

Florida Youth Soccer Association Board of Directors Meeting

Date: 10/26/24

Meeting – In Person in Auburndale

Roll-Call:

X		Daragh Cullen - President	X		Dave DiTillio – RVP-C			VACANT - RCDW
A		Cris Whittaker – VP Player & Co Coach Development	X		Louis Richard – RVP-D			
X		Becky McLaren - Secretary	X		Russell Walker - RCAN			
A		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		Mike Callaway - RCCN			
X		Marino Torrens – RVP-A	X		Ed Kinsey - RCCS			
A		Justin Lauer – 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, Becky Messina, FYSA Staff, Tom Tianich, RCAAS, Stephen Huff, RCABS, Stanley Smith, Florida Elite, Corina Ramirez, Women in Soccer Chair, Mike Sroka, RCABN,
- **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 9:02am

Roll Call: Roll was taken by Becky McLaren

Adopt Agenda:

It was moved to adopt the agenda as presented.

Mike H – moved
Marino– seconded
Motion Carries

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Marino- moved
Mike H - seconded
Motion Carries

Recognize Guests – none other than noted.

Correspondence: None

Reports:

President’s Report: Last few months have been challenging. Mental Health has been a priority and the webinars have been very successful. College Coaches we are working diligently to increase attendance. Women’s incitive is huge and we will hear about the success event that occurred in Region D. Risk Management has become huge with the Level 2. We are going to whatever we can to get these kids back on the field.

Secretary’s Report: Report in dropbox

Treasurer's Report: Financial report in dropbox

Vice President Player and Coach – No Report Submitted

Vice President Admin & Comm: working on the rules with committee. Level 2 is making us do things in a different manner – it is good. Go in and check it out.

Vice President Competitions: We are in the midst of competitions. Set up is great and looks professional – it takes a lot of manpower and keeps our competition staff very busy. We have calls weekly – main task we are looking at is looking at league structure in Florida. We started the conversation in Orlando at the AGM – and we are continuing them and are working to create that pathway. USYS – E64 and E64R – sometimes there is some disconnect between us and them – and we are trying to work on that.

Registrar: Report is in the dropbox – shows we are down 4600 players from this time last year – please contact your clubs to see where their numbers are. We know that all recreational programs are not in. Check and see which clubs are down and try and have a one on one conversations with them to see why.

Region A RVP - Start sending out information for Commissioner's Cup – Region A – has 11 out of 12 teams here this weekend.

Region B RVP – report in dropbox

Region C RVP – Everything going well. Have already selected gifts for players and coaches – player gifts will be the same for all three competitions. Numbers down due to storms.

Region D RVP – Have asked people about West Commissioner – but have not found right person yet. FSPL and EDP going well – playing. Had first meeting with Melissa. Melissa – had Girls in Soccer program. ASG will be hosting Commissioners Cup in Region D and Melissa will once again spearhead this event.

Execute Director/Staff Report: Report in Dropbox

Director of Coaching Report: Report in Dropbox

Standing Committees:

TOPS: Report in dropbox

Unfinished Business:

Recognition Committee

It was moved and seconded to accept the Recognition Committee as presented.

Marino – moved

Louis – seconded

Motion Carries

Women In Soccer Committee

It was moved and seconded to accept the Women in Soccer Committee as presented.

Marino -moved

Mike H – seconded

Motion Carries

Protest and Appeals – New Member of Committee

It was moved and seconded to put Joann Quinn on Protest and Appeals committee

Marino – moved

Dave – seconded

Motion Carries

New Business:

It was moved and seconded to amend the agenda to add another affiliation to Region A South.

Marino- moved
Dave – seconded
Motion Carries

New Member Affiliate Applications

Region A North:

All Play Soccer Club Inc.

It moved and seconded to accept All Play Soccer Club Inc.

Marino - moved
Russell – seconded
Motion Carries

RPS Academy

It was moved and seconded to accept RPS Academy.

Marino – moved
Russell – seconded
Motion Carries

Region A South

Bay Lions Florida Soccer Club Academy, Corp

It was moved and seconded to accept Bay Lions Soccer Club Academy, Corp.

Marino – Moved

Russell - seconded

Motion Carries

Soccer Management Entertainment Group LLC/Athletum FC

It was moved and seconded waive the 60 day requirement for Soccer Management Entertainment Group LLC/Atheletum FC and for a provisional approval so that the 15 mile letter can be sent out by the office.

Marino – moved
Dave – seconded
Motion Carries

Region C

Citrus Youth Soccer Association (Associate Affiliate)

It was moved and seconded to approve Citrus Youth Soccer League.

Dave – moved

Marino – seconded

It was moved and seconded to amend to motion to add provisional approval allowing them to bring their rules to comply with FYSA rules.

Becky – moved

Marino – seconded

Motion carries

Vote on amended motion

Motion Carries

Women In Soccer Symposium Region D Pilot – Melissa Aflord

Melissa – spoke about this event and the different things that they had. Event was completely lead by women. They had 4 different rooms with a different topic in each room. Very successful and the day could not have been better. She raised \$3500.00 that covered the costs of the event. Please look at the article on the FYSA website. Now talking about how to take to other regions. Find a date, find a facility, find sponsors in your region.

Corina – already spoke to Ft. Lauderdale United and they are willing to assist. They are thinking February.

FYSA Grants, Bucks and Scholarships

All documents are in the dropbox – Joel referred everyone there.

Hurricane Relief – two applications received thus far – we will be pushing out again. Application open till November 18

FYSA Bucks – Process is not easy – send it out to all administrators of clubs – include registrars. Make sure link is tested before sending out. Please think about if we could use these funds somewhere else

Foundation Grant/Scholarship

It was moved and seconded to approve the Foundation Grant process as presented.

Marino - moved

Becky - seconded

Motion Carries

US Soccer – Birth Year Band

AYSO, US Club and USYS have said they are banding together on this as they had a press release stating this.

There was much discussion about this and it gave Joel what he needs to take to the Federation this meeting this week.

Financial Update

Joel gave a financial update – went over the highlights from what is in the dropbox.

Joel reminded those that have corporate cards to please be mindful and follow financial policy – this is for Justin.

Possible Rule Change (US Soccer 531-6)

It has been moved and seconded to accept the proposal as presented Rule 502.6.

Marino – moved

Mike H – seconded

Motion Carries

Executive Session:

It has been moved and seconded to ratify the decisions made in Executive Session

Becky – moved

Louis – seconded

Motion Carries

For the Good of the Game

World Cup – how can we part of – how can we promote – can we have world cup programming – bring the game to the people. – Lous seconds Olaf about participation

Louis – Thanked Melissa again – and encouraged everyone to please get involved.

Ed – what is community – the money we spend benefits the whole community and our membership

Daragh – His daughter was just certified and did her first game – U10 Boys and was AR2 – she so enjoyed it
3 teams will be flown over from Barcelona and will be playing Strikers Miami

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 2:05pm

Marino – moved

Mike H – seconded

Motion Carries



**FLORIDA
YOUTH
SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

A: 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road,
Auburndale, FL 33823

W: www.fysa.com

T: 863-268-8220

Executive Director Report October 26, 2024

Office and Staffing:

As of September 23, FYSA is again fully staffed! We have welcomed to our team Aubrey Harrison as a full-time employee. Aubrey's role is primarily ODP administration but also assists the competitions department. With the increased workload of the FDLE Level 2 screening (more below), it was necessary to reallocate responsibilities across departments. Ashley Ellison has taken on much of the FDLE Level 2 screening (along with Jacqui Cannon). Ashley has shed some of her competitions responsibilities which Aubrey has picked up. Aubrey's title is: ODP and Events Administrator.

The FYSA office will be closed (per the employee handbook): November 27-29 (Thanksgiving) and December 23-January 1 (Holidays).

Grassroots Symposium:

Mark Godwin and I attended the 2024 USYS Grassroots Symposium in Salt Lake City, UT. This was another excellent event put on by US Youth Soccer and the US Soccer Foundation. The event was formally the US Soccer Foundation Urban Soccer Symposium. Great breakout sessions, networking opportunities and firsthand knowledge. Though no one took us up on the opportunity, FYSA did offer to pay for the registration fee and lodging for our recreational annual award winners. In the future we will look to provide more notice of the event and even promote alongside of the FYSA annual awards.

FYSA Grants, Bucks and Scholarships:

The FYSA Bucks Store was opened October 2nd, 2024. This year, the primary responsibility of running the Bucks Store has been shifted to Rebecca Messina. Orders and being filled and shipped!

2023/2024 Bucks usage by region:

Region A- 69%

Region B- 71%

Region C- 80%

Region D- 98%

The Foundation Grant program (player scholarships) is ready to launch and will be discussed under New Business.

In response to Hurricane Melton and Helene, FYSA has allocated \$250,000 for grant relief to our affiliates. The grant criteria and application were distributed to all affiliates on October 18. Applications need to be submitted by November 18 and funds will be distributed by year end. FYSA has received two grant applications so far, both out of Region C.

FDLE Level 2 Checks:



**FLORIDA
YOUTH
SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

A: 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road,
Auburndale, FL 33823

W: www.fysa.com

T: 863-268-8220

Due to the increased workload and constraints of the new FDLE Level 2 background check, FYSA is now processing the background checks for referees. Since 2021, referees had been processing and adjudicating their own checks with FYSA having access to the results. This partnership is off to a great start!

FYSA has again engaged with our lobbyist in Tallahassee (Sean Stafford) regarding the Florida Statue mandating fingerprint background checks. It appears, that other sport governing bodies and youth serving entities have begun to realize the impact and cost of the Level 2 check. There may be an appetite for further legislative change.

A few notes from processing the first round FDLE Level 2 Check:

Increased Cost

- Estimated \$1mil in screening costs to the soccer community
- Inability to share criminal justice reports between organizations (employment, other sports, schools, volunteering etc.)
- Multiple fingerprints on file

Time investment

- Applicants drive time
- Some have reported taking hours to try and capture accurate prints
- Limited hours of storefronts
- Increased staffing needs: FDLE/FBI training, support, manual adjudication (no API)

Fingerprint Rejection

- Varying levels of technology at storefronts
- Involvement of multiple entities (FDLE, FBI, storefronts, secure third-party provider)
- Geographical constraints
- Fingerprints degrade over time in older applicants (roughly 2% of the population will not be able to process)

Arrest Monitoring

- One arrest record reported in first 3,000 submissions (June 2024)
- Arrest notification presents difficulties in adjudication (presumption of innocence)
- Applicants have expressed hesitation to have a youth serving organization have immediate access to arrest information
- Continued monitoring after year one- who is returning?

Criminal Justice Information Reported

- Information has been comprehensive but often incomplete
- Inconsistent (or missing) disposition: Adjudication withheld, nolo contendere, dismissed, abandoned, deferred, dismissed by persecutor, guilty, not guilty, not reported.
- Military records
- Illegal alien- ICE deported, apprehended, inadmissible

Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) Clearinghouse

- Per the statute, an entirely new process will take effect in 2026 (or a later date)
- Local organizations will lose access to criminal justice information
- No firm date of implementation creates uncertainty of expiration of current check



**FLORIDA
YOUTH
SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

A: 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road,
Auburndale, FL 33823

W: www.fysa.com

T: 863-268-8220

Safeguarding/Risk Management:

FYSA has engaged with Players Health to begin a review and possible revision of our Risk Management Policy. The policy was adopted in 2020 and revised in 2021. The soccer landscape and, more significantly, the SafeSport Code has changed in that time. Our policy will be updated to reflect the latest in safeguarding measures and federal mandates. Changes to the Risk Management Policy will be brought before the board for a vote.

Rules and Revisions Committee:

The FYSA Rules and Revisions Committee is hard at work after the passage of the bylaw revision. This year’s goal is to amend and update the rules. The committee has set all 2024/2025 meeting dates and expects to make significant progress. The committee has already met several times to confirm changes to the rules based on the passage of the bylaw revision. The new rules were posted October 9 and distributed to the membership October 10. ‘Thank you’ to this hardworking group!

Mike Hyatt

Alice Smith

Marino Torrens

Lee Blenman

Barb Newton (24/25
member)

Jenn DiTillio

John Stacey

Justin Lauer (23/24 member)

US Soccer Member Meetings:

October 29-30, I will be attending the US Soccer Member Meetings in Chicago, Illinois. This annual meeting will likely highlight updates on many key areas:

- Age group band
- World Cup 2026
- Safeguarding and SafeSport updates
- ITC process
- Coaching license updates
- 2025 AGM and governance information

Financial:

The office is preparing for a financial review with our auditors Schafer, Tschopp, Whitcomb, Mitchell and Sheridan, LLP. They will be in the office December 5-6. We perform a full association audit every other year. We had an official audit for FY ’23 so FY ’24 is just a review.

FY ’24 financials are still being finalized with expenses and income being deferred to the current or former fiscal year. Preliminary estimations put us very close to a bottom-line net-zero for FY ’24.

Mark your calendars:

Thursday, November 21, 2024	2024 Wrap-up	Zoom
January 8-11, 2025	Coaches Convention	Chicago, IL
Saturday, January 18, 2025	Full Agenda	In-Person Only Location TBD
Thursday, March 27, 2025	Partial Agenda	Zoom
April 5-6, 2025	Commissioners Cup State Finals	Lake Myrtle
April 20-21, 2025	Presidents Cup Finals	Lake Myrtle
May 17-18, 2025	State Cup Finals	Lake Myrtle



**FLORIDA
YOUTH
SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

A: 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road,
Auburndale, FL 33823

W: www.fysa.com

T: 863-268-8220

Wednesday, May 21, 2025	Partial Agenda	Zoom
Wednesday, July 9, 2025	Partial Agenda-AGM Prep/ Budget	Zoom
Friday, August 8, 2025	Full Agenda at the AGM	In-person only Orlando
Sunday, August 10, 2025	Post-AGM Meeting	In-person only Orlando



**FLORIDA
YOUTH
SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

A: 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road,
Auburndale, FL 33823

W: www.fysa.com

T: 863-268-8220

Date: 10/23/24

Position: Secretary

Name: Becky McLaren

To: BOD

Activities since last REPORT:

- Minutes from last meeting completed
- Spoke with Joel about Hurricane plan for employees for Helene and Milton
- Ran hearing for Region C
- Went to office and had in person meeting with Chris and Becky – post AGM meeting
- Selected members of the BOD for a Risk Management Appeal
- Watched the mental health webinar – will be promoting participation to members
- Worked with corporate officers on process for hurricane grants
- Look at adding a rule regarding disqualification for Risk Management if coach/volunteer has been disqualified by another governing body

Tasks I plan to complete prior to next meeting:

Tasks I am working on and current status:

Discussion/Action Required at the Meeting:

Hurricanes have changed our Coaching ED and our ODP schedule

Coaching Ed Report

Grassroots licenses have been done virtually

D Licenses

- North Port, Hollywood, Orlando City, Ocala, and Islamorada. Are the locations.
- We had to cancel all the D licenses during Milton
- Virtual meetings (internet connections is an issue)
 - Student coaches are coming from all parts of the state, and all have different issues
- In person meetings (2)-most can come to one meeting but not 2
 - Candidates are trying to do one meeting at one course and the second meeting at a different course
- We are still working on the D license schedule with the student coaches so they can do the virtual and in person meetings

B and C Licenses have had some issues and we were able to

ODP

We also had some issues with the hurricanes:

Auburndale Trials: good to go on Thursday night and then cancel on Friday.

Reschedule to the next weekend

Palm Coast Trials: cancelled and moved to Nov. 2-3 for 08-13 trials (was supposed to be a pool training)

Countless hours dealing with this issue. I wanted to thank Aubrey, Chris and Raul in support of this effort.

New dates posted on the website

<https://www.fysa.com/odp-tryouts/> Tryouts

<https://www.fysa.com/odp-calendar/> Calendar for the rest of the year



**FLORIDA
YOUTH
SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

A: 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road,
Auburndale, FL 33823

W: www.fysa.com

T: 863-268-8220

Date: October 24, 2024

Position: Chairperson, Review & Discipline Committee

Name: Barbara Newton

To: BOD

Activities since last REPORT:

- We welcomed two new members to the committee.
- Received two new cases for review for the 2024-2025 seasonal year: One for COE violation in Region B and one for referee assault in Region A.

Tasks I plan to complete prior to next meeting:

- Distribute new cases for review by committee members to determine viability for a regional hearing.
- Send new USSF language for referee assault, abuse and gross misconduct to committee members.

Tasks I am working on and current status:

- None

Discussion/Action Required at the Meeting:

- None



**FLORIDA
YOUTH
SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

A: 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road,
Auburndale, FL 33823

W: www.fysa.com

T: 863-268-8220

Date: 10/19/24

Position: RVP B

Name: Justin Lauer

To: BOD

Activities since last REPORT:

Affiliated leagues in the region were surprised Gotsport was attempting to increase league fees mid-season. I was able to investigate this with Joel and discover FYSA negotiated a \$10 per team league fee rate charged to FYSA Affiliated Leagues for using Gotsport. This rate was lower than the \$12.50-20.00 charges the company was trying to assess. No FYSA affiliated league should be paying more than \$10 per team to Gotsport for league scheduling.

There have been issues with referees struggling to complete fingerprints at UPS stores that are required for background checks. There are some techniques that may help increase success rates that FYSA office staff have captured on a key point sheet. We learned that a person who fails must return to the same UPS store for a second attempt. One referee had to make 2 trips (200 miles per trip) to a special location to get cleared. There is some concern that this process may provide the same level of challenges to volunteer coaches that will be required to complete this process after January 1st.

Attended all FYSA BOD Zoom meetings that have taken place since the AGM

Provided recommendations for FYSA committee appointments

Tasks I plan to complete prior to next meeting:

Send information to region B Affiliates as required to keep the region informed

Tasks I am working on and current status:

Launching Region B Commissioners Cup registration through Gotsport. Settings are getting verified and then promotional emails will be sent out.



**FLORIDA
YOUTH
SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

A: 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road,
Auburndale, FL 33823

W: www.fysa.com

T: 863-268-8220

Date: October 25, 2024
Position: TOPSoccer Committee Chair
Name: Jennifer DiTillio
To: BOD

Activities since last REPORT:

TOPSoccer Training classes were held in Region A, Region B, Region C and at the AGM. There was a request for an additional training in Region C – This was held in September.

FYSA TOPSoccer has partnered with The ARC of Florida to get a footprint into the Special Needs Committee. This organization opens the door for our programs and parents to be able to find additional resources.

Planning has been underway for:

1. A One Day TOPSoccer Seminar for TOPSoccer Leaders to be held on December 7, 2024 in Oldsmar, FL at the Courtyard. Chris W and Jenn worked on the Registration Portal info.
2. Festival with the Rowdies set for December 8, 2024 – BOD is invited to participate.

Committee members are reaching out to all TOPSoccer Programs to get accurate information. Jenn and Chris W have been working together to get updates on the webpage for TOPSoccer.

There are 7 new programs starting before February:

Plantation FC Rush

West Pines

East Pasco

TBU

FC Tampa

Dynamo

Pinellas County United

Tasks I plan to complete prior to next meeting:

1. Provide accurate list of TOPSoccer Programs for Club Finder
2. Announcement out about the TOPSoccer Grants
3. Agenda finalized for December 7th
4. Open Registration for the Rowdies Festival
5. Plan TOPSoccer Training schedule for next 6 months
6. Plan TOPSoccer Events across the state
7. Set up Webinar session for TOPSoccer Parents on Guardianships – presented by Brown & Brown – Title Sponsor for the December 7th event

Tasks I am working on and current status



**FLORIDA
YOUTH
SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

A: 2828 Lake Myrtle Park Road,
Auburndale, FL 33823

W: www.fysa.com

T: 863-268-8220

1. A One Day TOPSoccer Seminar for TOPSoccer Leaders to be held on December 7, 2024 in Oldsmar, FL at the Courtyard.
 - a. Hotel is secured
 - b. Chris W and Jenn worked on the Registration Portal info
 - c. Secured a title sponsor for this event
 - d. Design for T-shirts for all registered attendees
 - e. Sponsorship requests sent – in kind donations
 - f. Giveaways/gifts for attending
2. Festival with the Rowdies set for December 8, 2024
 - a. Finalizing with Rowdies
 - b. Ordering gifts for attendees

Discussion/Action Required at the Meeting: