

Arlington Soccer Board Meeting

August 10, 2020

Minutes

Attendees:

- **In Person:** none
- **By Phone:** Brian Plessner, Margaret Core, Allie Signorelli, Shaara Roman, Adam Brick, Sabine Schlorke, Jason Mugg, Marc Garufi, Kristin Hanmer, Chris Pryor, David Tyahla
- **Absent:** Ali Protik, Sabine Schlorke

The meeting was called to order by Allie at approximately 7:31 PM.

1. **Minutes:** The June 29, 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

2. Board Business

A. Return to Play Discussion (Adam Brick)

- Adam reviewed Arlington Soccer's Return to Play status with the Board.
 - Arlington Soccer's decision-making has been guided by the recommendations from the CDC, the Governor's Office, and VYSA.
 - Arlington Soccer chose to progress at a slow pace using these guidelines, with the focus of giving players, coaches and the community time to adjust and become comfortable playing again. Mask wearing, physical distancing and hand hygiene continue to be stressed.
 - Adam reported that they are progressing toward scrimmaging, but only a portion of the teams will do so at this time. The coaches will review the situation for each team.
 - Adam shared that at any time, a family can choose to opt out of practices if they are not comfortable with the activity level of their team, with a guarantee of no negative repercussions.
 - Adam acknowledged that Arlington Soccer is taking a more cautious approach than some of the other youth sports clubs in the area. Other soccer clubs have already started scrimmages and other youth sports clubs have started games (e.g., softball, baseball).
 - Per Adam, he continues to work closely with Arlington County DPR relative to return to play matters.
- Adam sought Board feedback on the current approach to return to play
 - There was an overall acknowledgement by the Board Members that some families are looking for Arlington Soccer to take a more aggressive approach to return to play, while others appreciate and desire a cautious approach.
 - The Board discussed different ways to minimize risk and provide options to families to meet them at their comfort level. The Board acknowledged that return to play may look different for players of different ages.
 - The Board discussed the challenges associated with enforcing precautionary protocols aimed at minimizing risk (e.g., social distancing)

when players are on the field and different options to overcome those challenges (e.g., field monitors).

B. Rules and Discipline Process Update (Allie Signorelli and Adam Brick)

- Adam and Allie reported that a working group, comprised of Arlington Soccer staff, Board Members and parent volunteers, was formed to work on the rules and discipline process regarding player sportsmanship.
- The working group is developing process guidelines relating to levels of misconduct and associated discipline. Once complete, the process guidelines will be shared with the Board.
- Adam and Allie will continue to provide the Board with information on the status of this effort.

C. Board Nomination/Recruitment Process (Chris Pryor)

- Chris reported that they received six applications for the three vacant Member-At-Large positions. Five of the six were accepted by the deadline.
- The Nominating Committee is reviewing the applications this week and will begin scheduling interviews this month.

3. Program Reports.

• **Travel Program. (Marc Garufi)**

- Marc shared that a revised Travel Committee charter was submitted to the Staff for review and comment. The revised charter will be presented to the Board in September. Marc noted that because the revised charter proposes a name change to the Travel Committee, the proposed name will need to be approved by the Club membership at the September 24th Annual Meeting since it requires a Bylaws change.
- Marc reported that the Committee is waiting to receive the travel schedule from the leagues. Because the schedule is not yet set, the Program Council meeting date may be delayed.
- Marc reported that a Travel Committee meeting will be scheduled for this month.
- Adam noted that the Travel Program's acceptance rate is over 90% at this point in time.

• **Rec Program. (Brian Plessner)**

- Brian reported that the Rec Program is at about a 64% registration rate, which is 36% off of where the Program would normally be at the start of the season. However, Brian noted that lower numbers means less players on the field which allows for more distancing, which is a positive. There was an acknowledgment that the decrease in registration will impact the Club financially.
- Brian indicated that the Rec Committee has been focusing on measures to provide safe play in the Rec Program. These measures include:
 - Establishing a new volunteer parent position-- Team Manager. The Team Manager would be responsible for tracking attendance, attending team practice, and helping the coaches implement player safety protocols.
 - Assigning an assistant coach for each team.
 - Reducing the size of the teams based on age.

- Brian noted that practices will begin the week of August 24th and there will be a hard stop to the season on Nov 1.

4. Committee Reports. (No reports)

The next Arlington Soccer Board meeting will be held on September 21st.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM