

**Northwest District
Of the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association**

January 15, 2025, Heritage Hotel, Southbury, CT

Attendees: Nelson Dovale (New Milford), Henry Siemon (Woodbury-Bethlehem), Jay Zalewski (Pomperaug), Dyan Combes (Highlander), (Terryville), Jeffrey Hepp (Thomaston), Chad Schaefer (New Fairfield), Alex Mendoza (CT Impact), Dave Shannon (Litchfield), (Torrington), Joe Abdella (Shepaug), Josh Flowers (Brookfield), Paul Maloney (VP) (Wolcott), Karen Puskas (Admin), Dave Brouillette (State Rep).

Not in attendance: Danbury, Watertown Northwest United, Winchester United

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:26 pm by Paul Maloney

Minutes: Motion was made by Dave Shannon (Litchfield) to approve the minutes from both September 2024 and November 2024. Seconded by Henry Siemon (WBYS). All in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Karen presented December 2024 financials. District doing fine and many expenses coming for January due to awards banquet. Emails were sent out to those clubs who still owe for banquet and who owe for championship t-shirts. Hoping to square up by month's end.

Registrar Report: Scott not present but Karen reported what he wanted to mention:

- Proof of age being processed as they come in. We have already had many – thank you.
- Please make sure registrar contacts are correct in Affiliation report.
- International Clearance process when applicable will be sent to Registrars
- Please check for coaches/admins that may have expired Risk Management. Anyone scheduled to expire during the season year expired on 8/1/24. Coaches that only participate in the spring may have expired. Get ahead of it, please.

State Report: Paul stated the AGM has now been moved to February 21-22. The District will have a table for Friday night's award dinner so anyone that wants to go should contact Karen. Educational workshops will be Saturday morning and the AGM at 1:00 pm. Club presidents not attending may fill out a proxy prior to the meeting so the District representatives can vote for you.

Referee Report: John not present. No report.

Commissioner Report: Rich not present. No report

State: Paul spoke about AGM that has now been moved to February 21st and 22nd in Bristol. He mentioned there will be workshops in the morning that include referee in-service training and start up sessions to become a referee. There will also be classes for risk management, coaching and CT and State cup guidance.

Paul also mentioned that US Youth Soccer is now contemplating going back to using school age for players instead of birth year beginning in 2026. It is not approved yet but most likely will happen. Will keep all posted.

New Business:

Spring 25 season:

- A. Spring 25 schedule
 1. Spring season will go from April 5 – June 22, 2025 (No Easter (April 19/20 & Memorial Day May 24/25))
 2. League Scheduling meeting will be in March monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2025
 3. Coaches Meeting will be Wednesday, March 26, 2025

4. Team Registration will open on February 17th and end on February 28th. Late team registration will run through March 5th. Club reviews will be given out March 9th.

Dave commented on the U19 league where we had many issues last spring. He reminded clubs we decided to offer it again but to make sure they speak with their coaches, players and parents about their behavior. If this league gets out of control again, the District will not offer a U19 in the future.

Additional important dates for spring:

1. District meetings on May 21 and June 18
2. All-Star game tentatively scheduled for June 7
3. The last day to report scores is June 24

AGM: Awards dinner is Friday, February 21st at 6:00 pm at Double Tree Hotel in Bristol. Presidents are free but additional guest are \$55. To reserve a spot at the District table, please let Karen know by February 14th. The general meeting is on Saturday, February 22nd at 1:00 pm with the workshops in the morning beginning at 8:30 am. Any club not attending needs to get their proxy to Karen by February 19th so District personnel may vote in your place.

Westport WIN Tournament: Karen mentioned the Westport WIN tournament taking place March 15th and 16th. Good kickoff to spring-over 170 teams. \$400 per team. Indoor and outdoor turf for games.

Awards Banquet: Quick mention that the awards banquet was once again a huge success. Some 375 people each day and lots of fun for all. Good comments and feedback to the District.

District Meetings: After much thought, the District has decided to run three of their yearly meetings via zoom:

1. January, June and September meetings will be held via zoom
2. March, May, August and November meetings will continue to be held in person at the Heritage Hotel

Zoom meetings will have a moderator and the host will control mute and speaking roles to keep order for 20 people.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Puskas