

Arlington Competitive & Development Program Committee Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2021

The Competitive & Development Program Committee (the “Committee”) of the Arlington Soccer Association (Association or Club) held its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, via telephone and video conference.

Committee members in attendance (listed alphabetically): AJ Bownas, Sean Flanagan, Greg Flatt, Marc Garufi, Melissa Hardt. Staff members in attendance: Frank DeMarco, Melissa Reimer

I. Call to Order and Opening Comments

Welcome and introduction of Frank DeMarco as Interim Executive Director.

a. Review of Minutes

Minutes from the October Committee Meeting will be reviewed and approved via email.

II. Introduction to New Members

Sean Flanagan joining as Committee Finance Representative.

III. Report on Board Meeting

No Board Meeting report this month.

IV. Technical Director Report

- a. ECNL teams generally where expected to be; teams in the Regional Leagues doing well
 - Too early to fully judge as the league is played over a full year (fall and spring).
- b. NCSL – Overall level of competition across the age groups is about right for teams in this league.
- c. Conversations will take place with age group directors about the competitive level for each age group; looking for the right balance for the spring season.
 - Suggestion to have an assessment and talking points that can be shared with parents to explain why a team is in a certain league and what that league represents in terms of competition and travel.

V. Director of Operations Report

- a. Jerry Ellison is back to run ASIST.

- Asist format changing for 2022 – first weekend will be for U13 and up (full-size fields); 2nd weekend will be for the younger age groups (U9 - U12). This helps avoid conflicts with other area tournaments and enables ASIST to extend to U15 level.
- b. ASA has just received permits from Arlington County for winter programming – Registration will open in late November. ASA has been able to get more fields this winter, so expanding program offerings.
- c. Individual team coaches now coordinating team practices for the winter and will be in touch on a team basis for the winter schedule.

VI. Issues

- a. ADP
 - Discussions on options for winter training and ensuring integration with the travel program. There will be clinics designed for ADP players this winter, and an option for adding an extra U13 team if there is enough interest from ADP players.
 - If a player is asked to leave after just the fall season, that player can opt out of the program and not be charged for the spring season.
- b. Operations Discussion
 - ASA operations intentionally bringing more tasks in-house, though varies by program. This is the second year of this approach based on feedback from volunteer staff.
 - Opportunity to improve registrar functions through centralization.
 - Volunteer positions at Academy level were becoming increasingly challenging.
 - Exponentially fewer hours spent not having volunteers learn complicated process and ask staff multiple questions.
 - ASA is fundamentally a volunteer organization so will always need parents to help. As ASA continues to professionally evolve, we need to figure out the right balance.
- c. Field Scheduling
 - Starts with Arlington County who owns the fields. Looking to further build that relationship, especially with new staff at Parks and Rec (P&R).
 - There has been a rebound since last year with more demand from other organizations for space, competing with ASA.
 - This fall, getting permits was difficult because we did not know what high schools were doing with their sports teams with a return to in-person teaching.
 - Every travel team gets one night on turf fields.

- Local counties don't offer permits more than a season at a time.
Arlington P&R does not have timeline for future permit deadlines.

a. *What are you hearing?*

The committee discussed the request for prompt information regarding schedules for upcoming sessions /seasons and getting fixed days for practice and age group programs. There is interest in more alumni engagement and promoting speaking opportunities. This is something that the club will look into promoting more in the spring.

VII. Issues for Next Meeting

- a. In the interest of time, issues for the next meeting were not discussed.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m. A decision will be made via email if there is to be a December 2021 committee meeting.