "D": Once a year the MASS president, of Exec. Board shall invite a League President to attend a USASA Annual Meeting or a US Soccer Meeting. Cost would be paid by the State Association.

Motion Approved

Discussion with regard to the voting structure:

- At some point, MASS will have to switch to player base (rather than team based)
- Allocation is unfair compared to number of votes larger leagues currently carry
- There should be a cap in order to provide a balance
- Currently, OTHSL carries too much of the vote and can control the vote on everything
- A bigger range could be provided
- There was a voting cap in the past of 30% so democracy can exist and each league can have a say in what happens with the state association. 40% share of the vote is too much.
- OTHSL feels they pay a large amount of money and should have the votes to back it up
- Request was made for OTHSL to discuss with their board and come up with some proposals that would be acceptable

IX. New Business

A. Clarification needed by BSSL regarding OTHSL website notice that a vote would take place proposing that the OTHSL would unaffiliated from MASS, USASA, USSF. OTHSL delegates are not in favor. Other OTHSL voices are concerned that their registration money is not being well spent. Basis of the disgruntled individuals revolves around the suspension of Jeremy Mordkoff and John Utter.

B. Dismissal of Lawsuit – Motion exists but there is not a resolution as of yet. Suit is based on executive board members in their specific capacities of which none of them remain. Lawsuit includes MASS soccer.

X. Adjournment

All matters before the meeting have been duly discussed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30PM.

Prepared by:

Diana McKee

MASS Secretary