

## Region 18 Board Meeting, April 10, 2018

Hennessey's, Manhattan Beach, 7:30 PM

### 0. Attendance:

Krista Skinner, Russ Allen, Taylor Boudreaux, Ben Donohoe (non-voting), Todd Collins, Byron Eguchi, Allyson Estess, Lou Figueroa, Steve Hershkowitz, Michael Hinz, Stan Ibara, Molly Jolls, Karl Primm, Marco Rico, Rose Rocchio, Megan Schultz, Ron Tani, Charlie Vincent, Chris Wong (non-voting)

Guests: Steve Abrams, David Brantly, Kim Digilio, Sean Gauss, Andrew Rogerson

### 1. Call to Order:

The meeting began at 7:33 PM and had a quorum (17/31).

### 2. Review of Prior Minutes

- MOTION: Approve Minutes of the March 2018 meeting.  
APPROVED, with no opposition.

### 3. Regional Commissioner's Report

Krista welcomed Steve Abrams, David Brantly, Sean Gauss, and Andrew Rogerson who will join the Board for the 2018 Fall season. Krista also welcomed Lou Figueroa as the new Division Commissioner for BU16 and BU19 effective immediately.

Andrew Lelchuk attended the Section 1D meeting and provided a report.

- AYSO National has been running at a deficit each year and has stated that they will need to increase their per player fee. An increase of \$2.50 per player has been proposed, but still needs to be voted on at the National Annual General Meeting in June.
- An additional charge of \$15 per Volunteer has been proposed due to the Level 2 background check that will now be required. The actual costs of the background checks to National will vary by state. The charge would also include about half of the cost of existing liability insurance for National (about \$350,000). Andrew expects the cost to our region to be about \$20,000 per year greater than what we presently pay and would translate to about \$9 per player in MY2019.
- The 2019 National Games will be in Hawaii during the July 4 weekend. Sign-up for the games will be shortly after July 4, 2018.
- For MY2019, U19 will not have players with birthdays in 1999. The oldest eligible players will have been born in 2000.

Andrew also reported that at the MBX meeting, it was stated that the entire CIF High School sports schedule will be moving up by two weeks in 2018. The High School soccer season will start on November 12, meaning that the U16 and U19 seasons must

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start and end earlier. Mira Costa High School will also be re-turfing the field at Waller Stadium.

Krista reported that the Village Re-turf project has been signed off on by AYSO, and we are waiting on the contract to be executed by the City of Manhattan Beach. The Region 18 contribution to the project will be approximately \$350,000.

The Manhattan Beach field allocation and cost increase plan will be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department on April 30. A final submission will be presented to the City Council on May 15. Board members were encouraged to attend the City Council meeting on May 15 to show support for AYSO.

Krista reported that all of the neighboring regions are planning to increase their Registration Fees for the Fall season. Many of the regions will be specifically identifying and separating the non-refundable National Fees from the Region Fees.

Krista presented a comparison of Registration Fees amongst the Regions to help determine Region 18 Registration Fees for Fall 2018. Region 18 has generally had a much lower Early Bird Registration Fee but a much higher regular Registration Fee. For Fall, 2017, the Region 18 Early Bird Fee was \$135 while the regular Registration Fee was \$215- including the \$17.50 National Fee. Surveying Region 7 (Westchester), Region 17 (North Redondo), Region 21 (Hawthorne), Region 34 (South Redondo), and Region 92 (El Segundo), the lowest Early Bird Fee was 147.50 for Region 17 with Regions 34 and 92 being highest at \$152.50. The regular fee ranged from \$177.50 at South Redondo to \$207.50 at North Redondo.

A spirited discussion ensued regarding the Fall fee.

- Lou Figueroa noted that since Region 18 has the most players, the cost is lower due to scale. Andrew Lelchuk added that Region 18 has achieved a more favorable field expense structure than the other Regions.
- Krista suggested that the Early Bird Registration Fee be raised to \$135 plus \$17.50 for the National Fee. The regular Registration Fee would be \$200 plus the \$17.50 National Fee.
- Karl Primm inquired why it was necessary to separate the National Fee. Krista said it would protect Region 18 from having to justify future fee increases by National in the future.
- Charlie Abbott and Karl both questioned the need for a fee increase when Region 18 has been able to generate a surplus that has adequately covered all expenses including field replacements. Krista noted that there are still improvements that are needed and unfunded, including improving field for players under 14. Andrew Lelchuk noted that equipment replacements are already budgeted under the current fee structure.

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- Todd Collins suggested using further surplus funds to improve the field at Manhattan Beach Middle School. Although the Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) has not been as willing to accept funds, Michael Hinz pointed out that Region 18 paid for improvement of school fields some years ago.
- Krista noted the difficulty in setting fees now, despite not having created a budget for MY19. However, with Registration opening this month, it is necessary to set the fee structure prior to the budget being created.
- Michael Hinz noted that as a non-profit, Region 18 should set fees based on overall need based on the budget as opposed to what neighboring Regions charge. David Brantly suggested that there are numerous ways to use excess funds, including utilizing the services of the Positive Coaching Alliance.
- Rose Rocchio asked about registration levels. Krista stated that overall registration has been flat but the Manhattan Beach residency rate has been dropping. Andrew Lelchuk stated that this is partly due to increasing real estate prices affecting the age demographic.
- Krista asked for input about dropping the regular Registration Fee. Michael Hinz stated that encouraging early registration greatly helps in planning for the Region by giving us an idea how many players we will need to account for. Byron Eguchi stated that fewer early registrations would likely result in having to cut off registration more firmly than in the past.
- Russ Allen suggested a higher fee for non-residents of Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach. Russ noted that our current residency rate is 63%, with 60% required by the City of Manhattan Beach in order to receive preferred use of the fields. The City plans to use random audits in the future to ensure residency rates. However, Krista argued that non-resident fees would contradict the Open Registration policy of Region 18.
- Andrew Lelchuk proposed an increase of Early Registration Fees from \$135 to \$145, including the non-refundable \$17.50 National Fee. The regular Registration Fee would remain the same.

□ MOTION: Increase the Early Registration Fee for Fall 2018 to \$145 (\$127.50 for Region 18 plus a \$17.50 non-refundable National Fee) and keep the regular Registration Fee at \$215 (\$197.50 for Region 18 plus a \$17.50 non-refundable National Fee)

APPROVED, by clear majority.

Russ Allen suggested creating a scholarship fund for neighboring Regions in Area 1D. Marco Rico stated that one of the biggest challenges for those Regions is getting Coaches for the younger ages. Krista suggested discussing the use of any surplus funds at the next meeting.

Russ Allen stated that three weeks in July will be available for Summer Camps. Krista will work with Mark Hodson to arrange these camps.

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Krista announced that Michael Hinz will be leaving the Region 18 Board but will maintain his position on the Area 1D Board as the Area Director of Referee Assessment. Krista thanked Michael and acknowledged him for his over 15 years of service, dedication, and commitment to Region 18. Michael was the person primarily responsible for implementing the Marine Avenue Park turf project.

Krista also acknowledged Andrew Lelchuk for his four years as Regional Commissioner.

### 4. Finance Report

Krista Skinner announced that Andrew Lelchuk will be the new Treasurer for Region 18. Stan Ibara will be moving from the Treasurer position to the Auditor position for Region 18.

### 5. Registrar's Report

Byron Eguchi stated that he will be set to open up Registration on Sunday, April 15, but he will need to test the Registration System. The Early Registration cutoff will be June 24 and regular Registration will end on July 31.

Byron asked Division Commissioners to determine how many Coaches they will have so they can calculate how many players they can accommodate. Byron will set limits on Registration based on these numbers.

### 6. Field Report

Russ Allen anticipates a fee increase in 2019 by the City of Manhattan Beach for field use. There will also be much greater attention paid to the residency requirement. In the past, Hermosa Beach residents counted as residents in the residency calculation because their city did not have their own soccer organization. However, Manhattan Beach will no longer count Hermosa Beach residents in the calculation. In addition, Manhattan Beach will conduct periodic audits to ensure accurate residency statistics.

Krista Skinner asked Board members to alert residents to use their actual Manhattan Beach home addresses during registration as opposed to work and other addresses.

### 7. Safety Director's Report

Andrew Rogerson will be taking over as Safety Director for Region 18 as Wolf Heim moves to Director of Referee Mentoring and Assessment. Andrew will check with Wolf to verify what fields need to be checked.

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### 8. Uniforms

Krista Skinner noted that the first batch of uniforms will be ordered based on last year's numbers. Krista asked that Division Commissioners let her know if they are aware of any likely changes.

### 9. Spring Soccer

Marco Rico reported that all is good with Spring Soccer.

### 10.. Referee Committee Report

Charlie Abbott reported that there are a lot of opportunities for Regional Referee classes and upgrades including classes in El Segundo (Regional Referee class), at the Ken Aston Cup, and in Laguna Hills.

There has been difficulty in scheduling Referees for Spring games. Charlie asked that Division Commissioners alert Chris Wong if they are aware that there will be a shortage of Referees in their Division.

Chris emphasized that Assistant Referees (AR's) are needed as well as Center Referees (CR's). In many situations, if there are no AR's signed up for a game, potential CR's won't sign up either.

Charlie noted that in the past, the Region has allowed Regional and Intermediate Referees cover the Center Referee position for games one level above their badge if they were in the process of upgrading (which could mean that they had promised to take the necessary Referee course in the near future). For Intermediate Referees, that approach has been changed so that an Intermediate Referee wishing to serve as Center Referee for a U14 game must have already completed the Advance Referee course. The change is part of the Region's continuing efforts to improve the quality of refereeing at the U14 level and to improve the game experience for Referees, Coaches, spectators, and players.

Michael Hinz noted that we need to identify and promote Advanced classes for Advanced and Intermediate Referees.

### 11. Coaches' Committee Reports

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Steve Hershkowitz reported that a 10U field session was held at the beginning of the Spring season with 15 attendees, 10 from Region 18. No other classes will be held in Region 18 until the summer, though there are some classes available in Orange County in June.

Coach Grace has been working with "littles".

### **12. Division Commissioners' Reports**

Krista Skinner announced that Daniel Shabbani and Sean Gauss will be the Division Commissioners of BU5.

Allyson Estess reporting no issues in BU7 and BU8. For future planning, Allyson said it would be good to have another U8 Referee class at the beginning of the Spring.

Megan Schultz reported no issues with GU6.

Rose Rocchio suggested moving off the field at Manhattan Beach Middle School due to poor field conditions. Rose had trouble finding coaches for BU12 so consequently had 16 players on each team.

Molly Jolls reported no issues with BU10.

Charlie Vincent reported no issues with BU6 except for parking at Meadows Elementary.

Lou Figueroa reported that BU16/19 has five teams for the Spring and has had issues with enough players showing up.

Krista Skinner reported that GU14 is going well with teams well-balanced.

### **13. Other Business**

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Molly Jolls announced that there will be a used jersey drive through Children's Orchard in Manhattan Beach.

Krista Skinner stated that at the end of spring, there will be a formal uniform/ball collection drive run by volunteers within Region 18.

Krista reported that the GU5 and GU14 Division Commissioner positions are still open. In addition, Krista will be bringing someone on the Board to help with Social Media.

### 14 Summary of Motions Approved

- MOTION: Approve Minutes of the March 2018 Board meeting.  
APPROVED, with no opposition.
  
- MOTION: Increase the Early Registration Fee for Fall 2018 to \$145 (\$127.50 for Region 18 plus a \$17.50 non-refundable National Fee) and keep the regular Registration Fee at \$215 (\$197.50 for Region 18 plus a \$17.50 non-refundable National Fee)  
APPROVED, by clear majority.

### 14. Summary of Motions Rejected

None.