



SACRAMENTO VALLEY WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

Executive Committee:

Dawn Cole

President

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Tara Dunn

Vice President/Secretary

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Christine Lush

Treasurer

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Martha Dominguez

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Heather Ramil

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Kim Erickson

Fields

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Vacant

Schedule

Lani Bondshu

Equipment

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Deidre Byrant

Valley Cup

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Nancy Valle

Recruitment and Marketing

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Vacant

Website

Kathleen Casanave

Immediate Past President

PAD Chair

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MINUTES OF THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, November 14, 2014

6:00 p.m.

(ISA 2000 - 4670 Aldona Lane, Sacramento CA 95841)

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call – **The meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm. Introductions of all team representatives were made in the room.**

The following 19 teams were present. In addition, a new team represented by Jessica Pallotta was present.

Arsenal
Cori's Crew
Crossfire
Flames
Kaos
Killer Bees
Las Damas
Las Patas
Let It Go
Let's Play

Mai Tai
Renegades
Right Stuff
Samba
Still Kickin
Storm
Thunder
Weekend Warriors
Yaquis
New Team

Officers and Members at Large:

President.....	Dawn Cole
Vice President/Secretary.....	Tara Dunn
Treasurer	Christine Lush
Referee Coordinator.....	Martha Dominguez (absent)
Registrar	Heather Ramil
PAD	Kathleen Casanave
Fields	Kim Erickson
Schedule.....	Interim Kim Erickson/Christine Lush
Equipment.....	Lani Bondshu
Valley Cup	Deidre Bryant (absent)
Recruitment/Marketing	Nancy Valle
Website.....	Steve Robenalt (absent)

- II. Welcoming remarks – **Dawn welcomed the team representatives and expressed her appreciation of everyone's participation.**

- III. **The minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on June 30, 2014 were held over.**
- IV. Reports of Officers
- A. President-Dawn Cole – **Dawn’s report was given during the welcoming remarks.**
 - B. Vice President/Secretary-Tara Dunn – **Nothing to report.**
 - C. Treasurer-Christine Lush – **Christine reported that all expenditures are within budget. She noted that in January 2015 Gibson Ranch would be raising their field use fees. At this time, the Board of Directors voted on Item VIII.(A.) - Amend 2014-15 Budget – Increase Field Fees for Spring 2015 (see below for the vote). Christine also notified teams that credit balances would be emailed next week.**
 - D. Referee Coordinator-Martha Dominguez (absent) – **In Martha’s absence, Dawn gave a report that refs have gotten push back on some of the enforcement of our League rules such as uniforms and jewelry as two examples. The rule states that uniforms consist of matching shirts, shorts, and knee length socks. There was general discussion that players wearing uniforms that are different shades of a color, different colors of socks, players wearing the same numbers and players with no numbers create chaos during game play. Dawn also reported that Refs get frustrated when teams aren’t arriving before game time. She noted that Refs will shorted game times when the game does not start on time, however, if the Refs are late, then games should be played full-time. A suggestion was made that the Board consider raising Ref fees for the next season. [Checked minutes, current referee fees have been in place prior to 2007-08 season, however the League increased the Ref fees paid at Valley Cup starting with 2008 VC tournament.]**
 - E. Registrar-Heather Ramil – **Heather asked all teams to turn in their player passes with their team registration information for Spring 2015. She noted that US Club Soccer’s website has been hard to log-in to but that team managers should be able to add players, however, only Heather can upload pictures and player documents/ waivers.**
- V. Reports of Standing Assignments
- A. PAD-Kathleen Casanave – **Kathleen reported that there were 4 red cards: 2 for dissent and 2 for violent conduct. There was discussion about the Procedure and Disciplinary committee’s process in the League’s Rules and Procedures. Some expressed the opinion that the process is too long to be effective. There was a question regarding the purpose of the Appeal process and what it is for. In general, the appeal process should not be used to dispute a red card, however in Kathleen’s opinion the appeal process is for suspensions and other types of complaints.**
 - B. Fields-Kim Erickson – **Kim reported that Cherry island will be closed in January 2015 and noted that teams can request a field preference. She noted that fields at Cherry Island, Gibson Ranch and Elk Grove will be used for the remainder of the season.**
 - C. Schedule-(Vacant – Christine Lush & Kim Erickson) - **Kim reported that some teams are tired of playing the same teams multiple. In an effort to provide more variety, she reported that cross-over games will be scheduled for certain divisions, where the top half of middle tier divisions (D2 and D3) may play against the lower half of teams in the divisions above them.**
 - D. Equipment-Lani Bondshu – **Lani reported that teams should keep equipment for next season. Any teams that need anything should email her.**
 - E. Valley Cup-Deidre Bryant – **In Deidre’s absences, Dawn reported that information on Valley Cup will go out in December. Early team registration will be due in February. Lani reported that there are 16 teams registered for the Indoor Tournament in December. Teams play at ISA and Estadio**

Azteca with divisions for Over-30, Over-50 and Rec C. This year there will be no merchandise to sell.

- F. Recruitment and Marketing-Nancy Valle – **Nancy noted that she has been working with and talking to soccer stores and younger players on behalf of the League. There was discussion about how to manage new players wishing to join a team in our League (orphans) and how to promote an open process linked to our website.**
- G. Website-Vacant (Interim Deidre Bryant) – **In Deidre and Steve’s absence, Dawn gave a brief report of the League’s efforts with Soccer Max to work through some final bugs in the software as effectively and efficiently as possible to launch the website.**

VI. Reports of Special Committees

- A. Referee of the Year Award (Martha) – **Nothing to report.**
- B. December Indoor Soccer Tournament – **Lani gave a brief report on the Indoor Soccer Tournament coming up on Saturday, December 6, 2014. She noted that ISA 2000 provides the League a field at no charge while we pay a fee at Estadio Azteca. There are 16 teams in Over-30, Over 50 and Recreation C divisions. She reminded teams that no cleats are allowed and this year there is no merchandise left over from Valley Cup to sell.**

VII. Unfinished Business – **none.**

VIII. New Business

- A. Amend 2014-15 Budget – Increase Field Fees for Spring 2015:

Fall 2015

Motion to amend the 2014-15 Budget to increase the field fees for Spring 2015.

Motion by: Yaquis

Second by: Crossfire

Discussion: No discussion.

Vote:	Yes = 20	Absent = 0
	No = 0	Abstain = 0

The motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Proposal to Clarify and Amend Rule 4 (Glasses and Jewelry) and Jewelry Waiver.
Tara introduced a proposal to amend the Rule related to change the rule from a prohibition on all jewelry to a more relaxed rule allowing players to wear some permanent and non-removable jewelry subject to the discretion of the officiating referee. There was discussion about the League’s liability and risk. A few teams requested a legal opinion first before considering any changes.

Motion to table amendments to the jewelry rule until a legal opinion can be obtained about the League’s liability.

Motion by: Samba

Second by: Weekend Warriors

Vote:	Yes = 17	Absent = 0
	No = 2	Abstain = 1

Motion to table amendments to the jewelry rule passed.

- C. Proposal for New Rule – Dual-Rostered Players – Teams were referred to handouts passed out (copied below):

SVWSL is operating under an informal set of existing rules and guidelines for dual-rostered players, but these rules are not written into our Rules and Procedures. The existing rules and guidelines are:

- A player is allowed to register on two different teams (dual-roster) by SVWSL and US Club Soccer as long as the teams do not play in the same division (I, II, III, or IV).
- The player must pay the full fee (currently \$25) for a player pass for each team.
- The registrar issues a separate player pass for each team, but the pass is a different color in order to identify the player as dual-rostered.
- The scheduler takes dual-rostered players into consideration in preparing the schedule if requested by one of the teams.
- The registrar asks the player to identify which team is their “primary” team, but the league does not do anything with that information.
- If a dual-rostered player receives a red card on one team, the player is also suspended from playing with her second team for the same number of games.

EXISTING INFORMAL RULES AND GUIDELINES TO BE ADDED TO OUR RULES AND PROCEDURES

Rule __. Dual-Rostered Players.

- A. A player is allowed to register on two different teams (dual-roster) by SVWSL and US Club Soccer as long as the teams do not play in the same division (currently I, II, III, or IV).
- B. The player must pay the full fee (currently \$25) for a player pass for each team.
- C. The registrar will issue a separate player pass for each team, but the pass is a different color in order to identify the player as dual-rostered (or the registrar may issue one pass for the player which shows both team names).

Rule __. Disciplinary Actions for Dual-Rostered Players.

- A. If a dual-rostered player receives a red card during her first game on any given match day, she will not be allowed to play in her second team’s scheduled game on that day.
- B. The ejected player’s passes will be pulled for both of her teams when the player receives a red card on one team.
- C. If a player receives a red card in her first game on any given match day, and she knowingly plays on her second team before her player’s pass is pulled for that team, the PAD committee may add additional punishment, including fines in addition to game suspensions.
- D. The red card signifies an ejection from all league activities for both teams (as a player, spectator or coach) until the PAD committee rules on the ejection.
- E. The PAD committee will determine how many games a player will be suspended for a red card. Any game suspension is served for each team on which the offending player is rostered, not just the team on which the player was playing when she received the red card.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO OUR EXISTING INFORMAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

Proposal 1: A dual-rostered player can only play on a second team that is one division above or one division below the division of the player's primary team.

Problem(s) rule is trying to address:

- Higher division player(s) may dominate the lower-division game and give an unfair advantage to the lower-division team.
- It creates a safety issue for Div IV teams (over-30), because of the wide age-range and the different skill levels in Div IV.
- It creates a safety issue in Div IV, because the higher-division players are more aggressive.

Arguments in favor of Proposal 1:

- Hope to restrict highly-skilled or more aggressive players from playing in lower divisions.
- Levels the playing field for Div IV, since no players will be coming from Div I or II.
- Consistent with the league's existing rules/guidelines for bracketing and for scheduling cross-over games.

Arguments against Proposal 1:

- Skill level and aggression level is the real problem. Those players can still play in Div IV without dual-rostering in another division.
- Dual-rostering allows our existing players to try over-30 without leaving their primary team, which promotes building our over-30 division. Restricting divisions will reduce those opportunities.
- Building an over-40 division might help alleviate the skill and aggression issues.

Discussion on Proposal 1: Yaquis commented that this proposal is a slippery slope and that skill level may not be a valid issue. Anyone of the appropriate age (i.e. Over-30) should be able to sign up for an Over-30 team. Some teams voiced concern about playing against 29 year olds as players get older into their 50s and 60s. There was discussion about dual registered players helping to fill out team rosters on Over-30 teams and also opening up an Over-40 division.

Motion to approve Proposal 1 that a dual-rostered player can only play on a second team that is one division above or one division below the division of the player's primary team.

Motion by: Las Damas

Second by: Let It Go

Discussion: There was additional discussion about when and how changes would affect the registration process as there might not be enough time for the Registrar to double-check each players' status on other teams.

Motion amended to approve Proposal 1 that a dual-rostered player can only play on a second team that is one division above or one division below the division of the player's primary team beginning during registration for the Fall 2015 Season.

Motion by: Las Damas

Second by: Let It Go

Discussion: Team Samba noted that this rule would not allow mothers and daughters to play on the same teams in Over-30 if they also play in another higher division.

Vote: Yes = 5 Absent = 0
 No = 15 Abstain = 0

Motion to approve Proposal 1 did not pass.

Proposal 2: A dual-rostered player must designate one team as their “primary” team, and then that player must receive permission from their primary team in order to dual-roster with another team.

Problem(s) rule is trying to address:

- Player is poached by another team asking them to dual-roster.
- Player has more fun on second team and stops coming to primary team’s games.
- Player doesn’t come to primary team’s game or comes late, causing primary team to incur a fine for not having enough players.
- Player is too tired to give 100% to primary team after playing with second team.

Arguments in favor of Proposal 2:

- Increases communication between team and player, so everyone knows what to expect.
- Increases player commitment to primary team.
- Primary team has more control and predictability over roster.
- Players will be on time at kickoff.
- Players will have energy to play for 90 min.

Arguments against Proposal 2:

- This is something the team and player can handle without the league being involved.
- A team can refuse to register (or can drop) a player who wants to dual-roster.
- The league can’t control which team a player decides to play with. A player can ask to be dropped from Team A and can then register with Team B during the same season under SVWSL rules and US Club Soccer rules.

Discussion on Proposal 2: When dual-rostering was first introduced some teams felt that players needed to ask permission from their first (or primary) team before registering on a second team. That way there is some protection for the first team if players suddenly drop off and not show up again. There was discussion about team managers enforcing their own rules and not allow players that also play on another team. The Registrar commented that new players on a team may be afraid to talk to the team manager.

Motion to approve Proposal 2 that a dual-rostered player must designate one team as their “primary” team, and then that player must receive permission from their primary team in order to dual-roster with another team.

Motion by: Let It Go

Second by: Still Kicking

Vote: Yes = 1 Absent = 0
 No = 16 Abstain = 3

Motion to approve Proposal 2 did not pass.

Proposal 3: The scheduler will not take into consideration dual-rostered players when preparing the

league schedule.

Problem(s) rule is trying to address:

- Preparing the schedule has become too complicated.

Arguments in favor of Proposal 3:

- Simplifies the schedule.
- Simplifies changes to the schedule for players and referees.

Arguments against Proposal 3:

- Limits ability to field a team for some teams if dual-rostered players are not available.
- If one team doesn't have enough players without dual-rostered players, then another team may receive an unrequested bye.
- Current schedulers are fine with the existing system.

Discussion on Proposal 3: Kim, current interim scheduler, commented that they don't switch out who is playing who for the schedule. They do their best to have each team play an equal number of times.

Motion to approve Proposal 3 that the scheduler will not take into consideration dual-rostered players when preparing the league schedule.

Motion by: Let It Go

Second by: Killer Bees

Motion to amend Proposal 3 - that the scheduler will not be responsible, but may take into consideration dual-rostered players when preparing the league schedule.

Motion by: Las Damas

Second by: Let It Go

Vote: Yes = 12 Absent = 0
 No = 5 Abstain = 3

Motion to approve amended Proposal 3 passed - The scheduler will not be responsible, but may take into consideration dual-rostered players when preparing the league schedule.

Proposal 4: Each team can have no more than 3 players who are dual-rostered.

Problem(s) rule is trying to address:

- Teams should not be dependent on dual-rostered players to field a team.
- If too many of a team's players are dual-rostered, it makes league administration more complicated.

Arguments in favor of Proposal 4:

- The original purpose of allowing dual-rostered players was to have them serve as subs, not as primary players (true?).
- Dual-rostering doesn't add players to the league, just recycles existing players.
- Simplifies league administration, such as scheduling.

Arguments against Proposal 4:

- Limits ability to field a team for some teams if dual-rostered players are restricted.
- May have fewer teams in league, if team can't find "new" players for roster.
- May reduce ability for mothers/daughters and/or friends to play together.

- Each team can determine how many dual-rostered players work best for them.

Teams can work it out for themselves.

Discussion on Proposal 4: Kim noted that dual-rostered players are not a concern for scheduling games but that there are a number of teams that rely on dual-rostered players. Killer Bees commented that moms and daughters want to play Over-30 and they are not in favor of limiting the number of dual-rostered players.

Motion to approve Proposal 4 that each team can have no more than 3 players who are dual-rostered.

Motion by: Las Damas

Second by: Let It Go

Vote: Yes = 3 Absent = 1
 No = 16 Abstain = 0

Motion to approve Proposal 4 did not pass.

- D. New Item - Inappropriate Comments During Game Play - **Yaquis reported that they have had numerous incidents over the last two years in which inappropriate comments have been made by players during their games. An example includes being asked to stop speaking Spanish (or “Mexican”) by the opposing team. Yaquis is concerned that these incidents are becoming more common. Las Damas noted that these incidents are racially charged comments. There was discussion about how referees can enforce foul language rules if the language isn’t understood. An ad hoc subcommittee was proposed to address non-discrimination during League play.**

- E. Forfeit Rule & Fee Clarification – **Killer Bees requested clarification of when referee fees are required to be paid in addition to the Forfeit fee of \$100. In general it was noted that it depends on the timing of the forfeiting team’s notification to the League. Tara and Christine will follow-up with Killer Bees about a specific occurrence.**

- IX. Announcements
 - A. Volunteers are needed to help during the Leagues Indoor Soccer Tournament
Help us subsidize the cost to play soccer!

- X. Adjournment – approximately 8:45pm