



Travel Committee

Meeting Minutes for September 29, 2015

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Questions on Report from League Representatives
 - a. ODSL
 - b. WAGS
 - c. NCSL
 - d. NPL
3. Questions on Report from AGC Representative
4. Review of Travel Committee's functions and operating Model
5. Review of Travel Program Refund Policy
6. Age Group Guidelines From USYS
7. Transition to small-sided games
8. Soccer.com Discussion

Actions

- League representatives will monitor for issues with referees showing up for games and notify Travel Committee if systemic issues are identified.
- Catherine Keightley, Executive Director VYS, will draft the Travel Program Refund Policy for consideration by the Travel Committee and final approval by the Board of Directors.
- Travel Committee members will think of changes VYS could make this year to help players, families, and teams prepare for the upcoming age group change.
- David Harvey (VP Travel) and Rich Gunney (Technical Director) will send an email to Travel families discussing the upcoming age group change and how VYS is handling it.
- David Harvey (VP Travel) will review the items raised by the AGCs and ensure they are being addressed and monitored.

Discussion

League Representative Reports – questions on the league representative reports were discussed. See the attachments for each league representative report.

AGC Representative Report – questions on the AGC representative report were discussed. See the attachment for the AGC representative report.

Travel League Referees Showing – there have been a small number of instances where referees have not showed for Travel games. While we don't think this is a systemic issue, VYS league representatives will monitor the situation and raise concerns to the travel committee if needed. In the meantime, the league representatives added that coaches can agree to play the game with an adhoc referee (e.g., a parent) as long as both coaches agree to abide by the calls of that identified person and the outcome of the game.

Travel Program Refund Policy – several options were discussed while the pros/cons were evaluated and debated. Based on the discussion, Catherine Keightley, Executive Director VYS, is going to draft the Travel Program Refund Policy for consideration by the Travel Committee and final approval by the Board of Directors. See the attachment for a presentation on the background and some of the options considered.

Age Group Guidelines From USYS – the Travel Committee discussed the upcoming changes to the age group registration date that will be implemented for the 2016/17 Travel Season. This entails moving the cutoff date from Aug 1 to Jan 1. See the Attachment for an explanation of where players will play next year. Travel Committee members were asked to think of changes VYS could make this year to help players, families, and teams prepare for the upcoming change. Additionally, David Harvey (VP Travel) and Rich Gunney (Technical Director) will send an email to Travel families discussing the upcoming change and how VYS is handling it.

Transition to small-sided games – the Travel Committee briefly discussed the change mandated by US Youth Soccer for **Transitioning to Small-Sided Games**. See the Attachment for the mandated changes. The Travel Committee recognizes the numbers of players on the field (e.g., 8v8) will not be a major impact as VYS and the leagues in which its Travel teams participate are already meeting the new guidelines. However, there is concern that some of the field sizes do not meet the change and need further investigation. This change is not scheduled until 2017/18 and will be further specified by the leagues in which VYS participates (e.g., NCSL, WAGS), so VYS will continue to monitor the potential impact as more information becomes available.

Attachment

ODSL Report From League Representative

VYS ODSL Report – Saturday, September 26, 2015

The 2015 Fall Season league play began on Saturday, September 12, 2015. VYS entered 8 boys' teams and 5 girls' teams in the Old Dominion Soccer League. VYS will have participated in 35 ODSL Games if none are rained out by Sunday night, September 27, 2015.

The managers have mastered adding players to the roster and obtaining signatures for the ODSL Code of Conduct which is forwarded to Tammy Meyers, VYSA Registrar. We have had several teams update their rosters since they were first approved in August.

VYS ODSL players are demonstrating fair play and good sportsmanship at the start of the season. As of 9/26/15, no players have received cards or ejections from the referees in their matches.

The ODSL Club Pass Policy was updated just prior to the season opening games. The major change restricted players carded onto teams that play in other leagues from Club Pass play on an ODSL Team in their age group. ODSL did give exception to their rule to the U9 age group.

One of our team manager questioned the eligibility of an opponent's player for a game, and Dave Milne, ODSL Administrator, sent a clarification. We have learned that an ODSL player who is playing up in age is eligible to club pass to an ODSL team in his age group.

The next ODSL Club Representatives meeting is Thursday, October 8th in Manassas. I will attend to represent VYS.

Patty McNeill
VYS OSL Rep

Attachment

WAGS Report From League Representative

WAGS Report September 29, 2015

WAGS Fall 2015 season – 454 teams are participating
70 clubs currently in WAGS (average ~6.5 teams/club)

VYS – 21 teams this fall (2 teams folded just prior to season start)
Other clubs of note - SYC – 21; Herndon – 19; MSC – 15

U09 – 3 Star teams
U10 – 3 Magic teams
U11 – 2 Spirit teams
U12 – 1 Fire teams
U13 – 2 Fury teams
U14 – 2 Pride teams
U15 – 2 Freedom teams
U16 – 2 Patriots teams
U17 – 1 Thunder team
U18 – 2 - 1 U18 Strikers and 1 U17 Thunder team playing up
U19 – 1 Fusion team

Spring 2015 Sportsmanship Award Winners

U11 Fire Black
U13 Pride Black
U16 Thunder Red

Referee Feedback

WAGS utilizes the website <http://reffeedback.com/>. The site is designed to be quick, but provide feedback data to the state referee association for improving the referees (not a complaint forum or initiate disciplinary action for any referee); a way for the State Referee Program to identify outstanding referees, as well as referees who may need some additional training and the areas to emphasize as a result of aggregated feedback at the program level; and one that WAGS hopes will result in the steady improvement of the referees through communications and professional feedback.

State Cup Results

U15G Phoenix 00 – advanced from round 1 but defeated in Sweet 16
U16G Phoenix 99 – advanced to championship round quarterfinals
U17G Thunder Black – advanced to championship round quarterfinals
U17G Thunder Gold – advanced to championship round quarterfinals
U18G Strikers Red - defeated in Sweet 16

Presidents Cup Results

U16G Patriots Red – won quarterfinal in overtime to advance onto the semifinal on October 24

Attachment

Report From AGC Representative

**Feedback from AGCs on Travel Committee Meeting Agenda
September 29, 2015**

Travel Program Refund Policy

We need a policy in place so that parents know going in what their commitment is for the WHOLE soccer year. We have had a number of girls drop out in the past, mid-year, and it had a significant impact on the program budget when they did this. It has also had a negative impact on the ability to field fully rostered teams.

When speaking of the 'whole' soccer season, the policy should consider not only the fee paid to VYS but also the team fees (payments made by parents directly to team treasurers) that are above and beyond league/trainer, etc. If a player commits during the late spring/summer tryout window, they should be committed for the entire Fall/Winter/Spring from a cost perspective. Exceptions should be made for military families.

New Age Group Guidelines from USYS

The bigger concern is how the leagues will transition to this. VYS has, or should have, the ability to adapt fairly easily. The harder part will be the transition for VYSA and the various leagues. VYS will follow along with how the leagues transition.

The sooner information is communicated out to parents on the new age group changes, the better. From casual conversations on this topic, most parents seem concerned about the impact this will have on their child no longer playing with their friends (from a grade perspective). Just doing a quick glance at current rosters (nothing fancy here and a VERY small sampling) and birth dates, looks like about 1/3 of the players will be impacted in having to move (or tryout) to an age group above where they are today. It is, what it is, but we should get messaging out accordingly.

Transition to Small-Sided Games

Under the new rules, the number of players for each age group will not be too different from what things are currently. U6-U8 play 4v4; U9/10 play 7v7; U11/12 play 8v8. So, only U11/12 is really affected by this. The bigger issue will be field size. See the table below. Previously, there was a size range a field could be depending on the age. Now, there are specific sizes. If we have to go by the new exact sizes, there could be a cost associated with that on turf fields. Most of us know that U9-U12 play on the same size fields. Some are bigger; some are smaller. What happens on turf fields that are already lined to a certain size? How do you change that? Also, some of our turf fields (Jackson MS) have permanent goals. Yet the field size is supposed to be different depending on the age group.

Another thing not readily mentioned is the new standard goal size is 6.5' x 18.5'. A full 6" longer both directions. And, the U6/U7 go to 4x6 goals; no more Pug goals.

	Current Field Length min./max	Current Field Width min./max	New Field Sizes	Current Number of Players	New Number of Players

U6	20/30	15/25	30x20	3v3	4v4
U7	20/30	15/25	30x20	3v3	4v4
U8	20/30	15/25	30x20	4v4	4v4
U9	45/60	35/45	47x30	7v7	7v7
U10	45/60	35/45	47x30	7v7	7v7
U11	70/80	45/55	75x47	8v8	9v9
U12	70/80	45/55	75x47	8v8	9v9
U13	100/130	50/100	112x75	11v11	11v11
U14- U19	100/130	50/100	112x75	11v11	11v11

Soccer.com

VYS claims to be a community-based club. They should be working with a local business to get most of their uniform kits through. And girls should be able to get women's uniforms and not be forced into getting men's cut jerseys.

Going through local businesses will also make it easier on families because most need a bricks and mortar store to have their kids try on the uniforms to see what fits. PJs is a perfect example. We have always received great customer service from them too, something that was lacking at soccer.com.

What were the results of the travel uniform survey that was conducted? That could provide us with better insight into this issue.

Attachment

Alternative Approaches for Travel Refund



Alternative Travel Refund* Approaches*

For Discussion Purposes Only



Background



- VYS does not currently have a travel refund policy
- Until now, VYS has just refunded money and released player
- Concerns
 - Teams may be operating with fewer players than desired, potentially putting the remaining players' playing experience in jeopardy
 - VYS loses revenue and risks not being able to cover expenses that it has already committed to (e.g., coaches, fields, etc.)

For Discussion Purposes Only



Refund Policy Plan



- Develop a refund policy for VYS that balances the needs of the player/family, VYS, and the community
- Travel Committee approves policy and recommends for Board approval
- Board approves policy
- VYS implements policy Jan 1

For Discussion Purposes Only



Alternative Refund Approaches



1. Issue refunds without question based on when refund is requested
2. Issue refunds under only certain circumstances
3. Issue refunds only when replacement player has been registered

Note: Uniform fees will not be refunded
For Discussion Purposes Only



1. Refunds Issued By Date



- Refunds automatically issued
- Amount is determined by date refund is requested, for example only:
 - Until Aug 1, Full refund minus \$250 administrative fee
 - Until Sep 1, Full refund minus \$250 administrative fee and ½ first payment
 - Until Feb 15, Full refund minus \$250 administrative fee and first payment
 - Until Apr 1, Full refund minus \$250 administrative fee, first payment, and ½ second payment
- Cons
 - May not be able to replace player on team

Note: Uniform fees will not be refunded
For Discussion Purposes Only



2. Refunds For Only Certain Circumstances



- Refunds only provided under certain circumstances, for example
 - Injury
 - Player moves out of area
 - Team collapses
- Still need to follow some type of timeline, like Alternative 1
- Cons
 - May not be able to replace player on team
 - May not meet community-based standard
 - If requested before Dec 1, probably won't be able to collect 2nd payment

Note: Uniform fees will not be refunded
For Discussion Purposes Only



3. Refunds Defined By Replacement Player



- Refund not issued until/if a replacement player if registered
- Refund amount depends on fees collected from replacement player, for example
 - Refund requested in Jan
 - Replacement player identified April 1
 - Refund amount is Full refund minus \$250 administrative fee, first payment, and ½ second payment
- Cons
 - May not be able to replace player on team, hence no refund issued
 - If requested before Dec 1, probably won't be able to collect 2nd payment

Note: Uniform fees will not be refunded
For Discussion Purposes Only

Attachment

New US Youth Soccer's Age Chart Beginning with 2016/17



US YOUTH SOCCER AGE CHART BY SEASONAL YEAR

Birth Year	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
2015					U-5	U-6	U-7
2014				U-5	U-6	U-7	U-8
2013			U-5	U-6	U-7	U-8	U-9
2012		U-5	U-6	U-7	U-8	U-9	U-10
2011	U-5	U-6	U-7	U-8	U-9	U-10	U-11
2010	U-6	U-7	U-8	U-9	U-10	U-11	U-12
2009	U-7	U-8	U-9	U-10	U-11	U-12	U-13
2008	U-8	U-9	U-10	U-11	U-12	U-13	U-14
2007	U-9	U-10	U-11	U-12	U-13	U-14	U-15
2006	U-10	U-11	U-12	U-13	U-14	U-15	U-16
2005	U-11	U-12	U-13	U-14	U-15	U-16	U-17
2004	U-12	U-13	U-14	U-15	U-16	U-17	U-18
2003	U-13	U-14	U-15	U-16	U-17	U-18	U-19
2002	U-14	U-15	U-16	U-17	U-18	U-19	U-20
2001	U-15	U-16	U-17	U-18	U-19	U-20	
2000	U-16	U-17	U-18	U-19	U-20		
1999	U-17	U-18	U-19	U-20			
1998	U-18	U-19	U-20				
1997	U-19	U-20					
1996	U-20						
1995							
1994							