



United States Adult Soccer Association Region I

2023 Winter Meeting
Hilton San Diego Bayfront
17 March 2023

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:10 a.m. PT.

Regional Director Tony Falcone welcomed everyone and thanked all for joining. Tony welcomed new members/attendees: Jonas Hart VSSA VP Adults/Registrar, Lyndelle Phillips ENY General Secretary and Stephanie Cleaves United Women's Soccer.

A moment of silence was observed in recognition of Rusty Wightman, President of NH who we lost recently and any other Region I members lost this past year. Tony also asked for members to keep in their thoughts and prayers USASA members not in attendance due to health matters: Jack Testani (CT), Claudio Frigo (Region II Director) and Karon Beyer (USASA Secretary).

Guests: Tony introduced Bruce Bode, the newly hired USASA Executive Director, who addressed the Region.

1. Roll Call & Credentials - Credentials Chairman Peter Pinori (ENY) - Secretary Scott Mapes called the roll and noted those present:

State Association	Votes	Comments
Connecticut	4	Present
Delaware	(1)	Not Present
Eastern New York	4	Present
Eastern Pennsylvania	4	Present
Maryland	3	Present
Massachusetts	5	Present
Metro DC/Virginia	5	Present
New Hampshire	1	Present
New Jersey	3	Present
Pennsylvania - West	3	Present
Rhode Island	1	Present
Vermont	1	Present
West Virginia	1	Present
Western New York	4	Present
Subtotal	39	Votes present for elections & general business

Regional Officers		
Director Anthony Falcone	1	Present
Dep. Director Mary Beth Falk	1	Present
Secretary Scott Mapes	1	Present
Treasurer William George	1	Present
Subtotal	4	Votes Present
TOTAL VOTES	43	Votes Present for general business

2. Approval of Region I 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes (24 September 2022) - The minutes approved as presented by unanimous consent. Minutes already posted on Region web site.

3. Treasurer’s Report - Region I Treasurer Bill George provided a recap of the Treasurer’s Asset/Account Statement and Profits/Loss reports 2022. Bill encourages the members to use Zelle for making payments to limit theft risk with paper checks and lost mail. The treasurer’s report to be sent to USASA for audit.

4. Director’s Report - Tony Falcone

Massachusetts Hall of Fame 2023 Inductees

Tony recognized Cezar Wasecki, Steve Siniscalchi & Alex Tsalagas for their induction.

Registration of former professional players

Tony provided clarification concerning registration of former professional players:

- Amateur Cup is limited to amateur players.
- A former professional player no longer under contract and no longer registered with a professional team is eligible upon the 31st day from that player’s last professional match and is deemed an amateur for the competition.
- Under the FIFA regulations, a player is considered amateur after their contract has terminated and after the 31st day from their last professional match.
- US Soccer no longer recognizes \$0 professional contracts and no longer requires former professionals to be registered as professionals.
- The current policy continues to allow for amateur reinstatement but as long as the competition does not require it, there is no need for a player to be reinstated.

The following discussion ensued: Howard Rubenstein (ENY) asked where in writing does the clarification reside. Tony stated the issue is governed by the FIFA Rules where player is deemed amateur after 31 days out of contract. Tony indicated that US Soccer Policy needs updating to be consistent with FIFA regulations. Dave L. (WV) insists we need clear direction on USASA rules/policies to avoid contradictions and potential appeals.

5. Reports of other Officers & Committees

- **Deputy Director, Mary Beth Falk** - no report.
- **Secretary, Scott Mapes** - no report.
- **Cups** - In Jack Testani's (CT) absence Tony gave a Cup Committee update. The Region has over 150 teams taking part in state association competitions. The Region plans to hold the Women's Championship in conjunction with the Region finals, 17-18 June. Cost is \$325/team. Hopeful attendees include ENY, MDCVA, MJ, MA, WNY, VT, CT & MD. Lyndelle (ENY) commented on the positive experience of hosting the championship. Registration to open in April. The U23 tournament will take place same weekend & capped at 12 teams. Registration fee \$495/team.
- **SoccerFest** - Seeking more teams for O30 & O40 divisions. Players will register through their state associations, not on site. Rosters to be verified by state associations. Dan R (CT) recommended that tournament expand to co-ed soccer.
- **USASA Committee Reports** - following members reported from their respective committees
 - Jim S (MDCVA) Governance Committee.
 - Dan R. (CT) and Mike H. (PAW) Technology Committee.
 - Dave L. (WVA) Appeals Committee Chair and on Federation Appeals Committee. He ask that all states review their state's appeals rules for clarity and consistency of process.
 - Vince D. (ENY) and Bill G. (MD) Budget Finance committee.
 - Scott M. (VT) Rules Committee and the committee is currently reviewing National League and Multi State League applications for consistency with USASA policies

6. Unfinished Business

Election of Region Secretary - Dan R. (CT) announced his withdrawal from the election that carried over from the previous meeting. Scott M. (VT) was reelected by unanimous consent.

7. New Business -

Bill M. (EPSL) gave an EPSL update as well as updates on other National & Multi-State leagues.

8. Guest Speakers/Announcements:

- Jim S. (MDCVA) announced he is running for one of the Adult Council Commissioner seats. Peter P. (ENY) urged the Region to support and vote for Jim.
- John Z. (NJ) discussed cup and Referee issues. Due to referee abuse and onerous complications associated with mandatory impositions created by SafeSport, background checks, multiple platforms for assigning, etc., referee numbers are down. John also concerned with recruitment of referees at Region event for college assigning.

- Tony discussed briefly the proposed fee reduction to be approved at US Soccer national council meeting from \$2 to \$1. USASA board intends to pass savings to members.

9. Good of the Game

Scott M. (VT) on behalf of VT and NH announced inaugural adult Twin State game involving the two states to be played in July as a double header with USL D2 game with VT Green, FC.

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 am PT.

Scott Mapes
Secretary
USASA Region I