

VSA Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

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

Attendance:

In-Person: Rich DeGraff-Murphy; Emily Milbank; Matt Spitznagle; Keith Roberts; Bill Edwards; Andrew Minnis; Lori Levinson

Remote: John Curtis; Kyle Koenig

Absent: N/A

Approval of January 27, 2025 VSA Board Meeting Minutes - Minutes were approved

Membership Comment Period

- No public comment was made

President's Report – Rich DeGraff-Murphy

- USYS CEO
 - After 5 years of service, on February 5th, Skip Gilbert stepped down as the CEO to spend more time with his family in Connecticut. He will act as a consultant for USYS. Tom Condone, Chief Soccer Officer will serve as Interim CEO until the position can be filled.
- US Soccer AGM - Atlanta, GA (February 27 – March 1, 2025)
 - Took the opportunity to build relationships with counterparts from across the country; the USYS Board & Staff and US Soccer organization.
 - USSF has concluded the Birth Year/School Year debate for registering players. Beginning in 2026-2027 (Fall) player registration will be Seasonal Year (September 1) to coincide with the school calendar. ODP will remain as Birth Year.
 - USSF's new vision - "In Service to Soccer"
<https://www.ussoccer.com/ourvision>



- Arthur M. Blank U.S. Soccer National Training Center
 - <https://www.ussoccer.com/ntchq>
 - Will be the home to our 27 National Teams
 - 16 pitches (14 grass / 2 turf) / 1 full size indoor pitch / and a couple of sand pitches
 - Corporate Offices/meeting rooms/gym/Trainer & health facilities
 - Subsequent phases for dormitories
- Tree Farm Update
 - Back to non-profit standing after working out tax issues
 - 2025 Field Rental Fee - \$97.00
 - Still no long term lease agreement. TFMG believe they will have an agreement in place by April/May (note current agreement expires 12/31/2025)
 - Road / parking lot grading contracted to occur 6 times along with crushed asphalt to be brought in to provide a better service on the walking path this year.
 - Having demo on Turf Tank for possible lining of fields
- - Perhaps we can coordinate a walk through of the facility toward the end of this month so that Andrew & Lori can get the lay of the land.

Vice President's Report - Emily Milbank

- None

Secretary Report - Kyle Koenig

- None

Treasurer Report – Matt Spitznagle

- Switch of banking partner from M&T to Bank of Burlington for VSA.
- Reconstruction of budget to be more intentional and concise going forward
- Construction of budget for membership moving forward

Risk Management Report – Keith Roberts

- Continue finding avenues to support the background checking process and safeguards for coaches, referees, clubs in Vermont.

SRA Report – Bill Edwards

- 2025 Referee Certification Status

REF Certification Status					
	Complete	In-Process	TOTAL	2024	Percent
NEW	48	47	95	97	98%
Re-Certs	81	16	97	159	61%
Total	129	63	192	256	75%
MENTORS	10	3	13		

- Upcoming New Referee FIELD Clinics

2025 VERMONT USSF "New" REFEREE CERTification Clinic Dates, Times, and Locations

Day	Date	Times	Area	Sponsoring Club	NOTES	Count	Physical LOCATION
Saturday	3/1	2pm to 5pm	Essex 3	Far Post SC	Field session - FP side	11	Champlain Valley Exposition 105 Pearl Street, Essex Junction
Sunday	3/9	9am to Noon	Manchester	Fusion SC	Field session	5	Burr and Burton Academy 57 Seminary Avenue, Manchester
Saturday	3/15	3pm to 6pm	Barre / Montpelier	Capital SC	Field session	2	Central VT Memorial CC 268 Gallison Hill Rd, Montpelier, VT
Sunday	3/16	8am to 11am	Vergennes	Addison United SC	Field session - HS Gym	6	Vergennes HS 50 Monkton Rd
Saturday	4/5	9am to Noon	Essex 4	Essex United SC	Field session - Gym Contact: Adam Smith / Essex United	17	Essex Middle school Gym 60 Founders Rd, Essex
Thursday	4/10 (??)	6pm to 8:30pm	?	SRC	ZOOM - Online	tbd	Zoom - Online
Friday	4/18	TBD	TBD	SRC	INVITE Only	8	TBD
Saturday	4/19	7am to 10am	Shelburne	Social Sports	Field session - Gym	6	Shelburne Field House 166 Athletic Dr, Shelburne, VT

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- **US Soccer's New RAP / Referee Abuse Prevention Program**
 - In Effect 3/1/2025
 - VSA Plan to make all Coaches and Clubs about the New Policy ?
 - Ready to Enforce ?
- **EAST REGION NCS**
 - Loudoun County, VA
 - Friday June 27 to Thursday July 3rd, 2025
 - **8** refs requested / 4 to 5 likely
 - 2 Referee Coaches
 - Cost sharing agreement needed.
- **US Soccer Referee Workshop 3/2/25 in Atlanta (AGM)**
- **Need RAP Program rollout for new season**
- **Reporting process from referee to office, to disciplinary committee to respond.**

Director of Coaching Report

- Halfway through winter training currently. Spring training begins at the end of April. Players went to NH Friendlies, traveling to the Albany event in April, Players to represent Vermont in the east region tournament in early June.
- Spring tryout is in place for April for ODP
- Growth from last year with anticipated growth for the program this spring.
- Sending 11/12 teams to east region tournament from Vermont
- Coach education- grassroots and D license
- Coach for community program coming soon within VT
- Vermont players went internationally with Northern New England Select ODP this past weekend

Executive Director Report

- Andrew Minnis

- VSA Recruitment Policy Finalization- **Passed**
- VSL, Spring Festival, State Cup, Crossing Cup Event Planning- board availability, planned and scheduled, deadlines, and announcements out
- US Soccer AGM Recap (Rich and Andrew)
- Platform Onboarding/Support Plan- monthly plan and onboarding for all clubs
- Awards Committee Update- Nomination Forms/Event Structure/Committee Members
- Insurance Policies and Renewal- Switch to playersHealth across the board
- Seasonal Year Membership Meeting (July) Request and Finalization- **July 16th at 6:00pm**

Executive Session:

Good of the Game:

Next Board of Directors Meeting – April 7, 2025 @ 6 p.m.

Adjournment @ 8:34 p.m.

