

ASA Travel Program Committee Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2018

The Travel Committee (TC) of the Arlington Soccer Association (ASA) held its monthly meeting on March 21, 2018, via telephone conference.

TC members in attendance (listed alphabetically): Colleen Cresanti, Alex Deegan, Greg Flatt, Marc Garufi, Jon Gowdy, Sean Hamilton, Justin Hibey, Margaret Liu, Errin Matechak, and Sybil Robinson. Staff members in attendance: German Peri, Lizzy Stell.

I. Call to Order

a. Introduction of New Member

New ADP representative, Alex Deegan, joined the TC to provide an avenue for ADP families to have input and provide feedback on the Travel program.

b. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were previously circulated from the February 21, 2018 TC Meeting and comments were fielded. The minutes were approved.

II. Director of Coaching Report

Director of Coaching Peri discussed the US Soccer decision on ASA's application for DA. The mandated response timing for ASA's decision on acceptance was not ideal, particularly for the new Girls teams. These circumstances created challenges, particularly with respect to providing good information for families considering DA as an option. This was particularly acute for the Girls side since this is a new Academy program. ASA staff are working on a family information session – i.e., a "Town Hall" – to be held as soon as possible in April.

III. ASA Board

Greg Flatt volunteered to represent the TC on the ASA Board Nominating Committee for ASA Board elections this summer..

IV. Other Issues

a. League/Program Updates

ODSL: Spring schedule process is going well.

NCSL: There are a few new teams; schedule not yet complete.

CCL: There was some confusion about schedules, particularly before Spring Break. Several TC members indicated they had heard "feedback" from families about how the CCL schedule delay created challenges for families trying to schedule spring break.

Next season, McLean will play only in CCLII, and there are three new clubs Virginia Rush (VA Beach), Herndon, and Alexandria.

b. Matching Grant Program

5 Teams submitted applications for funding under the ASA Travel matching program: 2000 Boys Red; 2002 Boys Red; 2002 Girls Red; 2003 Boys Red; and 2004 Girls Red. All 5 applications were approved, for a total of \$3950. The Committee discussed the disposition of the remaining funds (\$5000 is allocated annually), and Chairman Garufi will follow up with ASA Finance Committee Chair and staff on options and process.

c. First Payment Policy

ASA staff have discussed and are recommending a new lower first payment for families to commit to an ASA team. This new deposit payment will be approximately \$300-400 per player, compared to \$500-\$600 in previous years. The goal of the deposit is to create the best environment for efficient team formation and provide an incentive for players to commit to ASA and not "Club shop." There are still some discussions about how the registration system will handle the deposit, but one goal is to improve coaches' access to player commitments to formulate teams efficiently and as rapidly as possible.

d. Tryout Report

Tryout Committee Chair Cresanti reported that the boys and girls tryout coordinators are identifying every team's tryout representative. ASA staff reported that there are many unknowns at this point because of field availability. The uncertainty around Long Bridge is creating ripple effects. Much work remains to be done to get ready for tryouts but there TC and Staff are working hard.

e. Parent Orientation/Information Night

Chairman Garufi discussed plans to hold an information night for potential travel parents on April 11. This will be an informal gathering, led by the Chair and attended by 1-2 other travel parents/TC members, to help parents understand what they might be getting themselves into as a travel family. This meeting will not be attended by ASA coaches because it is not a technical discussion.

V. Issues for Next Meeting

- a. Election Terms
- b. Newsletter

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on April 18, 2018.