

# AYSO Board Meeting

July 7, 2022

## Participants

X	Taj Chiu		Caroline Amicone
X	Neil Weinberger		Steve Hawkins
X	Mimi Goldstein		Dana Bradley
	Shanti Rao		Bill Owen
X	Dan Jeffries		George Hervey
X	Terry Takahashi		Craig Rosebraugh
	Joanie Paik		Samir Singh
	Stas Petropoulos	X	Steve Haegelin
X	Patrick Shopbell		Tara Mastro
X	Susan Streets		Scott Davis
	Louise Hamlin	X	Monika Wehbe
	DeWayne McMullin		Oscar Alvarez
	Sam Shaker		Frank Garibaldo
	Ryan Holmes		Andrew Thompson
X	Christina Waugh		Brandi Lane
	Tony D'Angelo	X	Lucas Pierce
X	Erica Urquiza	X	Gus Razo

## I. Call to Order

Taj Chiu called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm.

## II. Approval of previous meeting minutes

The Board did not meet in June when Taj was in the Netherlands. Patrick motioned to approve the May minutes. Neil seconded. **All 5 executive members voted unanimously to approve the May meeting minutes.** The approved May Board meeting minutes noted Christina Waugh as one of the signers for the Region 13 Bank of America account. The Board will vote on Christina's nomination as Board Treasurer in next month's meeting.

## III. Reports

### A. Report on National, Sectional, and Area

#### 1. National - Neil

Neil attended this year's National Annual General Meeting in Las Vegas, as Taj was unavailable. All executive members of AYSO National attend. On the agenda for the meeting were proposals to national rules and regulations for play, and the election of national board members and national President. The National Board of Directors, composed of 9 members, is led by the President. Every year, 3 of 9 members are voted on. The President was re-elected for a one year term.

There has been a reduction of paid staff at National, so more responsibilities have been pushed down to volunteers.

## **2. Section**

Area 1/R will be running a Super Camp from July 22-24<sup>th</sup> (weekend of Freeway Jam). Virtually every volunteer course is held, including management classes. Region 13 needs to train new coaches and/or referee instructors. Terry and Patrick to consider which volunteers could be asked to become instructors. Miles for travel can be reimbursed through Region 13.

## **3. Area**

Not much to report on things happening in Area.

## **4. Region**

a)Region 13 calendar: Taj would like to hand over management of the calendar to Erica. Terry and Patrick should also add events as necessary.

b)New volunteers on the board:

(1)Vandana Desai – new Volunteer/Team Manager coordinator

(2)Kristy Orzewalla – new Uniform and Equipment Coordinator; Orders in already

(3)Lucas Pierce – Director of Coach Instruction

Coach instruction: Taj is trying to coordinate coach instruction in the area. Lucas spoke to Region 214, and Taj wants to coordinate beyond just a few regions.

## **D. Referee Report - Patrick**

Staff meeting was last week, to discuss instruction and training. Many experienced referees have received further training. A few went to Ken Aston camp.

## **E. Referee Instruction Report - Patrick**

Referee instruction for classes in the fall was discussed. Steve Hawkins will fill in as Director of Referee Instruction. He won't be able to teach, but will help organize courses. Region 13 will probably continue to coordinate instruction with Region 214. The group organizing instruction has a draft schedule for classes. Regional Referee Class will be 2-3 weekends before the season starts, followed by 1 weekend after the first game. 8U referee classes will be the week before the season starts, with some classes during evenings.

All referee classes will be in person, with no online versions. Classes will be either at Region 13's Clubhouse or Region 214. Region 13 will not prohibit volunteers from getting AYSO referee training elsewhere online.

The referee refresher class will be held on the field for 1.5 hours, the Saturday or Sunday before the Fall season starts. Steve Bickel will teach the refresher.

There will be a Zoom meeting for referee mentoring. The meeting will be 1 hour, and we are hoping to have more experienced referees attend to help new referees. Everyone felt mentoring and being mentored was helpful.

Once a certified referee head instructor is assigned to teach referee classes, the classes will be added to the Region 13 Calendar.

The “Respect the Referee” document needs to be implemented. How can we better support referees and make improvements in the Fall?

Referee scheduling and standings were discussed. Scheduling games currently is done with a program written by Myles Standish in Fortran more than 20 years ago. It works, but is outdated and difficult to modify. An alternative scheduling program with a more user-friendly format, along with standings information, would be preferred. A referee scheduling app was used last season to find mentors and referees to cover specific games. The Fortran programming is customized to a level of recognizing which fields are available depending on lighting. InLeague has a scheduling and standings module. Patrick has reviewed from an admin and volunteer perspective. Center referee and admin can enter game scores. Taj can also allow head coaches to enter game scores. InLeague scheduler manages coach conflicts for coaches who have more than one team. InLeague publishes the schedule, but tracks team by team number, NOT by head coach. Parents would need to be aware of team numbers for the schedule. Patrick recommends we start the season with InLeague scheduling. He can assess how the program is working after a few weeks.

Referee App for scheduling that was developed by Shanti was successful with the referees. Figuring out who was refereeing games was difficult (didn’t have to put info on which game). Some other Regions used commercial software to do assignments. Every referee has a login, certifications, and referee will go into software and sign up individually. Difference is that referees in 10U, 12U, 14U referee the game before. Home team provides 2 refs, visiting 1 refs. Not many systems are set up for that type of rule. Currently also use gender-neutral fields (e.g., B10U and G10U). Can’t look up games by field.

InLeague has a system to assign referees. Can only look at a division of games, not by gender. This system is also individual based. Question of how to implement referee assignments in InLeague system. Might be able to have a lead referee whose responsibility is to find referees for the game.

Shanti’s software is customized for our Region, while InLeague does not offer this level of customization. Patrick is not sure if Referee module in InLeague will work for us.

Taj suggested having a discussion with another region. Region 2 assigns manually. But many other regions are small. Manual assignment would be a lot of work.

Last season, standings were not published because of unbalanced teams. Region 13 will go back to publishing standings this year.

Neil suggested thinking about the timing of publishing the game schedule, and if we will know who all the coaches are. Suggestion is to coordinate a cutoff for who is coaching with the DCAs.

Target schedule is to turn on the waitlist this weekend. This will give DCAs two weeks to mine waitlist for more volunteers, with formation of teams around July 25<sup>th</sup>. The list of coaches and teams will be available around a month earlier than last season. Having teams formed early will allow for teams to find volunteers, and to take work off of the DCAs and DRAs. Previous efforts from DCAs and DRAs to find volunteers have been ineffective.

Neil said that if there is no coach, the schedule can be run with a placeholder. We may still eventually end up with a schedule with conflicts and then someone whose main responsibility is the management of the schedule will be needed.

#### d)LAFC tickets

LAFC tickets have all been claimed for the remainder of the season.

#### e)Livescan

Livescan is a new volunteer requirement that started in January. It is a DOJ program to scan fingerprints of volunteers to be run through a database. AYSO volunteers are required to register, and cannot coach or referee without it. Vendors offer the Livescan service. AYSO has approved Capital Live Scan as a vendor, however they are overwhelmed. Taj tried to find alternative vendors to do this, however the information processing for AYSO is complicated. Hoping that using the AYSO approved vendor will not result in issues.

Taj is trying to coordinate with Area to coordinate all the LiveScan events and have Area manage billing.

#### f)Bownets

Bownets, both small and full sizes, need to be assessed. They are used for clinics and Winter Stars. Neil donated a few bownets. Several may be mislabeled or missing parts. Lucas volunteered to help, along with Steve H. Region 13 will need to buy new bownets. Lucas and Steve will also provide pricing/sizes for new Bownets. Mimi will add to the budget.

g)Every volunteer needs to re-register every season in InLeague.

h)Board members should order a board shirt and/or jacket by July 21st for them to arrive before the season starts. <https://form.jotform.com/221797422107152>

Kristy will order the clothing.

i)Board members should join Slack. Last season using Slack allowed DCAs to ask each other questions and get answers more quickly. Please update your full name and title on Slack so that we know who is who.

[Slack](#)

m)Taj updated the Region 13 Schedule page. It provides an approximate date for when things happen.

(1)The following events need to be scheduled on the Region 13 Calendar: coach and referee classes, parent orientation meetings (run by DCAs).

(2)Proposal to have joint referee/coach meetings to orient them - one meeting per division, run by DCA and RCA. We need to instruct volunteers who may train outside of our region to how things are done in Region 13. For coaches, most training will be online. Field sessions of coaching instruction may be attended by coaches from 5 other regions. If coaches get online training, where is the place to have shared Region 13 instruction?

n)Taj was doing standings for Spring Cup and Upper Division and thought we should consider adding stamina to the player ratings. Speed is already a rating. Terry thought this was a good idea but would like to have a further discussion about it elsewhere.

## B. Registrar report

Over 2,000 players have registered so far, with the number at 2,176. We will top out at 2,500 players, but cannot support more than that because of the lack of field space.

Ordering uniforms from projections from last season.

If a volunteer registers and does not use their legal name, or provides the wrong birthdate, only Shanti or Taj can change in a system outside of InLeague.

70% of currently registered players are returning players.

Waitlists will be turned on this weekend. Region 13 is forming teams earlier than last season. One problem from last season was that volunteers signed up too late.

## C. Communications Report – Erica

1. Erica will take over the newsletter from Shanti starting in July. Terry and Patrick can provide items of interest. Taj suggested looking at last July's newsletter for ideas of what to include. Goal is to send out this weekend.
2. Shanti suggested a season kickoff event. In the past there has been a volunteer dinner, scheduled for August 23rd. Location is to be determined, but possibly La Canada's Memorial Park. For Labor Day weekend or September 17th a Region 13 group night out to either Angel City or Galaxy was suggested. Erica will follow up with Shanti.
3. Erica suggested that we align on how to use the various coms platforms. We use email, Slack and text. Slack can be for everything while email is for one off things, and more external. Spond was used to communicate with coaches during the Winter. Younger volunteers will use Slack, but older volunteers prefer not. We are a volunteer organization so it's been a challenge streamlining coms channels. Taj suggested having a Slack channel for coaches, while keeping Board communications separate. Erica suggests eliminating multiple platforms. Teams internally can use whatever they want. Taj wants to push Spond as a platform for team communications.
  - b)A faq page would be helpful on the website, for quick reference. Also elimination of so much text from the webpage is recommended.

Everyone on the Board has access to the private calendar where everyone can share their availability/vacations. [Region 13 Private Calendar](#)

## Covid Policy

Last year Region 13 went above and beyond the LA County Health guidelines. For this Fall Season, Region 13 will follow the guidelines, and not be more restrictive than LA County. LA County Protocol for

Organized Youth Sports was last updated March 11. Our safety page is up to date. Region 13 needs to collect vaccination status, but testing is not required. Region 13 will continue to notify the Health Department of positive cases. Region 13 needs to follow both Pasadena Health Department and LA County guidelines, which are usually aligned but not always.

Stas will not be able to gather data from positive cases - his primary role last season was to get vaccination statuses, then work through the data and processes with LA County. The time consuming part was reviewing all the data that was submitted by people. Could streamline process as a self attestation. We need to verify vaccinations, as opposed to spot checking records. Region 13 compiled a list of all players and teams and the City of Pasadena was satisfied. Exposure was tracked through data provided by Region 13. Dan and Taj will follow up on the best approach to process data for vaccination statuses.

Erica wants to put together a marketing communications deck. Introduce some new elements along with cohesion for our messaging.

Shanti mentioned that the LA Galaxy reached out to players to attend the Youth Development Camp in July and August. For every player registered for this Camp, Region 13 would receive \$10 and players would in turn receive a discount. Taj will review information from Erica and Shanti.

One of the Pasadena public schools, Jackson Elementary, asked if Region 13 would have a presence at their Back to School night/ PTA meeting. By the time the school year starts, it is too late to register players since team formation starts much earlier. Perhaps we can offer the possibility to speak to the school in April to sync with the Fall season sign up schedule.

### Treasurer Report - Mimi

Need to do the budget, and cannot do year-ends until June 30th.

### Coaches' Report - Terry

Good news is that all divisions have DCAs. Terry is taking over Boys 7U. Susan is Boys 10U and 13U DCA. Most of the new DCAs have been trained. DCAs met in mid June so that returning DCAs could prepare for the Fall season. Referee volunteers are lagging. Boys 14U is close but Girls 14U will have enough referees. Girls and Boys 10U will have a referee on each team. Region 13 is in a better position than last year for Coach volunteers. Boys 8U waitlist was turned on early. By July 22nd to 25th teams will be formed, and the coaches' roster will be available by August 1st. Push recruitment of volunteers to teams as DCAs and DRAs are struggling to support teams. There are some training issues resulting from the pandemic, as last year's training was online. For the Advanced Coaching Class, need a full class with a field session. ETrainU will not consider volunteers as fully trained intermediate coaches without the field session. Marco was going to certify coaches with a field session for the Advanced Course. Section has not given any guidance for certification of intermediate coaches. DCA will ask coaches to sign a coach Pledge.

Taj is working on a document to establish a legacy of cooperation for coach and referee instruction. This document will have training dates throughout the Region. Neil, Francis, Marco, Peter Wilson, Frank Bigelow, and Taj are active coach instructors.

## Fields Report

Region 13 has lost fields. Coaches can request field and practice times.

Area 1/C is running Freeway Jam on July 23rd and 24th next to Area H. About 50 teams are signed up. This tournament was set up for one last chance for Spring teams to play. Two Region 13 teams are participating. Steve will send out a volunteer list. Coaches will need to continue to report injuries on the Region 13 website.

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Next Board Meeting is August 4, 2022 at 7:15 pm.