

VSA Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: by Rich DeGraff-Murphy 6pm @ p.m.

Attendance:

In-Person: Rich DeGraff-Murphy; Emily Milbank; Matt Spitznagle;; Kyle Koenig; Keith Roberts; Andrew Minnis

Remote: n/a

Absent: Bill Edwards John Curtis

Approval of December 20, 2024 VSA Board Meeting Minutes Rich motioned- Matt 2nd –All in Favor and Approved

President's Report – Rich DeGraff-Murphy

- AGM Minutes
- United Soccer Coaches Convention / USYS / US Soccer (*Andrew will go into greater detail*)
- BOD Meetings Open to membership or first 10 minutes open to membership for general comments?
 - Motion made by Kyle, 2nd by Rich to allow the first 10-15 min of BOD Meeting for guests to speak and share comments. Guests are defined as Official CLub Staff or BOD members with authority to speak on behalf of the designated club.
 - BOD Agenda will be published not less than 3 days prior to all Meetings and any Guest wishing to speak must RSVP 1 day in advance and receive approval from the Executive Director to attend with Meeting Link.
- Tree Farm is running a fundraiser similar to last year to replace worn out goals. The total cost for 2 sets of U12 goals is \$10.6k. The Tree Farm is covering \$5300 as part of capital improvements. The Tree Farm has gotten commitments from Essex United, Elite 8/11, Nordic and some personal donations to help with costs. Last year VSA donated \$1000 for similar goals purchases. The Tree Farm is wondering if VSA can donate \$1000 this year?
 - Pending financial review and new hire for Dir of Operations.
- 2025 Awards
 - Awards Committee – Update forms, gather & choose recipients
 - Website should have a tab of prior annual award recipients & should have write-ups on Vermont Soccer Hall of Fame inductees. For 2025 we have received two nominations for the Hall of Fame. We do not have a Hall of Fame Nomination Form online

- Andrew to take lead on Awards Banquet with support of Emily and Kyle for notifications, venue and audience.
- Board to create an Awards Committee for planning and enhancement for 2025 Banquet. Andrew to take the lead. Will send out notice to all clubs seeking volunteers with expectation for 3 planning meetings Q1-2-3 for Q4 Banquet
- Board to create a Competition Committee –Matt to take lead on getting this in motion. Early stages.
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Vice President's Report - Emily Milbank

Secretary Report - Kyle Koenig

Treasurer Report – Matt Spitznagle

Risk Management Report – Keith Roberts

- Background Checks
 - VCIC Timeliness – 40 hrs. / Perhaps we should move this to the office and set it up with Gotsport to notify office personnel when a newly registered coach is entered. This can trigger the automatic National Check but also allows VSA to run VCIC immediately so member clubs can get answers quicker.
 - Notifications of negative results – Some clubs have inquired about being notified if ANY things are found in the background. We currently do not inform clubs of a disqualifier just that they have not passed the background check.
 - VSA will do preliminary review, deeper reviews will need to be conducted by a club with applicant consent and club ownership of this action.

SRA Report – Bill Edwards

- REFEREE Certification Status (as of Jan 27, 2025). // (Certified + In Process)
 - New Referees - **62**
 - Re-Certifications - **~80**
 - 2025 Target = 280, **142** to date... **51%** attainment
- Still need help spreading the word on New Referee Field Clinic opportunities
 - Johnson (2/1), Essex CVE (2/16 & 3/1), Manchester (3/9), Capital area (3/16), Essex Middle School (April 5)
- NEW US Soccer RAP (Referee Abuse Prevention) initiative

- Starting 2026 - U18 refs get GREEN badges / VT all in...
- 2026 Referee PAY RAISE (\$0.80/min to \$\$0.90/min proposed)
- SRA & SYRA booked and are planning to attend US Soccer Referee Workshop @ AGM in Atlanta // US Soccer pushing for all States to attend.
 - Arrive Saturday (3/1) / Leave Sunday night. US Soccer covers everything except air fare
- NCS 2025 - Loudon VA (airfare - \$\$)
 - New East Region Ref Administrator - James Conlee (VA) // **8 Refs "expected"** (VT has submitted 8 teams are going)
 - ~2 Referee Mentors attending as well.

Executive Director Report

- Andrew Minnis

Future Board Meetings/Public Access

Executive Director Report- USC

VSA Recruitment Policy

VSL Rulebook Approval

VPL

Director of Finance Finalization- Exec

Director of Operations-Exec

Partnership Proposals

VSA Operational Calendar 2025 Approval

Monthly VSA Support Call

Tree Farm Donation Request

Vermont Patriots- Exec

DSG Shop Days April 4-7 2025

(Insert) Mini Pitch Details Send Notice to all Members

Recruitment change policy suggested* Realign to Sept 1 with Fiscal Year (change from Oct) –send out to all clubs for input before any modifications.

Executive Session:

Good of the Game: N/A

Next Board of Directors Meeting – March 3, 2025 @ 6 p.m.

Adjournment @ 8:30 p.m.