

To: Open Cup Committee

From: David Applegate

Date: December 21, 2021

Re: Minutes from Open Cup Committee Meeting 12/21/2021 – APPROVED 1/10/22

The Open Cup Committee met via Zoom on December 21, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm ET and lasted approximately 65 minutes.

1) Roll Call

Committee members present: Arthur Mattson (chair), Kevin Hensley (departed about 1 hour in), Stu Holden, Brett Luy

Committee members absent: Todd Durbin, Shonna Schroedl

Others present: David Applegate, Paul Marstaller, Mia Ciardiello, Neil Buethe, Amy Hopfinger

2) Introduction of New Committee Member

Kevin Hensley, a veteran of the U.S. Paralympic 7-A-Side National Team, was introduced to the committee.

3) Staffing Update

David Applegate was introduced as the new Director of Competitions. He will be the lead USSF staff member working on tournament and service as liaison to the committee. Mia Ciardiello started in late summer as Competitions Coordinator and will be assisting with tournament operations. Paul Marstaller announced his departure. He will remain as a consultant working on the tournament and transitioning to David through March 31. On behalf of the committee, Arthur thanked Paul for his years of service both to Open Cup and U.S. Soccer.

4) Approval of June 18, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Minutes of June 18, 2021, were approved without edit

5) Changes to Criteria For Open Division National League Eligibility

Paul Marstaller presented proposed changes to the Criteria For Open Division National League Eligibility to allow for current leagues to maintain this status moving forward. Unanimously approved. Please see attachment to these minutes for the revised text.

6) Review of FY23 Budget

Staff presented the FY23 Proposed Budget as it relates to Open Cup. There were no questions.

7) 2022 Tournament Format

After a lengthy discussion regarding tournament format for 2022, the following was approved unanimously:

First Round: All Open Division teams enter

Second Round: Division II and Division III teams enter

Third Round: 17 Division I teams enter

Round of 32: 8 additional Division I teams enter

The eight Division I teams that enter in the Round of 32 will be:

- 4 Teams Qualified for Concacaf Champions League
- The 2 next highest teams in the Eastern Conference Standings
- The 2 next highest teams in the Western Conference Standings

8) Pairings Methodology

Paul presented an overview of the pairings methodology for the 2022 tournament, based on the methodology approved for 2020.

9) Open Cup Policy Changes

With the departure of Kevin Hensley at this stage of the meeting, the review of a number of proposed policy changes was postponed until the next meeting of the Committee.

10) Concussions Substitutions

The committee discussed the U.S. Open Cup joining the concussion substitution trial implemented across professional leagues in 2021. Language for a policy proposal will be drafted to present at the next meeting.

11) Pandemic Related protocols

The committee had initial discussions about pandemic related protocols. Arthur asked staff to liaise with the professional leagues committee representatives to work on drafting a plan for the 2022 tournament.

12) Other Business

No other business was discussed.

13) Adjournment

With no other business, the meeting ended at approximately 2:25 p.m. ET.