



Monday, November 25th, 2024

New Mexico State Soccer Association (NMSSA)

Meeting minutes of the NMSSA Annual General Meeting

Held at Courtyard by Marriott

On the 7th of December 2024 at 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Present:

NMSSA Board of Directors

Audrey Wilson (President)

James Swenson (Vice President)

Tina Volzer (Treasurer)

Jennah Thompson (Secretary)

Andrea Romo Chavez (Director of Marketing & Committees)

Jessica Carrasco (Public Relations and Language Liaison)

MVSL

Dominique Gbogbo (President)

Ana Ostos (Registrar)

Sarah Montiel (Coed Team Coordinator)

SFASL

Paul Barclay (President)

GASL

Markos Chavez (President)

Olivia Yazzie (Registrar)

Guest Attendees

TJ Willham (Referee Assignor and Duke City Soccer League)

Gregory Koury (Silver City Soccer Club)

Purpose of the meeting

The purpose of the meeting is to hold an annual general meeting with member leagues.

Meeting Agenda:

An Agenda for this meeting was provided to all present members. Members also received a copy of the following:

- NMSSA Bylaws
- BOD & Committee Reports





Summary:

The meeting discussed at length the agenda items.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Call to Order - Audrey Wilson
2. Introductions and Roll Call - Jennah Thompson
 - a. Board of Directors - President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
 - b. Executive Committee - Committee Chairs
3. Board of Directors & Committee Chairs - Reports
 - a. President - Audrey Wilson
 - b. Vice President - James Swenson
 - c. Director of Committees - Andrea Romo
 - d. Secretary - Jennah Thompson
4. Committee Chairs - Reports
 - a. Appeals Committee - Audrey Wilson
 - i. In the process of finalizing appeals process and will be disseminated to leagues in 2025
 - ii. Referee abuse and assault must be processed and handled through the state
 - iii. Appeals committee sits on the SRC (State Referee Committee)
 - b. Referee Committee - Audrey Wilson
 - i. A part of the State Referee Committee (SRC), which is responsible for maintaining, recruiting, mentoring, and developing licensed referees. That means that you get licensed referees at your games and events. It also means that you can voice your concerns at any SRC monthly meeting and become part of the referee community.
 - ii. Introduced TJ Willham and his role. Allowed him to touch base on what he is doing to develop our referees
 1. Referee Training to be held January 11th & 18th, free cost
 - a. Willing to assist in getting referees trained in each area
 2. Mentor Program (Duke City Only Requirement)
 3. Managing the Game (new class that is being offered)
 - a. Teaches tools to defuse a situation on the field
 - b. Free
 - c. Taking place on January 12th or 18th
 - i. Will be announced on the Duke City Soccer League Facebook page
 4. Incentivising referees to get higher licenses with increased pay





5. Touched on Youth Futsal and expanding into having an Adult Futsal league
- c. Budget and Finance/Auditing - Tina Volzer
 - i. Will be touched on later when Treasurer is present
- d. Other committees are currently unfilled but are not required to be held.

-Short Break-

5. How NMSSA operates and serves its leagues:
 - a. USSF > USASA > Region IV > NMSSA (refer to handout)
 - i. Region III is more similar in set up to our state than Region IV
 - ii. Region IV annual meeting in Portland January 3rd - 5th, 2025.
 1. Leagues are encouraged to participate
 2. NMSSA may be able to help accommodate or provide a stipend to leagues for attending. (Budget will be reviewed and approved by the Treasurer.)
 - b. US Adult Soccer is our overhead governing body (like USYS)
 - i. They have bylaws, policies, and procedures that we have to follow.
 1. Player data - keep track of numbers (we must be at or above 225,000 members to be considered part of USSF. They also use this data for statistical purposes (demographics, language, region, etc.)
 2. Attend National meetings to represent your state association and vote during an annual general meeting.
 3. Carry out duties and responsibilities of the state association that complies with their Bylaws and Policies.
 - c. State Association provides: (reviewed after item 9 - tournaments)
 - i. Certificate of Insurance (COI) for leagues to book fields that require insurance to protect the league, players, coaches, etc.
 - ii. Player Accident Reimbursement Insurance - Players can request a reimbursement in the event an accident has occurred during a sanctioned event. (i.e. Injury or broken windshield from a soccer ball)
 - iii. Overhead insurance for your league and facility. *This gives a general insurance policy that helps reduce out of pocket costs for umbrella insurance for your league. (*Indoor and privately owned facilities - only covers soccer related activities.)
 - iv. Access to state run tournaments without additional charges. All members get access without needing a tournament pass.





- v. Access to Regional and National tournaments such as the Regional and National Amateur Cup, the US Open Cup, and Veteran's Cup.
 - vi. Access to other USASA sanctioned tournaments throughout the country. (i.e. Copper Cup, Fiestas Tournament, Tournament of Champions, etc)
 - vii. A FREE registration system. Sport Lomo can be set up for your league to operate seamlessly with NMSSA and USASA. This system is paid for by NMSSA.
 - viii. Direct assistance with your league in the following ways:
 - 1. An appeals system for your league. This helps regulate players, coaches, teams, and leagues to ensure safe play and handle disputes that may arise. NMSSA has an appeals committee to handle state level disputes. (*Referee Abuse and Assault cases automatically go to the state)
 - 2. Relegation of your league if needed.
 - 3. Registration and scheduling through Sport Lomo.
 - 4. A webpage/website to host your league
 - 5. Host a tournament in your area.
 - 6. Recruitment and Advertising for your league through marketing with NMSSA.
 - 7. A place to address individual league needs with other leagues and experts across USASA.
- d. NMSSA does NOT do:
- i. Tell you how to run your league. Each league has their own bylaws, policies, rules, board of directors, etc. As long as the league provides the minimum requirements of affiliation, the league can operate how they choose.
 - ii. Negotiate with insurance companies. We provide insurance, but we are not an insurance company. USI through USASA is the provider.
 - iii. Spend member money for individual or personal benefit/gain. All money is allocated and budgeted to go towards our USASA obligations and the rest goes back to the players and leagues through our tournaments and services.
- e. What is required of our leagues/members:
- i. A copy of the required documentation about your league.
 - ii. Members/Players register with NMSSA and pay their annual fee.
 - iii. Follow proper Safe Sport procedures and policies.
 - iv. Use licensed referees.

6. Updates from Region IV





- a. Regional and National Amateur cup - Audrey
 - i. Chair of Region IV Regional Cup - women's division (Augustine from Utah for men's division)
 - 1. Audrey was recently appointed to this position
 - ii. Hosted a quarter finals match
 - b. Soccer Fest = Veteran's Cup (age range divisions - coed)
 - i. Held in Greensboro, North Carolina
 - ii. NMSSA is willing to provide some financial assistance to send a team
7. Updates from USASA - AGM 2024 in Frisco, TX September
- a. Sport Lomo Registration - Audrey Wilson and James Swenson
 - i. Comment from GASL: Using the Sport Lomo system has helped with cutting down on unregistered players or team hopping
 - b. Data and Payment submission requirements - Audrey Wilson
 - i. There has been an update to requirements. It is required to have data and payment turned in quarterly if you are not using Sport Lomo.
 - 1. Quarterly data and payment is due to USASA on the 15th.
NMSSA is requiring leagues to turn in data and payment on the 5th (April, July, October, January)
 - a. Numbers don't count if they are not turned in on time
 - ii. Payment Amount due to USASA - Remittance form used to submit the number of players and amount of money owed. (Standard Recreational player is \$12/player and a tournament player is \$8/player)
 - c. Insurance (Player Accident Insurance) - Audrey Wilson
 - i. The process
 - ii. What it covers
 - 1. It covers more than just player injuries
 - 2. If you are unsure about coverage, default on the side of caution and file a claim
 - d. The Collective Global - consultant group
 - i. Strategic Plan - Best Practices Working Group - Audrey
8. Updates from US Soccer
- a. Safe Sport - Audrey
 - i. Process
 - 1. Anyone can file a claim
 - 2. Claim does to USASA and they decide if they need to take over situation or if the League and State association will handle claim
 - a. League is required to suspend accused player pending investigation





- ii. Requirements for your league
 - 1. Only board members need to become certified if you don't have any players under the age of 18
 - 2. If you have any players under the age of 18, all players must have safe sport certifications
 - a. If you choose not to do this, your league is liable
- iii. How to get certified
- b. Michele Kang - donation of \$30 million dollars towards women's soccer.
- c. Update on Player Registration Path Forward - youth soccer update.
- d. Innovative to Grow (ITG) Grant - applications are due in September
- e. Referee Abuse Prevention Working Group
 - i. Kari Seitz - elected/hired as the VP of Refereeing
 - ii. Revised section 531-9 of US Soccer policy in regards to Referee abuse. (Extended to families, includes social media abuse, gross mistreatment that does not involve physical harm, and examples)
 - iii. TJ touched on NM law regarding referee abuse. His recommendation is that Duke City created a referee feedback form. A card with a QR code for this form would be provided to an unhappy player by a field marshall, etc. to provide a way to vent instead of venting at the referee and leading to a referee abuse claim.
 - 1. Duke City referee feedback form can be found online at <https://dukecity.org/referee-feedback-2/>
- f. Adult Amateur Working Group - Audrey
 - i. A task force that is intended to expand adult soccer in various aspects. (Unaffiliated leagues, increase adult participants, tackle accessibility issues, transition from youth to adult, language barriers and immigrant players.)

-BREAK FOR LUNCH-

9. Tournaments:

- a. Schedule of Events - 2025
 - i. MVSL Open in Las Cruces - February 15th - 16th.
 - ii. Party on the Pitch in Santa Fe - May 30th - June 1st
 - iii. Dog Days in Ruidoso - June 28th - 29th
 - iv. Freedom Cup in Albuquerque - July 26th - 27th
 - v. Zia Cup 7v7 in Albuquerque (Mesa del sol) - August 23rd-24th (dependent on interest)





- vi. Fall Classic in Albuquerque - Coed Nov 15th -16th, Men's/Women's Nov 22nd - 23rd
 - b. Tournaments of 2024 - James Swenson
 - i. What went well
 - ii. What needs some improvement
 - iii. Expectations of a sanctioned tournament
 - c. Please submit your request to have NMSSA execute a tournament in your area or with a unique idea in mind to James Swenson, the Chairman of the Competitions Committee.
10. Budget - Tina Volzer
- a. Actuals for 2024
 - b. Proposal for 2025
 - i. Finalized budget to be sent out to leagues sometime in January
 - c. The overall goal of a non-profit organization in regards to managing the monies submitted by its members.
 - d. Tax implications (i.e. 1099's/W9's, donations, etc)

-Short Break-

11. Voting: Leagues voted unanimously to hold an open vote
- a. Board of Directors
 - i. All positions were voted in by member leagues.
 - 1. Addition of Director of Committees to NMSSA Board of Directors and for Andrea Romo to hold this position.
 - a. GASL (Markos Chavez) motioned to approve addition of the Director of Committees and for Andrea Romo to hold this position. MVSL (Dominique Gbogbo) seconded this motion.
 - i. Count of Member League Votes: 3 in favor, 0 opposed
 - 2. Voting in President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer
 - a. MVSL (Dominique Gbogbo) motioned to elect remaining positions (President: Audrey Wilson, Vice President: James Swenson, Secretary: Jennah Thompson, Treasurer: Tina Volzer) and to continue with elections as stated in bylaws. GASL (Markos Chavez) seconded this motion.
 - i. Count of Member League Votes: 3 in favor, 0 opposed





- ii. Future voting will be staggered for the NMSSA Board of Directors:
 - 1. President - elected every odd year (2025)
 - 2. Vice President - elected every even year (2026)
 - 3. Secretary - elected every odd year (2025)
 - 4. Treasurer - elected every even year (2026)
 - 5. Director of Committees - elected every odd year (2025)
 - 6. Registrar - elected every even year (2026)
 - b. Annual fee - Audrey
 - i. Markos Chavez brought up increasing the fee to \$21. Discussed the fee to be the same across all leagues.
 - ii. GASL (Markos Chavez) motioned to keep the annual fee at \$20 for all member leagues. MVSL (Ana Ostos) seconded this motion.
 - 1. Count of Member Leagues Votes: 3 in favor, 0 opposed
 - c. New leagues - none at this time
12. Bylaws Update - James and Audrey
- a. The process of amending bylaws of NMSSA
 - b. Reasons behind updating the old bylaws from 1999.
 - i. Legal counsel sought out by the NMSSA president recommended that bylaws be amended due to inconsistencies and contradictions within the document.
 - c. A look at the Bylaw changes -
 - i. Inserting dates in regards to USASA policy
 - ii. Safe Sport Protocol - US Soccer policy
 - iii. New board position - Director of Committees
 - iv. Term limits and staggered voting for BOD's
 - d. Member leagues are to provide feedback to BOD on the changes made to the NMSSA Bylaws within 30 days. Once feedback is received, BOD will meet to add in/make amendments to bylaws based on feedback.
 - i. Suggestion made by Olivia Yazzie (GASL) to add Information for Member Leagues tab where pertinent documents are located or link for signing up for email list to receive updates/newsletters
13. New Business - AKA What's coming in 2025?
- a. New leagues COMING SOON...
 - i. Adult Futsal
 - ii. Adult Walking Soccer
 - iii. Sandia League to expand
 - b. New affiliates COMING SOON...





- i. NMSSA is working with the following areas to get some organized soccer together
 - 1. Hobbs
 - 2. Farmington
 - ii. NMSSA is working with International Indoor Soccer Arena to see if affiliation can benefit their adult league and players.
 - c. New division coming to Santa Fe Adult Soccer League
 - i. NMSSA will be working to get a women's division started in SF.
 - d. New Tournament in Las Cruces
 - i. MVSL Open in February - Valentine's Day Weekend
 - e. Working with a vendor/partner to establish a larger scale marketing campaign to get information about our leagues out to the greater public.
14. Open Discussion/Questions for the Board of Directors
15. For the Good of the Game

-ADJOURNMENT-

State Cooperation registry

Audrey Wilson – President - nmssapresident@gmail.com

James Swenson – Vice President - jamesbuffy@comcast.net

Tina Volzer – Treasurer - tina.volzer@yahoo.com

Jennah Thompson – Secretary - jennah.thompson@gmail.com

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

