

NRASL NOVEMBER 2012 MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 19,2012

Present: Grau, M. Smith, Fox, Vanover, Hassler, G. Panagiotou, Schuster, Jackson, B. Smith, Dave Thomas, Fry, Cope, Palache

Election 2012: Everyone that has a child playing in the League is eligible to vote.

President: Jeff Grau- 12 votes casted

Treasurer: Jeff Jedlicka-12 votes casted

Registrar-Cindy Jackson-12 votes casted

Boys Travel Director- Greg Fry- 12 votes casted

In-house DOC-Troy Murphy-12 votes casted

PR-Derrick Cope- 12 votes casted

President: Jeff Grau-

Brett Smith - signs for in-house registration are in and done. 25 signs are ordered and will be stored at Derricks house. They are changeable with dates but we must collect them and give back to Derrick after registration.

Enjoyed working with everyone and will continue to help as he can in the League.

Single Card Info: Jeff will have to vote in December whether for or against moving forward with the single card rule. NRASL members voted with the majority in favor of the single card rule.

Single Card info: The Case for Single Carding History Back in 1996, the youth soccer landscape in Ohio North had a very different look. The Lake Erie Youth Premier Soccer League was composed of around a dozen clubs and was the only "Premier" league in the state. The LEYPSL was a closed shop, operating to exclusively serve its members and filter the most talented and motivated Travel players into the Premier level. It was within this limited soccer context that the OYSAN Board of Directors acceded to allow players to compete at both the Travel and Premier levels. Ohio North subsequently became one of only a handful of state associations to approve dual carding. Fast forward to 2012... Ohio North now has around 70 clubs which call themselves "Premier"... And two Premier leagues... And around 3000 players who register to play for two different soccer clubs. Think two schools, two religions, two philosophies, divided loyalties. The administrative and developmental fall-out of dual carding has become both widespread and profound. It is within this much expanded soccer context that

the OYSAN Board of Directors, responding to widespread and increasingly more frustrated pleas from its membership, has taken the first steps towards returning the Genie to its bottle. Ohio North has become the most unique soccer market in the United States. While other states have evolved a reasonable balance between private and public ownership, the number of community-based clubs in Ohio North that have evolved into multi-level soccer clubs (in-house, Travel and Premier) can be counted on one hand. Dual carding has effectively suppressed any vision that a progressive community-based club can and should evolve to compete at the highest levels. For clubs who now share players, league scheduling - particularly rescheduling - has become a needlessly challenging and often-frustrating process. Travel clubs must schedule around multiple Premier clubs. Premier clubs must schedule around multiple Travel clubs. Both must schedule around weather postponements and whatever outside family, school, church, and other sporting events impact player availability. While some clubs, out of necessity, cooperate on shared players in an uneasy alliance, others simply restrict additional participation with second clubs. At the league level, match scheduling has become *the* major administrative headache. Sharing players has also impacted the evolution of programming. In 2010, OYSAN's State League delayed implementation of a member-driven league play-off because shared players faced a conflict with a local Travel tournament. In 2012, the US Youth Soccer National Championship Series State Cup was moved to June, which also directly conflicting with players competing in a local Travel tournament. And, in considering their 2013 options, the same Travel tournament faced rescheduling conflicts with existing CASA events. Eight league games and two tournaments is now the minimum expectation at both the Travel and Premier levels. Back in 1996, Premier games filled Saturdays and Travel games filled Sundays. Today, the sheer volume of weekend events, including the latest "must attend" tournament impacts a significant number of players from regular participation with one club or another. It must be asked... What values are kids learning about commitment and development through sport when they may not be obligated to train for one of their clubs? Or only have to show up for games when they are available? And what is the message to the players who only start, or play key roles, or enjoy maximum playing time when the dual carded players are unavailable? There are two main arguments cited against a return to single carding. The first is that it will hurt the smaller clubs who currently struggle to field teams; and the second is that players enjoy being with their friends because they have fun. While both are probably true on face value, players who aspire to higher levels get better by participating in good quality soccer programs, not by being the best players on average teams. Competitive soccer, by nature, is tiered by ability, with the most motivated and talented players competing at the highest levels. While not everyone aspires to be at the top, those who do, need a consistent environment commensurate with their abilities and motivations. Which brings the discussion to the major player development issues... **The Lesson of the US Soccer Development Academy** US Soccer created their Development Academy program because the top youth players weren't training enough, weren't training well enough, weren't resting enough, and weren't playing enough matches of a consistent quality using international substitution rules. US Soccer is now spending over \$4 million a year on youth soccer because every major youth soccer organization proved to be unwilling or unable to create a more educationally sound development model for their most talented players. Regardless of where the reader views the merits of the Development Academy relative to OYSAN's single vs. dual card discussion, the basic tenets of player development are clearly important – and clearly conspicuous by their paucity across the youth soccer landscape in Ohio North. **Over-playing,**

Under-training and Planning For RestAs noted, the typical fall and spring schedules in Ohio North comprise of eight games, two tournaments, and a couple of friendlies. OYSAN's dual carded players participate in around 30 games over a ten week season: an average of three games a week. Factoring the winter and summer sessions, the top players will generally log over 100 games per year and rarely take more than a week away from soccer to rest and recover before the start of the next obligation. In many case, injury is the only opportunity for an extended rest. Back in 1996, the decision to allow dual carding was based in part on the notion that playing more games was better for long-term development. The empirical and anecdotal evidence collected over the past 16 years has clearly and completely debunked that argument; less really is more. **Player Development Curriculum** When professionally managed, long-term player development is not unlike a school curriculum. The annual soccer calendar (periodization plan) is created in the off-season and incorporates technical, tactical, physical and emotional components relevant to the individual and collective needs of the squad. For the most motivated players, "long-term" development necessarily requires participation in a consistent soccer environment. Quality coaching is a must. Motivated teammates of relatively equal ability are a must. Attendance at training sessions is a must. And participation in a predictable program of matches that places rest and recovery as a central feature of the development process is a must. The long-term benefits of formal curriculum planning will remain elusive to Ohio North's players and coaches until clubs have regular and exclusive access to their own players. **Diluted Premier Level**It is widely acknowledged that the talent pool at the Premier level is too diluted across too many clubs. Too many players are recruited to Premier soccer without the talent or drive to justify their advance. Without a vertically organized league structure to provide for direct comparison between clubs, becoming a Premier player will continue to be as much about social status as athletic achievement. **Club Hopping** With so many clubs offering "Premier" experiences, club hopping has also become a significant hurdle to continuity and commitment. Parents either fail to do their homework before committing to a club, or they don't like their kid's assigned position or playing time, or they over-schedule themselves and render their kid as part-time and unreliable to their clubs. Without a much-needed change in recruiting ethics, the establishment of transfer windows, the introduction of standardized player contracts, and a better vetting process on both sides, the free movement of players will continue to hamstring any notions of roster continuity and commitment and periodization. **No Soccer Pyramid** Ohio North has two Premier leagues (State League & CASA) and six Travel leagues (AASL, GAASA, OASL, NOGSL, NWOYSL & YAYSL), none of which inter-connect to promote and relegate teams based on performance. Dual carding to the Lake Erie League created the initial, and now lasting, vertical divide between Premier and Travel; while history, geography and OYSAN's political structure as a league-based state association explains the parallel evolution of Travel soccer. An integrated soccer pyramid, constructed out of the single card model, would serve to a) provide an objective measure of the quality of each team and club; and b) provide a predictable pathway for teams to advance in accordance with their level of performance. **In Closing...**The lessons of the dual card experiment are that OYSAN's teams can't consistently compete on the regional or national levels; the top teams must travel further and more often to find consistent opposition; all our players suffer in one way or another from a less than ideal soccer environment; and the most progressive community-based clubs can't evolve because their players are competing elsewhere. It's time to go back to the future.(OYSAN newsletter)

DOC: Everett Palache- Winter training for Coaches. Each Coach would rotate in all 4 quads. Date TBD next week with Curriculum and design program to be used.

Girls Travel Director/Webmaster: Jeff Hassler-

Travel in house surveys received. 88 travel and 55 in-house. Will give final results at the January meeting.

Field Director- Pat Graham- not present

After Hurricane Sandy we could not seed. After shut down next year we will need major seeding. Brett to assist with management of the field quality and services we are getting.

Commissioner: Wayne Fox- Ref Clinic for those wanting to be certified for the Grade 8 referee. Kevin O'Brien will hold a clinic at library Saturday January 12 from 10-6pm. Clinic to certify new referees to do travel games. NRASL will waive the \$20 fee for local NRASL members. fee for class is \$75.00 (state fee). We will open up to other communities outside NRASL to register.

VP: George Panagiotou- We are signed up to be an International Tournament. Website is up and running.

PR: Derrick Cope- Turnover binder given

Boys Travel Director: Greg Fry- Will be sending out a Coaches evaluation to be filled out by parents. He will send to boys and girls.

Winter training: adding 5 spots to the U8U9 slots. No participation in those groups right now. This is for the 8-9 time slot.

Will have a Coaches meeting in Dec/Jan. to discuss single carding evals, ask questions.

Registrar: Cindy Jackson- Distribute signs at Jan meeting

AASL- Debi Schuster: Need to address issues with Coaches responsibilities. They are not turning in things on time and score cards can cause us to get fined. Hassler to send email at beginning of season.

Apparel: Marcie- Unico bought by company on East side.

Dave Thomas- No report

Secretary: Judy Vanover- No report

No meeting in December Adjourned at 11:20.

