

Board of Captains  
December 10, 2008, 6:30

The meeting was called to order by President Hollis Levy. All teams had representatives present. The new board members introduced themselves. All teams submitted their registration forms and fees to Lorie.

The first agenda item was to review the team standings for the fall 2008 season and make recommendations pertaining to which teams should move up a division and which should move down.

- Division 1A – AC Cowgirls would move up from 1B to 1A. Arsenal would move down to Division 1B
- Division 1B – Harrison Lasers would move up from Division 2 to Division 1B.
- Division 2 – Tartans would move to Division 3 and Shakti would move up from Division 3 to Division 2. Nemesis has been dissolved.

The next item of discussion was the possibility of playing games during the winter break.

- Efforts are being made to find fields on which to play without much luck
- Advertise to try and raise interest, hopefully finding new players that will be committed into the future.

There has been interest in starting 1 – 2 over 40 teams.

- Some scrimmages have been held, but there still needs to be more people interested before anything more organized can be pursued.
- Round Rock has a 7 versus 7 league that might be a good place to start an 040 team.
- Mention was made of registering an 040 team in Division 3, but because of crossover issues causing conflicts with players ability to play on an 040 team as well as their main team, it was decided that would not work well.
- Possibility of 040 games during the week, but there would be field availability issues.

Claudella shared information about the upcoming State Cup tournaments.

- State Cup for 030 is the weekend of February 21 and 22 in Houston
- State Cup – Open Division is the weekend of April 4 and 5 in Houston
- Claudella will send out an email asking for volunteers for both events
- There was a tie in the standings in 030 for the second place team. Clique ended up in 2<sup>nd</sup> place due to goal differential.
- Claudella needs to know soon if the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams want to go to State Cup. If not, then the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> teams would be invited instead (if appropriate)
- The Allies plan on registering as a 040 team, so that would leave a spot for the Wildcats.

Information regarding fields

- Marla is in charge of assigning field space and working with the county as the coordinator
- She will do her best to equitably split the games between the 3 current sites (2-3 week rotation)
- The county has implemented a new fee schedule. We are required to put a deposit down to reserve the fields. (see new cancellation policy below)

- In addition, we pay for the fields by the hour, so it is critical to start on time to prevent paying unnecessary fees.

#### Referee requirements

- There have been issues with finding referees for women's games. This is because currently, some teams need 3 refs while others only need 1. Refs don't want to stay if they can't be guaranteed multiple, consecutive games to officiate.
- To resolve this issue, ALL games will now have 3 refs. The ref fee for 3 refs is \$45. It is understood that all games probably will not have all 3 refs, but we must be prepared to pay for all 3 at each game.
- In order to keep games on time, the game needs to begin even if all 3 refs are not present.
- If there are refs standing around not working, the captains should feel free, if their game has no ref, to go and request one of them to work their game.
- All captains should be sure and have printed rosters and player cards for all their players ready for each of their games.
- A recommendation to expedite the games would be to have each captain check in the opposing teams players (check the cards against the roster). This is only a suggestion and should only be done if the captain is comfortable with it. If a problem is found during this check in, the ref should address the situation, not the captain.

#### Game Cancellation

- Because of the change in field fees (see above), there is a need to change the league cancellation policy.
- If you cancel prior to 14 days before a scheduled game, then there is no fee to the team.
- If you cancel in fewer than 14 days prior to a scheduled game, then there is a fee of \$30 (covers field fee)
- If you forfeit a game, then the fee is \$140.
- The motion was made by Marilyn Butler to accept this change and was seconded by Rebecca Devine. This change to the league rules passed. As an aside, Hollis recommended that all captains read the Constitution and rules to familiarize themselves with their and the officers' responsibilities.

#### AWSL tournament

- A summer (June 2009) date was discussed, but it was decided this was not a good time (based on past performance of summer tournaments)
- October 2009 is an optimum time, but there could be conflicts with other tournaments.
- Night games were suggested. The county is not receptive to this. Most fields have a 10:00 PM curfew. It would also necessitate paying overtime to park employees. Lighted field availability is also an issue.
- Onion Creek or Zilker were suggested as possible sites.

#### Website

- Contract with the web developer, Ryan, to improve the league website. This would involve about 35 hours of time at a cost of \$3,500 - \$4,000. Cindy McDonald made a motion to approve the expenditure and the motion was seconded by Christina. The item passed.
- Some suggested improvements to the website were mentioned. These included:
  - Make game cards available rather than team rosters. These would include information for both teams as well as which is the home team.

Include player stats and other information of interest

Keep the database of potential players current and purge old information

#### Other topics

- There is outside interest in starting a women's semipro league in Austin. There are a lot of teams, already, in California. There would be a lot of costs involved (travel, stadium rental, police, etc.)
- Cindy mentioned there would be a professional indoor match on January 17<sup>th</sup> at the South Austin indoor facility.
- The board is trying to come up with some ideas to make better use of our cash on hand. This would give us an opportunity to grow our money at a faster rate.