



**Minutes of the
South Texas Youth Soccer Association
Executive Committee Teleconference
January 4, 2010**

Approved EC: February 12, 2010

Approved Governing Body: February 14, 2010

OFFICERS PARTICIPATING:

Jesse Harrell	Don Bohnet
Keith Walker	Chuck Jeffords
Shirley McGraw	Chuck Albores

OTHERS PARTICIPATING:

Tom Morrow, State Office
Linda Miller, State Office

CALL TO ORDER:

The President called the meeting to order via telephone conference call at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to review proposed rule changes and provide a recommendation of the Executive Committee.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES:

Proposed rule changes 18-23 address the Club Pass System that has been proposed previously. The affect of implementing this type of program will impact various competitions and needs to be studied further. Although the intent was to use feedback from the previous committee identified to review this topic, there has not been sufficient information to make a clear recommendation on this topic. It was proposed that a committee made up of the State Registrar, Executive Vice President, District Vice Presidents, Director of Coaching and a representative of the club submitting the Club Pass System proposals be convened to review the topic and meet on Saturday at the February Governing Board to provide a clear recommendation.

The Committee discussed the possibility of having STYSA rules broken out by competition so that the requirements of each competition including whether rosters must be frozen or can be flexible are clearly defined. This system could also be used as a club benefit. If a club has all players registered through STYSA, then the club could "mix or match" rosters with players from within their organization. If a club doesn't register all players with STYSA, this benefit would not be extended to that club because there would be no way to assure that only STYSA registered players were participating.

The Committee recommended that the State Registrar come up with a list of pros and cons related to the Club Pass System. Any recommendations for who should serve on the Committee should be provided to the STYSA President as soon as possible so they can begin working on this issue soon. A time slot should be set aside on Saturday afternoon at the GBM for this Committee to meet.

Therefore, it was the consensus of the Executive Committee to include a recommendation that these proposals be tabled pending a review by a committee designated to consider the objective and how its implementation would impact each competition.



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Proposed Rule Change #1 – By-Law Change / Executive VP duties - Recommends passage

Proposed Rule Change #2 and #3 – Eliminating refund of appeal fee for protests and appeals – The Executive Committee was puzzled by the recommendation of the Rules Committee on proposal #2 and #3. On proposal #2 they indicated they did not recommend eliminating the refund but on #3 they recommended approval to increase the appeal fee and eliminate reference to the refund if successful. It was the recommendation of the Executive Committee that a justification of the need for eliminating the refund be included with the recommendation by including the number of cases, number of appeals and how many were successful requiring a refund, total costs incurred and the impact of refunding these fees on the budget along with some historical information on whether the number of cases has increased or decreased. The cost of an appeal varies based on the number of copies required, the number of overnight packages to be sent and the conference call expenses based on time and participants.

There was discussion of the possibility of refunding a portion of the fee rather than the entire fee. This is a possibility but would still result in a negative impact on the budget. It is important to bring to the attention of the member associations the costs associated with this rule so that they can make an informed decision. The continued impact on the budget may need to be considered in the future with the addition of funding for appeals and a fee increase to offset the costs.

Case numbers, costs and statistics will be researched and provided to the Executive Committee tomorrow. The Committee recommends passage of both proposals and, upon receipt of the statistics, will formulate the wording of the recommendation tomorrow.

Proposed Rule Change #4 – Wording of appeal fee in notification letters – Recommends passage as originally proposed

Proposed Rule Change #5 – Reference to a rule in the Background Check Procedures – Recommends passage as this is a housekeeping change.

Proposed Rule Change #6 – Background Check Procedure Clarification – Recommends Passage

Proposed Rule Change #7 – Background Check Procedure Clarification – Recommends Passage as originally proposed. The amendment of the Rules Committee is to change one word that would indicate the ineligible list would be “made” available to the Risk Management Coordinators. Associations do not always make the state aware of who the Risk Management Coordinator is so the list “is” available to those who are known or those who request it.

Proposed Rule Change #8 – Clarification of U10 and younger play-up restrictions – Recommends Passage



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Proposed Rule Change #9 – Clarification of U10 and younger play-up restrictions – Recommends Passage

Proposed Rule Change #10 – Renaming of Soccer Start Program – Recommends Passage

Proposed Rule Change #11 – Release of players who “abandon” a team – Recommends Passage with the following amendment: Change the proposed section to read: “A completed STYSA Transfer/Release form accompanied by detailed” Remove the first sentence of the last paragraph referring to the STYSA Transfer/Release form.

Proposed Rule Change #12 – Recreational Academy Definition – Recommendation of the Rules Committee opens the door for the possibility of Under-8 teams being allowed. The intent of the rule is to clarify that teams must be Under-9 or Under-10 but may have Under-8, Under-9 and Under-10 players on these teams. With the concern that there may be confusion by the wording of the original proposal, it was recommended that the wording be amended to: “...Under-10 and/or Under-9 youth teams. Recreational Academy Under-10 and Under-9 teams will be comprised of Under-10, Under-9 and Under-8 players in a team”

Proposed Rule Change #13 – The amendment of the Rules Committee to this proposal creates more confusion as this level of play does not apply to the Under-13 age group and does not involve teams in the State Classic League or any other state-sponsored competition. Keith explained that Eastern District does not offer Division I or Super II play in the Under-11, Under-12 or Under-13 age groups. Teams register through a Member Association but play in a gaming league managed by EDDOA. Division I teams are not formed until Under-14 and none of the U11, U12 or U13 teams play under Super II or Division I rules. The Under-11 and Under-12 teams utilize the Club Pass process and do not advance to Fall Championships in the fall and generally do not participate in Spring Cup play competitions. Discussion regarding the Rules Committee’s proposal of adding a rule clarifying the play time requirement revealed that there is not currently a problem on that issue – there are no standings and no advancement for this group. The teams are formed through a tryout process so they cannot be classified as recreational and they do not play through EDDOA or the Eastern District Super II League rules.

Justification for the Executive Committee’s recommendation to approve the original proposal was discussed and brought up additional concerns between the age groups. U11 and U12 teams do not advance to Fall Championships or participate in Spring Cup play; U13 teams do not participate in Fall Championships but may participate in Spring Cups and do qualify for state-sponsored competitions in the Spring. After much discussion, the Executive Committee determined that this is not truly a state play level but is a process put in place by Eastern District to identify teams for the Super II or Division I play levels. If this play level is identified at the state level, Eastern District would need a rule change at the state level to change their process.



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The Qualifying League plays with rules that have not yet been adopted at the state level like the Club Pass System. This is an internal program within Eastern District / EDDOA and does not impact teams in any of these age groups or teams from any other association. The best solution would appear to be to code the teams in this play level with existing play levels rather than establish a new level of play.

Based on the discussion of the problems associated with the adoption of a new level of play for teams from only one District playing through an in-house program, it was the decision of Keith Walker to withdraw this proposed rule change as well as other proposed rule changes on this topic. The state can track the players using existing play levels of "1" for Division 1 or "S" for Super II. Shirley will need to address this adjustment with the Registrars for future reference and Keith will promote it through the Eastern District Associations. There will be no confusion with Eastern District teams since there are no playoffs for this play level.

Proposed Rule Change #14 – Team Formation section header – Recommends Passage

Proposed Rule Change #15 – Team Formation section header – Recommends Passage

Proposed Rule Change #16 – Team Formation section header – Recommends Passage

Proposed Rule Change #17 – Team Formation section header – Recommends Passage

Proposed Rule Change #18 - #23 – Club Pass System – Discussed earlier and recommend that the proposals be tabled and referred to a committee for further review

Proposed Rule Change #24 – ID Cards – Recommends Passage

With the withdrawal of the rule change regarding the Qualifying level of play, all references to Qualifying should be removed in the proposed change and the justification.

Proposed Rule Change #25 – Referees – Recommends Passage

With the withdrawal of the rule change regarding the Qualifying level of play, all references to Qualifying should be removed in the proposed change and the justification.

Proposed Rule Change #26 – El Paso New Association – A notation of "No Recommendation" will be provided on this proposed change. The approval of a new Member Association lies with the Governing Board and, until that approval is complete, there should be no recommendation.

Proposed Rule Change #27 – Substitutions on corner kick

Since there is no substitution on a corner kick in competitions recognized by US Youth Soccer – Premier League, USYSNC, President's Cup, etc – there should be consistency in the rules under which the teams play during competitions. Most of the references by the person proposing the rule change are to older teams with the exception of a single reference to small-sided games.



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As written, this rule would apply to all levels of play if adopted. Since Cup play and play beyond the state level (Regional and National competitions) does not currently allow substitutions on corner kicks, there should be consistency in the rules under which the teams play. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Executive Committee that this rule be resubmitted by level of play so that consideration can be given to adopting it for small-sided games without affecting teams playing in higher level competitions.

Proposed Rule Change #28, 29 and 30 – Travel & Tournament Policies and Procedures

These three proposals were submitted by Hal Hutton while 31 through 33 were proposed by Don Bohnet. There are similarities between the two sets of proposals but the reference to “voting member in good standing” in the first three assumes that one could identify whether a member club was in good standing and was a voting member. In the proposals submitted by Don, approval of an application is by the association president through which the club is affiliated and the “majority of the hosting organization or club’s players participate” rather than voting member organizations.

Since the same issues are addressed in both set of proposed rule changes but 31 through 33 are more comprehensive and incorporate changes adopted by US Youth Soccer with regard to tournament types and the requirements for unrestricted events, the Committee recommends that 28, 29 and 30 reference the associated rule submitted by Don. On proposed changes #31, 32 and 33, the recommendation will be “as originally proposed”.

EL PASO APPLICATION FOR SECOND ASSOCIATION:

The possible application for membership by a second association in El Paso was discussed. This is an issue that must be decided by the Governing Board and will likely be needed to be added to the agenda for the upcoming Winter Meeting. El Paso has been advised that the required documents must be submitted to the State Association 30 days prior to the meeting so that they can be reviewed by the Executive Committee and the item placed on the agenda for the meeting. Receipt of the documents is expected on or before January 10th and will be provided to all Executive Committee members upon receipt.

PENDING ISSUES:

Under-10 Playing Policy – The policy is currently in place prohibiting U10 and younger teams from playing Under-11 until May 1 or the end of their spring season. Tournaments are currently allowing U10 teams to play up to U11. Until a rule change is proposed or the policy is changed, U10’s cannot play up to U11 in tournaments or league play.

Hosting 11v11 at the U11 and U12 age group – There is no rule that prevents a club or association from hosting a tournament with 11v11 play for these age groups; however, the teams from within South Texas must comply with the written rules regarding roster limits. The application must show that the maximum roster is 18 players so that teams from another state can participate with their



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complete roster but the tournament is required to assure that the South Texas teams comply with South Texas rules.

State Cup Manual – The Competition Committee reviewed the State Cup Manual and approved it while they were in Baton Rouge. The document must now be approved by the Executive Committee. Shirley made a motion to approve and Don seconded. All were in favor of the approval of the State Cup Manual.

State Classic League U13 – The U13 age group has been incorporated into the State Classic League Rules but authorization to post to the website has not been provided by Don Bohnet or Reeves Moore. Don asked that Tom email him a current copy so that he can review tonight and make any additional changes that may be needed. He will verify with Reeves that it is complete and provide a response later this evening or tomorrow as to the status.

Fall Championships – There were a number of teams that withdrew or did not show up at the events in December. Will all teams be fined or will this be on a case-by-case basis? It was agreed that fines should be assessed to all teams that withdrew last minute or did not show up at the tournament on the date of the event as well as associations who accepted allocations and then were unable to provide a team. Sending the notification of fines to any association meeting one of these criteria was approved by the Executive Committee including a list of the teams. The issue should then be brought before the Governing Board to explain why the fines were assessed so that they will understand and, hopefully, support the decision. They will have the option of reducing or refunding any fines that the association wishes to challenge.

In the situation involving the AU Capital Soccer Club where two players were added to the team on 12/4/2009, there has been an email exchange between Ric Granryd, Administrator for the AU Capital SC and the State Office. While it is probable that this was a situation of the club registrar failing to verify that all players were uploaded, the point of the notification was to clarify responsibility of the club to meet the requirements for submitting uploads in a timely manner and verifying their rosters prior to the roster freeze date. There were several other teams submitted as advancing teams that were not eligible because they did not have a coach or had not been activated as required by the rules. Don recommends that no further action be taken against the club or coach; a letter should be sent to the club stating that they are responsible for complying with pre-determined dates related to registration and contact should be initiated with the State Office in the event of a problem. The issue of late uploads and roster corrections will not be an issue next year as uploads will have to be done by a specified date.

A second incident that occurred at the BU13 Division 2 State Tournament involving a player being disallowed to participate in two of three games because he gave a different name than what was on the ID Card and did not resemble the photo on the ID Card will be referred to the Appeals Committee.



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SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY MEETINGS

Interviews will be scheduled on Saturday, January 9th, for the Competition Events Administrator position along with a review of the proposed budget to present to the Governing Board at the February meeting. The schedule for the day will be:

- 8:30 a.m. – Chuck Albores, Jesse Harrell and Tom Morrow will discuss budget expenses
- 12:00 p.m – Interview of Pam Kasperitis
- 1:30 p.m. – Interview of Ray Don Tilley
- 3:00 p.m. – Interview of Keith Walker

If additional time is needed to discuss budget issues, the discussion can continue after the interview with Keith Walker.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Morrow / Linda J. Miller
STYSA State Office