

**MINUTES OF THE 2020-2021 ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE INDIANA SOCCER ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 19, 2022
VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by Alan Brown, President of the Indiana Soccer Association (“ISA”), and chair of this meeting.

WELCOME

President Brown welcomed everyone to the virtual annual meeting and said the meeting would get started immediately with Skip Gilbert, the CEO of United States Youth Soccer (“USYS”), providing some introductory comments.

COMMENTS BY SKIP GILBERT, CEO OF USYS

Skip Gilbert began his remarks by noting a premise of USYS is to make lifelong fans of the game. He noted that kids drop out of all sports for various reasons and the goal is to keep them involved in the sport of soccer throughout their life. He said USYS is working diligently with the 54 state associations to make this a reality.

Mr. Gilbert reviewed the vision and mission of USYS which are as follows:

Vision: To bring communities together through the power of soccer, making lifelong fans of the sport.

Mission: To provide world-class support, resources, and leadership, helping everyone fulfill their goals on and off the field of play.

Mr. Gilbert noted that the ECO system of soccer is unlike any other sport. USYS Soccer is the largest sport organization in the United States and the longest soccer organization in the country with over \$2.4M registered players. Mr. Gilbert compared soccer to baseball and noted the effect of the Little League World Series has on the sport of baseball for kids playing a sport. USYS is looking to initiate a Champion’s Cup that would bring champions from different Regions and throughout the world to the United States for the purpose of celebrating the game and create fans of the game for life. Like the Little League World Series, the goal would be to have the Champion’s Cup competition televised. Another initiative is the creation of the USYS League America, which serves as a national umbrella for recreational players to provide opportunities for those kids and present an opportunity with a pathway to play and stay connected to the game even if they do not move into more competitive playing opportunities. He noted the initiative of CAL South which is creating a league American symposium with the goal of identifying ways to keep more kids in the game and continuing to play with the ultimate goal of providing a pathway to collegiate club soccer.

Mr. Gilbert noted other USYS Soccer initiatives including **USYS' Soccer Learning University** which creates learning opportunities for parents and prospective coaches, **USYS' Skills Competition** which is something similar to the punt, pass and kick competition in football, and **USYS' Center Circle** which is an initiative to aggregate data for state associations to be able to communicate with former players. He noted that some state associations are coming up on their 50th year anniversaries and this initiative looks to reconnect former players and bring them back to the game.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

President Brown thanked Mr. Gilbert for his remarks and stated that he would like to welcome and recognize the following new affiliated clubs that joined ISA in the past year.

- Naptown United
- Hebron Soccer Club
- Breakfast Optimist Club of Clinton Youth Soccer

President Brown stated further that he is pleased to recognize ISA members that provide opportunities to adults who continue to play soccer who are increasingly important in growing the adult portion of the Indiana Soccer Family.

Current adult leagues, President Brown noted, include:

- Cultural Rise Soccer League
- Central Indiana Women's Soccer League
- Central Indiana Amateur Soccer Association (CIASA)
- Fort Wayne Adult Soccer League
- Geist Area Soccer League
- North West Indiana Women's Soccer League
- North West Indiana Old Boys F.C. (NWI Old Boys FC)

President Brown also acknowledged the member youth clubs that presently host adult play, and he encouraged other member clubs to consider adding adult play.

The youth clubs with adult programs are as follows:

- Clark County Soccer Club
- Iliana FC
- Mill Creek Optimist
- Noblesville United
- Speedway Soccer Club
- United Soccer Alliance of Indiana
- Vigo County Youth Soccer Club
- Westside United FC
- WYSA/Indiana Fire Juniors
- Zionsville Youth Soccer

President Brown told the meeting that if any clubs are interested in expanding to include adult play, they should contact John Mitchell who is the Indiana Soccer Adult Commissioner.

2020-2021 IN REVIEW VIDEO

President Brown next encouraged attendees to open the chatroom from the zoom meeting controls where there is a link posted to view the 2020-2021 Year in Review video. He invited everyone to now watch that video.

ROLL CALL

President Brown noted the book of reports was made available for everyone's review and download from the Indiana Soccer website. He noted that for everyone desiring to follow along, the membership registration list can be found on the website and a copy was included in an email sent Thursday, February 17, and it is also linked in the chat window.

President Brown next recognized Michael Grubb, President of Cutters Soccer Club, who is filling in for Mark Anderson, Indiana Soccer's Governance Committee Chair, to call the Roll.

Mr. Grubb proceeded with the call of the roll, identifying the club's present at the meeting and the number of votes for each club.

CREDENTIALS REPORT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Mr. Grubb next reported to the Chair that there were 138 total members eligible to vote with 14 required to constitute a quorum. The number of members present was 20. Mr. Grubb declared that a quorum was present. Mr. Grubb reported that 265 total votes were available and the total vote count present was 61. Mr. Grubb reported that 31 votes were required for a simple majority and that 41 votes will require for a 2/3 majority. Following a unanimous vote, the Credentials Report was approved. President Brown thanked Mr. Grubb for his report. President Brown also noted that quorum was present and as a result, the meeting was duly constituted and may conduct business as it comes before it.

ADOPTION OF THE 2022 AGM STANDING RULES

President Brown noted that a new set of rules have been developed for this virtual meeting and had been emailed out to the membership on Thursday, February 18th, and can also be found at the Indiana Soccer AGM website, and were also are linked in the chat window. He noted next item of business was the adoption of the 2021 AGM Standing Rules. Upon completion of the voting, the 2020-21 AGM Standing Rules were unanimously adopted.

ADOPTION OF THE 2022 MEETING AGENDA

President Brown noted the next item of business is the adoption of the proposed Meeting Agenda. He asked if there were any proposed modifications to the agenda, which can be found at the

AGM website and is also linked in the chat window. Following the virtual voting, the agenda was unanimously adopted.

APPROVAL OF THE 2020-2021 AGM MINUTES

President Brown recognized the ISA Board Secretary, Randy Rompola, to offer the 2020-2021 AGM Minutes. Mr. Rompola noted that the 2020-2021 AGM standing rules were followed and that the Board of Directors approved the 2020-2021 AGM Minutes and that the approved minutes were posted on the Indiana Soccer Association Website prior to the mailing of the AGM meeting notice. President Brown asked if there were any corrections, modifications, or directions to the 2020-2021 AGM Meeting Minutes. With no objections, President Brown declared the Minutes adopted as presented.

BOOK OF REPORTS

President Brown indicated that the Book of Reports was available for review by the membership. President Brown asked if there were any comments on the membership with respect to the Book of Reports. There being none, he asked members to review those materials at their leisure.

MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION

President Brown noted that inductions to the Indiana Soccer Hall of Fame are being held in conjunction with the AGM. Inductees include the Carmel Cyclones who won the USYS National Championship, Rob Jordan, and Bobby Poursanidis. Dave Guthrie noted that USYS inducted DeMarcus Beasley into its Hall of Fame recognizing his long and successful career.

President Brown noted that the participation numbers have rebounded from the COVID declines with travel near pre-COVID numbers. He noted that recreational and recreational plus numbers are down a bit and that is a point of emphasis for Indiana Soccer. President Brown also spoke to the referee crisis that is affecting all sports including soccer with referees dropping out because in large measure, poor sideline behavior. He noted Indiana Soccer's efforts to improve sideline behavior and asked clubs to help with sideline behavior and also encouraging youth players to take the referee course and become referees.

President Brown noted that ODP remains to be a bright spot in Indiana Soccer with the program having grown. He noted that ODP provides a great way for clubs to supplement their training. President Brown spoke to the ongoing outreach initiatives and noted that the initiative had been strained by COVID. The focus has been in bringing the game to schools through physical education and partnering with local communities to convert unused park space into futsal courts with a long-term goal of bringing outdoor spaces into communities which are underserved. President Brown and Mr. Guthrie spoke to the efforts of Indiana Soccer to bring the game to the Afghan refugees at Camp Atterbury. The program coordinators at Camp Atterbury sought help and Indiana Soccer, led by George Perry and Steve Franklin provided several weekends of play. Ball State additionally sent women's team members to work with the young girls at the camp. The membership supported the effort including Tom Geisse and USAi who brought boxes of shoes and coats to the players. The Atterbury culminating event was a game between Afghan

All Stars and Camp Atterbury staff. The army was ahead at the half 1-0. However the Afghans prevailed at the 90 minute mark with a 5-1 advantage. The Afghans carried their coach/team captain off of the field on their shoulders which brought tears to many of the refugees.

President Brown concluded his remarks saying the organization is financially sound and it will continue to invest resources prudently.

SPECIAL ORDERS – ELECTIONS

President Brown indicated the next order of business were special orders, which included items of business such as elections, which are required to be addressed at the AGM per Indiana Soccer bylaws. President Brown reintroduced Michael Grubb who introduced the candidates for election to the governing board.

The candidates introduced were:

- Mr. A.L. Smith
- Mr. Jeff Belskus
- Mr. Jim Nickens

Following the introduction of candidates, President Brown noted that there were no other nominations and the nominations were closed. Following the introduction of the candidates and the conclusion of voting, the nominees were unanimously elected to the board.

NEW BUSINESS

President Brown noted next on the agenda was New Business and noted there was no New Business.

FOR THE GOOD OF SOCCER

There was a comment from the membership on confusion regarding growing the game with mixed messaging coming from the creation of the National League. President Brown noted that the Association believes growing the game from the bottom up is the most appropriate way to create lifelong fans and invited Mr. Guthrie to speak to the issue. Mr. Guthrie noted that presently the Federation spends nearly half of its budget on the two national teams and there is not much spent on growing the game at the grassroots. State associations led by the member clubs are doing their best to grow the game through grassroots efforts. He noted that one of the initiatives of ISA is to bring the game to the kids in schools and ISA is investing in doing exactly that. Another question from the membership was presented regarding what funding is available for these efforts. President Brown noted that the State Association is looking to partner with clubs and cited the efforts in Vigo County as a good example of success. Mr. Guthrie noted that the formula of going into schools has worked well and the cost, when amortized over 5 years is between \$.09 and \$.18 cents per child to bring the game into schools.

Further discussion ensued regarding the determination to transition to Gotport from Gotsoccer. Mr. Guthrie discussed the evolution of moving soccer registration to Gotsport, noting that the company would not support a legacy system and the Association would need to move to the new system. He noted that the Association is offering support and training systems in committing to help clubs through the process. Angel Hall noted that Gotsport is the only platform that is completely inclusive and while some other systems are available, they are not good options for what is needed for all of the interested parties.

President Brown thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting today.

ADJOURNMENT

President Brown noting as there was no further business, and without objections, the meeting was adjourned sine die at 2:25 p.m.