

River City Youth Soccer League Board Meeting
Wednesday August 19th, 2026 - 7:00 pm
Round Table Pizza 9138 Kiefer Blvd, Sac 95826

Attendees: Bret Fair (DDSC), Gene Totten (President), David McKay (Treasurer), Catie Anderson (Registrar & Scheduler), Jose Moreno (Referee Coordinator), Ashley Mulligan-Pfile (SOSC), Derek Warken (RSC)

- A. Call to Order – ~7p
- B. Guest Speaker – none
- C. President's Report –
 - 1. D6 – none, D6 not holding meetings
 - 2. Proposed changes to the playing rules and sportsmanship rules will be emailed to club managers on Thursday, August 20. The changes make consequences more direct, presented in a table that ties each rule infraction to a specific consequence. The intent is clarity in advance of disciplinary actions expected this season.
 - 3. will speak at the mandatory coaches meeting next Monday and will send a written summary of remarks for anyone absent.
- D. Club Manager Hot Topics –
 - 1. Uniform ordering and distribution:
 - i. a. Clubs compared suppliers and distribution methods. Practices include shipping the full order to a club uniform coordinator, bagging by team, and handing bags to coaches rather than having parents pick up from a volunteer's home.
 - ii. b. Arden Park reported that coaches were reassigning kits from dropped players to other families, which broke refund tracking. Refunds were issued without the uniform coming back.
 - iii. c. Del Dayo reported it does not issue refunds after the bylaw deadlines. Arden Park noted that tightening refunds converted a portion of requests into donations.
 - iv. d. Surplus uniforms and equipment: Sierra Oaks donates to the Sierra Oaks School PE sports closet so families with financial need are not excluded from sports for lack of equipment. Clubs keep a small emergency stock and donate the balance.
 - v. e. A uniform swap concept drew interest but little participation. It became a drop-off rather than an exchange.
 - 2. Age Group Coordinator role
 - i. a. Duties: after the Saturday seeding tournament, contact the host coaches in the age group, collect score sheets and recommendations, compile them, and send the package to the scheduler. Revisit scores at midseason for reevaluation.
 - ii. b. Site coordinators at each seeding group record scores and up or down movement, then report to the age group coordinator. Estimated workload is about 30 minutes.
 - iii. c. Assignments: Derek will cover the Rosemont age group after no coach volunteered. Chris Trombo (Arden Park, U10 girls) accepted the U10 girls role. Clubs with too few teams, including St. Ignatius and CCA, are not assigned a coordinator.
- E. Officer's Reports
 - 1. Vice President/Sportsmanship/PAD – none
 - 2. Secretary –
 - i. a. Approve July minutes – **APPROVED**, Gene abstained
 - ii. b. CPR/AED training update – CalNorth says should have approved providers on its website soon
 - iii. c. Larkspur check in – NW corner water main leak, getting fixed; lining and relining on board; port a potty locks keep getting cut; food vendor approved by park district to be at fields during

games, discussed with vendor keeping out of way of play and spectating

3. Treasurer – none

4. Registrar –

- i. a. Reg update: all player passes printed except U6 and ready for distribution at coaches meeting; several new club registrars this season and everyone is doing well
- ii. b. proposed combining seeding tourney packet w/ player cards into a single handout per team – Board agreed
- iii. c. intending to build a registrar manual for next season, including calendar and schedule of duties; club mgrs. will have access so better transition for registrar turnover
- iv. d. Late additions: the league accommodates players who finish Safe Sport requirements late, including nights and weekends. The board agreed this should be communicated to clubs early and as the default, not discovered at the end of registration.
- v. e. Noted for clubs: parking citations can be converted to community service hours performed for a nonprofit, and the league can use that help. A volunteer other than the parent must sign off on the hours.

5. Referee Coordinator –

- i. a. 61 referees attended preseason meeting (covered platform registration, the assignor process, expectations, and arriving at the field five minutes before game time)
- ii. b. yellow ref jersey conflicts w/ DDSC – refs to ask coach for a pennie when colors conflict
- iii. c. please get field and team info to Scheduler promptly so assignments can be a week ahead; seeding tourney schedule sent to clubs today w/ one minor change
- iv. d. new ref course field session = Aug 30th, 37 reg'd but none completed online content yet which must be finished by Aug 28th to attend field session; Jose to follow up individually
- v. e. recruiting = ~19 local refs + 3 expressions of interest, one refund request
- vi. f. water requested for the Aug 30 field session
- vii. g. Assignors' meeting held – late reschedules are biggest issue (ex: when done on Fri after refs assigned), clubs pay twice b/c ref gets paid whether game is played or not OR refs stop accepting assignments; requesting 72 hour notice on schedule changes
 - 1. 8.3.5 of Bylaws sets a hard 48 hour deadline
 - 2. 8.3.6 provides that a team that fails to appear w/ no attempt at contact has its coach suspended and pays the ref fees for the unplayed game AND for rescheduled game
 - 3. same rule appears in general play rules given to all coaches (Section 1.1)
 - 4. Coaches may not cancel matches w/o consent of club mgr or RCYSL Exec Board member, doing so = 1 game suspension (i.e. two coaches cannot agree by email to skip a game)
 - 5. SuperRec reschedules are handled in GotSport, NorCal controls; cannot be done by email
 - 6. Registrar to build a short memo of these rules for inclusion in coaches' seeding packets
- h. No red cards in RCYSL last season; all handled under Sportsmanship
 - 1. difficult for minor referees to confront angry adult; instructed to write down teams, coach, details and report to coordinator or Assignor for escalation; Gene wants club mgr included; need to be reported w/o delay
- i. Discussion on comp & select play observation recently and how refs handle physical play

6. Coaching Coordinator – (relayed by Gene)

- i. a. free league coaching clinic was held tonight, run with Brandon from Union. Brandon holds a B license; 14 coaches attended, with at least one from every club. Attendance was driven by emails to all registered coaches over the past week.
- ii. b. virtual follow up session same time next Wed Aug 26; Gene to email details to club mgrs.
- iii. c. last year's grassroots license clinic won't be repeated, admin burden too high
- iv. d. Trent's goalkeeper and striker sessions: 15 to 20 minute sessions open to anyone interested, aimed largely at new coaches, to run right after the seeding tournament. Trent needs to draft a description and share it with the President and club managers.

7. Scheduling Coordinator –

- i. a. Team rankings have been distributed. Requested changes must come from club managers

before Monday. Changes will not be made at Monday's meeting on a coach's word alone.

- ii. b. Rankings include each U8 through U12 teams' 2025 division and final placement as context for how the team was ranked.
- iii. c. Many teams are roughly half new and half returning, so prior-year records carry limited weight this season. Clubs should set coach expectations accordingly.
- iv. d. No scores or rankings were received from RSC.
- v. e. Roster changes: one team was removed at a club's request, and one team lost a coach yesterday. RSC offered a cleared contact as a substitute.
- vi. f. The field use schedule for the seeding tournament was sent to all clubs today. Clubs have until Thursday night, August 20, to submit changes.
- vii. g. Monday meeting: Scheduler will explain her packet only. Gene will handle the rest of the
- viii. speaking.

8. Webmaster – none

F. (Old) Business Updates –

1. Affiliation Committee Update --update (Bret): The full report was distributed by email with a Google Docs link. Club managers may share the link with their own boards ahead of their next meeting. The link is view-only and open to anyone who has it.

a. Why the review was started

- The proposed Cal North district administrator position, which ultimately did not come to fruition.
- Cost relative to what the league receives for that cost from Cal North.

b. Options eliminated

- NCSA is off the table. The organization did not provide the information needed to evaluate it.
- AYSO is approximately \$40,000 more per year. It is a viable organization but does not fit any club budget. The committee provided the information and did not spend further time on it.

c. Cal North compared to US Club Soccer

- Player fees are identical at \$11.25 per player. Applied to 2,542 players from last month's count, that is about \$28,600 in player registration fees under either organization.
- Adult and staff costs: Cal North charges a \$25 live scan every other season. US Club charges a \$5 card plus \$27.55 every other year, roughly \$6 more per adult. This covers coaches, assistants, and board members.
- Insurance certificates are a wash at \$25 each and are already in the budget.
- Totals: approximately \$36,100 for Cal North and \$39,900 for US Club, a difference of about \$1.50 per player.
- Resolved open item: US Club confirmed it will issue certificates of insurance naming San Juan Unified School District as certificate holder and additional insured, at the same \$25 fee. Confirmation came from their president the night before this meeting. An inability to do this would have been a deal breaker.
- Player counts have changed since the figures were pulled, so the totals will move slightly.

d. Committee position:

The committee's consensus is that US Club Soccer is the better fit. The committee presents this as its view, not a decision. Clubs vote. Reasons given:

- The league has been with Cal North a long time and has repeatedly discussed changing without acting. Conditions have continued to decline rather than improve.
- The review identified a viable alternative. The soft dollar value of partnering with US Club is judged to be worth more than the roughly \$1.50 per player difference.

e. Discussion: registering as a league compared to registering as clubs

- Structural difference: Cal North recognizes leagues. US Club recognizes clubs. If each club registered independently, RCYSL would not exist as a registering body, and each club would need its own registrar, scheduler, referee coordinator, and quorum. Reference points are Three Rivers and the Sacramento

league, which function as groupings for play without a governing body.

- Contrary information from US Club: if RCYSL registers all players, US Club recognizes only RCYSL, which effectively turns the league into a single club. Clubs were told they have the option to come over individually or as a league.
- If the league registers as one entity, there is one uniform identity, River City, with no club designation on the kit.
- Playing rules would follow US Club. League practices such as the seeding format would need to be reviewed against US Club rules.
- If clubs register individually, RCYSL can still exist as an association that provides scheduling, referee coordination, registrar support, and advocacy, funded and staffed as the clubs choose. It would not have standing to represent clubs to US Club. Several members expect their own boards to prefer registering individually.
- Precedent: Elk Grove consolidated Laguna Creek, Monterey Trail, and its other clubs into one entity when it moved to US Club. CSA, made up of Greenhaven, East Sac, and River Park, operates as a league under NorCal, which suggests a league structure is workable.
- Consistency of experience: every RCYSL club is already affiliated with two organizations. Moving would put U6 through U19 under one organization and remove the friction seen this year at U14.

f. Discussion: voting rights

- Recreational-only clubs do not get a vote at US Club Soccer. Clubs with a select program, such as Arden Park, can vote on US Club policy. This was confirmed in the league's earlier review and needs to be reconfirmed.
- As the largest component of District 6, RCYSL currently carries significant weight at Cal North meetings. The President's influence campaign stopped the district administrator proposal before it reached a vote.
- Counterpoint raised: influence over an organization in decline is worth less each year, and clubs looking to build select programs would gain more from being inside US Club.

g. Discussion: live scan tracking - open item

- Today, live scan results are pushed to Cal North. Cal North reviews them, approves coaches, and notifies the registrar when a coach becomes ineligible, including new events such as a DUI after clearance.
- NorCal does not track live scans. Registrars attest that their coaches are cleared. This is why select, Union, and CCA coaches register through a River City club in order to be live scanned and tracked, even when they never coach a rec team. Select coaches pay their own live scan fee and do not use league codes.
- The US Club dashboard does not show live scan status. If the league leaves Cal North, it loses both the ordering path and the monitoring party.
- US Club uses JDP for background checks at \$2.55 more than live scan, and JDP status is visible on the platform. That covers the background check, not the fingerprint-based live scan and its ongoing notifications.

h. The President's position:

Every club uses Cal North because it is the path of least resistance, not because it is the only option. Union Sacramento FC has the resources to build its own path and has not, because the current path is easier. A solution exists and needs to be identified.

- The board agreed this is a material and not yet sufficiently addressed item, and that it bears directly on whether clubs register individually or through the league. Shannon, who is training the current registrar and still handles this for Union, is a resource.

Other points raised in support of a move

- Player passes under one organization make guest play, spring play dates, and moving players between rec and select far easier. Today a competitive roster with new players holding Cal North cards blocks play dates.
- Cross play and tournaments with East Sac, Greenhaven, and other area clubs become straightforward,

which matters because several RCYSL clubs are small and U12 divisions are thin.

- Being inside US Club makes it easier for a club to add a select or competitive program.
- Responsiveness: US Club responded within a day to an incident at the Rosemont Super Rec tournament. Cal North has taken weeks on comparable incidents, and in some cases the league had to report the incident first.
- Discipline: US Club and NorCal apply a published, strict penalty table, down to specific suspensions for specific language. Standardized discipline takes the decision out of club volunteers' hands and removes the perception that a penalty is personal. Clubs with repeat offenders can be put on notice.
- Cal North has dropped services over the past decade, including the tournaments it ran for roughly 50 years, which forced the league to run its own soccer fest, and the annual age group coach training the league could send coaches to for a minimal fee.
- District 6 has not held a meeting since March. The district commissioner reports no quorum. The President's view is that a district that does not hold meetings cannot know whether it has a quorum, and that the league does not currently have a functional district.
- The board noted that all of the clubs in Three Rivers and the Sacramento league were formerly Cal North, and that AYSO has receded to Davis and North Highlands in this area.

i. Next steps agreed

- Club managers take the report to their boards for review and discussion.
- Clubs return questions to the committee. Questions that can be answered quickly will be handled by email rather than held for a meeting.
- Remaining questions are addressed at the September board meeting, with a second round of club discussion in October.
- The league vote is scheduled for the October board meeting.

G. New Business –

1. Proposed Bylaw and rules updates (Gene)
 - i. a. will propose via email on Aug 20 for club review
2. Arden/Cresta Park use for meetings and events
 - i. a. Arden Park Rec and Park District requests RCYSL use Arden Park only beginning next year for meetings and events; no Cresta (incl LiveScan and preseason meetings)
 - ii. b. District required to give notice to neighbors for Cresta events
 - iii. c. coaches meeting next week may stay at Cresta as already scheduled

H. Good of the Game – none noted

I. Adjournment – time not noted

DRAFT Affiliation Committee Milestones

Milestone 1: Form Committee (by 3/18 - i.e., the March board meeting)

- Ideally the committee is comprised of at least three board members, the majority of which are club managers. I am happy to join this committee to help guide discussion, assure progress toward milestones, etc., however an experienced club manager should chair the committee.

Milestone 2: Determine Selection Criteria (by 3/31)

- At this stage, the committee defines the criteria that it believes the club managers and their boards will want/need to consider in order to be able to ultimately make an informed and confident decision on affiliation.

Milestone 3: Fact-Finding and Gathering Information (by 5/31)

- At this stage, the committee divides up the work of gathering all of the information needed to fulfill the selection criteria that was determined in the previous stage. This will likely include internet research, making calls, and other methods.

Milestone 4: Organize Information Into Presentation or Other Format and Distribute to Clubs (by 6/30)

- At this stage, the information gathered in the previous stage is organized in a straightforward, easily shareable format. (It may be very feasible to combine this milestone with the previous.)

Milestone 5: Deliberation and Decision by Clubs (by 8/31)

- During this stage, Club Managers will share the materials with their boards for consideration and allow for up to two club board meetings for the information to be discussed and a decision (or ranking of preference) determined.

Milestone 6: League Board Discussion and Vote on Future Affiliation (by 10/21 October board meeting, at the latest)

- With ample time having been allowed for the Club Managers to reach a consensus or hold a vote on affiliation, the matter will be taken up at the September board meeting. If no decision can be reached the matter will be taken up and put to a final vote at the October board meeting.

- To avoid any appearance of conflict of interest, I would recommend that all board members except for the Club Managers abstain from the vote so that the matter is decided solely by our member clubs.