

MINUTES
UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2004
HOLLYWOOD, CA
8:00 A.M. PACIFIC TIME

PRESENT: Dr. Robert Contiguglia, Sunil Gulati, William Goaziou, Marypat Bell, John Bouda, Chris Christoffersen, Mike Edwards, Werner Fricker Jr., Don Garber, Ivan Gazidis, Evelyn Gill, Richard Groff, Burton Haines, John Harkes, Tim Holt, Francisco Marcos, Mike McDaniel, Robert McGee, David Messersmith, Bob Palmeiro, Kevin Payne, Nelson Rodriguez, Alan Rothenberg, Bill Sage, Jim Sheldon, Peter Vermes, Dante Washington, Matt Weibe.

VIA PHONE: Larry Harmon, Marge Madriago, Brooks McCormick, Darl Rose, Bruno Trapikas.

APOLOGIES: Amanda Cromwell, John Doyle, Bob Gansler, Linda Hamilton, John Kerr Jr., Jonathan Kraft, Cameron Rast.

IN ATTENDANCE: Daniel T. Flynn, Jay Berhalter, Charles Gramigna, Alison Kocoras, Julie Ilacqua, Forrest Eber, Mike Malamut, Parliamentarian, Debra Resling, Reporter.

President Contiguglia called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Forrest Eber took roll call and announced that a quorum was present.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the August 14, 2004 Board meeting in Chicago. The minutes were **APPROVED** unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Dan Flynn presented a plan for an Olympic Development League that would provide an opportunity for men's players, primarily those aged 18 to 23, to compete in a league format. The plan calls for between 10 and 12 teams, each affiliated with a different MLS club. Players for each team would come from MLS's roster and reserve players, from college-eligible players, and other national youth team players identified by USSF coaches. MLS would pay for the players costs, local team administration costs, and referees; USSF would pay for team travel, team operations, and centralized administration. Several board members asked questions about the details of the league. Mr. Flynn addressed logistical questions, and Mr. Garber addressed concerns about sponsorship issues. Mr. Flynn indicated the cost of the program to USSF would be approximately \$1 million per year, that USSF was envisioning an agreement to fund the plan for three years with an option for two more.

It was **MOVED** that USSF approve moving forward with the Olympic Development League, including a commitment of funds for the league. The motion **PASSED** unanimously, with abstentions from the following board members: Ivan Gazidis, Don Garber, Kevin Payne, and Nelson Rodriguez.

Mr. Flynn next presented a proposal for providing funding to support the construction of a soccer complex in Frisco, Texas. Mr. Flynn explained that the complex would include a stadium, office space, and seventeen training fields. He stated that under the proposal, USSF would contribute \$5 million and in return would receive a number of benefits including free rent for two events per year and access to the training fields for USSF teams and USSF members. Several board members asked questions regarding the details of this proposal.

It was **MOVED** that USSF approve the proposal to fund the Frisco soccer complex for an amount of \$5 million, subject to a negotiation of the final details on an agreement which would be brought back to the board for final approval. The motion **PASSED** unanimously, with abstentions from the following board members: Ivan Gazidis, Don Garber, Kevin Payne, and Nelson Rodriguez.

Mr. Flynn then asked Ivan Gazidis to present a request from Major League Soccer regarding use of foreign players. Mr. Gazidis explained that with the expansion in the league and the launch of the Olympic Development League, there is a need for a large influx of new players into MLS (96 new players). Currently each MLS team is limited as to how many international (non-U.S.) players it can have. Thus, with this rule in place, if MLS is required to locate 86 new players from within the U.S., the result would be a watering down of the talent level within the league.

It was **MOVED** that MLS be allowed to increase the number of senior international players per team to four (from three); the number of junior international player to three (from two); and to allow two additional junior international players for MLS expansion teams for their first two years, with the understanding that the approval as to the number of senior and junior international players is for a three year period, at which time MLS will need to bring the issue back to the board of directors for a determination as to how many international players should be permitted per team going forward. The motion **PASSED** by majority vote, with abstentions from the following board members: Ivan Gazidis, Don Garber, Sunil Gulati, Kevin Payne, and Nelson Rodriguez.

SOCCER HEADGEAR REPORT

Dr. Contiguglia asked Dr. Bert Mandelbaum and Dr. Gary Green from the USSF Sports Medicine Committee to discuss head injuries in soccer. Drs. Mandelbaum and Green reported on the meeting of F-MARC (FIFA's medical committee) the previous week in Prague; provided an update on the current knowledge about head injuries in soccer; discussed ways in which they believed head injuries could be reduced and treated more effectively. They explained that there is no evidence, in their view and in the view of F-MARC members, that the use of helmets and/or headbands in soccer will have significant positive safety effects.

Alan Rothenberg spoke on behalf of a headgear company that he represents, explaining his concerns about the draft statement that was included in the board book regarding the use of headgear.

Dr. Contiguglia noted that there has been a question as to whether USSF members or clubs or leagues within them can pass a rule requiring all players to wear headgear. He explained that such a rule is not permitted, as it impermissibly alters FIFA rules.

CYSA-NORTH TOURNAMENT SANCTIONING

Alison Kocoras reported that USSF had received a complaint from a club that is a member of CYSA-North about their refusal to sanction an unrestricted tournament. She presented the correspondence that had been exchanged between USSF and CYSA-North.

It was **MOVED** that Dr. Contiguglia appoint a hearing panel to investigate the issue and come back with a recommendation to the board. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

GRIEVANCE UPDATES

Sunil Gulati reported to the Board about the current status of the grievance that had been filed by Heritage Soccer Club against CYSA-North. He indicated that CYSA-North had provided a new proposed league application process that was an improvement over the process that had been rejected by the USSF board, but the new process is still not objective enough. He indicated that the hearing panel would be communicating with CYSA-North asking for a revision.

Mr. Gulati next reported that a hearing panel had considered a grievance filed against IYSA by a group looking to form their own league. The hearing panel granted the grievance, and IYSA has agreed to allow the league to form, but the groups forming the league have filed a lawsuit against IYSA. The panel is now set to hold a hearing on charges that these groups are in violation of USSF Bylaw 707.

SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

Dan Flynn provided an update on the women's national team program, including preliminary ideas for a developmental program with an expanded group of players.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Goaziou asked Dave Eldridge to present the proposed budget for FY2006. Several board members asked questions about the budget and underlying assumptions. It was **MOVED** to approve the budget. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Dr. Contiguglia reminded board members that they need to submit survey responses regarding the questions sent around after the governance task force report. He reported that he would be putting together some task forces to address some of the major governance issues that came out of that report.

RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Evelyn Gill presented a policy amendment proposal regarding enforcement of disqualification decisions by USSF members. The policy was referred to the Rules Committee with an understanding that it would be reviewed by the board at the next meeting.

Alison Kocoras provided an update on the activities of the risk management task force. She reported that the task force would be proposing a bylaw amendment and a policy amendment.

MEXICAN NATIONAL TEAM GAMES

Richard Groff asked for information as to the number of games the Mexican national team has played in the United States over the past three years, and the amount USSF has collected in fees from those games. Jay Berhalter provided financial information to the board regarding those games.

GOOD OF THE GAME

John Bouda reported that Sandy Hunt and Esse Baharmast are now FIFA instructors. Burton Haimes introduced a new member of the AYSO board, Shawn McCormick. He also reported that the FIFA Executive Committee has approved the recommendations on ethics policies offered by the Committee on Ethics and Fair Play. Bob Palmeiro wished the U-19 Women's team good luck in Thailand. Dr. Contiguglia added his wish for good luck to the Futsal team in Chinese Taipei. Dave Eldridge offered his thanks to the USSF staff for their help with the budget.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.