

# Florida Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 08/04/2023

## Meeting – Marriott World Center Orlando

### Roll-Call:

X		Kai Velmer - President	X		Dave DiTillio – RVP-C	A		Renee Pippy - RCDW
X		Daragh Cullen – VP Player & Co Coach Development	X		Louis Richard – RVP-D			
X		Becky McLaren - Secretary	X		Russell Walker - RCAN			
X		Justin Goldman - Treasurer	X		Lance Lass - RCAS			
X		Mike Hyatt – VP Admin & Comm.	X		Hugo Arce - RCBN			
P		Olaf Henke – VP Competition	X		Moncef Hadiji -RCBS			
X		Alice Smith - Registrar	X		John Withkowski - RCCN			
X		Marino Torrens – RVP-A	X		Ed Kinsey - RCCS			
X		Chris Whittaker – RVP- B	X		Terry Straub - RCDE			

X = in attendance, A = Absence, P = Proxy  
C = Called in for an in-person meeting, \* = left meeting early

- **Guests:** Joel Dragan, Executive Director; Jennifer DiTillio, TOPS Chair; Mike Strickler, DOC; Maurice Henderson, Parliamentarian; Tom Tianich, Hollywood Wildcats; John Stacey, Past President; Christina Unkel, FSR; Mike Sroka, GCF; Charlie Vimonda, Charlotte County, Greg Zak, USA League
- **Ad Hoc:**
- **Proxy:** Olaf Henke to Russell Walker
- **Minutes taken by:** *Becky McLaren*
- **Do we have Quorum:** Yes
- **Action Items are in red and should be reviewed at the end of the meeting**
- Motions and resulting votes are ***bolded italics and underlined.***

**Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order 9:03am

**Roll Call:** Roll was taken by Becky McLaren

**Adoption of Agenda:** **It was moved to approve the agenda of the meeting as amended.**

Marino – Moved  
Cris – seconded  
Motion carries

**Approval of Minutes – It was moved to approve the minutes of the July 2023 meeting.**

Daragh – moved  
Marino – seconded  
Motion Carries (Olaf abstains)

**Correspondence – None**

**President's Report** – Thank Joel and the staff for putting the AGM together. We have a lot of positives to celebrate, registration numbers are up and there is a need and a lot of good we do. We need to think about where we go from here and the landscape is challenging and we need to figure out where we fit in and stay relevant. What should FYSA be? We are struggling in our league and tournaments – yes we still have teams but how do we improve these programs? We need to be ready to adapt. What is the IT that moves us forward? Possibly have a second meeting to see what our affiliates want? Like to see us continue grow the game at the grassroots level. Committee and committees

what are they about and supposed to achieve – which should be a positive outcome. Supposed to be fun to work on and have a positive outcome. TOPS committee is the one that is positive. Put difference aside and come together.

**Secretary's Report** – Report submitted

**Treasurer's Report** – Report submitted on last weeks call

Additional Reports:

VP Player/Coach Development – First time involved ever in Commissioner's Cup with one of my teams – very well run from beginning all the way to Statewide Finals. Mike Strickler sent report as to what is going on with Coaching department.

VP Competition – No report submitted.

VP Admin. & Comm. – Agree with Kai. Thinks there are different ways we can improve.

Registrar – Report submitted. Have a very functioning registration committee moving forward. Registration numbers 113,509. Go out into your area and found out why they are not putting their players in FYSA. We need to find out what we can do to get them back. Room for it to grow.

RVP – A – Commissioners Cup improved this year. We had more teams. Region A represented us well in Regionals in both President's Cup and Southern Regionals. We had a National Champion in President's Cup – team from Miami Lakes. Worked with Tom this year and held U11/U12 at his fields. Centralized older age groups at Amelia.

RVP – B – Report Submitted. Look at Cup competitions to see how we can make improvements. Rules and Bylaws revision. Have two or three goals as a Board. Okay with cutting the number of Board members. How can I help move the game forward.

RVP – C – We need to be there for our affiliates and support them. We need to ask our affiliates, what do you want and need maybe we do this at our roundtable. Change Commissioner's Cup back to Region Cup. Go back to possibly doing A/C cup. Be open to our affiliates.

RVP – D – Had teams in Commissioner's Cup. Landscape has changed and have been slowly picking up pieces. Looking forward to talking to Region D members and seeing how we can make it better. Regional events make you more invested.

Executive Director/Staff Report: Welcome to AGM. Feedback from HOF – they wanted to be more forward facing – so we will have a revolving dinner so they can mingle in the vendor hall. Luncheon have moved to a dinner and we have a cocktail hour before the event. – General session starts at 10:00am. 3 staff members who this is their first AGM. Please support the budget with the increase of salaries line so we can add staff. We are the fourth largest state association in the US.

Director of Coaching Report: Report Submitted

Standing Committees:

TOPS Soccer – We are the second largest state with TOPS soccer. There are 42 items in the silent auction, we will ship if the person is not here. Money this year is going to purchase feather banners for all TOPS clubs. Score has partnered to do an adaptive sports store.

FSR – Not just about quantity but about quality. How to professionalize FSR? 2023 we had the highest number of recertifications. Retention rates the first three years is very low. Seven or less years of experience had to come into in person classes. Eight and over did online class via zoom. We have a leadership team in each area, with ARAs in each region. Been creating a lot of programs over the year and they will launch this year. Andrew Simpson has been onboarded as FSR registrar. Trying to get FSR on US Soccer learning center. Had almost 300 referee courses in person.

We had the lowest new registrations from ages 14 to 17 this past year. Ask us to communicate with clubs – doing more reaching out this year. Will ask for our help. For a club to host need a room that holds 20 to 30 and have a painted field next to or nearby (no driving to field). New youth referee fees have been dropped and include their first referee kit. Exploring grants and donations since they are a 501c3. Becky asked Christina to please send her a copy of her report in written form.

#### **Old Business:**

**Rule 104.3.8 – It has been moved to add Rule 104.3.8 for consideration on Sunday.**

Cris – moved

Marino – seconded

After much discussion motion was withdrawn.

#### **New Business**

FYSA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary –

**It has been moved and second to establish 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee**

Marino – moved

Dave – seconded

Motion Carries

**It was moved and seconded to have Becky chair the committee**

Daragh - moved

Cris – seconded

Motion Carries

#### **Possible affiliate 24/25 Fee Increase/Recreational Plus**

Discussion was held and all agreed no increase to player fees but will look at affiliation fees.

#### **New tournament affiliate**

**It has been moved and seconded to accept Sparks Sports Marketing Entertainment as an associate tournament affiliate.**

Ed – moved

John – seconded

Motion Carries

#### **Executive Session:**

**It has been moved to release the decisions from Executive Session..**

Cris – moved

John W – seconded

Motion Carries

**It has been moved that the board support a revision of the FYSA Bylaws and Rules to be prepared by a contracted/hired Parliamentarian at a cost not to exceed \$15,000 and that the revision be presented to the membership at the 2024 AGM.**

**For The Good of the Game:**

Congratulations on the 113,000 registered players – John Stacey

Encouraged by the growth of the AGM and continuing to press forward on advancing FYSA – John Stacey

We need to get involved on girls side of the game – Lance Lass

**Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 1:56pm**

Marino – moved

Cris - seconded

Motion Carries



**FLORIDA  
YOUTH  
SOCCER  
ASSOCIATION**

**A:** 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road,  
Auburndale, FL 33823

**W:** [www.fysa.com](http://www.fysa.com)

**T:** 863-268-8220

Date: 8/1/23

Position: Secretary

Name: Becky McLaren

To: BOD

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**Activities since last REPORT:**

- Attended State Cup Final 4
- Attended President's Cup Final 4
- Attended Statewide Finals for Commissioner's Cup
- Reviewed any contracts sent to me
- Continue reviewing rules to see where updates are needed for areas related to my office
- Answered questions and assisted affiliates
- Attended Southern Regionals as part of the USYS Southern Regional Committee
- Meet with Joel as needed
- Reviewed Asst. DOC resumes that have been received

**Tasks I plan to complete prior to next meeting:**

- Review 2023 AGM's plus Deltas
- Review SOP for AGM with Ashley

**Tasks I am working on and current status:**

**Discussion/Action Required at the Meeting:**



**FLORIDA  
YOUTH  
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**A:** 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road,  
Auburndale, FL 33823

**W:** [www.fysa.com](http://www.fysa.com)

**T:** 863-268-8220

Date: 7/30/2023

Position: VP Competition

Name: Olaf Henke

To: BOD

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**Activities since last REPORT:**

**Finished 22/23 League and Cup competitions. Centralized final rounds for State Cup and Presidents Cup were held at Lake Myrtle. Office staff and all volunteers did a good job to make it a great experience for all the teams and players.**

**Released an updated format for FSPL and Sunshine Conference and Academy with a Fall and Spring schedule to allow teams to solely participate in just one competition for the season if so desired.**

**Numerous discussions with US Youth particular around the formation of the newly created National Academy League. Agreement with US Youth Competition leadership that a clear player pathway from the bottom to the top needs to be created to remain relevant and be able to compete with other organizations**

**Tasks I plan to complete prior to next meeting:**

**Tasks I am working on and current status:**

**Continuing to restructure the competitions we can control and positively influence the once run independently under the FYSA umbrella. FSPL and Sunshine Conference and Academy still need to be improved to achieve consistency in participants to create a healthy merit based competition system to the National League Pro.**

**Our Cup competitions need to be reimagined and reinvented. Updates are needed from the first round to the last (National).**

**Discussion/Action Required at the Meeting:**

**Office staff. It is difficult for the office staff to come up with changes and implement them with the responsibilities that fall on them running such a high number of centralized events every year. Some changes were made to limit the weekend events but especially the Spring, which is also the most important time for preparation for the new season, remains packed.**

**The board needs to take a stronger role of creating a vision of a newer FYSA that helps all of the departments in the office to work towards.**

**Not just our Rules and Bylaws are in urgent need of serious updates but also our competition rules. Except for some specific areas, there should be some continuity and simplification between all of our competition rules.**

**Subject:** Registrar Report

**Date:** Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 6:33:09 PM Eastern Daylight Time

**From:** Alice Smith <alice@floridaelitesa.com>

**To:** Secretary <Secretary@fysa.com>, Joel Dragan <jdragan@fysa.com>

We ended the year on a high note with 113,590 members. The second larger number is for FYSA.

We are excited about the implementation of Pre Bill which allows the clubs to monitor their billing of players. We opened up Registration on July 1, which allowed our registrars to get ahead of the rostering and the printing of passes for the 23/24 seasonal year Jacqui Cannon has held one on one meetings with our affiliates over the past 8 weeks to ensure that their season is going smoothly with this new pay system.

We attended the Region A Pre AGM Zoom meeting and also had a Zoom Registrar meeting with the registrar of Region A.

We attended the Region B AGM which was well attended. We were able to speak to various clubs and answer any questions and concerns in their area.

We continue to have our weekly meeting with GotSport as well as the Registrar Committee.

We look forward to another great season. We will continue to think of ways to make the task of putting kids on the field to play easier.



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As a Non-Profit organization, we rely on the donations of those who support our scholarship program. This program is dedicated to making sure that all children are able to play this game. If you are interested and able, please [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about our scholarship program.

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