

MINUTES
UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
WASHINGTON D.C.
NOVEMBER 19, 2007
9:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME

PRESENT: Sunil Gulati, Mike Edwards, Carlos Cordeiro, Paul Caligiuri, Dr. S. Robert Contiguglia, Daniel Flynn, Don Garber, Burton Haines, Linda Hamilton, Brooks McCormick, Mike McDaniel, Larry Monaco, Kevin Payne.

BY PHONE: Bill Goaziou, Jim Hamilton, Fabian Núñez, Peter Vermes.

IN ATTENDANCE: Jay Berhalter, Timothy Pinto, Richard Matthys, Gregory Fike, Asher Mendelsohn, Ivan Gazidis.

President Gulati called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Asher Mendelsohn took roll call and announced that a quorum was present.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes for the August 18, 2007 Board meeting in Chicago. The minutes were **APPROVED**.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Gulati informed the Board about the hiring of the new Women's National Team Coach, Pia Sundhage, and the new Men's U-17 Team Coach, Wilmer Cabrera. He also updated the Board on the announcement of the Men's National Team game against Mexico scheduled for February 6, 2008 and told the Board about MLS adding a franchise in Seattle.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Goaziou informed the Board that U.S. Soccer is in a strong financial position and that U.S. Soccer was currently meeting budget projections. Dan Flynn presented the budget for FY2009. The budget has a projected deficit of \$4.8 million. Dave Eldridge discussed the Budget Committee's position on the budget and informed the Board that the committee was recommending approval of the FY2009 budget. It was **MOVED** to approve the budget. The motion **PASSED**.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jay Berhalter updated the Board on the progress of the U.S. Soccer Development Academy. He informed the Board about the success of the Fall Showcase in October. National Team coaches scouted every game in the Fall Showcase. National Team Coaches are also scouting Development Academy games across the country. The Development Academy held a technical



workshop for all of the coaches. They also invited local coaches to attend a technical symposium in conjunction with the game against Brazil in September. Another coaching symposium is scheduled for the game against Sweden in the Home Depot Center in January 2008. The Development Academy also conducted a seminar for team administrators in August. Another administrative seminar will be held in July 2008 after the completion of the season. Kevin Payne updated the Board on the Technical Committee's perspective on the launch of the Development Academy. President Gulati indicated that the Technical Committee would work on women's player development.

U.S. POWER SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Tim Pinto updated the Board regarding the U.S. Power Soccer Association membership application and the Rules Committee comments. It was **MOVED** to provisionally accept the U.S. Power Soccer Association into membership as a disabled service organization. The motion **PASSED**.

WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE

Burton Haimen updated the Board on the status of the pending application for the Women's professional league. He informed the Board that the league plans to launch with at least seven teams in the spring of 2009.

POLICY 531-1

Tim Pinto updated the Board on the Rules Committee comments for an amendment to Policy 531-1, Section 4, which would eliminate the requirement that a State Referee Committee affiliated with a State Association report to U.S. Soccer directly. It was **MOVED** to approve the amendment to the policy. The motion **PASSED**.

Mr. Pinto updated the Board on the Rules Committee comments for an amendment to Policy 531-1, which would require the Federation to include a statement on the referee registration form that states that the referee would agree to comply with risk management programs. The Rules Committee recommended that the statement be amended to say that the referee agrees to comply with the risk management program of the organization through which the referee is "participating" rather than "registering". It was **MOVED** to amend the proposed change to "participating" instead of "registering". The motion **PASSED**. It was **MOVED** to approve the amendment with the change. The motion **PASSED**.

2008 & 2009 AGM UPDATES

Asher Mendelsohn updated the Board regarding the 2008 AGM, which will be in Hawaii on the Big Island from February 14th through 16th at the Hilton Waikoloa Village. He also informed the Board that on-line registration was available and that Kati Hope would be the point of contact for the 2008 AGM. He also updated the Board that the contract for the 2009 AGM had been finalized with the Hilton in Orlando, Florida. The dates for the 2009 AGM will be March 12th through March 14th.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Mike Edwards updated the Board on his review of life membership for U.S. Soccer. He informed the Board that he would be working on creating a vetting process for life member



nominees and working on suggested limits for number of life members up for nomination per year.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Fike updated the Board on the need to ratify the 2008 FIFA Referee and Assistant Referee Panel, which had already been approved by email by the Board. It was **MOVED** to ratify the decision to approve the 2008 FIFA Referee and Assistant Referee Panel. The motion **PASSED**.

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Ivan Gazidis updated the Board regarding MLS's recommendations for the selection process for inclusion in the Champions League, CONCACAF's new regional club tournament. The current United States participants in the Champions Cup are the MLS Supporter's Shield winner and the MLS Cup winner. The new Champions League will allow for four teams from the United States. Mr. Gazidis recommended that the slots be filled in the following order for one year only: 1) MLS Cup Champion; 2) MLS Regular Season points leader; 3) U.S. Soccer Open Cup Winner; and 4) MLS Cup Runner-Up. If any of the spots were filled by the same team, then the MLS team with the next most regular season points would fill the spots as needed. President Gulati informed the Board that U.S. Soccer could only make a recommendation to CONCACAF and that CONCACAF would ultimately have to approve the process. The Board discussed the merits of the proposal by MLS. It was **MOVED** to recommend the proposed selection process to CONCACAF. The motion **PASSED**. Don Garber and Kevin Payne abstained from voting on this issue.

INTERNATIONAL PLAYER LIMITS

Don Garber informed the Board that MLS was requesting a change to the international player limits for MLS teams. The current rules allow each MLS team to have four senior international players and three youth international players. Mr. Garber explained that due to expansion of the league to 14 teams it was essential that MLS teams have more flexibility to bring international players in to the league. The MLS proposal was to increase the number of international players to eight and to eliminate the distinction between youth and senior slots. The Board discussed the merits of the proposal by MLS. It was **MOVED** to adopt the MLS proposal for international player limits. The motion **PASSED**. Don Garber and Kevin Payne abstained from voting on this issue.

PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE STANDARDS

President Gulati asked Burton Haimen to create a task force to review U.S. Soccer's professional league standards with help from counsel.

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Brooks McCormick raised the issue of certain members of the Federation failing to provide the appropriate support services and merely providing the cheapest way to affiliate with the Federation. The Board discussed the need for certain standards for members that are registering players. The Board agreed to continue reviewing the issue.

PROFESSIONAL REFEREES



Kevin Payne proposed that U.S. Soccer take a comprehensive look at professional referees. The Board discussed options for the review and Dan Flynn gave an update to the Board.

SMALL SIDED GAMES

Larry Monaco introduced a proposed amendment to the national coaching policy to include a recommendation for small sided games for youth players. The Board discussed the proposal. The proposal was referred to the technical committee for review.

[At this point, the Board went into Executive Session. The minutes for this session are contained in a separate document.]

GOOD OF THE GAME

Mr. Haines welcomed Lynn Berling-Manuel as director of marketing for AYSO. Paul Caligiuri recognized the achievement of Marthell Vazquez, a member of the U.S. Soccer Paralympic Team, who was named Most Valuable Player of the 2007 Cerebral Palsy International Sports & Recreation Association (CPISRA) World Championships.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

