

2022 North Texas AGM

Summary

- BIG thing – ANY association member can attend the North Texas AGM workshops without having to be registered or pay the registration fees.
 - Just cannot get gift bags or attend the invitational dinners/award ceremonies. Go to know for next summer.
- International Clearance for players born outside of US (see item 8 – Registrar Q&A)
- Financial audit every 2 years (see item 9 - Organizational Issues and your Association)
- North Texas announced that Springtown is open area. Laurelle has reached out to Lisa Styles to start the process to get Springtown combined with Weatherford under North Texas.
- We should look for submitting a Coach and Referee to North Texas for awards
 - Need recommendations for family, friends, team.
- Laurelle discussed with Fort Worth on expanding our relationship with them and having some of our team's games played at Weatherford.
- Expand our teams
 - Academy Teams – if we continue our association with FW we can have more competition for more competitive teams. Offer more options for our kids and coaches.
 - Adult teams – need to become a Joint Association (Adult and Youth)

Workshop meetings attended

1. TopSoccer: How to start a program in your Member Associations

Attended by: Laurelle & Ricky

- Program for special needs kids.
- Fields should be handicap accessible if possible but if not, make sure that the families are aware of potential barriers that may exist.
- Safety is first priority.
- Buddies are needed through the entire 8 week program. It is beneficial for then same Buddy to be with the same player through the entire season to ensure that the player has the most productive season possible.
- Parents need to stay off the fields during the practices and scrimmages. Studies show that if parents stay on the sidelines it helps the players to come out of their shells and become a stronger player.
- TopSoccer Coach training courses are available for all new and existing coaches
- Uniforms are all the same color with the same number. Buddies wear a different color shirt to make it easier to tell the difference between them and players.
- It has a similar layout to Start Smart Program with the keeping it moving structure.
- Award the Buddies at the end of season with coins, pins, or small medal.
- Fee should only cover the cost of things like the shirts and balls. Attendance is better in the long run when there is a small fee. Organize teams by size not age of players, again safety first.

2. Marketing, Branding and Growth

Attended by: Laurelle & Ricky

- Don't change logo dramatically again. Every time you change your logo you lose your branding.
- Create an identity for your brand, ex. fun and exciting/serious and professional/ kid and family friendly.
- Use age appropriate tools for the age group you are wanting to target.
- Utilize social media to the max potential. Be on all platforms.

2022 North Texas AGM

Summary

3. NTSSA A&D Resolving Conflicts

Attended by: Lenny

- Fair hearings (listening to facts and evidence only; not personally motivated)
- Err on the side of the accused
- Due process - Rights of parties
- Complaints must be in writing; cannot be hearsay; don't investigate; difference between legitimate gripe and legitimate complaint
- Hearing notifications need to be in writing with charges detailed; ample time to prepare a defense; allow reschedules if appropriate; don't discuss; include all possible rule violations and possible sanctions
- Impartial panel: varied degrees of experience, odd number of voting members; fair perception
- Decision notification must be in writing (even if given verbally): committee decision, rules applied to reach decision, appeal rights with timeframe and method of appeal.
- Send copy to NTSSA

4. Referee Recruitment & Retaining

Attended by: Cherie & Lenny

- Reach out
 - High schools and Middle schools
 - Private schools
 - Local clubs
 - Parks and Recreation mailing list
- Make meetings fun – 3v3 referee games, coaches vs referee games, keep time short (1 hour or less)
- Monthly training meetings. Offer extra \$1 per game pay for those who attend.
- Bring out teams to scrimmage for referee training.
- Test runs for players who are not sure about becoming a referee. U4 games maybe?
- Jr Referee program for age 12 players; question about insurance coverage regarding this.
- Bringing in a referee to help with referee evaluations.
- Support System – mentoring
- Referee of week or month; appreciation days at fields, gifts
- Require ALL Board Members to be referee certified.

5. Referee Training A+

Attended by: Cherie

- Keep our bar raised high for our new and returning referees
 - Reliable – submit their availability
 - Punctual – show up on 30 mins before game
 - Prepared – know their schedule; be dressed correctly in uniform; have ALL equipment (we may be doing them a disservice having flags available for them)
 - Professional – Appearance, attitude; communication
 - Enthusiastic – good attitude; want to be there.
 - Teamwork – can work with anyone
 - Confidence – act confident even if do not feel confident; walk tall and straight up and make eye contact
 - 100% Work Ethic – engaged in game

2022 North Texas AGM

Summary

- Fit – keep up with play
- Coachable – willing to learn
 - Get to goal line
 - Stay with second to last player
 - Eye contact with Center Referee
- Compliment sandwich; stay positive

6. GotSport Q&A -

Attended by: Cherie

- They have made updates that will help with Team Formation this season.
- Brittany hopes to get out a How To Guide for GotSport and Registrars this next summer.
- I was given a name to contact regarding getting referee section worked on.

7. Mock Hearing

Attended by: Laurelle

- Watched how the A&D panel handled an appeal
- Discussed how a panel was selected
- Discussed how the appeal can be over turned or how the original decision can be adjusted.

8. Registrar Q&A

Attended by: Cherie & Laurelle

- International Clearance for players born outside of United States. We were told that this does not apply to Military personnel, but on the website it states all children born outside of US.
 - This is a USSF rule. Not in North Texas which is why we have missed it.
 - The International Clearance paperwork is easier if the child is below age 9. The paperwork becomes more complicated after at age 10. We need to discuss how to implement this change.
 - This is a larger deal for Competitive teams.
 - We can get fined if someone complains and we are caught with players that are not cleared.
 - Recreational players need to submit paperwork and can play. Clearance process can take time.

9. Organizational Issues and your Association

Attended by: Cherie & Laurelle

- It is highly recommended we have an impartial audit of WSA financials every 2 years.
- I need to verify with our tax preparer – if we should have an extra account for registration funds to ensure registration funds for next Fiscal Year are used only for that fiscal year's purchases.
- Need to file with Secretary of State to ensure we have rights to our organization name
- Insurance person (Vice President) needs to be familiar with insurance forms in case of player/coach/referee injury
- It is advised that associations consider having insurance to cover theft of information.
- New Grassroots Roadshow for coaching instruction
- Need to make sure all pay requirements are spelled out for Referee and Referee Assignors; rain out pay, re-schedule games pay; what if referee only comes for one game.
- Main concerns that are reported to NTX
 - AGM announcements – not following association By Laws
 - Elections – not following association By Laws

2022 North Texas AGM

Summary

- Definition of Quorum – not following association By Laws
- Voting procedures – not following association By Laws
- Committees – not following association By Laws
- Robert Rules of Order
- Assimilation of new Board Members
- Main point is to keep By Laws and Rules and Regulations updated and make sure ALL Board Members have read them.
- Difference between Policy and By Law
 - What is a Policy - is a rule that can change as needed. It is fluid. Does not require Full Board voting. If necessary can be added later as a By Law.
 - What is a By Law – is a set in stone rule that is harder to change. Must follow rules currently structured in By Laws to update and change. Must be voted on by Full Board.