

From: Mike Costello  
To: NASL, HASL and NASOA Members  
Date: February 5, 2007  
Subject: ASA Planning and Executive Board Mtg. Notes

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ASA held Planning and Executive board meetings this past weekend in Birmingham. The following notes capture the highlights from the two meetings. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning these notes.

\* The AYSA 2007/2008 Calendar was reviewed, modified and approved. The biggest change from 2006/2007 is that DI U13s will play a preliminary round May 9-11, 2008 and a final round on May 16-18, 2008. The reason behind this change is to bring this age group in line with the remaining DI age groups, who play their matches over two weekends. This change will NOT be possible for DI U13s this coming spring when all matches will be played in a single weekend. This change does NOT affect DII playoff scheduling.

\* Starting next season, coaches who meet current minimum ASA DI coaching guidelines (i.e., D license or higher) will be able to, should the need arise, coach any team within their club. The purpose of the new rule is to allow greater flexibility in match scheduling and to allow more coaches access to club teams on match day. The mechanics for identifying licensing level on the coaches pass (for refs benefit) plus the number of coaches to be allowed in the technical area is still being reviewed.

\* The AYSA Rules and Regulations (R&R) are being revised (see the AYSA web site for a copy of the existing R&Rs). Inputs need to be sent to the R&R committee NLT 2/28/07. If your club has any input, contact me and I'll ensure it's forwarded to the committee. (If you have ANY problem with the existing Rules and Regs, this is your chance for input. This is a major overhaul. Everything is a candidate for change.)

\* The idea of allowing AYSA clubs to submit one \$4000 bond payment to cover every team within the club was discussed. This appears to be a good idea, with benefits for both AYSA and clubs. The only "catch" occurs if a team within the club forfeits a state match. When that happens, the club will need to immediately submit a \$400 payment to AYSA to remedy the forfeiture. There will be a grace period of ~5 days (TBD) for the club to be notified of a forfeit and to make payment. So, providing the club shows due diligence in making the forfeiture payment, there shouldn't be any adverse impact on the remaining club teams. (FYI - there were very few (~2) forfeits this past fall in state league matches.) This plan will greatly aid ASA in their accounting, as only 1 check will need to be submitted from the club instead of one from each team. Also, the \$4000 covers ALL teams in the club, no matter how many teams are involved. (Since individual teams pay \$400, clubs with more than 10 teams will realize significant economies. I assume clubs with less than 10 teams will still be allowed to pay on a team by team basis, but I'll need to have this confirmed.) Please send your comments on this subject to before the next ASA board meeting (3/10/07).

\* The Director of Coaching report stressed several things – Keep training to match ratios within reasonable limits (ex: U14s should train 4 times for every 1 match); concentrate on fewer tournaments and more state league matches; and coaches should teach players to play without fear, make training skill based and concentrate on problem solving.

\* 2007 Futbol Internacional Cup matches will be held 4/24 in Huntsville (USA v Trinidad & Tobago) and 4/26 in Decatur (Mexico v Argentina).

\* Due to registration difficulties, there will be no Adult League in Birmingham this spring. Referees should not plan on getting assessments done in that area until fall (at the earliest).

\* The ASA office has relocated to 4678 Valleydale Road in Birmingham (near Spain Park High School).

\* The ASA Executive Board will meet again on 3/10/07 in Birmingham and on 4/1/07 in Decatur. The next AGM will be held 6/24/07.