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PROCEEDINGS

UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
99TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

San Francisco Marriott Marquis
San Francisco, California

February 14, 2015
8:00 a.m. - 9:23 a.m.

Reported by Debra K. Resling, RMR, CRR

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1 (Commencing at 8:02 a.m.)

2 PRESIDENT GULATI: Please grab your

3 seats. We will start in 60 seconds.

4 Good morning.

5 Welcome to San Francisco. Welcome to our

6 Annual General Meeting, our National Council meeting.

7 I hope you-all had a good time last night, and we

8 will stay away from all the jokes that anyone that's

9 missing was left at Alcatraz. But it was an

10 enjoyable evening, we think, for everyone. So we

11 hope you enjoyed that.

12 We have had two terrific days here of

13 weather so far; I'm told the two warmest days in the

14 history of San Francisco. And New York is having the

15 coldest two days in the last 20 years. So those from

16 the Northeast may get to enjoy San Francisco a little

17 bit longer. We hope that's not the case. We hope

18 you enjoy the part you're supposed to, but the

19 weather in New York and the Northeast is turning ugly

20 later today and tomorrow.

21 Before we get into the regular part of the

22 agenda, please rise for a Moment of Silence for those

23 members of the soccer community and the U.S. Soccer

24 family that we've lost during the last year.

25 (Moment of silence.)

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1 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.

2 Next, we will have our

3 Vice-President, Mike Edwards, lead us in the

4 Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Edwards.

5 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

6 PRESIDENT GULATI: The idea is to get

7 everyone in the room standing up every couple of

8 minutes just for a little bit of fitness. As you

9 know, our coaches talked about that a lot

10 recently, so we want to make everyone sure is

11 ready for this part of the year.

12 Mr. Kepner, if you would come forward

13 and take us through what we need to know about

14 the roll call.

15 Credentials Committee chairman, Bob

16 Kepner.

17 MR. KEPNER: Thank you very much,

18 Sunil.

19 And on behalf of the Credentials

20 Committee, welcome to all of you to the great

21 city of San Francisco and, as you will find out

22 in a little while, to the great state of

23 California.

24 Most of you have been here before, so

25 you know the credentials process. There are a

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1 few of you who have not been here, so just very
 2 briefly, I will explain the methodology that has
 3 been developed to -- for our voting structure.
 4 We all know that there are three
 5 essential councils and in a very real sense,
 6 four. We have the youth, we have the adult, we
 7 have the pro council, and all of those, by our
 8 bylaws, are required to have equal voting
 9 strength. So we use a multiplier system. The
 10 largest council in terms of attendance and
 11 membership always is the youth council, so we use
 12 that as the base.
 13 You will soon see that the number of
 14 voters, delegates, is approximately 300. So by a
 15 multiplying system -- I don't remember the
 16 numbers off the top of my head -- but for the
 17 adults, they're something on the order of 190, so
 18 you have to have a multiplier to mathematically
 19 make their weight, their effect on the voting
 20 equivalent, so multiplier times the adult council
 21 number equals 303.
 22 Same with the pros.
 23 Now, there are other individuals,
 24 most of whom are seated up here behind me. They
 25 each have one vote. You add all of those

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1 So the first that we will start with
 2 is USYSA. Okay.
 3 And you can see, indeed, together
 4 with USYS, AYSO, U.S. Club Soccer and the youth
 5 commissioners, total youth council weight of
 6 1:303. Each member in that group has a
 7 multiplier, so to speak, of 1.
 8 Now we will go on to the Adult
 9 Council. USASA is the largest member, and then
 10 the other affiliates and the commissioners, so
 11 indeed, 193.
 12 And then we have the pros. And we
 13 have MLS, USL, NASL, and we have a total
 14 attendance of 14.
 15 And then the Athletes Council, 8.
 16 And then the others, the other
 17 affiliates, and you see those, life members,
 18 Board of Directors, and our two past presidents.
 19 One of the standards that we have is
 20 that no individual can vote in more than one
 21 capacity. And we do have some persons who are in
 22 more than one capacity.
 23 And then the last slide will be the
 24 overall presentation of the attendance.
 25 I will tell you what it is.

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1 elements there, the adult council, the youth
 2 council, the pro council, and the others, BOD,
 3 and other affiliates and such, they represent 80
 4 percent of the voting strength of the body.
 5 The athletes council is the next
 6 group. By our rules, they must have at least 20
 7 percent of the full voting strength at any
 8 particular gathering. So we again mathematically
 9 devise a -- develop a multiplier, and that
 10 presents the entire voting strength. You will
 11 end up seeing that.
 12 So I will present that to you now.
 13 Oh, we no longer go through a literal
 14 roll call. We used to do that. We'd have --
 15 call every state, every group, and so on and say
 16 "here" and so on.
 17 But what we do is we use registering
 18 for this event as the standard. So we've really
 19 cut off the registration at about 5:00 yesterday,
 20 and that was what we were able to use to be able
 21 to develop the attendance.
 22 So now we will present to you in
 23 visual form the attendance and, hence, the -- and
 24 the multipliers at this event. So let's go
 25 ahead, and Amy will do that.

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1 The youth, we have 555 total here.
 2 You take the multipliers, 303 for each of the
 3 councils -- youth, adult, pro -- the athletes
 4 council is 243, the other members, we have a
 5 total count of 1,189 votes, if everybody were to
 6 vote. A simple majority is 595, and a two-thirds
 7 majority, were it needed, is 793.
 8 Now, you have some interesting
 9 electronic devices before you, keypads. We have
 10 been using keypad electronic voting for some
 11 time. It is a wireless keypad, and briefly,
 12 here's how the keypads work.
 13 Throughout the meeting, you will be
 14 able to vote -- be asked to vote on a number of
 15 issues. The item to be voted on will appear on
 16 the screen. You will be asked to use your keypad
 17 to place your vote.
 18 Press 1 for "Yes" and 2 for "No."
 19 When you press the button, the number
 20 you selected will show up in the LED box on the
 21 keypad. It will stay on for about a second, and
 22 the data will be sent to our computer technician
 23 who will tabulate the results and display them on
 24 the screen.
 25 Please do not place your vote until I

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1 say "Begin voting now." And I will be sitting
 2 over there on the side of the room.
 3 As the votes wind down, I will say
 4 five, four, three, two, one, stop. You can
 5 change your mind up until the time we stop the
 6 voting. The keypad will accept your final vote.
 7 Now, I'd rather not take questions,
 8 but I think practice makes perfect. So I've
 9 prepared an opportunity for you to learn how to
 10 use your keypads, and as most of you know, I have
 11 a penalty kick shootout as the basis for the
 12 decision-making and the opportunity to practice.
 13 Happened to be -- and I mentioned
 14 this earlier -- in the great state of California,
 15 and California has a state animal. That animal
 16 happens to be a grizzly bear. California also
 17 has a state reptile; that is a desert tortoise.
 18 And so I'm going to present those two to you, the
 19 grizzly bear and the tortoise, and these two are
 20 going to compete against each other.
 21 But obviously, they can't compete
 22 dressed as they are there. They need to have
 23 appropriate soccer attire on. And so we have
 24 given them an opportunity to put on some soccer
 25 attire, and here they are. Soccer bear on the

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1 asked by a number of delegates. We've talked
 2 about it at the board, and might as well just let
 3 you weigh in on that, and that's the locations of
 4 the annual general meetings, and there's a
 5 particular island off in the Pacific that people
 6 have requested at various times.
 7 Yes, Mike, Fiji. Apparently a member
 8 of U.S. Club Soccer now.
 9 So here's the question, and I think
 10 most of you know the issues. We are talking
 11 about Hawaii where we've had a few AGMs.
 12 Obviously, it's further to get to, which means
 13 more travel time for most people. Folks on the
 14 West Coast, equal travel time to the East. And
 15 it's more expensive. So those are the two
 16 downsides.
 17 The upside, I think, everyone knows.
 18 So we're really going to let you give
 19 us some guidance on where we might be in a couple
 20 of years. So the question is: Without knowing a
 21 specific date, would you like to have our AGM in
 22 the next two to three years in Hawaii? That's
 23 the basic question. So it will be 1 for yes, 2
 24 for no, and you can start now. And we'll wind it
 25 down, five, four, three, two, one. We're not

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1 left; soccer tortoise on the right.
 2 Now, as it happens, Jürgen Klinsmann
 3 has heard about these two. He hears that the
 4 bear just claws his way through the competition
 5 regularly, so he's very impressed with that. But
 6 he's also very impressed with the tortoise's
 7 moves, particularly low to the ground, slow and
 8 careful. So it's for you to decide which of the
 9 two would end up winning in a penalty kick
 10 shootout.
 11 So you may begin voting now.
 12 Five, four, three, two, one. Stop.
 13 Aha. The bear. Contrary to what the
 14 tortoise expected, the bear gave him a real
 15 shellacking. Okay. Thank you. That was a play
 16 on words, Sunil.
 17 PRESIDENT GULATI: When you've got to
 18 tell us that, Bob, it's not a good sign.
 19 Bob, can we cue up another question.
 20 I don't mean on the board. If I just want to ask
 21 a question and use the keypads, is that doable or
 22 is it going to cause problems over there? We can
 23 do that?
 24 Yes, no question. Yes.
 25 So it's a question we actually get

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1 going to make this vote public because it's sort
 2 of just -- okay, go ahead. We'll make it public.
 3 Okay, then.
 4 (Motion passed.)
 5 PRESIDENT GULATI: So under our
 6 internal bylaws, it needed an 80 percent majority
 7 to clear the bar, so I apologize for that, but we
 8 will see you in Duluth next year. Okay. That's
 9 a pretty strong message. We will look into
 10 Hawaii.
 11 MR. PINORI: Hawaii.
 12 PRESIDENT GULATI: No, Peter, we're
 13 not going to talk about the specific islands now.
 14 We've had the Credentials Committee
 15 report. We've had the test questions. So this
 16 is my favorite part of the meeting, where I get
 17 to acknowledge some of our guests.
 18 So first, let me start with our life
 19 members, who are in the front row. If you would
 20 all stand for us to give you the appropriate
 21 acknowledgment.
 22 (Applause.)
 23 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.
 24 Anyone in the room who has been to,
 25 let's say, 30 or more AGMs, 30 or more Annual

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1 General Meetings, stand up, please. 30 or more.
 2 (Applause.)
 3 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.
 4 Anyone who is here at their first
 5 Annual General Meeting, please stand.
 6 (Applause.)
 7 PRESIDENT GULATI: We've got at least
 8 a couple, I know. Welcome to all of you.
 9 And last, but certainly not least,
 10 all of you in the room, and mostly to my left,
 11 that have represented the United States National
 12 Team Program men or women, or in any other
 13 aspect, youth level, please stand.
 14 (Applause.)
 15 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.
 16 Next, we have approval of the minutes
 17 from the 2014 AGM. You have seen those in your
 18 National Council books. Do we have any comments
 19 or amendments to those? If not, I would
 20 entertain a motion to adopt or approve them.
 21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So move.
 22 PRESIDENT GULATI: So moved.
 23 Seconded.
 24 Any objections? Thank you. We
 25 approved those unanimously.

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1 summer, in seeing the reaction in -- across the
 2 country, whether it was people watching on
 3 television or spontaneous pep rallies or the
 4 President of the United States calling -- and we
 5 didn't win the World Cup, but the President
 6 called, and he honored us again by being here in
 7 San Francisco this weekend, which was directly
 8 tied to the AGM being here.
 9 So rather than me talk about what
 10 happened last summer, we brought in a special
 11 guest, and I will let him talk a little bit about
 12 what was going on and why we want to see more of
 13 that in the future and hopefully why we will see
 14 more of that in the future.
 15 We couldn't have our Women's National
 16 Team coach here, as you know, we beat England
 17 yesterday one-nothing, so she's on her way home
 18 from London.
 19 But we have our Men's National Team
 20 coach with us. Jürgen Klinsmann, please come
 21 forward.
 22 (Applause.)
 23 COACH KLINSMANN: Thank you very much.
 24 Thanks for having me real quick here this
 25 morning. If my vote counts a little bit -- I saw 79

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1 Next, we will show you a short video
 2 of some things that went on this past year,
 3 highlighted obviously, by the men's participation
 4 in the World Cup and by the reaction to that
 5 participation in the World Cup in the United
 6 States. So if we can run that video, please.
 7 (Video run.)
 8 (Applause.)
 9 PRESIDENT GULATI: If you don't get
 10 excited by some of that and some of what was
 11 going on last summer and, hopefully, what will be
 12 going on this summer with the Women's National
 13 Team playing in the World Cup, then you may want
 14 to find some other things to do with your time,
 15 because it was pretty incredible. And as
 16 exciting as it was to be down in Brazil and see
 17 what was going on on the field, frankly the
 18 bigger excitement was what was going on back here
 19 in a spontaneous way. And those are things that
 20 all of you in this room and all of the people
 21 back here have worked for for a long time. So I
 22 want to thank you for that.
 23 And whether it's the players on the
 24 field or those that have helped popularize the
 25 sport over the last 50 years, in some cases, last

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1 percent. If I can add it up to 80 percent, I'm all
 2 in for Hawaii playing --
 3 (Applause.)
 4 COACH KLINSMANN: -- playing maybe the
 5 Fiji Islands. We'll see. Gives us a chance for
 6 a few points. I'm taking that as well.
 7 Obviously, as Sunil said, 2014 was a
 8 tremendous year. 2014, with the World Cup for us
 9 on the men's side was a big, big step and
 10 hopefully far, far more to come in the future
 11 time. It's been a challenge the last two or
 12 three years, to say the least, when we got the
 13 "Group of Death." You know, we're aware of, you
 14 know, some bigger problems called Cristiano
 15 Ronaldo and other names. We dealt with it.
 16 I think the team excited a lot of our
 17 people, not only down in Brazil, but we had
 18 amazing fans traveling down to Brazil in support,
 19 but also here in the United States, because we
 20 saw it on TV, and everybody got really, really
 21 excited. And we're very thankful for this
 22 tremendous support all over the place.
 23 When you do well in a competition,
 24 you know, you want to raise the bar afterwards.
 25 You want to go further. So we sat down after

1 those exciting days in Brazil, and we started to
 2 build the puzzle for 2018, which is Russia,
 3 obviously, and which gives us a lot of, yeah, big
 4 opportunities, you know, to hopefully create the
 5 right team and the right environment to succeed
 6 in Russia and go further than we did in Brazil.
 7 This is our goal. We want to go further.
 8 So I think it's exciting for us now.
 9 Not only, this year, we have the 2015 Gold Cup on
 10 the agenda, but especially looking into 2016 with
 11 the COPA America bid in the United States. I
 12 think this is, for us, a huge, huge opportunity
 13 to prove ourselves against the best nations from
 14 South America, to host this competition. It's a
 15 very, very special competition. And it will give
 16 us, hopefully, valuable experience going then
 17 further towards the 2017 Confederations Cup in
 18 Russia and then, at the end of the day, to the
 19 World Cup.
 20 Obviously when you go to the extreme,
 21 like this team did in the World Cup -- and they
 22 went beyond their 100 percent; they gave
 23 everything they had -- there's also then a
 24 consequence to it afterwards. The consequence
 25 was there was a drop, you know, emotional drop, a

1 physical drop, and we gave a couple of games away
 2 that you never like to give away, but it happens,
 3 you know. So I think this is also a learning
 4 curve for us, you know, because, in the past, it
 5 was mostly the case that when a World Cup was
 6 played, there was maybe, if you are lucky, one
 7 friendly, maximum, in the next six months and
 8 there was nothing really on the agenda. We
 9 changed that, asking Sunil -- we changed the
 10 agenda because I said, you know, we don't have
 11 really a time to relax now.
 12 Not only is the Gold Cup on the
 13 horizon, we also need to build other programs at
 14 the same time. We want to qualify badly for Rio
 15 de Janeiro in 2016. And also it kind of sticks
 16 in our stomach that we didn't go to London. I
 17 think the last Olympic team cycle had so much
 18 talent that it was a real bummer for all of us
 19 that we didn't go there, and that Mexico won the
 20 gold medal. Anybody could win the gold medal in
 21 Mexico.
 22 So you know, we finished off Brazil.
 23 We sat down, and we started to design the future.
 24 And the Olympic team for us is huge. So we're
 25 working hard on it.

1 Now, CONCACAF came back to us now
 2 with a surprise, oh, we have the qualifiers
 3 already this year. So we have end of September,
 4 beginning of October -- it was just announced
 5 now -- the Olympic team qualifiers here in the
 6 United States, so that kind of puts everybody, in
 7 our terms, on their toes and tells us that we
 8 have to be ready for doing all that.
 9 So that leads to other consequences
 10 from our end, okay. We did the January camp,
 11 combining the Olympic team senior guys, which is
 12 tricky to do, because they're a little bit on a
 13 different page still.
 14 But it's exciting -- I think it's
 15 exciting -- because we see youngsters coming
 16 through. We see growth everywhere, on the youth
 17 level, with our Academy systems, you know, and
 18 the professional leagues all over the country.
 19 So you see excitement everywhere, and you talk to
 20 people now that really kind of see soccer as a
 21 mainstream sport in the country. So it's pretty
 22 cool.
 23 But it also kind of gives you a
 24 responsibility to hopefully do a good job and
 25 connect the dots, you know. I think the last

1 three and a half years, we have connected a lot
 2 of dots. We have connected all youth national
 3 teams to the senior teams, all the coaches from
 4 the youth national teams are with me in camps, at
 5 games, help me, were with me in Brazil.
 6 We connect coaches education close to
 7 the senior national team with Dave Chesler. He's
 8 constantly with me, sees what we're doing, gets
 9 every information he needs in order to pass it
 10 down to all the coaches out there on different
 11 levels, you know. I think the Academy system is
 12 growing. It's getting better.
 13 But, obviously in every area, we can
 14 get better and improve, and this is our big goal
 15 going forward. You know, we want to communicate
 16 with everybody out there in order to help and
 17 hopefully get the different programs on new
 18 heights. And this is our agenda. We're looking
 19 forward to it. We are full of excitement. We're
 20 full of energy. It means a lot of debate, a lot
 21 of fitness work, which we're starting in five
 22 minutes outside. Just kidding.
 23 And, yeah, I'm really enjoying that I
 24 have, you know, a great chemistry here with the
 25 board, a great chemistry obviously with Sunil,

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1 which is -- and with Dan, which is very, very
 2 important with the league, with all the coaches
 3 out there.
 4 But I'm challenging also, a lot of
 5 people out there, especially players. So I'm not
 6 there to make them feel comfortable. I'm not
 7 there to make them settle with whatever they
 8 achieved. I'm there to hopefully get them to the
 9 next level possible. So in there, you hear a
 10 little bit different opinions, different voices,
 11 and that's good for the game.
 12 So hopefully, you know, we can go a
 13 similar direction going forward, have an exciting
 14 Gold Cup, win this thing, go to the Confed Cup
 15 2017, and give a lot of enjoyment.
 16 That's it from my end. Wish you a
 17 wonderful AGM meeting.
 18 See you in Hawaii.
 19 (Applause.)
 20 PRESIDENT GULATI: Jürgen has only
 21 been to a couple of our AGMs, and he doesn't
 22 quite really grasp the weighted voting structure
 23 that we have. And I have been told by Mr. Kepner
 24 that his vote is .47, so we are at 79.47, just
 25 short of where you needed to be, gang, but maybe

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1 some cases, it's declining; and in other cases,
 2 going up just a little bit; and in some cases, as
 3 many of you know better than I do, the growth is
 4 disguised because it's the same player
 5 registering in two or three different ways or two
 6 or three different organizations and it shows up
 7 as three registrations. So we get an extra
 8 dollar or two, whatever it might be, but it's not
 9 true growth in the sense of new players and new
 10 participants in the game.
 11 So the growth more recently has been
 12 at the professional level, in terms of numbers,
 13 in terms of popularity, and with the national
 14 team, obviously, in terms of exposure. And
 15 that's growth on the commercial side. That's
 16 growth in numbers of professional teams, numbers
 17 of people watching games on television, and
 18 numbers of people obviously coming to stadiums to
 19 see.
 20 And it's been matched and aided in
 21 many ways by huge growth that all of you are
 22 familiar with in your daily lives, which is
 23 changes in technology, changes in how we
 24 communicate, so-called social media phenomena.
 25 And we are both keeping up with that and in some

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1 next year. And it goes by wins, Jürgen. You get
 2 an extra quarter of a point for every win.
 3 You know, some of the things that
 4 Jürgen touched on are a couple of things that I
 5 want to touch on, which is where we are now, what
 6 we've done, but more importantly, where we're
 7 going.
 8 And a lot of that has to do with
 9 growth, and growth in so many different areas.
 10 And if you look back in the '70s, the '80s, and
 11 even the early part of the '90s, the real growth
 12 we had is in membership numbers and managing
 13 that.
 14 So what came out of that?
 15 State associations came out of that.
 16 USYS came out of that, USASA, on a basic
 17 organizational structure to try to manage that
 18 growth, the fact that we weren't just a few clubs
 19 or a few leagues. The same was true obviously
 20 with the professional side in the '70s and '80s
 21 with the birth of the NASL.
 22 That growth is very different now in
 23 where we're going because the numbers aren't at
 24 the same level, at least in registered players.
 25 That's pretty flat, as all of you know; and in

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1 ways taking leadership roles in the use of some
 2 of that, because it seems that it fits very well
 3 with some of the things that we do.
 4 And while a lot of the things that
 5 happened last summer in terms of back in the
 6 United States were spontaneous, many other things
 7 weren't. It wasn't an accident that a few
 8 players in other sports had national team jerseys
 9 after they had very famous -- in one case, a
 10 no-hitter. And it wasn't quite an accident that
 11 Will Ferrell showed up at our pep rally. And all
 12 those sorts of things or the millions of people
 13 that were using Twitter, setting record numbers,
 14 as it turned out, just in time for Twitters' IPO,
 15 which was probably helpful to them.
 16 So the challenge in front of us is
 17 how do we manage that growth, how do we stay in
 18 front of that, and how do we increase it over the
 19 next decade? And I think that comes down to a
 20 number of areas. And we talked about some of
 21 those yesterday at our board meeting looking
 22 forward. And it's not going to be from a
 23 position of crisis, where we have huge problems
 24 and need to face those challenges to correct
 25 things, but how do we manage our growth going

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1 forward? And it's not likely to be numbers of
 2 registered players, with demographics being what
 3 they are. We're not likely to get millions of
 4 new players without losing other millions.
 5 And in order to do that, our first
 6 step is we're looking at the way we govern
 7 ourselves, and that even comes before we have a
 8 strategic vision of what we'd like to do. How do
 9 we govern ourselves? And that's at our board
 10 level, that's at the administration level, that's
 11 at this level. We've looked at a number of
 12 different things, and we will come back with a
 13 pretty comprehensive review of our governance
 14 structures. We did that a decade ago, and we'll
 15 do it again now, because we're a different
 16 organization, and the sport is in a different
 17 place than it was a decade ago or 20 years ago
 18 when we set up our basic councils and all of
 19 those things.
 20 And we'll start looking at state
 21 associations and some of our other members to see
 22 how we can help. And I will start partly with
 23 some audits and not just financial audits, but
 24 review audits.
 25 It also means, then, laying out a

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1 higher level with kids that are able to see the
 2 best level of soccer, whether it's around the
 3 world or in the United States, whether they're --
 4 when they're now clearly affiliating themselves
 5 with professional soccer players and emulating
 6 those players.
 7 How do we get better on the men's
 8 side? How do we get better to try to get to
 9 where we want to be on the women's side? How do
 10 we make sure that we stay where we are -- and
 11 stay where we are is not losing to France
 12 2-nothing.
 13 But it's more challenging now. We're
 14 not going to beat the best teams in the world,
 15 like we were able to do 20 years ago, no matter
 16 what we do, because the good thing is that
 17 there's a lot of federations around the world
 18 that are investing heavily on the women's
 19 programs, what we did a long time ago and will
 20 continue to do, but it's going to be more
 21 competitive for sure. So how do we manage that
 22 going forward and make sure that we are on the
 23 right part of the winner's stand, whether it's at
 24 the Olympic games, a U-17 World Cup, or more,
 25 more closely this summer at the Women's World Cup

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1 strategic plan for the future. And we have done
 2 pieces of that, and we will continue to do that
 3 and share that with you, obviously, and you will
 4 be part of that.
 5 It means our finances, which are in
 6 an extraordinarily good place today. We will
 7 have in the course of essentially 12 months, a 50
 8 percent increase in revenues. In 12 months.
 9 That's unheard of, except for some tech companies
 10 that are up the road, I guess. But 50 percent.
 11 And that's a good thing that we have an increase
 12 in revenues. And it's probably the case that
 13 managing that growth, and managing those
 14 revenues, and making sure that we use those
 15 resources that are available to us for the sport,
 16 are used in a sensible way, used responsibly, is
 17 more difficult than actually getting those
 18 revenues. So that will be an important part
 19 including how we manage the resources we have on
 20 a financial basis from an investment point of
 21 view, and we had a long discussion about that
 22 yesterday.
 23 The technical side: How do we manage
 24 growth to take advantage of the fact that we've
 25 got now more player development going on at a

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1 in Canada.
 2 And how do we manage growth of our
 3 organization without losing sight of an
 4 absolutely critical and essential feature to the
 5 Federation is that we are a service organization.
 6 And that's true for all of you, at club level, at
 7 state level, at league level. And we're a
 8 service organization for our members. We're not
 9 a corporation in the normal sense. We are a
 10 service organization for our members. We are a
 11 membership-based organization, whether it's my
 12 10-year-old-daughter who is a member, or our
 13 national team players who are members, or our
 14 organizational members. Many of you are
 15 obviously represented here.
 16 So those are, I think, the basic
 17 challenges as we go forward, and we will come
 18 back and talk a lot about those over the next six
 19 months and twelve months and obviously a year
 20 from now and two years from now in Hawaii, and
 21 you will be part of that process.
 22 That's -- as we look into the future,
 23 there's a lot of challenges, there's going to be
 24 a lot of bumps, but, boy, if we could repeat what
 25 we've done over the last -- pick a period of

1 time. And we usually -- I usually pick a period
 2 of time with my own involvement, and that's not
 3 because I think it started when I got involved,
 4 but that's my time horizon, but many of you have
 5 been involved a lot longer than that, and some of
 6 you are relatively new to it.

7 So for those that are new, it's
 8 welcome to this challenge. We look forward to
 9 sharing that with you. For those of you that
 10 have been doing this for a long time -- and all
 11 of you have been doing it for a long time at some
 12 level or another -- thank you for that. The
 13 tough part is still in front of us if we want to
 14 get to where we want to go. But make no mistake
 15 about it: We've accomplished a lot together, and
 16 I want to thank you for that.

17 Just looking forward very quickly to
 18 this next 18 months on the field, Jürgen
 19 mentioned the Gold Cup this summer, exciting
 20 competition here in the United States. The
 21 venues and who is playing where, and specifically
 22 where the U.S. team is playing, that will be
 23 known next month in March.

24 Next summer the COPA America with 16
 25 teams on the men's side, with 10 South American

1 teams, and six teams from the United States --
 2 from CONCACAF -- it would be good if we could
 3 have six teams from the United States, I guess.
 4 They will be played across the country, and it
 5 will be the biggest event I think in the U.S.
 6 since the '94 World Cup or the '99 Women's World
 7 Cup, depending on how you look at it, and on the
 8 women's side, what should be another breakthrough
 9 event, this time for Canada.

10 Ticket sales have been very good. It
 11 will be the first time, I'm quite sure, that
 12 there will be significant visitors from outside
 13 the country of anyone hosting the Women's World
 14 Cup. When we hosted it, 99.5 percent of the
 15 people were from the U.S. In this case, we have
 16 an extraordinary amount of interest from fans in
 17 the United States to go to the tournament. Now,
 18 that would be different if it was in Brazil or in
 19 Europe because of, obviously, the proximity of
 20 Canada. But the level of interest is something
 21 that we have never seen before, to the point
 22 where FIFA is looking at how do we deal with this
 23 response of interest in the United States and
 24 public sales and so on. So all of that is very
 25 good, and I think it will be an exciting period.

1 Our Under-20 team is in the World
 2 Cup, our Under-17 team will be qualifying soon
 3 and so on. And our pro leagues continue to grow,
 4 more teams, more stable teams, more spectators.
 5 That's all a good thing. And you-all have growth
 6 in different ways; some of it is painful, and
 7 some not. And we're here to help where we can.

8 So again, I want to thank you as we
 9 look forward. Enjoy the day today. We'll get
 10 through our business here today, I think, pretty
 11 quickly.

12 And with that, I'm going to ask
 13 Mr. Edwards to come up and give a report. And
 14 that's the end of my report, so thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 PRESIDENT GULATI: So we will have
 17 just a couple of the reports. The rest of the
 18 reports, as you know, are in your book; we won't
 19 go through those. And Mike is certainly not
 20 going to read his report that you have in front
 21 of you which gives you all the details, but he
 22 has a few things to add to that.

23 Mr. Edwards, your vice-president.

24 MR. EDWARDS: Thanks, Sunil.

25 I will focus on a couple of things

1 that I had a hand in that were more
 2 local-oriented. We have moved along
 3 significantly in the development of the referee
 4 program, pretty much tripled the resources that
 5 we have put into it. Major League Soccer has
 6 made a substantial investment in the professional
 7 level, which has really let us separate out the
 8 two parts of the referee program such that
 9 referees at the professional level are dealt with
 10 somewhat separate. And it's allowed us in
 11 Chicago, then, to focus our efforts on what I
 12 would describe as the grassroots and development
 13 of referees, both for local officiating and to
 14 begin helping us identify referees that are --
 15 that are the little jewels that we want to move
 16 up to the professional level, both on the men's
 17 and women's side.

18 So I think we have made a lot of
 19 progress in that area. We enter into our next
 20 SRA workshop this year to completely unveil a new
 21 assessment program. We have unveiled a
 22 completely new instructional program that has
 23 recognized the fact that children learn off the
 24 Internet. The idea that a 14-year-old child
 25 wants to sit in a room and listen to a guy like

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1 me drone on for 16 hours of a weekend is
 2 immensely appealing to me, because I think I'm
 3 pretty smart, but it tends not to work so well
 4 having a 20-year-old-daughter.
 5 This year we will be unveiling a
 6 brand-new assessment program. We've simplified.
 7 We have eliminated a lot of extraneous rankings
 8 in those systems.
 9 We're working on unveiling a whole
 10 new Futsal program because that's catching on
 11 both through our Developmental Academy and
 12 locally, so we want to be prepared to deal with
 13 that.
 14 On the coaching side, you see before
 15 you today, for your approval, a substantial
 16 modernization of the policy which guides the U.S.
 17 Soccer coaching program. The document that is in
 18 the policy manual now is probably at least 25
 19 years old, and probably the nicest thing I can
 20 say about it is that it's archaic.
 21 In December, after our board meeting,
 22 Sunil, Dan, Jürgen, held a roundtable to get into
 23 the details of a substantial commitment of
 24 resources we had made, and a great deal of it is
 25 directed to the fact that we need to improve our

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1 the three reports from our general secretary, Dan
 2 Flynn.
 3 MR. FLYNN: Thanks, Sunil.
 4 As Sunil has mentioned, it's a unique
 5 and exciting time. We are committed to our
 6 strategic initiatives in a number of areas:
 7 player development, coaching development, and in
 8 particular, I would like to mention the National
 9 Coaching Education Center in Kansas City, which
 10 we hopefully will have open in the coming year;
 11 and fan development, where we will deliver more
 12 compelling content, activate more fan programs,
 13 continue to build our brand, and increase our
 14 merchandise offerings.
 15 So we're fully committed with Soccer
 16 United Marketing, our great partner. We continue
 17 to build the sport through our partnership with
 18 ESPN, Fox, and Univision.
 19 So thanks to the committed membership
 20 in the room, thanks to the board, and thanks, in
 21 particular, to the budget committee for their
 22 work throughout the year.
 23 And I would like to now introduce
 24 Carlos to take us through the 2016 fiscal budget.
 25 And a special thanks to Eric and Mark at Soccer

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1 coaching and coaching education. And today, what
 2 you see before you for approval has been approved
 3 by the Board of Directors, and it lays the
 4 foundation for the program to teach coaches
 5 through what I would describe primarily as Youth
 6 Soccer; and the grander plan is to expand that
 7 program well beyond that and develop professional
 8 coaches, bring in much more international
 9 expertise, develop a coach mentoring program.
 10 Some of what we're doing in coaching is what's
 11 gone on for a long time in the referee program,
 12 and it just simply makes sense.
 13 So we have taken a huge step forward,
 14 and the policy you see before you today lays the
 15 foundation from which we will build over the next
 16 couple of years to expand out and better develop
 17 our coaching education, coaching evaluation
 18 programming in this country.
 19 So I would ask for your support for
 20 that. And I think those are the two items, that
 21 probably I've had my fingers on most in the last
 22 year, so we're good.
 23 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks, Mike.
 24 (Applause.)
 25 PRESIDENT GULATI: And the last of

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1 House for their day-to-day help and assistance in
 2 executing the budget on a monthly and
 3 year-to-year basis.
 4 Thanks.
 5 (Applause.)
 6 PRESIDENT GULATI: Carlos.
 7 MR. CORDEIRO: Good morning. Can you
 8 hear me? Thank you very much, Dan. I'm sure
 9 you've all had an opportunity to review the
 10 budget materials in Section 4 of your books. For
 11 our fiscal year 2016, this is the year which will
 12 end in March 2016, we are presenting a \$91
 13 million budget with an operating surplus of 1.2
 14 million, and an overall surplus of 2.2 million,
 15 primarily highlighted by the continued investment
 16 in the technical development of our sport as well
 17 as our brand and our fan base.
 18 This year, in particular, we have
 19 earmarked a handful of strategic initiatives,
 20 referred earlier to by Sunil and Dan, which will
 21 fall under a four-year planning framework. All of
 22 this made possible, and thanks to a very
 23 significant increase in our contracted revenues
 24 over the next broadcast and sponsorship cycle
 25 which kicks in this year.

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1 Having said that, and as always, we
 2 strive to maintain tight financial controls,
 3 which are core to our long-term sustainable
 4 growth. The budget was discussed at length by our
 5 committee back in November, and subsequently
 6 approved by the board in December. I would be
 7 remiss if I didn't acknowledge the great work
 8 that Dan and his staff, lead by Eric Gleason, our
 9 chief financial officer, who is behind me, for
 10 their huge contributions in driving the detail
 11 that make up this budget.
 12 I guess I'll open it up to questions,
 13 and if there are no questions, I propose that we
 14 pass the budget as presented before you.
 15 Thank you.
 16 PRESIDENT GULATI: A motion on the
 17 floor to approve the budget. Do we have a second
 18 to that?
 19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.
 20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.
 21 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.
 22 Questions? Comments? Concerns? Any questions?
 23 Hearing none, we will call for a vote
 24 on that. Any objections to approving the budget
 25 as presented? Thank you. We will approve that

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1 this morning. It was a slight adjustment to what
 2 the board had approved earlier and is in your
 3 book.
 4 Any comments, concerns, on that one?
 5 MR. GUTHRIE: Sunil.
 6 Mr. President, in Section 1(B), I
 7 would offer to amend the last sentence, where it
 8 says, "Other organization members or their
 9 members," I would offer to strike "or their
 10 members." Our justification being that of the --
 11 or the amendment, I don't believe, restricts the
 12 flexibility you are looking for. However, it
 13 does allow for us to maintain a certain level of
 14 governance, because when it goes to other
 15 members, that means that a club or team, an
 16 individual club or a team could come up and
 17 request to be a part of the process.
 18 PRESIDENT GULATI: We haven't had a
 19 motion on the floor yet. Do we need a motion to
 20 affirm these?
 21 THE PARLIAMENTARIAN: It was made by
 22 Mr. Edwards.
 23 PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Edwards had
 24 made the motion. Okay.
 25 So we have a motion on the floor,

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1 unanimously.
 2 Thank you, Mr. Cordeiro, and your
 3 committee for your hard work. The budget is approved.
 4 If we can go to that clip, COPA America
 5 video, and show you a quick -- before we get into new
 6 business -- a few highlights from another tournament.
 7 (Video shown.)
 8 PRESIDENT GULATI: You see at the end
 9 of that, it's the logo for the tournament we're
 10 hosting next summer. So that's why we wanted to
 11 show you that.
 12 We are on to the new business part of
 13 the meeting. We do not have any statutory bylaw
 14 proposals, but we've got proposed amendments to
 15 some Federation policies, and those are in your
 16 book.
 17 Starting with Policy 102(3)-1, it was
 18 proposed by Mr. Edwards. This is the national
 19 coaching policy, and it is in your books. So if
 20 we have a motion -- and here, what we're doing is
 21 we're approving, the board has already approved
 22 all of these, so we're affirming the decisions of
 23 the board in these three areas.
 24 Okay. And you have got also a
 25 one-page addition, I'm sorry, that was given out

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1 which is this, and now we've got your comment.
 2 MR. EDWARDS: The reporter would like
 3 Dave to give his name for the record.
 4 PRESIDENT GULATI: And when you come
 5 to the microphone, please give your name and
 6 affiliation so we can record that.
 7 MR. GUTHRIE: Dave Guthrie from
 8 Indiana. Forgive me.
 9 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. Peter.
 10 MR. MARIAHAZY: Thank you,
 11 Mr. President, I would also like to offer an
 12 amendment. The adjusted policy, as approved by
 13 the board yesterday, ends with "Upon request and
 14 approval of the state secretary general." I
 15 would like to change that to the "state
 16 association." And the rationale for that is, as
 17 we all know, the state associations currently are
 18 responsible for coaching education; have very
 19 specific and strong requirements that they have
 20 to meet in relation to quality, including
 21 directors of coaching with an A license, which is
 22 included in some of the other motions, have
 23 invested quite a bit of time and resources, and,
 24 quite frankly, are the extension of the
 25 Federation for coaching education in their

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1 states.
 2 Finally, the state associations are
 3 much more familiar with the needs within the
 4 state and can help guide that coaching education
 5 to achieve the quality you look for.
 6 So I would also offer an amendment to
 7 change that with the review and approval of the
 8 "secretary general" to the "state association."
 9 PRESIDENT GULATI: So since it sounds
 10 like we're going to have multiple amendments, why
 11 don't we get the parliamentarian up here to guide
 12 me through this part. So we have -- hang on,
 13 Kevin, we have a proposed amendment to start
 14 with.
 15 So just on the first amendment,
 16 Mr. Edwards, are you accepting that as a friendly
 17 amendment? And can we do that by general
 18 consent, or do we have --
 19 So --
 20 MR. EDWARDS: That is not the
 21 reflection on the --
 22 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. So we're
 23 going to -- so we have a formal amendment on the
 24 floor to change members, "or their members," to
 25 strike the words "or their members." So let's

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1 sentence that starts "other organization members
 2 or their members." So we will be striking the
 3 words "or their members." It's the only thing
 4 that's on the floor.
 5 So if we can open up the voting: yes,
 6 if you are in favor of that amendment; no, if you
 7 were opposed to that amendment. We'll start the
 8 voting now.
 9 MR. KEPNER: Begin voting now.
 10 PRESIDENT GULATI: Five, four, three,
 11 two; three, two, one. So, the words "or their
 12 members," when I said it took 51 percent, you
 13 don't have to hit it exactly. That language is
 14 stricken.
 15 And we are now, then, at a second
 16 comment. And, Peter, are you now coming back and
 17 making that a formal amendment, a second
 18 amendment. Right?
 19 MR. MARIAHAZY: I am. My motion for
 20 an amendment is "Upon request and approval by the
 21 state association."
 22 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. So we have
 23 a second amendment being proposed that would
 24 strike the words "secretary general" and replace
 25 them with state association.

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1 deal with that first, and then we'll come back to
 2 Peter.
 3 So all we're commenting right now on
 4 is on the proposed amendment which is "or their
 5 members."
 6 Mr. Payne, are you addressing that
 7 issue?
 8 MR. PAYNE: Just one amendment or
 9 both?
 10 PRESIDENT GULATI: Just the first one
 11 for now.
 12 MR. PAYNE: Well, yes. On behalf of
 13 U.S. Club Soccer, we oppose the amendment. And
 14 we don't believe it's necessary. We think the
 15 fact that the secretary general has the approval
 16 process is sufficient to satisfy the concerns.
 17 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. Does anyone
 18 else want to speak to the amendment to strike the
 19 words, "or their members."
 20 Okay. So hearing none, we'll put
 21 that to a vote. And let's do this
 22 electronically. And it's a 51 percent issue on
 23 the -- the amendment is on the page that you have
 24 in front of you or the original, on Item B, to
 25 strike the words "or their members" in the

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1 Mr. Collins, speaking on that
 2 amendment.
 3 MR. COLLINS: John Collins from AYSO.
 4 And we would speak against this amendment. The
 5 sentence is added just to help us get more
 6 coaches, and more coaches licensed, so that's
 7 fabulous, but we also need quality control. And
 8 for the approval of this, to have it come through
 9 one central location, the secretary general,
 10 which will have cleared methods and policies and
 11 procedures for doing so, is the way to ensure the
 12 quality control. And we can't have it being
 13 judged by 55 or 108, whatever organizations doing
 14 it, so for that reason I believe -- and there's
 15 some other reasons, but I think that's the
 16 primary reason, that it has to be centralized
 17 through the secretary general.
 18 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay. Anyone
 19 else? Yes.
 20 MR. JENSEN: Thank you. Rich Jensen,
 21 South Dakota Youth.
 22 And I would speak for the amendment
 23 that we are not going to take away any quality
 24 control. Actually, I think it would add more to
 25 it, and to remain with the state associations

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1 that is now, helps us as we are held to certain
 2 standards already to maintain that standard
 3 within the state, no matter whom we're serving.
 4 PRESIDENT GULATI: Anyone else?
 5 Mr. Payne.
 6 MR. PAYNE: Kevin Payne, U.S. Club
 7 Soccer.
 8 I also speak against the amendment.
 9 I concur 100 percent with the issues that John
 10 raised. There is nothing in the rules that
 11 supports the contention that this is a special
 12 responsibility for the state associations. That
 13 issue was resolved in 2008. These
 14 responsibilities are those of all Federation
 15 members. And this is a Federation program. It's
 16 not a state association program, either singly,
 17 or collectively.
 18 We believe that the Federation should
 19 set the agenda for the coaching instruction
 20 process, and it should be carried out by all
 21 Federation members subject to the approval of the
 22 secretary general. That's the best way to scale
 23 this process, and it's the best way to avoid any
 24 internal politics. Thank you.
 25 MR. GUTHRIE: Dave Guthrie, Indiana.

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1 an agile organization. It's a bulky, very slow
 2 organization. Having it locally in the states
 3 makes it more agile. Thank you.
 4 MR. FALCONE: Mr. President, Anthony
 5 Falcone from Maryland Adults.
 6 Point of clarification, we had two
 7 amendments put on the floor at the same time.
 8 The current amendment that we're looking at here,
 9 can we -- which section is it?
 10 PRESIDENT GULATI: So, we're looking
 11 at Policy 102.3.1, the first amendment struck the
 12 words "or their members" from the document.
 13 MR. FALCONE: Right.
 14 PRESIDENT GULATI: That's already
 15 dealt with. The second amendment is to change
 16 the last two words in section B from secretary
 17 general to state associations. That's the only
 18 one we're dealing with now.
 19 MR. FALCONE: On the -- it's on the
 20 sheet.
 21 Okay. So if I understand correctly,
 22 the maker of the motion is asking that instead of
 23 the secretary general approving other
 24 organizations' requests that that go to the state
 25 associations. I want to make sure that they

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1 I speak in favor of the amendment.
 2 Again I believe that we can trust that the closer
 3 we give decisions to the grass roots, the better
 4 that decision will be. To have a national
 5 decision-maker that's not aware of what's
 6 happening in that local area, we then circumvent
 7 or we disallow that intellect, that knowledge, of
 8 what's happening at the grass roots to be voiced.
 9 So again, I would speak in favor of the
 10 amendment.
 11 PRESIDENT GULATI: Anyone else?
 12 MR. SQUILLARIO: Roy Squillario, New
 13 Jersey Youth Soccer.
 14 I'm in favor of the amendment,
 15 because there are 50 states, and 50 different
 16 state statutes. I don't know if the Board is
 17 aware, but the current national youth F license
 18 that you put out on your web is not valid in New
 19 Jersey. It does not comply with the New Jersey
 20 state statute. So you've really got to have
 21 state associations involved in these decisions;
 22 you can't have a single control.
 23 Sunil, you mentioned earlier, you
 24 want to look at the organization to be agile and
 25 change. Having single control in Chicago is not

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1 understand that the first part of that section
 2 already authorizes the state associations to be
 3 the coaching directors to conduct their sports.
 4 So I'm trying to understand what is the point of
 5 their request, as it's written right now.
 6 PRESIDENT GULATI: We're going to ask
 7 the maker of the motion to address that issue.
 8 MR. FALCONE: The authority's already
 9 given to the state associations, and this is
 10 giving authority to other association members,
 11 through the secretary general.
 12 PRESIDENT GULATI: Okay.
 13 MR. MARIAHAZY: Absolutely. Peter
 14 Mariahazy, maker of the amendment.
 15 The reason for that is that the state
 16 associations are required to have a technical
 17 director or director of coaching with an A
 18 license who is responsible for quality control
 19 within the state, as was mentioned earlier, and
 20 is familiar with state law as is applicable.
 21 Quite frankly, I agree that we need
 22 to have it locally facilitated and guided as
 23 opposed to -- and I don't want to use the word
 24 control of the state level. It's just that it
 25 has a better understanding of what the needs are

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1 within that specific marketplace.
 2 The target and specific delivery of
 3 coaching education -- and, for example, Southern,
 4 California, will be different than in Florida,
 5 and perhaps, different than in Rhode Island. The
 6 state associations are given very specific
 7 requirements to fulfill as far as referees, as
 8 far as involvement in that process, as well as
 9 coaching education, as far as having the
 10 technical directors or directors of coaching. So
 11 it seems to make sense to that. The secretary
 12 general is a very capable and able individual;
 13 however, it seems as though this would fit better
 14 to more closely meet the needs of that
 15 marketplace, and we already, as state
 16 associations, have those responsibilities
 17 currently.
 18 MR. SCRIVEN: Craig Scriven, USSSA.
 19 I speak against it. I represent the
 20 grassroots level. They need the coaching
 21 education. They need to be able to put on these
 22 clinics, and with the revamp of the coaching
 23 education program coming from the national
 24 governing body, I think the national governing
 25 body is in a good place, where the secretary

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1 through the secretary general.
 2 Now we will take -- anything else on
 3 the main policy, to affirm the policy itself,
 4 which has been moved by Mr. Edwards, as amended
 5 by the, striking the words "or their members."
 6 Any other comments on that?
 7 All right. We will then vote to
 8 affirm that policy. Yes, if you wish to affirm
 9 that, that's 1; no, if you wish to not affirm
 10 that. And that's 2.
 11 MR. KEPNER: Five, four, three, two,
 12 one. Stop.
 13 PRESIDENT GULATI: That's approved.
 14 Thank you.
 15 We're then on to Policy 213,
 16 mandatory liability insurance from Mr. --
 17 proposed by Mr. Groff. This was approved by the
 18 Board in February 2014. Do we have a motion to
 19 adopt this?
 20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So move.
 21 PRESIDENT GULATI: So moved,
 22 Mr. Groff and a number of others. Any comments
 23 on this one? Any opposition to this one?
 24 Hearing none, we'll approve that unanimously,
 25 thank you.

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1 general can approve the coaching courses.
 2 Also, I speak as a college coach. We
 3 don't see any players getting developed at a
 4 certain level, and it comes from coaches not
 5 being able to teach those players at the younger
 6 ages. So we need to have more coaching courses
 7 out there. We need to have the ability to have
 8 them at all levels.
 9 Thank you.
 10 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. Anyone
 11 else?
 12 Okay. So we have a motion with an
 13 amendment on the floor, which is to strike the
 14 word "secretary general," replace them with
 15 "state association." I think it's pretty
 16 straightforward. So we'll put that to a vote.
 17 It's 1, if you support the amendment to strike
 18 secretary general and replace it with state
 19 association; 2, if you don't. The clock starts
 20 now.
 21 MR. KEPNER: Five, four, three, two,
 22 one, stop.
 23 PRESIDENT GULATI: So that amendment
 24 fails. And the decision-making about other
 25 organization members' approval would still be

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1 And finally, we have a series of
 2 policies that were affected by the last document,
 3 and you will see that in your book, proposed
 4 amendments to referee policies, and those are
 5 policies 531-1,-2,-3,-6,-7,-8,-9,-10,-11.
 6 And that was proposed by the Referee
 7 Committee and approved by the board earlier last
 8 year.
 9 Do we have a motion to adopt those?
 10 MR. EDWARDS: So move.
 11 MR. CHRISTOFFERSEN: So move.
 12 PRESIDENT GULATI: Mr. Edwards and
 13 others.
 14 Comments on those? Any opposition to
 15 that set of policies? If not, we will approve
 16 those unanimously. Thank you. We are done with
 17 the policy section -- proposed amendments to
 18 Federation policies.
 19 Next on the agenda is Foundation
 20 Board of Directors. As you will recall, we have
 21 four positions up, and so we will take
 22 nominations for the four. And our rule here is
 23 that the entire council votes on those, but that
 24 each of the four main groups that Mr. Kepner
 25 outlined earlier must be represented. So you

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1 must have an affiliation with the pro game, the
 2 adult game, the youth game, or with the athletes'
 3 representation here, to be nominated to fill that
 4 particular spot, but there could be multiple
 5 candidates, in theory, from any of that, any of
 6 those particular groups.
 7 So we are open to nominations.
 8 Hopefully, the councils have not
 9 forgotten this was happening today.
 10 John Motta.
 11 MR. MOTTA: John Motta, Chair of the
 12 Adult Council. It's my honor that I would like
 13 to place the nomination of Gianfranco Borroni to
 14 represent the Adult Council.
 15 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. Mr.
 16 Borroni nominated to represent the Adult Council.
 17 Mr. Garber.
 18 MR. GARBER: Sunil, on behalf of the
 19 Professional Council, I would like to nominate
 20 JoAnn Neale. JoAnn has been with Major League
 21 Soccer for 17 years, and runs MLS Works, and has
 22 been on the Foundation Board for several, and an
 23 active member of the Foundation and a very, very
 24 passionate supporter of all the great work done
 25 by the Foundation.

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1 nominations. Thank you. I'm going to assume
 2 that all four of those candidates are -- have
 3 accepted the nomination, and if so, we will
 4 approve them all by unanimity. Thank you.
 5 Congratulations.
 6 (Applause.)
 7 PRESIDENT GULATI: Next, on the
 8 business, we have -- we'll take nominations for
 9 our independent directors. As you know, seven
 10 years ago, we added independent directors to our
 11 board. Two of those slots are up, and I'm going
 12 to put into, the name -- put into nomination the
 13 names of Carlos Cordeiro and Fabian Nunez.
 14 Fabian is not here today, but both have been very
 15 active and helpful as we move forward, starting,
 16 in one case, five years ago and the other case,
 17 six years ago.
 18 So I would like to put their names
 19 into nomination.
 20 MR. EDWARDS: Move to close
 21 nominations.
 22 PRESIDENT GULATI: Any other
 23 nominations for independent directors?
 24 I have a motion to close the
 25 nominations from Mr. Edwards. We'll do that.

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1 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. JoAnn
 2 Neale on behalf of the Professional Council.
 3 John Sutter.
 4 MR. SUTTER: John Sutter, President
 5 of the Youth Council.
 6 I would like to place the name of
 7 David Messersmith into nomination. David is a
 8 former U.S. Youth Soccer president, former Youth
 9 Council president, long-term member of the
 10 Foundation board and has served it admirably, as
 11 he has those other organizations, and I would
 12 like to put his name into nomination. Thank you.
 13 PRESIDENT GULATI: Jeff.
 14 MR. AGOOS: Jeff Agoos, Chair of the
 15 Athletes Council. The Athletes Council would
 16 like to nominate Juergen Sommer. Juergen is a
 17 former national team goalkeeper and is currently
 18 the head coach for Indy Eleven.
 19 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. So we
 20 have at least one nominee from each of the four
 21 councils.
 22 Any other nominations?
 23 MR. RUBENSTEIN: Close the
 24 nominations.
 25 PRESIDENT GULATI: Close the

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1 And welcome back, Mr. Cordeiro and
 2 Mr. Nunez. Thank you.
 3 (Applause.)
 4 PRESIDENT GULATI: We are now at the
 5 information for our next AGM, which will be in
 6 San Antonio, next year the 25th through the 27th.
 7 And it's not, obviously, around this
 8 time, but we are playing in San Antonio in April
 9 with the Men's National Team in a stadium of
 10 63,000 people. That game is sold out as of
 11 yesterday, and it is certainly the first time
 12 since 1994 that we have sold out a large stadium
 13 with a national team game this far in advance.
 14 So well done for that game and well done to San
 15 Antonio which will be hosting us next year.
 16 And thank you, San Antonio and Texas,
 17 South Texas.
 18 (Applause.)
 19 PRESIDENT GULATI: With that, I
 20 certainly also want to thank our two state
 21 associations here in Cal North, in both the adult
 22 and youth level, for hosting us. It has been a
 23 spectacular couple of days, and we're sure the
 24 rest of the stay will be equally good.
 25 Let's just go to then another video.

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1 (Video shown.)
 2 (Applause.)
 3 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you.
 4 We are near the conclusion of the
 5 meeting. We are at the Good of the Game, and
 6 normally, I save my comments on Good of the Game
 7 for last, but today, I'm going to start. And
 8 then we've got a couple of people that have asked
 9 for specific time, and we will do that first.
 10 We recognized earlier people that we
 11 had lost in the last year.
 12 We lost a board member in the last
 13 year, Chairman of the Athletes Council. And
 14 along the way in this game -- and this stands
 15 true for all of us -- we meet people who've had a
 16 huge impact, whether it's on ourselves or on the
 17 sport.
 18 And Jon fits that in so many
 19 different ways, as a sitting board member, in
 20 service to the country, in service to the sport.
 21 And I would rather have Jon's words
 22 speak for what he was all about. And he wrote me
 23 an e-mail, when he found out that he was very
 24 sick.
 25 "Dear Sunil, I hope this finds you

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1 Even reexploring my personal involvement to
 2 elevate our actions as a sport confronting the
 3 issue, at the same time, disclosing to all who
 4 are part of the team, yet returning to the most
 5 important action item that I continue to take on,
 6 take this on, and get stronger."
 7 Jon, a few weeks later, passed away.
 8 And he knew he was very sick and still was
 9 thinking about how to make the sport better. A
 10 service person in the U.S. Coast Guard, head of
 11 the Athletes Council, and in so many ways, an
 12 inspiration. He was a Paralympian, and in so
 13 many ways, an inspiration for all of us that got
 14 to know him. So I certainly want to recognize
 15 him, and turn the floor to Eli Wolff, who was a
 16 dear friend of Jon's and member of our paralympic
 17 effort as well. Eli.
 18 (Applause.)
 19 MR. WOLFF: Thank you so much, Sunil.
 20 Jon was my closest and best friend,
 21 so it's very sad, but he had an amazing life
 22 mission and a purpose, and he always shared it
 23 with all of us, and his message was "Share the
 24 love." He would always say, "Share the love" as
 25 a player. He would come to the field, say "Share

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1 personally doing as well as possible. Amazing
 2 things are happening in U.S. Soccer.
 3 Unfortunately, I need to share some personal news
 4 with you that has been part of the many
 5 conversations we've had in the past. As my
 6 friend in U.S. Soccer, in regards to this, and
 7 many other topics off the pitch, this one never
 8 gets easier. Your guidance means a great deal to
 9 me, particularly, when cancer has been something
 10 that has hurt both our families and soccer
 11 families as a whole. Within the last month, I
 12 have been diagnosed with Stage 4 esophageal
 13 cancer that has already spread to lungs, liver,
 14 and lymph nodes. Although devastated initially
 15 with such short notice, I am extremely optimistic
 16 and positive about my prognosis and upcoming
 17 battle. Confident that I will have many
 18 victories. It's hard to have friends to trust
 19 that I share these feelings with, not an easy
 20 thing to talk about" -- and then a number of
 21 other personal things.
 22 "I do feel at this time, after
 23 talking with my medical teams, that I can
 24 continue to be actively engaged with all my
 25 responsibilities in the leadership of our sport.

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1 the love." And then when he was out there as a
 2 humanitarian, promoting the good of the sport,
 3 promoting the power of soccer, he would always be
 4 "Share the love."
 5 So I thought that perhaps as a way to
 6 think about him, to remember him, we could
 7 altogether, just for a moment, go "Share the
 8 love."
 9 So, 1, 2, 3, "Share the love."
 10 Thank you-all so much and thank you,
 11 Sunil.
 12 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thanks, Eli.
 13 (Applause.)
 14 PRESIDENT GULATI: First word for
 15 Jon, and the last word would be for Cal North in
 16 a little bit. But anyone else that wants to
 17 address any issues under the Good of the Game,
 18 this is the time.
 19 Please identify yourself for our
 20 official record.
 21 MR. PIAZZA: I'm Pascal Piazza, Texas
 22 South.
 23 We lost a giant of a game when we
 24 lost Milton Aimi, who passed away this last month
 25 after a long debilitating illness. Milton was,

1 again, one of the giants of the game. He grew
2 the game in North Texas, South Texas, and
3 throughout the country. And I just want
4 everybody now to again, to have a moment of
5 silence to thank Milton, because we would not be
6 here if Milton were not here and gave all he gave
7 to this great game.

8 (Moment of silence.)

9 MR. PIAZZA: Thank you. And look
10 forward to having everybody in San Antonio next
11 year.

12 (Applause.)

13 PRESIDENT GULATI: Thank you. Anyone
14 else on the Good of the Game. Anyone else back
15 there? I'm sorry? Yes? No? Anyone else? John
16 Sutter.

17 MR. SUTTER: Yes, Sunil.
18 Evelyn Gill has served as the
19 vice-president and now the vice chair of U.S.
20 Youth Soccer for many, many years, and she's not
21 seeking reelection this summer, so this will be
22 her last AGM, with U.S. Soccer, at least in the
23 position of responsibility for U.S. Youth Soccer.
24 She has been a fixture at these meetings and with
25 U.S. Youth Soccer, and I would like to

1 acknowledge the work that she's done on behalf of
2 our sport.

3 (Applause.)

4 PRESIDENT GULATI: Anyone else from
5 the Board? We're good?

6 Bob Kepner.

7 MR. KEPNER: Jon McCullough was a
8 member of the Credentials Committee, and the
9 thing I remember the most about him is that every
10 meeting, he always had a smile on his face. A
11 great contributor, very positive all the time. A
12 level of energy, he would arrive at meetings,
13 hurrying in, participate, hurry out, go to
14 something, come back.

15 So he's a real loss.

16 There's another person who was a
17 staunch member of the U.S. Soccer family, a small
18 man. Even smaller than I am. That's Don Gurney.
19 Many of you will remember him. He also died this
20 year. We got to know Don in the youth ranks, in
21 Region 3, from Florida. Another man who showed
22 enormous devotion and enormous attention to
23 detail, cared as much as anybody could possibly
24 care, particularly, for young kids.

25 And so I will miss Don, I'll miss

1 Jon. And I assume that all of you who knew both
2 gentlemen will feel the same way.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. PUGLIESE: Dyann Pugliese,
5 Michigan.

6 I would like to take the opportunity
7 to thank this entire national body for the
8 support we've received from you this last summer,
9 when we had the death of a referee in Michigan.
10 Many of you contributed to the funding account.
11 In Michigan, we have established the John
12 Bieniewicz Sportsmanship Award, where teams will
13 be identified for their good sportsmanship, but
14 our award is going to be determined by the
15 referees -- not the players, the coaches, or the
16 managers, the leagues -- the referees of our
17 state will determine the Sportsmanship Award.
18 So, again, thank you for your support. And,
19 Mike, thank you for coming to the awards
20 ceremony.

21 (Applause.)

22 PRESIDENT GULATI: Anyone else?
23 Seeing no one else, the last word, Cal South --
24 Cal North. Sorry.

25 MR. ZOPFI: Thanks, Sunil. Pete

1 Zopfi, from Cal North.

2 We really appreciate the opportunity
3 to host everyone this weekend. I think the
4 weather may have had a little effect on the vote
5 for Hawaii, but I could be mistaken.

6 We appreciate the opportunity to
7 share with you a real true Good of the Game,
8 something that's been with us, and we've worked
9 with for over 30 years, and I know a lot of other
10 state associations have done the same. And
11 really my words aren't necessary. I think the
12 little video we're going to show you will really
13 leave you with a nice warm feeling as you end the
14 day.

15 (Video shown.)

16 (Applause.)

17 PRESIDENT GULATI: Ladies and
18 gentlemen, that brings us to the end of our
19 business for the day.

20 And I want to again thank you for
21 your support of the game, love of the game, and
22 your service to the game, and for this weekend.

23 And with that, I will accept a motion
24 to adjourn the meeting and see you tonight for
25 the game.

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MR. EDWARDS: So move.
PRESIDENT GULATI: So moved. Enjoy
the rest of your day. Thank you.
MR. KEPNER: You can leave the
keypads where they are. Members of the staff and
committee will pick them up.
(Adjourned at 9:23 a.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, DEBRA K. RESLING, RMR, and Certified
Realtime Reporter appointed to take the meetings of
the U.S. Soccer Federation, do certify that the
within proceedings of the National Council meeting
were taken by me stenographically in San Francisco,
California, on February 14, 2015 then reduced to
typewritten form consisting of 67 pages herein; that
the foregoing is a true transcript of the proceedings
had.

In witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand
this 5th day of March, 2015.

Debra K. Resling, CSR, CRR, RMR
Registered Merit Reporter
and Notary Public.
4 Cheyenne Blvd.,
Colorado Springs, CO 80905
My commission expires February 28, 2017