

To: Open Cup Committee

From: Paul Marstaller

Date: February 4, 2021

Re: Minutes from Open Cup Committee Meeting 2/2/2021 – APPROVED 3/19/2021

The Open Cup Committee held a meeting via conference call on Feb. 2, 2021. The meeting started at approximately 3 p.m. ET and lasted approximately an hour and 25 minutes.

1) Roll Call

Committee members present: Arthur Mattson (chair), Todd Durbin, Stu Holden, Brett Luy, Shonna Schroedl

Committee members absent: None

Others present: Paul Marstaller, Greg Fike, Brad Pursel, Chris Kennedy

2) Approval of Jan. 5, 2021, Meeting Minutes

The Committee approved the minutes of the Jan. 5, 2021, meeting without edit.

3) Update on Change to Open Cup Policy 203(a) – Player Eligibility

Paul Marstaller reported that the USSF Board, at its December 2020 meeting, approved the change to Open Cup Policy 203(a) that was previously approved by the Committee on Dec. 15, 2020. Paul subsequently discovered, however, an omission of a relevant sentence that should also have been struck. The Committee approved without objection the striking of the sentence, which Greg Fike will introduce to the Board at its next meeting prior to the National Council meeting. The sentence to be struck is found at the end of Open Cup Policy 203(a) and reads as follows: “Any conflicting Outdoor Professional League roster rules shall not apply to the number of foreign players allowed to compete in the Open Cup.”

4) Waivers to Open Cup Policy for 2021 Due to Pandemic

The Committee approved without objection waiving the deadlines and match quantity eligibility requirements detailed in Section 202 of the Open Cup Policy for only 2021 due to circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic: 1) disruption to Open Division teams’ seasons since the spring of 2020; 2) Open Division local qualifying teams changing leagues since originally entering the qualifying rounds in fall 2019; and 3) delays in pro division league schedules being announced for the 2021 season.

5) 2021 Competition Discussion

a) Available dates: The Committee approved without objection the following match dates:

- May 4-5 Opening Round
- May 18-19 Round of 16
- May 25-26 Quarterfinals
- June 15-16 Semifinals
- June 29-30 Final

b) Format: Given the smaller number of Open Cup rounds (5) available in 2021 due to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g.: Concacaf Champions League taking up three dates in the fall of 2021), the Committee approved without objection assigning eight (8) slots in the Round of 16 to Division I (Major League Soccer) teams, leaving 16 slots available in the Opening Round for lower division clubs.

c) Allocation of Slots: The Committee approved without objection the following allocation of slots to lower divisions:

- If tournament starts at Opening Round (16 slots available):
 - i. Eight (8) to Division II
 - ii. Four (4) to Division III (2 to NISA, 2 to USL League One)
 - iii. Four (4) to Open Division (1 to Local Qualifiers, 1 to NPSL, 1 to USL League Two, 1 to remaining teams not previously selected)
- If tournament starts at Round of 16 (eight slots available):
 - i. Four (4) to Division II
 - ii. Two (2) to Division III (1 to NISA, 1 to USL League One)
 - iii. Two (2) to Open Division

The method to be used for determining each Division/League's Open Cup participants will be determined at a later date.

d) Adjustment to Hosting Fees, Prize Money: The Committee approved without objection the following financial adjustments for 2021 only:

- Fixed Hosting Fees for the Opening Round will be waived
- Prize Money for lower division teams will only be awarded if a team has advanced at least one round

6) Other Business: A discussion took place regarding COVID-19 protocols to be implemented for the tournament. Open Cup staff will reach out to U.S. Soccer's Chief Medical Officer to develop an operational structure.

7) Adjournment

With no other business, the call ended at approximately 4:25 p.m. ET.

8) Additional Business – Contingency Plan

The Committee approved unanimously via email vote between Feb. 2-4 the following contingency plan:

If the COVID-19 pandemic continues to severely impact the USA into the spring, the Committee has identified March 29 as the date to pass judgment on whether conditions exist for the Opening Round to take place on May 4-5. If favorable conditions are not in place, the Committee will cancel the Opening Round and next review matters on April 19 to decide whether the Open Cup may commence with the Round of 16 on May 18-19. A negative decision will result in the 2021 competition not being held and the start of planning for the 2022 Open Cup, including Open Division Local Qualifying in the fall of 2021.

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