

## **Arlington Competitive & Development Program Committee Meeting Minutes**

February 23, 2022

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, February 23, 2022, via telephone and video conference.

Committee members in attendance (listed alphabetically): AJ Bownas, Sean Flanagan, Greg Flatt, Marc Garufi, Melissa Hardt, Laurie Moret, and Mike Rupert. Staff members in attendance: Frank DeMarco, Melissa Riemer

### **I. Call to Order and Opening Comments**

#### **a. Review of Minutes**

Committee was asked to review January minutes and submit edits by Sunday, February 27. Final minutes will include the budget recommendation of keeping PPP loan and using for the benefit of ASA families.

### **II. Report on Board Meeting**

Congratulations to Frank DeMarco for becoming full-time Executive Director. Frank is in conversation with Arlington Parks and Recreation about potential public-private partnerships to improve fields within Arlington. Potential development within the next three years.

ASA board strategic meeting was postponed until March.

### **III. Technical Director Report**

#### **a. Teams / Leagues Updates:**

- ECNL: Seasons continuing with primarily U13 / U14 league games for girls, all ages for boys
- ECNL Regional League: U11 – U14 league play will resume in late March
- NCSL: 70+ teams with the season beginning in early April (some teams will play in March – especially high school teams)
- EDP: spring season begins in late March

#### **b. Programs:**

- College Showcase – Boys Showcase completed
- College ID Clinics – ongoing with expanded opportunities as part of the ECNL Program
- Winter Clinics – including Futsal – successful inaugural season; some challenges with weather and covid
- Spring Break Clinics – travel options will be open shortly
- Preparation for in-season programs (Skills, GK)
- Super Y League Program – Record number of registrants for this summer
- Summer Camp Offerings Expanded – Advanced camp offered numerous weeks

**c. ADP:**

- ADP Clinic – inaugural winter clinic was full to capacity
- ADP Season – the spring season of this year-round program begins in late March

**d. Staff:**

- Positive Coaching Alliance – mandatory workshop for all technical staff held on two nights
- Communications and Engagement Manager position hired and engaged
- Coach Ed and Standards – Coach Handbook being developed – target distribution in early May with new staffing
- Two interns are working for the spring semesters – both are college seniors – working on various operations support and learning the ropes!

**e. Tournaments / Cup Play:**

- ASIST Tournament:
  - U13 – U15: February 25-27
  - U9 – U12: March 4-6

**IV. Issues**

**a. Budget Review**

Anticipate board review in early March. Marc relayed C&D Committee feedback.

**b. Positive Coaching Alliance Impact**

Not sport specific, aim for “better athletes, better people” – motivate children and apply constructive feedback with positivity from coaches, parents and players. Opportunity to reboot coaching education in ASA – over 90 coaches trained over two sessions. These sessions were well received by staff. Two-year agreement with plan to involve rec coaches, and include parents and players down the line with online components.

**c. Tryout Policy**

No specific club requirements with ‘in-season’ try outs – Academy model is continual evaluation year-round. Addition of players from outside of ASA is limited to 1-2 sessions for evaluation and if accepted club fees are pro-rated.

**d. End of Season Competitive Review**

Evaluation of each team and league they play in is generally done informally unless the season was a 10-0 or 0-10 record for a given team. NCSL does retain a degree of promotion and relegation to even out teams within the league.

**e. Coaches Handbook**

The handbook is moving along, targeted for late spring release to coaches. Committee feels the key items to focus on are:

- setting expectations and communication from coaches to parents and vice versa.

- Consider including input on standards for the coach setting expectations with team managers.

The committee suggested that some other coaches or parents review the handbook before release.

#### **V. Matching and Give Programs**

Matching program provides funds to teams that fundraise for specific uses e.g. expense to travel to an invitational tournament. Give back program provides funds to teams that have qualified for regional or national competitions, with the team giving back to ASA in some way e.g. sorting ASA office.

The Committee voted in favor of not conducting the Matching program this year on the basis that most teams are not fundraising now. Instead the Matching program funds will be combined with the Giveback program for this season.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.