

## **Travel Division Meeting Wednesday, March 11, 2009**

Rick called meeting to order at 6:40p.m.

The following teams were represented:

- Stars U9 B
- Shooting Stars U10 G
- Devils Blue U11 B
- Storm U11 G
- Fusion Gold U12 G
- Thunder White U12 B
- Sparks White U13 G
- Brasil U14 B
- Gunners U14 B
- Freedom U14 G
- Everton U 14 G
- Premier U15 B
- Spirit U15 G
- Strikeforce U19 B

Brief introduction, welcomed everybody.

### *Travel Division Meetings:*

Explained the why and how of Travel Division Meetings (quarterly, next one being in May) there has not been a Travel Division meeting since 2006. You are re-implementing this program as a way to improve the communication and structure of the Travel Division.

### *Financial Brief:*

Bill Myers, Treasurer, provided a financial briefing and handouts: 2008 Final Summary – All travel income and expenses from 2008 and Current Balance Sheet – Summary of current account balances and assets.

### *Tournament:*

Bill Myers, thanked teams for their current tournament efforts. Reminded those present that their work at the tournament are keeping their club fees lower. Without the tournament their club dues would be at least doubled as fees are increasing everywhere. Bill provided a brief on the number of teams. Thoroughgood: explained that for 2010 he would like to run the tournament across two weekends, one for boys another for girls, but this will have to be discussed.

### *League Updates:*

All three reps could not attend the meeting. Emails from the reps have gone out.

### *Field Update:*

Barry Hill discussed Fields, and explained the permits and how we enter field options into the field loader system for each league. The League selects the fields for play and the Club does not control what games are played on which field.

The team representatives, led by Tammi Burkhardt, offered a round of applause and group appreciation to Barry Hill for his efforts to improve the field situation. Barry's work with the county and others has led to beautiful Bermuda fields at Duff Park, Artificial Turf at Smith Lake and overall turf improvements at many Stafford parks. These are huge improvements over prior years and would not have happened without Barry's tireless efforts.

### *Uniform Update:*

Those present examined samples for each of the two top uniforms as selected by a SASA Committee. Price, advantages of each. Members voted and selected the Adidas Tiro uniform as the top choice. The vote was almost unanimous with only one member choosing the alternate. Travel Division will move forward with contract negotiations.

### *Safety Reminders:*

Teams were reminded about responsibilities for first aid training and maintaining first aid kits. A coach should have a first aid kit at every game and every practice - without exception. Goal safety was also discussed. Unsafe goals should not be used for practices or games. Children must not be allowed to get near goals an adult has checked that the goal is securely anchored. If the goal is not anchored, all players and adults should not use them. SASA and the field monitor on site should be immediately notified. Becky Mulder - [Fieldscoordinator@staffordsoccer.com](mailto:Fieldscoordinator@staffordsoccer.com) or SASA Office 540-657-0734.

### *Manager Helping Hands:*

Sue Myers described the Helping Hands volunteer group who are available to support team managers with questions, challenges, ideas and registration issues. Sue introduced the Helping Hand representatives: Tammi Burkhardt; Vicki Lindberg and Colleen Johnson. Information for the SASA Travel website "Manager's Corner" is forthcoming.

### *Questions and Answers.*

Why does the St. Patrick's Day Tournament have to be in March?

Tournament dates are licensed, insured, and approved by VYSA. It is very hard to get a sanctioned tournament date and to build the history and publicity that attracts 250 teams. We have a very good 16 year history with the tournament. To move or change, we would go to the bottom of the wait list and lose those teams that plan on the tournament each year. As you can see from the Web, many more clubs now offer tournaments and the competition for teams is greater than when the tournament first began. The tournament has been moved back one week to improve our weather.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00p.m.