

**MINUTES**  
**UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION, INC.**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING**  
**MAY 11, 2002**  
**WASHINGTON, DC**  
**10:00 A.M. EASTERN TIME**

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**PRESENT:** Dr. Robert S. Contiguglia, William J. Goaziou, David Askinas, Marypat Bell, John Bouda, David Burton, Chris Christoffersen, Tony DiCicco, Mike Edwards, Werner Fricker Jr., Evelyn Gill, Lauren Gregg, Richard Groff, Burton Haimes, Mary Harvey, John Kerr Jr., Marge Madriago, Francisco Marcos, Brooks McCormick, David Messersmith, Lynn Morgan, Bob Palmeiro, Alex Para, Kevin Payne, Charles Robinson, Darl Rose, Bruno Trapikas.

**VIA PHONE:** Sunil Gulati, Amanda Cromwell, John Doyle, Larry Harmon, Cameron Rast.

**APOLOGIES:** Fernando Clavijo, Bob Gansler, Don Garber, John Harkes, Jonathan Kraft, Alan Rothenberg, Bill Sage, Jim Sheldon, Peter Vermes.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Daniel T. Flynn, Jay Berhalter, Rich Matthys, Alison Kocoras (via phone), Timothy Pinto, Bob Albus, Julie Ilacqua, Mike Malamut, Parliamentarian, Debra Resling, Reporter, Herb Giobbi, Matt Weibe.

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President Contiguglia called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Bob Albus then called the roll and the President announced a quorum was present.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the February 3, 2001 Board meeting in Los Angeles, California. Richard Groff asked that the "Good of the Game" section be amended to include his statement that his fund-raising for Region 1 amateurs consisted of a trip to the World Cup. With that one amendment, the minutes were **APPROVED** by unanimous consent.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Contiguglia remarked on the success of the U.S. Soccer Foundation fund raising dinner, and invited Herb Giobbi to comment on it briefly. Mr. Giobbi thanked everyone for their support, and announced that the dinner netted approximately \$251,000 plus \$75,000 in in-kind equipment.

President Contiguglia reported that he and Dan Flynn had attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the National Training Center in February. He reported that the international sports medicine symposium, held in Los Angeles and co-sponsored by U.S. Soccer, was a huge success. He announced that at the April meeting of CONCACAF in Miami, Jack Warner had been re-elected as president, and Alan Rothenberg had been re-elected as vice-president.

President Contiguglia announced that U.S. Soccer has been awarded the right to host the Under-20 World Cup qualifying matches, and that cities are currently offering bids for that event. He also announced that MLS would be presenting a worldwide charity game in New York City on either September 11th or 12th.

President Contiguglia also noted the success of the Under-19 Women's National Team, which was in the middle of qualifying play in Trinidad, and had won its first two games by a combined score of 20 to zero. He also congratulated the Women's National Team on their victory over Finland. He wished the Men's National Team well in their upcoming friendly matches and in the World Cup. And he congratulated the United States Disabled team for their winning their tournament in Holland.

Finally, President Contiguglia announced that U.S. Soccer has been asked by the U.S.O.C., with IOC underwriting, to head up a symposium on women's soccer for the Pan American countries, and that U.S. Soccer staff was working on the details.

### **SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT**

Secretary General Dan Flynn presented U.S. Soccer's Phase 3 business plan. He reported on U.S. Soccer's progress, and its plans in the future, in the areas of Requirements, Core Competencies, and Player Development.

Burton Haimés raised four issues for discussion: the development of a USSF Open Cup; the development of an insurance plan involving all USSF member organizations; the drafting of a players' bill of rights; and the move to a universal player pass. Mr. Flynn updated the board on the background and current status for each of those issues. For the Open Cup, he explained that preliminary discussions had taken place about such a tournament, staff would continue to explore the demand for one and would provide an update at the October board meeting. For the insurance plan, he summarized the efforts that USSF had made to collect information from member organizations for a feasibility study, and explained that the low percentage of responses has made it difficult to move forward. For the creation of a universal player pass and direct registration services, Mr. Flynn noted that USSF had met with a large number of vendors about possible plans, and pointed out the difficulties in going to a standardized system when local needs vary so significantly. He reported that a test project is under way with the Foundation, and he would update the board as to its progress. Finally, on the players' bill of rights, Mr. Flynn reported that USSF had developed an internal draft and would be proposing the creation of a five-person committee to work on a full proposal.

Mr. Haimés asked to make formal proposals on each of these issues, and they were accepted to be considered later under "New Business."

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Bill Gaoziou asked David Eldridge, chairman of the Budget Committee, to present the 2003 budget to the board. Marypat Bell **MOVED** that the 2003 proposed budget be approved, and Mike Edwards seconded the motion.

During discussion on the motion, Mr. Groff noted that income from the USASA would be at least \$400,000 (instead of the \$379,000 listed) based on expected registration totals.

Mr. Flynn noted that USSF was currently working on improving the referee assessments program in Region 1, and had committed to helping develop a new model that may require an increase in the amount budgeted for that program of \$10,000.

Several members of the board, including Mr. Bouda, Mr. Gulati, Mr. Payne, Ms. Gill, Mr. Palmeiro, and Mr. Askinas asked questions about specific budget items.

Mr. Palmeiro **MOVED** that the budget be amended to include a commitment of \$250,000 for USASA, contingent upon USASA presenting a business plan that is acceptable to the Board of Directors, which motion was second and **ACCEPTED** by unanimous consent.

The motion to approve the 2003 budget, as amended, then **PASSED** by unanimous vote.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Marge Madriago reported that the Werner Fricker Memorial committee had put together a plan for an annual Werner Fricker Memorial Builder Award to be awarded to an individual or group "who has worked tirelessly and without regard to personal recognition or achievement in furthering the interest of the sport of

soccer in America, who has created or fostered programs that will outlast their own active involvement in the sport, and whose actions constitute a lasting part of the long-term structure of the sport.” Ms. Madriago further explained that an application process was being refined, where a standard nomination form would be developed and deadlines for nomination would be put in place. It was **MOVED** that the members of the Werner Fricker Memorial committee continue as the selection committee for the upcoming year, and that they be given the authority to award the first Werner Fricker Memorial Builder Award at this year’s AGM. The motion **PASSED** by majority vote.

Ms. Madriago asked Bob Albus to discuss some further award developments. Mr. Albus explained that the Werner Fricker Memorial committee had discussed several concepts, and displayed a number of different possible designs for awards.

Mike Edwards **MOVED** that Policy 601-4 be amended so as to make amateur reinstatement automatic for those players who have not been under contract for more than a year. The motion **PASSED** by majority vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dr. Contiguglia noted that the executive committee had approved a waiver for the Chicago Fire from normal professional standards so that the team is allowed to play on an artificial surface in their temporary home in Naperville.

Mr. Edwards reported that one additional board member from RIYSA (the defunct Rhode Island Youth state association), Kevin Fraser, wished to serve on the board of the new state association, Soccer Rhode Island. Mr. Edwards **MOVED** that the board allow Mr. Fraser to join SRI’s organization, and Ms. Bell seconded the motion. The motion **PASSED** by majority vote.

Ms. Bell **MOVED** that Policy 531-1, section 2, relating to referee administration, be amended so that the SYRA will be responsible for administration of grades 9, 10, and 11. The motion **PASSED** by majority vote.

Ms. Bell **MOVED** that Policy 531-1, section 3, be amended to read: “All Federation registered referees who reside, work or do their primary refereeing outside of the State Associations of the United States, shall be administered by the Referee Staff of the Federation in consultation with the Referee Committee.” The motion **PASSED** by majority vote.

Mr. McCormick **MOVED**, pursuant to Policy 531-4, that an additional color (blue) be approved for referee uniforms. The motion **PASSED** by majority vote.

(At this point the President asked that the meeting be closed for an Executive Session, so that the Board might discuss the grievance that had been filed against California Youth Soccer Association – North. Minutes for the Executive Session have been prepared separately.)

Mr. Haimes **MOVED** that the USSF adopt as a goal the establishment of a competition involving all of the USSF’s youth programs and promote interplay and cooperation amongst these various groups, and in order to accomplish that goal, that USSF then (i) create and fund a multi-year pilot program with at least one age group (boys and girls) starting in the 2003 fiscal year; (ii) appoint a Youth Open Cup Task Force with representatives from each youth organization (AYSO, USYSA, US Club Soccer, SAY, Super Y League, and Athlete representatives using the ‘one country, one vote’ system of FIFA and the Olympics so no organization has a controlling position) to draft the rules and procedures for the tournament by a date certain; and (iii) require a status at each BOD and Executive Committee meeting and annual review tied to the budgeting process. Pursuant to instructions from the parliamentarian, the board was instructed that this motion required a two-thirds vote to pass. After discussion, Mr. Haimes asked to **WITHDRAW** his motion, and by majority vote the board **ALLOWED WITHDRAWAL** of the motion.

Mr. Haimes **MOVED** that the USSF adopt as a goal providing the highest quality, lowest cost coverage to all members and to ensure that insurance coverage is never used as an excuse to prevent interplay amongst the various organizations, and, to accomplish that goal, that USSF (i) strongly urge every state association and grass roots player-based organization to provide insurance information to USSF by the 2002 AGM, and (ii) create a uniform insurance policy with the existing information and make participation in the program mandatory for all player-based organizations and increase their respective membership fees to cover the additional costs. Pursuant to instructions from the parliamentarian, the board was informed that this motion required a two-thirds vote to pass. The motion **FAILED** by majority vote.

Mr. Haimes **MOVED** that the USSF adopt as a goal to make clear to all stakeholders in the USSF that the players' rights to compete are sacrosanct and member organizations cannot make or enforce rules that violate those rights, and to accomplish that goal that USSF (i) appoint and fund a task force comprised of Athletes and representatives from the various grass roots organizations to write the Player Bill of Rights by the 2002 AGM and (ii) fund a method for distributing the Bill of Rights to every player. The motion **PASSED** by majority vote.

Mr. Haimes **MOVED** that the USSF adopt as a goal to make clear that players are members of the Federation – and not “owned” by any particular member organization – and that players have a right to move freely between organizations and participate in more than one organization at the same time, and to accomplish that goal that USSF (i) authorize all organizations to issue uniform player passes at its own expense, unless USSF can find a party to underwrite this expense and (ii) fund or apply to the Foundation for a grant to develop a universal player registration system for all USSF members. The motion **FAILED** by majority vote.

### **INFORMATIONAL UPDATE**

Tim Pinto provided an update on attempts to collect annual reports, financials, bylaws, etc. from the various organization members. He reported that the percentage of compliance was still less than 50%, but USSF would continue to send out reminders.

Mr. Pinto provided an update on FIFA's revisions to its player transfer regulations.

Ms. Bell provided an update on registration efforts by US Club Soccer and United States Sports Specialty Association. She reported that their membership status would be reviewed at the end of August to determine whether they are meeting the applicable membership category definitions.

Mr. Albus provided an update on arrangements for the 2002 AGM in San Francisco.

### **GOOD OF THE GAME**

Richard Groff gave his thanks to the Irish national team players for their donations, during the match with the U.S. Men's National Team in Ireland, to the September 11th fund. Werner Fricker Jr. reminded the board that the USASA National Cup finals would be held in Oakland, PA July 19-21. Chris Christoffersen reminded the board that the Region 2 finals would be held in Toledo, OH June 21-27. David Burton reminded the board that the USYSA Snickers Southern Regional tournament would be held in North Little Rock, AS June 24-July 2. Marge Madriago announced that Region 4 had voted Clive Charles into the Region 4 Hall of Fame. John Bouda described some of the recent activities of USSF's FIFA referees, including a number of instructional activities that had been held throughout the country.

President Contiguglia adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.