



Fairfax Women's
Soccer Assn.

2021-22 FWSA ANNUAL OPERATING REPORT

MAY 26, 2022

Prepared by Melissa Atwood, Secretary

Summary of FWSA 2021-22 Board Activity

➤ **2021 June 21 Board Meeting - Transition to new board**

- Board agrees to raise the auditor fee from \$400, for a two-year audit, to \$500, due to inflation.
- Initiated discussions on opening a division for all O58 registered players to play Tuesday daytime games.
- Registration discussion to return to old methodology. System does not work well if you close a previous season or change registration fees. Decision to keep registration fees as is. Treasurer will issue half price refunds to those who register during mid-season.
- Treasurer will purchase gift cards for the coach and ref/assistant for the developmental division to show appreciation for volunteering to run the developmental sessions.
- The Tournament Coordinator and Fields Commissioner will coordinate tournament dates and details.
- Considerations to return to pre-season sessions to assess new players and place on appropriate teams.

➤ **2021 August 11 Team Rep and Board Meeting**

- Status update on summer season and reminders the league is about good sportsmanship and having fun.
- Fall rosters – discussed team and numbers. After merging, some players moved teams. Many teams are low on numbers and may have to merge. Smashing Pumpkins and Babes are merging as Smashing Babes.
- Asked the county for fields for the weekend after Thanksgiving for the Pine Ridge Tournament. Awaiting final response for permits.
- HC stated the need to address how we are communicating the lock combinations to everyone.
- Overall reminders for COVID/Safety.

➤ **2021 October 8 Board Meeting**

- Discussion on keeping games from forfeiting based on low numbers that arrive/come to the game. Possibility of pulling players or subs from previous games to get necessary numbers. Use team players when possible, but the goal is to play and avoid forfeitures.
- Board discussed how to build up our league and teams to create evenly matched games. If teams are capped, refer new players to other teams to keep them in the league.
- Board discussed how to safely transition/integrate new players or developmental players to other divisions. Open division is fast paced and more competitive, which can drive away

potential young players from joining. Discussed the need to ensure the sustainability of the league and number of players. Consider having “pick-up” games for experienced players to play for free (or reduced fees) to join developmental players and help build skills of these new players and using summer season for initiating this concept. Discussion was tabled.

- Winter season usually runs December through February via evites. Awaiting field permits. HC working with Off Season Coordinators on logistics.
- Discussion around GGM division. They play solely on Tuesday night, so unfair to also have choice of times (8pm). Designated night avoids conflict with scheduling Open and Masters games. GGM commissioner will see if GGM wants to play other nights at 8pm, then idea should be discussed at the next Team Rep meeting.
 - Woodson fields: There are definitely openings on the grass field and stadium, particularly in the afternoon, but all GM teams play on Saturday. If O50 teams play Saturday, it will be a big conflict day since many of these players play O40 and O50.
- Fields Commissioner checked on field use for election day since elections are over by game time.
- Pine Ridge tournament was confirmed for weekend of Thanksgiving. Board agreed to create a O58 division for the tournament that will run like a round robin.
- Noted list of board members does not include a Gold DC. HC manages evites and players self-police so no changes were needed.
- Discussed possibility of rescheduling forfeitures. Generally, this is not done since this can become challenging to remain fair to all teams. If teams are forfeited against several games, consider a caveat to reschedule so they don't lose too many games in one season. Board approved rescheduling of teams forfeited against at least 2 times via subsequent email decision.

➤ **2021 December 8 Board Meeting**

- This is FWSA's 45-year anniversary. Discussed idea to highlight the 45 “plus” and to highlight/recognize some of the original players that are still with the league.
- Debrief on the 2021 Pine Ridge tournament. Most divisions played 7 v 7, O40 played 11 v 11. Four teams per division. League will need to find a new tournament coordinator and should consider whether it is best to stay with Thanksgiving weekend or move the tournament back to the summer.
- Sub pool invites seemed to be received by all players after SubTeam Coordinator cleared out the account. Reminded the board that “pre-planning” to get the sub you want is not allowed and board members should lead by example. Subs should recognize the dynamics of the game and keep it fun, versus changing the outcome.
- For player safety and balancing of teams, please refer new players through Recruitment coordinator.
- Seasoned players are welcome to come to developmental games and help beginners learn to play. Join by emailing Developmental Coordinator.
- Audit is in progress. Audit happens each time Treasurer changed hands. Almost complete and going well.
- Reminder for league to use resources available, such as the Team Reps responsibilities form, for new Team Reps or board members. No comments/changes were recommended to Team Rep responsibility form at this time.
- Winter season will have two groups – over 50 and under 50. Players must be registered for insurance and liability reasons. Agreed that evites will include statement, “if there are not a minimum of 16 players by 4pm of game day (Tuesday/Thursday) and 9pm (Friday

night) for Saturday game assume game is cancelled” to help ease confusion on whether enough players are coming. HC to email players with this information.

- Continued discussions for sustainability of league from 10/08/2021 Board Meeting. Consider setting up bi-weekly games where players and developmental mix together – intent is to safely integrate/teach new players; or round-robin weekend of games for this purpose. FWSA has viable O58, O50, O40 divisions. O30 is okay. Open division numbers are low. Discussed getting social media presence elevated. Lidia and Sangeeta will work on this.

➤ **2022 February 23 Board Meeting –**

- Discussed moving teams into different brackets, per team’s request. No teams warrant movement at this time, but possible cross-play between 30s and 40s can help decrease the number of times two teams meet each season.
- There is only a discount for one team rep per team per season. If there are co-reps, they should work out the split cost by themselves.
- Swag store – no issues with patented trademarks and disclaimer was finalized. Two swag stores will be available for players.
- FWSA magnets were purchased to give to all registered players in 2020, but season was cancelled. Gave some in fall 2020 and at Pine Ridge Tournament. Discussed possible distribution of magnets in the future.
- Discussed possible outreach event where FWSA Soccer gives back to the community since we are a big organization. Ideas are still being considered and will continue to be discussed at future meetings. NOTE: Meeting minutes for December and February meetings were approved via email prior to the May Annual Meeting.