

Florida Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 8/2/24

Meeting – In Person at FYSA 24 AGM

Roll-Call:

X		Kai Velmer - President	X		Dave DiTillio – RVP-C			VACANT - RCDW
X		Daragh Cullen – VP Player & Co Coach Development	X		Louis Richard – RVP-D			
X		Becky McLaren - Secretary	X		Russell Walker - RCAN			
X		Justin Goldman - Treasurer	X		Lance Lass - RCAS			
X		Mike Hyatt – VP Admin & Comm.	X		Hugo Arce - RCBN			
X		Olaf Henke – VP Competition	X		Moncef Hadiji -RCBS			
X		Alice Smith - Registrar	X		John Withkowski - RCCN			
X		Marino Torrens – RVP-A	X		Ed Kinsey - RCCS			
X		Cris Whittaker – RVP- B	X		Melissa Alford - RCDE			

X = in attendance, A = Absence,
C = Called in for an in-person meeting, * = left meeting early

- **Guests:** Joel Dragan, Executive Director, Tom Tianch, RAACS, John Stacey, Past FYSA President, Jason Kopakin, SRA, Maca Leon, Weston Select, Corina Ramierz, Weston Select, Mike Sroka, GCF, Ruthie Figueroa, Disney Sports, Matthew Hansen, Disney Sports, Patrick Dicks, Disney Sports, Maurice Henderson, Parliamentarian
- **Ad Hoc:**
- **Minutes taken by:** *Becky McLaren*
- **Do we have Quorum:** Yes
- **Action Items are in red and should be reviewed at the end of the meeting**
- Motions and resulting votes are ***bolded italics and underlined.***

Called to Order: The meeting was called to order 9:03AM

Roll Call: Roll was taken by Becky McLaren

Adopt Agenda:

It was moved to adopt the agenda as presented in the dropbox and via email.

Becky – moved

Daragh – seconded

Motion Carries

Recognize Guests – none other than noted.

Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was moved to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2024 meeting.

Marino– moved

John W – seconded

Motion Carries

Correspondence: None

President’s Report:

Secretary’s Report: Report Submitted

Treasurer’s Report: Budget is in the book of reports

Additional Reports:

VP Player/Coach Development: Nothing to report

VP Admin & Comm: Report Submitted

VP of Competition: Meeting with leagues at 1:00pm in the Marabella.

Registrar: Thank everyone for getting our numbers up. Challenge everyone to go to your clubs and bring people back to FYSA

Regional VP Reports:

Region A: The three National Champions are all from Region A..

Region B: Nothing new to report

Region C: Hoping to increase numbers in Commissioner's Cup. Why are we here – we should be here for one reason for the kids. Please think before you vote on anything.

Region D: Doing well, we have a new league that was brought into the fold. Teams are very excited. Recognize Melissa who. Is attending her first board meeting.

Executive Director/Staff Report: Report was submitted.

Director of Coaching Report: Report was submitted

Standing Committees/Ad Hoc:

FSR: We have a growth in our numbers up to about 4500. Some are inactive with the background check changes but we are working on that to have them active soon. All classes are open now. We now have an assignor list. Futures program is taking off. Opened a monthly continuing education series.

TOPSoccer: TOPSoccer is going strong. Stop by the TOPSoccer booth. Talk to your clubs that if they are going to do TOPSoccer they must register their players.

Review & Discipline: Report submitted and is in the Book of Reports

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

2024 AGM: Hotel is under construction – must go outside to go to vendor hall. Please go to vendor hall.

FDLE Level Two Fingerprinting: We have been accepting now for about one month. Governor signed the bill to get the 6 month delay in implementation. We have been working with many other organizations on this. We have the ability to submit either type of background check. Right now our affiliates have a choice. What goes with this is live monitoring.

Proposed Rule Change Not in Good Standing:

It has been moved and seconded to approve the proposed change with the wording who participated in an FYSA sanctioned league or tournaments.

Cris – moved

John W – seconded

It has been moved and seconded to amend the proposed change with the wording who participated in an FYSA sanctioned league or FYSA sponsored tournament.

John Stacey – moved

Cris – seconded

John Stacey – withdrawals his amendment
Marino moves to call the question.
Cris – seconded
Motion carries

Revert back to original motion
Motion Carries

Fees Tournament Sanctioning and Reaffiliation:

It has been moved and seconded to raise the affiliation fee to \$150.00

Marino - moved
John W - seconded
Marino withdrawals his motion

Justin and Becky will work and have something to present at the next BOD meeting.

Possible Removal from Membership:

Athletic Club Miami

It was moved and seconded to remove Athletic Club Miami.

Marino – moved
John W – seconded
Motion Carries

Davie PAL

It was moved and seconded to remove Davie Pal.

Marino – moved
John W – seconded
Motion carries

West Lake FC

It was moved and seconded to not remove West Lake FC affiliate as they submitted a letter that if they cannot register 50 members by December 31.2024 the affiliation would be removed.

Marino – moved
Cris – seconded
Motion carries

Bellevue Soccer Club

It has been moved and seconded to remove Bellevue Soccer Club, Maitland Soccer Club, Malabar Soccer Club from membership.

Cris – moved
John W – seconded
Motion Carries

Southside YS

It has been moved and seconded to remove Southside YS.

Dave – moved
Lance – seconded
Motion Carries

Perry Soccer Association

It has been moved and seconded to do not remove Perry Soccer Association from membership.

Louis – moved

Marino – seconded

Motion carries

New Member Affiliations

Region A

Miramar Soccer Academy & Social Club LLC

It was moved and seconded to approve Miramar Soccer Academy & Social Club LLC.

Marino – moved

Mike H – seconded

Motion carries

Alice moves to call the question

Becky – seconded

Motion Carries

Monroe Premier

It has been moved and seconded to approve Monroe Premier.

Marino – moved

Cris – seconded

Motion Carries

Doral West Soccer Academy

It has been moved and seconded to approve Doral West Soccer Academy.

Marino – moved

Russell – seconded

Motion Carries

Association Affiliate

BCNS Soccer Events LLC

It has been moved and seconded to approve BCNS Soccer Events LLC.

Marino – moved

John W – seconded

Motion Carries

Region B

Atlantic Sports Holdings LLC DBA Orlando City Soccer School Hunter's Creek

It has been moved and seconded to approve Atlantic Sports Holdings LLC DBA Orlando City Soccer School Hunter's Creek.

Cris – moved

Marino – seconded

Motion Carries

Name Changes:

Venice S

It has been moved to table this name change.

Dave – moved

Cris – seconded

Motion Carries

Swan City SC

It has been moved to table this name change.

Dave - moved

Marino - seconded

Motion Carries

Disney Sports

Several members from Disney Sports came to address the Board.

Enjoy hosting our teams and congratulations on 50 years.

Executive Session:

For the Good of the Game

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 12:30pm

Cris – moved

Daragh– seconded

Motion Carries



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A: 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road,
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W: www.fysa.com

T: 863-268-8220

August 2, 2024

Executive Director Report

Fifty Years!

2024 marks the 50th Anniversary of FYSA! This is an amazing accomplishment. Fifty years of youth soccer advocacy in the state of Florida. We are so proud of the accomplishments and all of those who have made contributions to FYSA over the last 50 years. None of this would be possible without our incredible and dedicated membership. Our affiliates are truly what have made us a leader in the sports community for 50 years!

FYSA Staff

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the entire FYSA staff for their exceptional dedication and hard work. Their collective efforts are instrumental in ensuring the smooth operation of our association. The following individuals play key roles in FYSA and deserve recognition and appreciation for their countless contributions:

- Mike Strickler - Director of Coaching
- Mark Godwin - Associate Director of Coaching
- Christian Velasquez - Director of Competitions
- Chris Waugh - Director of Partnerships and Programs
- Franchesca Pineda - Financial Specialist
- Giancarlo DeGregorio - Events Coordinator
- Jacqui Cannon - Member Services & Registration Specialist
- Ashley Ellison - Operations & Office Administrator
- Rebecca Messina - Marketing Content Administrator
- Lucas Zincher - ODP & Events Liaison
- Raul Jara - Coaching Education Administrator

Membership Support

FYSA has again been able to provide significant financial assistance to our membership in 2023/2024. We have continued the FYSA Bucks program with an investment of over \$100,000. This program is budgeted again in the 2024/2025 fiscal year. We also continued our Foundation Grant program which provided over \$55,000 to clubs to offset the cost for players with limited financial resources. FYSA also provided travel stipends to teams who represent Florida at the Regional and National events. Over \$80,000 will be provided to teams who travel to USYS Regional and National competitions!

FDLE Level 2 Background Checks

Perhaps the most significant update of the 2023/2024 seasonal year is the change in Florida law regarding background checks for athletic coaches. Florida Statute 943.0438 was amended in 2023. The statute, as amended, requires background checks of coaches for independent sanctioning authorities (FYSA) to include an FDLE Level 2 Background Check by July 1, 2024. An FDLE Level 2 Background Check requires a fingerprint scan and check of the FDLE and the FBI database. This check will also include real-time monitoring of Florida arrests.



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FYSA supports the amendments to Florida Statute 943.0438. Athlete safety should be a top priority for sanctioning authorities and the state of Florida. Specifically, the requirement of FDLE Level 2 Background Checks will create a safer environment for all youth participants.

Since learning of this amendment, FYSA actively worked with Florida Legislators, lawyers, the FDLE, lobbyists, several private fingerprint vendors, and other Florida sports organizations. We focused our efforts on the legislative side of the FDLE Level 2 Background Check to delay the mandated fingerprinting.

We are proud to report that on June 14, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis signed the amendment that FYSA and legislators proposed to Florida Statute 943.0438 (CS/CS/HB 975). This amendment delays the mandated implementation of the FDLE Level 2 Background Check (requiring fingerprinting) to January 1, 2025.

This is a tremendous accomplishment for FYSA and the broader sports community! We want to thank and recognize Sean Stafford of McGuireWoods Consulting for taking on this work! Of course, none of this would be possible without state Senator Erin Grall (R-Vero) and Representative Dana Trubulsky (R-Ft Pierce), who acted quickly and amended their background check legislation at our request. We are so grateful for their hard work!

FYSA is proud to provide affiliates the ability to submit EITHER the FDLE Level 1 or Level 2 background checks for the 2024/2025 seasonal year.

For the 2024/2025 seasonal year, FYSA will accept EITHER the FDLE Level 1 or Level 2 Background Check. FYSA has a pathway for affiliates to submit either background check. For the 2025/2026 Seasonal Year, ALL members will be required to submit to FYSA the FDLE Level 2 Background Check which includes fingerprinting.

USYS Southern Regionals

FYSA had the honor of hosting the 2024 Southern Regional Championship in both Auburndale (Lake Myrtle Sports Complex) and Tampa Bay (Tournament Sportsplex of Tampa Bay). FYSA and our partners at Visit Central Florida and the Tampa Bay Sports Commission welcomed teams from the entire Southern Region (13 states) for a shot to qualifying for the US Youth Soccer National Championships.

Organizing and running the Southern Regional Championship was a huge undertaking. It took months of planning. Running this event at two different sites also presented many unique challenges. I am so proud of dozens of FYSA staff, board, committee members, and volunteers who made this event possible. The long days, heat, and extensive planning took its toll, but the money FYSA saved the Florida soccer community in travel costs is immeasurable.

In the end, 2024 Southern Regionals was a huge success!

On the field, Florida teams matched the same level of success. We crowned four Southern Regional Champions in 2024:



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- Miami Breakers FC 2009 Black (Region A) 15U Boys
- Strikers Miami FC 2007 Elite (Region A) 17U Boys
- Strikers Miami FC 2006 Elite (Region A) 18U Boys
- Clermont FC MIFC 2009 NL (Region B) 15U Girls

FYSA crowned two National Champions at the 2024 USYS National Championship in Orlando:

- Strikers Miami FC 2006 Elite 18U Boys
- Team Boca 16U Girls

Presidents Cup

2023/2024 was one of the most successful years for FYSA in the USYS Presidents Cup! We crowned two Southern Regional Presidents Cup Champions:

- 07 Cape Coral Cyclones Boys Black
- U19B FC Boca Predators

For the second straight year, FYSA is honored to have a USYS Presidents Cup National Champion: U19 B FC Boca Predators! Congratulations to the club and team on this tremendous accomplishment!

2024/2025

Looking ahead to the 2024/2025 seasonal year, FYSA remains committed to giving back to our members. The FYSA Bucks program, player scholarships (grants), and team travel stipends will all be funded in the next fiscal year. These initiatives will continue to support and empower our member clubs and players, fostering the growth of soccer in Florida.

Moreover, FYSA will continue to lead the region and nation in Risk Management and Safeguarding initiatives through our partnership with Players Health. By prioritizing the well-being and safety of our participants, we aim to create a protected environment for everyone involved in youth soccer.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our outgoing President, Kai Velmer. Kai has selflessly served FYSA for the last four years as FYSA Board President. His leadership and insight have been invaluable. On behalf of all of FYSA, we thank Kai and wish him all the best in his future soccer endeavors.

Director of Coaching Report

August 2, 2024

Coaching Ed Report (End of year)

Grassroots License: 60 GR Courses -a record

D Diploma: 12 course this year

C License: 7 courses applied for
(2A, 2B, 2C, 1D)

B License: 4 courses applied 4
(2 Orlando City and 2 Palm Beach

Technical Club Leadership

2 applied for

Santo Rivas is presenting this weekend

Coach Educators

Adam Agee and Willie Daffron C License

Matt Lannon D License

Mark Godwin and Mike Strickler Technical Club Leadership (DOC)

Player Development

- Coaches Meetings with various clubs
- PDIs-Where are we at with our programs?
- Coach for Community
- Customized Clinics
- FYSA Bucks Store
- Various Player Development Items

Olympic Development Program

International Trip Germany and Austria (Cordial Cup) May 10-20

- 09-10 Boys
- 09-10 Girls (lost in the quarter-finals)
- Hosts did a good job in supporting us-two chaperones with each group
- Martin did an excellent job in organizing the trip
- Friendly games before the tournament
- Wonderful setting for this event in Germany and Austria
- Invited back for 2025

Team Pool Trainings June 1-2 and 8

MLSnext team events-FL Rush and West FL

Champions Gate/Valdosta

Georgia and South Carolina

Females Atlanta June 8-11

ECNL teams GSA, UFA, and Concorde

Winning Record for both boys and girls playing against:

MLSnext teams, Region South Teams, GA teams, and ECNL

Region South Trials Charlotte, NC

Men and Females July 8-10

Developmental Camps Webber College Players born: 2011-2013

June time frame

I want to thank both Ethan and Lucas Zicher. They both did a wonderful job in everything they did to improve our program.

We look for Mark, Raul, and others help to make sure we continue to do a better job in coaching ed, player development, and ODP.



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Date: 07/31/24

Position: Secretary

Name: Becky McLaren

To: BOD

Activities since last REPORT:

- Minutes from last meeting completed
- Sent in report for the Book of Reports for AGM
- Attended and assisted with Southern Regionals
- Worked with Joel regarding staff schedules after Southern Regionals
- Continue to meet with Joel regarding Personnel
- AGM – Several communications with Chris and Rebecca for 50th Anniversary AGM
- Attended all of our Final 4 competition weekends as required
- Reviewed contracts as needed as received from Joel
- Drafted information to be posted regarding registration and device pickup for AGM and information about no combining of voting devices

Tasks I plan to complete prior to next meeting:

- Reach out to all BOD members that have committees to be ready for meeting for committee appointments
- Have a post AGM meeting with Chris and Becky

Tasks I am working on and current status:

- Mental health – doing research to see what is available to us for our members

Discussion/Action Required at the Meeting:



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Date: 08/01/24

Position: VP of Administration and Communication

Name: Mike Hyatt

To: BOD

Activities since last REPORT: Trying to work on website. Going over Not in Good Standings list. Getting the bylaws ready for AGM

Tasks I plan to complete prior to next meeting: Get re-elected. Work with the bylaws committee on making the necessary rule changes after the bylaws get passed.

Tasks I am working on and current status: Going over proposed rule changes for this AGM.

Discussion/Action Required at the Meeting: N/A

Review & Discipline Committee

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as the chairperson of this committee for the past several years. I would like to thank my committee members (Debi Ruiz, Patty Wilson, Chris Brunner, Rhonda Link-Cummings, James Bowen, Wayne, Scott, Dan Baccarini, and Margaret Clark) for their dedication and participation this past year as we reviewed the cases brought before us. This committee is charged with reviewing documentation presented regarding possible violations of FYSA bylaws and/or rules and determining if what has been presented either warrants that a regional hearing be held to further investigate the matter, if the evidence presented is insufficient to warrant a hearing, if the case should be referred back to a lower authority to address, or if a committee investigation is conducted and recommendations made to the FYSA Board of Directors to address. I would also like to thank Ashley Ellison and Joel Dragan for their assistance as we worked together to make sure that this process runs smoothly.

Below is a summary of the cases and associated regions involved that were reviewed by this committee since the beginning of the **2023-2024 seasonal year**:

<u>Charges</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Regions Involved</u>
Code of Ethics Violation	12	Region A: 7 Region B: 2 Region C: 3
Referee Assault/Abuse	11	Region A: 6 Region B: 3 Region C: 2
Poaching	2	Region A: 2
Rule 502.5 Violation	4	Region A: 4
Rule 207.6 Violation	1	Region A: 1
Rules 201, 205, 401 and 503 Violations	1	Region A: 1
Rule 401.3 Violation	1	Region A: 1
Cases Referred to Lower/ Other Authority	7	Region A: 5 Region B: 1 Region C: 1
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES	39	

As another season of soccer will soon be upon us, please keep in mind that this is “the game for all kids”, and we should, as adults, set an example of how to behave properly on and off the pitch so that the players can enjoy the sport that we all love. To all the players, coaches, parents, clubs, leagues and board members, remember that soccer is “the gentlemen’s sport” and should be fun for all. We need to keep our emotions in check, our heads on straight, and treat others as we would want to be treated.

Barbara Newton

Chairperson

FYSA Review & Discipline Committee



Project Overview

Character of Champions is a youth development platform that develops attitude, character and leadership through soccer, partnering with youth soccer clubs and associations to increase membership opportunities for children and youth from under-resourced families in underserved communities.

The Pilot “Club & Community” Program

- The first “club and community” collaboration was created between Ancient City Soccer Club and Principal Bethany Groves from The Webster Elementary School located in the underserved community of West Augustine, in St Johns County FL.
- A pilot after school program was successfully implemented between August 2023 - May 2024 attended by 24 second - fifth grade students who attended a weekly 90 minute soccer and character development coaching sessions.
- Equipment was provided by Ancient City players and their families who organized an equipment drive that enabled the after school students to receive soccer balls, cleats and shinguards.
- Funding for the pilot was raised by the club initiating a scholarship campaign from it’s membership families who made online donations.
- On field coaching sessions delivered by Tony Williams and were structured in alignment with the U.S. Soccer’s play, practice, play model through an innovative curriculum integrating soccer skills with character traits (passing & teamwork, dribbling & confidence , defending & grit)
- Students also participated in “snacktivities” soccer activities teaching the importance of a healthy diet and nutrition. Students were then encouraged to bring healthy snacks to the sessions.
- Students then participated in interactive off field classroom sessions where they discuss their ideas of how they could apply what they have learned through soccer to “train the traits “ such respect, teamwork and integrity at home, in school and as character role models in their communities.



Results of Pilot Program

- The pilot program received tremendous feedback from the principal Groves and parents of participating students who reported that a noticeable improvement in students school attendance, discipline and academic engagement
- Three students from the West Augustine program have already been integrated into Ancient City's academy and competitive programs as FYSA registered players on full scholarships.
- The club generated \$7,500 from corporate sponsorships and donations to fully fund the 2024/25 after school program at the Webster School
- A community fundraising gala attended by FYSA's Hugo Arce & Chris Whittaker raised \$35,000 to fund the growth and development of the club's outreach programming to underserved communities

Vision for the Future

- Replicate the program into schools in other underserved communities within St Johns County
- Collaborate with FYSA to expand the "club & community" model to clubs and school districts throughout the other FYSA regions.

Character of Champions Alumni Include



Timothy Weah



Brendan Aaronson



Mark Mackenzie



John Tolkin



Paxton Aaronson

Project Background & Leadership

- The origin of the character of champions program first started when its founder Tony Williams gave a keynote speech on developing the character of champions at the Delaware State ODP Banquet in 1996!

Tony's experience includes

- Region 1 ODP and ODP Europe coaching staff
- The U.S. Soccer National Scout who found Freddy Adu
- Founding the Starfinder Foundation in Philadelphia where he raised over \$5.8 million for underserved community programming, selected as one of 80 organizations globally into the FIFA Football For Hope program.
- Co-founder of The Urban Soccer Symposium with the U.S. Soccer Foundation
- Was U.S. National Director for streetfootballworld the operating partner of FIFA'S Football for Hope Program.