

DEVON SOCCER ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Date: July 11, 2024

Time: 7:04 PM

Meeting called to order by: Sam Ruediger

IN ATTENDANCE

Sam Ruediger, Khaled Mahran, Mikaul Maygard, Sarah Wallace, Rebekah Ott, Michelle Wambold

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from previous meeting were not available for review. This meeting was set to recap the 2024 outdoor season and prepare for the fall.

AGENDA

1. Brian Ott has left the board. Need to remove him as a signing authority at the bank.
2. AGM date to be set.
3. Replacement needed for Rebekah Ott.
4. Upcoming information for the fall – ie: indoor season.
5. Need to fill other board positions.
6. Need to post meeting minutes on the DSA website.
7. Final photo pick up time?
8. 2024 season – how did it go?

BUSINESS DISCUSSED

1. Brian Ott to be removed as signing authority at the bank, on cheques etc.
 - a. Motion brought forth by Sam. Seconded by Mikaul. All in favor.
2. AGM
 - a. Will set it for September 7, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the Devon Public Library.
 - b. **Sam** to check in with the library to confirm date and time. Then send email to all DSA families and members.

3. **Sam** will need to send out an email before the AGM to let DSA families/members know that we are looking for a replacement for Rebekah's position of referee coordinator. Rebekah has offered to help train the replacement.
4. Battle River Soccer Association (BRSA) will be doing an indoor season for winter 2024/2025.
 - a. Soccer will take place in school gyms. Age groups will be U9, U11 and U13.
 - b. Teams sizes will be 10-12 people per team since it will all be 5 v 5.
 - c. BRSA may also help subsidize costs.
 - d. Devon Lions may also be a sponsor if need be.
 - e. We will need to store equipment in a central space which is accessible to all coaches.
 - f. DSA would have to source out our own coaches for the indoor season.
 - i. Sam and Khaled have volunteered to coach.
 - ii. Optional people/past coaches to reach out to include Jonathan VanderVeen and Craig Flanigan.
 - g. Games will take place on Saturday mornings. Practices will be at the discretion of DSA.
 - h. Participating communities are Devon, Leduc, Calmar, Thorsby and Pigeon Lake.
 - i. Season length is still being discussed by BRSA. It will either be a single 12 week term, or two 7 or 8 week terms (before and after Christmas).
 - j. Early bird registration at a discounted rate will be made available to families.
5. We need to clarify in the email we send out about Rebekah that the Referee Coordinator is also a Director position. Other positions needed will be: Vice President, President, Director/Tournament Coordinator, Director/Photo Coordinator.
 - a. May want to reach out to Kevin vanRyan (sp?)
 - b. We can discuss updates we need to place on the RAMP website and scheduling at an informal meeting held in late August before the AGM (possibly at the Gazebo at the Devon Lions Campground)
6. **Sam** will post meeting minutes on the DSA website. **Michelle** will send past meeting minutes to Sam. Also, we need more financial information/a better report at our meetings and on the minutes.
7. **Michelle** will contact Mike Saramaga to determine a final photo pick up time and place to help get remaining photos to their families.
8. Items discussed:
 - a. Referees – things generally went well, and they improved a lot.
 - i. DSA ended up coordinating the Calmar refs as well, which was great. Three mini refs and one regular ref returned from last year.
 - ii. Finding it difficult to retain the older, more experienced refs. And it is also hard to know the perfect number of refs we need to have in a season.
 - iii. Thorsby ref issues were discussed. Highlights include the ref favoring the Thorsby team, saying awful things to the Devon teams, the Devon parents wanted to file an official complaint. Sarah dealt with the complaint lodged to BRSA by the ref towards the DSA coaches and the disciplinary actions.
 - iv. Rebekah was also filled in about the Warburg ref who lodged a complaint against a Devon team and the resulting coach suspension.
 - v. Question raised: did we spend a lot of money on referee training?
 - b. In response to the previous question...financials were discussed briefly:
 - i. We are up approximately \$1000 after this season
 - ii. There is approximately \$15,000 in the checking account by the end of the season. This includes the loss we took on the indoor season in the fall of 2023
 - iii. There is approximately \$20,000 in savings
 - iv. Sarah asked if, one day in the future, what is the plan with the extra money in the bank?

1. It helps to keep a bit of a financial cushion. It enables us to freeze fees/keep fees low for our DSA families and account for inflation of costs as we go along. It pays for equipment, extra tournaments, the U15 year-end event.
- v. What would a comfortable/reasonable cushion be? We are not sure at the moment.
- c. Currently, we do need to buy indoor season equipment, the sign for the new shed to thank our sponsors, and there was the idea raised of a potential bursary for a high school grad (more details to come in future meetings).
- d. SoccerPoolOoza went really well. However, the U15s are not really in to SoccerPoolOoza and would like something different. DSA is open to ideas. This year, since they had a tournament cancelled, the U15s used their tournament entry money and went to Active8 rather than SoccerPoolOoza and the tournament. They really enjoyed this, but we may have to come up with something new next year.
- e. Sam was away on holidays which resulted in a little bit of chaos recruiting coaches. He also received notice that the U15 team and their parents were upset at the low number of games, no tournament, the AllStar games in Leduc being cancelled, and too many byes. Good news from the parents though – the lack of games was made up by playing Pigeon Lake.
- f. The RAMP app had some issues this year and there was scheduling confusion.
- g. Side discussion regarding making up teams was had regarding how was it done in the past? Skills tryouts at the arena, etc. Also discussed coaches being provided forms/checklists to mark off kids' skills and overall ratings (to help make teams even). **Sarah** volunteered to make up a Google form for next year in lieu of DSA trying to bring back a tryout/skills day.

ACTION ITEMS

- Names **highlighted** in **bold** found next to the items required.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, July 29, 2024 at Marci's

Meeting ended at 8:59 PM.