

Arlington Competitive & Development Program Committee Meeting Minutes

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

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

I. Call to Order and Opening Comments

a. Review of Minutes

Committee was asked to review February minutes and submit edits by Saturday, March 26.

II. Report on Board Meeting

Report on Strategic Planning Session:

- a. Approximately 20 people were present at the planning session
- b. A discussion took place on the goal of the club; win vs development. Are these mutually exclusive, however?
 - There is no active recruitment from ASA staff of other players. The quality of the program does attract players from outside of Arlington County but ASA does not bring in entire teams to represent the club
- c. Not likely to get new fields soon – focus on how to serve the players we have with the fields available
- d. Potential that there are empty fields in Arlington that ASA does not have permits for? Can this be quantified?
- e. Acknowledgement of the club needing to do a better job with feedback surveys – asking the right questions, collecting and disseminating surveys, implementing feedback
- f. Need to be clear and transparent on why ASA is making any changes that are made
- g. Club progressed with on field coaching standard, need to work on professional development off the field, particularly communication with parents

III. Technical Director Report

a. Teams / Leagues Updates:

- ECNL: Seasons continue throughout the spring
- ECNL Regional League: U11 –U14 league play begins this weekend
- NCSL: Super Group teams have started play. Regular league begins in April. Some challenges due to Fairfax County and Arlington County Spring Breaks on different weeks
- EDP: spring season begins in April –8 games

b. Programs:

- Spring Break Clinics and Camps offered
- Skills and GK sessions started on Mondays
- Super Y League Program –23 teams will be fielded this summer
- Summer Camp Offerings Expanded –Advanced camp registration plus Travel Clinics

c. ADP:

- ADP Tryouts were held for a few slots to fill for the spring season. Invitations were then sent out

d. Staff:

- Staffing Changes –ECNL Girls Director, DOC, Youth Program Coordinator positions
- Coaching Slate for 2022-2023 will be posted prior to tryouts

e. Tryouts:

- 1st tryout session will be for players new to Arlington Soccer Travel Program
- 2nd tryout session will be for players to be incorporated into existing travel training sessions
- Sessions will begin in early May
- Pre-tryout evaluations will be held with individual players
 - Internal players will have placement not try-out, external players will be identified in the first tryout session then incorporated into an existing team session to be evaluated among potential peers
- Invitations for 2022-2023 season will be sent by mid-late May

f. Tournaments:

- How are teams scheduled in brackets for tournaments? Sometimes actual tournaments don't put teams into requested brackets. ASA will not reattend some tournaments as a result

IV. Issues

a. Does ASA track red cards among coaches?

- ASA does take disciplinary issues seriously – the club will work with passionate coaches, but only give them a certain amount of chances.
- Red cards are reported to German on a weekly basis

b. Team Fee Issue

- Is there “fee creep” with add on events (socials, extra tournaments, etc)?
 - There can sometimes be pressure for all families to agree
 - Melissa R will look into the issue to address as this should not be happening
 - Education to coaches to be included in coaches' handbook
 - Should there be training for team managers?

c. Board nominating committee

- Early May committee reviews applications. Representatives from the board, recreation committee and C&D committee nominate applicants to the board
 - AJ volunteers as the C&D committee rep if the process can be completed by mid-May

V. Issues for Next Meeting

- a. Committee decided to skip April meeting due to Spring Break. Next Meeting will be approximately May 11.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.