

**Greater Portland Soccer District
Executive Committee Meeting
OASA Conference Room, 1750 S.W. Skyline Blvd.
Portland, Oregon
Monday, January 12, 2009**

President:	T. Christopher	*	Director:	R. Storzbach	*
Vice President:	G. Labavitch	*	Director:	N. Filis	*
Secretary:	H. Kalani	*	Director:	D. Schade	*
Treasurer:	R. Putz	*	Director:	Jon Joiner	*
Judiciary Commissioner:	J. LeBaron	*			

Guests: E. Beck
P. Duffy

6:45pm: President Christopher convened the meeting of the executive committee.

Introduction of Guests:

E. Beck, GPSD's contracted game scheduler and referee assignor.

P. Duffy state referee assessor.

Both were invited to the meeting to discuss the referee training programs.

President's Report: (T. Christopher)

Referees: (E. Beck & P. Duffy)

Referees' Training Programs: (P. Duffy)

During 2008 the referee corps increased by approximately 20%. Typically there is a 35-40% annual turnover in referees. 900 to 1000 referees went through beginners' training last year. Unfortunately new referees are not capable of refereeing adult matches, they need experience and training.

Annual training required to maintain certification. Grade 5/6 referees are required to have 5 hours of training per annum. If they don't complete the annual training they will drop a level. High school match referees are required to complete 10 hours of training per year.

Promising/talented young referees are given additional training, their work is regularly review and critiqued by experienced referees.

Annually in May a referee's workshop is held. Outside instructors are brought in. As many games as are scheduled throughout the year finding time to hold training sessions is difficult.

Budgetary constraints limit the amount of training.

E. Beck:

60% of referees in Oregon are under age of 19. More emphasis should be placed on recruiting and training of older referees however it is very difficult.

OASA sponsors some referee activities, travel and training.

OPSL games are regularly assessed more frequently than GPSD adult games.

Summary – Referee assessors are not qualified, should be better trained.

Reviewed SRA workshop in San Diego held the past weekend. (The workshop syllabus is attached.)

Discussion:

Referees with little or no experience officiating adult games are asking for assignment to a GPSD game to qualify for higher certification. Unless they have a history of requesting GPSD games and have gone through the

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assessment process they are not assigned to them. Their goal is to acquire the higher certification and then skip to other organizations with higher rates of pay.

An important/critical method for the referee to maintain control of the match and ensure a smooth game is to talk to the players. Continuous dialog pointing out areas of play that may become too aggressive if not reined in early. Conversely examples of good, fair play should be lauded. The key is on going communication with the players. Communication will help establish the referee's control of the game. (Of course no amount of communication will overcome problems created by incompetence.)

A few ($\pm 20\%$) have been caught in some sort of act that was a rule violation or fraudulent claim. The extreme example is when one individual claimed to have called two games played at the same time on the same date on different fields.

T. Christopher:
Rarely do any of the false claims get through.

Mandatory attendance at referee training sessions and regular assessments will raise referees' competency.

D. Schade:
Referee reports, generally, are poorly written and often incomplete. Deciding appropriate action on a judiciary matter is extremely difficult when the only resource is a poorly written and inaccurate referee's game report. A broad difference in cultures is another factor that causes confusion with reports. As an example: a minor argument to one may be a major fight to another.

P. Duffy:
Many referee reports are illegible. Some referees have very good verbal English but limited or no written language skills; others don't have reading or writing skills in their native language.

Vice President's Report: (G. Labavitch)

Cleveland HS will be available weekends spring and fall seasons.

Secretary's Report: (H. Kalani)

December meeting minutes accepted as submitted.

SWG Report: (H. Kalani)

SWG report sent with GPSD's December meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: (R. Putz)

Cash Balances:

Checking:	\$ 9,217.47
Money Market:	\$46,510.38

The most recent bank statements and the credit card account through December 31 have not been reconciled. They will be completed for taxes and available at the February meeting.

Money owed to individuals or organizations that can't be found must be turned over to the State who will be responsible for its distribution.

Judiciary Commissioner: (J. LeBaron)

Game Reports:

Request that copies of game reports be forward to the Judiciary Commissioner.

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New Business:

Annual and Mid-year Managers' Meetings: (J. LaBaron)

GPSD annual and mid-year managers' meetings should be mandatory. If not made mandatory then they should be made aware that the business of GPSD is conducted at those meetings. Attendance is dropping off. Managers should be reminded that the purpose of the meetings is to conduct the business of GPSD.

Discussion:

Can reviving free pizza at the meetings encourage attendance? Consensus is that it may help.

G. Labavitch:

If a team manager can't attend the meeting a representative should be sent.

The 2009 mid-year meeting will be Monday, February 23, at the OYSA office. That date is also the deadline for spring season registration.

Fields:

Despite the commitment made by youth soccer at the Delta fields users' meeting in December they increased their usage of Strasser. Their additional time was taken from GPSD. The change requires considerably more playing time under lights. Lights are charged out at +\$13.12/hour in addition to \$27.20/hour rental fees, according to information from the permits department.

Tualatin H.S. may be available for winter and springs. They will let the league know within the week.

Sherwood is taken up by local teams.

GPSD is short fields for the winter season.

Oregon City HS over charged for last season, they were notified that the remainder of the season was cancelled but billed GPSD the full time. The individual who assigns field was not aware of the change but will investigate it.

OC hasn't responded to the latest request for field time. H. Kalani will contact the school district about renting the field winter and spring seasons.

The goals at Kraxberger are in bad condition and need to be repaired. Curtis Welding contacted to do the job. The cost seems reasonable. Covers for the sprinkler heads will have to be purchased as well as goal nets.

Old Business:

Need volunteers to serve on the board.

8:50pm: Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Meeting - Monday, 2 February, 2009

Submitted:

Hugh H. Kalani
Secretary