



VSA Meeting Minutes

Date: June 1, 2026

Call to Order: 5:03 PM

Attendance: Rich DeGraff-Murphy (President); Emily Milbank (Vice President); Matt Spitznagle (Treasurer); Keith Roberts (Risk Management); Lori Levinson (Ops Director).

Remote: None Bill Edwards (SRA); Andrew Minnis (ED)

Absent: NA

Guest(s): NA

Approval of Minutes

- Previous meeting date: **May 4, 2026**
 - Motion: **Approve minutes as written**
 - Result: **Approved unanimously**
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Public Comment

A. NA

General Board Reports

President's Report – Rich DeGraff-Murphy

State Cup

- Event deemed highly successful with strong participation and minimal issues.
- Positive behavior across fields; no major risk management concerns.
- Recommendation for future: secure dedicated professional photographer/media coverage.
- Operational feedback:
 - Improve garbage bag quality (contractor-grade bags recommended).
 - Improve athletic trainer visibility via centralized location/signage and communication (walkie protocols).
 - Ensure adequate ice availability and medical readiness (improvements already implemented).

Referee Assignor Meeting

- Meeting held with assignor to address coverage challenges.
- Key changes implemented:
 - Referees paid for last-minute cancellations/no-shows.
 - Teams fined for cancellations within 48-hour window.
- Strategic direction:
 - Reduce number of game locations to improve referee coverage.
 - Shift toward centralized scheduling vs. club-controlled spring scheduling.
 - Regional “hub” model under evaluation (Chittenden, Morrisville/Stowe, Southern VT).

2026–2027 Budget Meeting

- Preliminary budget reviewed; follow-up meeting to finalize before July board meeting.

Spring Festival

- Event scheduled for upcoming weekend.
- Logistics finalized:
 - Friday setup coordinated (equipment, tents, storage access).
 - Volunteer coverage secured (board + high school teams).
 - Parking, field operations, and materials prepared.
 - Laminated schedules and emergency plans created.
- Over 3,000+ promotional books per pallet (significant distribution effort tied to \$7,000 grant requirement for photo/video documentation).

US Soccer & USYS

- Major structural changes underway:
 - USYS leadership integrating more closely with US Soccer.
 - Proposed vote required (2/3 majority).
 - Possible long-term shift toward unified registration model.
- Potential impacts:
 - State role/responsibility still unclear.
 - Possible regional consolidation discussions (especially in New England).
- Updates expected after multi-day US Soccer meetings.

Advisory Group Meeting

- Final advisory session scheduled to review:
 - Accessibility (fees, fields, registration process).
- Results to be presented at July membership meeting.
- Additional request: clarify recruitment policy as it relates to camps.
 - Camps permitted but cannot be used for recruiting outside allowed windows.

Mid-Year Meeting

- Scheduled July 15 (Membership Meeting).
 - Board prep meeting planned prior.
 - Agenda will include:
 - Calendar, Sporting Vermont overview.
 - US Soccer restructuring updates.
 - League structure proposals.
 - Member advisory findings.
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Vice President's Report – Emily Milbank

Awards & Gala Organization

- Awards nomination process to be re-opened earlier this year.
 - Communication to membership to be drafted and distributed.
 - Committee coordination and criteria distribution underway.
 - Hall of Fame nominations must be resubmitted annually.
 - Additional initiative proposed:
 - Injury prevention education (focus on youth injuries).
 - Potential delivery via webinar, AGM workshop, and Sporting Vermont programming.
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Treasurer's Report – Matt Spitznagl

- Current accounts:
 - ~\$57,000 in checking
 - ~\$190,000 in savings
 - Year-to-date financials:
 - Revenue: ~\$350,800
 - Net surplus: ~\$17,568
 - ~\$29,000 in outstanding payments pending deposit.
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Secretary's Report – Kyle Koenig

- No report.
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Risk Management Report – Keith Roberts

- No major issues reported.
 - Ongoing monitoring of referee reports for behavioral patterns.
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State Referee Report – Bill Edwards

Referee Program Update

- 264 certified referees (approx. +10 this month).
- Continued need for increased numbers (~325 goal).
- Spring Festival identified as key referee development event.

SafeSport Training

- Strong stance reaffirmed:
 - No exceptions for unverified/background-checked coaches.
 - “Emergency coach” requests without compliance rejected.
 - Reinforced importance of safeguarding and compliance.
 - Additional discussion:
 - Referee pay alignment across leagues (VSL vs VPL) clarified.
 - Increased collaboration needed across leagues for consistency.
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Operations Update – Lori Levinson

- Spring Festival operations fully prepared:
 - Equipment, materials, staffing, and layouts finalized.
- Improvements from State Cup implemented:
 - Ice systems upgraded.
 - Trash management contracted.

- Financial operations:
 - Transition from M&T Bank to new banking system underway.
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Executive Director Update – Andrew Menis

Finalization of Spring Season

- Strong overall feedback from clubs.
- Continued scheduling and structural improvements in progress.

Remaining Action Items

- Regional league restructuring proposal development.
- Recruitment policy clarifications (camps vs recruiting).

June 2–3 US Soccer Meetings

- Full-day sessions to clarify national restructuring impacts.

July Membership Meeting Presentation

- Content in development (calendar, fees, initiatives).
- Detailed handouts to be provided to members.

Member Advisory Group Summary

- Final session scheduled; feedback to be compiled for July presentation.

NBT Bank Update (as of 6.1.26)

- Sponsorship active for Spring Festival.
- Over 325 survey responses received (positive engagement).
- Additional financial education initiatives planned.

ODP – “Sporting Vermont”

- Rebranded initiative receiving strong early feedback.
- Emphasis on:
 - Development (not a competing club).
 - Clear anti-recruitment policies for coaches.
- Player pathway success:
 - 3 players advancing to regional level.

- Coaching staff nearing finalization.
 - Branding/logo still in development.
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Technical Director Report

- N/A
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Other Business / Good of the Game

- Strong positive feedback across programs (State Cup, ODP, league play).
 - Continued focus on structure, alignment, and professionalism.
 - Discussion around referee training expansion and preseason events.
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Executive Session

NA

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn

Result: Approved unanimously

Time: 6:27 PM

Next Meeting

Date: July 6, 2026

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: VSA Offices – Forever Summer Fieldhouse & Zoom Option