

**MINUTES OF THE 2021-2022 ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE INDIANA SOCCER ASSOCIATION
JANUARY 28, 2023
ANNUAL MEETING**

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 at the 502 East Event Center in Carmel, Indiana.

WELCOME

President Brown welcomed everyone to the annual meeting. He noted how much better it is to be able to meet in person to exchange ideas.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

President Brown next welcomed new affiliated clubs that joined the Association in the past year.

- FC Lafayette
- Trinity Soccer Club
- LaPorte Soccer Club
- Muddy River FC

2020-2021 IN REVIEW VIDEO

President Brown invited everyone to view the year in review video, during which Mark Webber, the Governance Committee Chair, finalize the credentials report.

ROLL CALL

President Brown noted the book of reports was made available for everyone’s review and made available on the Indiana Soccer website. He noted that copies are also available at the check-in desk for anyone who would like to review today.

President Brown next recognized Mark Webber, Governance Committee Chair, to call the Roll.

Mr. Webber proceeded with the call of the roll, identifying the clubs present at the meeting and the number of votes for each club.

CREDENTIALS REPORT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Mr. Webber next reported to the Chair that there were 134 total members eligible to vote (125 eligible member clubs, 6 eligible Adult Leagues, and 3 eligible Allied Members) with 13 required to constitute a quorum. The number of members present was 25. Mr. Webber declared that a quorum was present. Mr. Webber reported that 273 total votes were available and the total vote count present was 80. Mr. Webber reported that 41 votes were required for a simple majority

and that 53 votes will require for a 2/3 majority. Following a unanimous voice vote, the Credentials Report was approved. President Brown thanked Mr. Webber 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 set of rules have been developed for this meeting which are in Section 1 of the Book of Reports immediately following the Agenda. Upon a voice vote, the 2022 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 is located in the Book of Reports. The agenda as presented was unanimously adopted by a voice vote.

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. The minutes were unanimously adopted by a voice vote.

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 recognized Mr. Guthrie who provided updates on several matters. First, Mr. Guthrie reported that ISA had agreed to host regionals; however, with changes to the contract by Grand Park, it did not make it financially reasonable for the Association to host and the Association gave up hosting at Grand Park.

Mr. Guthrie provided a brief update on the status of the Association's office at Grand Park. He noted that the Association reduced its footprint as a result of remote work. Currently, ISA's lease is on a month-to-month basis. While a presence at Grand Park is still viewed as a positive for the Association, he noted that the Association will constantly reassess and act fiscally prudently going forward. Mr. Guthrie next spoke on the status of Indiana Sports Properties (ISP) and provided a history of why it was created (to serve as a wholly owned subsidiary of ISA for the purpose of booking events at Grand Park and receiving commissions as a result). The Association benefitted financially from ISP serving in that role. With the Association through ISP no longer

handling bookings for Grand Park, revenues are winding down. That income has provided subsidy benefits to the Association. The Association also received PPP loans as a result of COVID which allowed the Associations to maintain funding levels during COVID. The PPP loans were forgiven.

Mr. Brown introduced A.L. Smith who serves as the Treasurer of the Association. Mr. Smith spoke about registration fees. He noted that fees were last increased in 2008-09. He indicated that the Board and the staff would be sharing more detail in the coming months to the Association members regarding the registration fees and use of the funds. A question was raised how the funds that came in last year from commissions at Grand Park were applied. Mr. Smith responded that the funds are still available with a portion of the funds having been placed in an investment account. He noted the Association still has a healthy balance sheet.

Mr. Brown noted that the Board had allocated \$500,000 to Outreach efforts which efforts had slowed as a result of the COVID pandemic. He noted that soccer had become a predominately suburban sport and the Association is using some of its resources in an attempt to grow the game across the State in areas where participation is lacking. The registration fees are allocable to 6 uses: background checks, U.S. Soccer, State operations, general office expenses; coaching education and player insurance. Mr. Guthrie noted that Congress and thus US Soccer has imposed Safesport requirements on state associations which has increased the cost risk management, including background checks. He also reminded the membership that coaching education is free in the state of Indiana. Indiana is the only state that does charge its members for state courses.

Mr. Brown noted that the outreach program has been focused on introducing futsal into the schools and providing futsal courts in communities. As part of the futsal effort, the Association provides training and equipment for teachers to use in their physical education programs. The state association is looking to partner with other organizations to provide outdoor facilities that can be used by underserved populations. Mr. Brown noted that currently approximately 5% of the age-eligible kids are actually registered and playing with Indiana Soccer. He noted how IPS has created a futsal league and that the Vigo County Club is partnered with the schools in the community.

A question was raised regarding the funding of the Outreach program. Mr. Brown noted that the effort is presently being funded out of the commissions earned over the past several years. Player fees are not supporting the Outreach program. Revenues received from Grand Park allow for outreach. Mr. Guthrie noted that the cost of day to day operations of running ISA are not being fully met from registration fees. Mr. Brown noted that the staff is looking to match the expenses of players playing soccer with the registration fees. At this point, the Outreach program is providing seed money for soccer programs to serve the underserved populations with the goal of having groups take on the effort and look for new grants and other funding opportunities.

Mr. Guthrie responded to a question of whether there is interest in a travel futsal league. He said if there is an appetite for such a league, staff will review and provide an appropriate league. At present, schools are providing the programming associated with the outreach initiatives. Staff is currently tracking student participation in the futsal school programming with the next step being to track migration from in-school futsal programming to club soccer.

Mr. Brown invited members to let the Board know about the on-going outreach efforts, and thanked members for their interest and questions today.

SPECIAL ORDERS – ELECTIONS

President Brown indicated the next order of business is 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 Mark Webber who introduced the candidates for election to the governing board.

The candidates introduced were:

- Ms. Maureen Merhoff
- Mr. Randy Rompola
- Mr. Alan Brown

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 by a voice vote.

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 question from the membership regarding the 5 Star Program and whether it is continuing. Mr. Guthrie said yes, the 5 Star program is continuing. He noted that COVID limited the efforts to have more clubs complete the process. He said with getting back to normal, he expects more of an emphasis on the program. He noted that the program stresses, and it is important for clubs to emphasize, good financials, good governance and good standing with their respective communities.

Another question was raised regarding fees and how important it would be for clubs and parents to have a better understanding how the fees charged are supporting the clubs. Mr. Guthrie agreed to expand on the current efforts to match fees with services rendered. A suggestion was made to perhaps have a steering committee to consider fees and what is charged.

A discussion ensued regarding the condition of the Indiana soccer referee pool. Mr. Guthrie noted the lack of referees is not just an Indiana concern. It is a concern across the country. A key issue is sideline behavior and he discussed the Association's efforts to identify strategies to reduce sideline challenges. He also noted the Association's program to license small-sided game officials. There are now over 600 individuals licensed for small-sided games. Mr. Guthrie also described the Guardians of the Game program to provide training for club officials and parents to help with the sidelines in the event that there is a crew that is short for a match. Mr. Brown noted that the referee governing structure has changed recently and he expected there will be

improvements there also. Finally, Mr. Guthrie noted that referee compensation has not changed in quite sometime and that referee compensation is currently under review.

President Brown thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting today and for their commitment to bringing the game to their respective communities.

ADJOURNMENT

President Brown noting as there was no further business, and without objections, the meeting was adjourned sine die at 2:35 pm.