



SOPAC Board Meeting Agenda/Minutes March 10, 2015

Lazy Dog Cafe, Orange; 7:30 pm

In attendance: Nick Baba, Kristine Palle, John Kulisich, Steve Redding, Mark Cousineau, Casey Greenawalt, Kathryn Manderino and Haz Ortega. Meeting called to order at 7:35pm.

1. Elections

Nominations are closed. Elections will begin on March 23rd and end on March 31st.

2. Zone Plan

Zone is finished and is posted on the zone website.

3. Developmental League:

Breakers Water Polo, hosting the winter league, has one game left in the series. We are looking for dates to start the next session. We now have a fall, winter and spring league. Games are covered by one official and are very affordable. We are interested in expanding the league to the Inland Empire as we had expressed interest at the December SOPAC meeting. Mark Cousineau will shoot out an email to solicit interest for hosting. Co-ed leagues could also be an option. The goal is to get a new geographical region established by the fall. This will also be a good time to get new referees deck experience.

4. Zone Bids

The zone has received bids for some upcoming events and those are now with the bid committee (chaired by Ed Reynolds of SOCAL). Younger JO Qualifications saw bids from Northwood and Kahuna/SET. Older JO Qualifications saw a bid from CHAWP. SPA received a bid from CHAWP. Currently all information is being vetted by the subcommittee and a summary/recommendation will be presented to the board within the next 2 weeks.

5. Age Group Rules

New rules...smaller goals for 10s and 12s (effective 2017), press defense until the ball leaves the perimeter, no direct shot outside the 5m mark, no time on the exclusion (player will exit field of play, report to the exclusion area and be eligible to come to play at that time). If a coach calls time out on after an exclusion, teams are

even strength thereafter. Links to video and rules are available on the USAWP site and will be on the SOPAC Zone site shortly.

6. Masters

Cousineau and Kathryn Manderino has a conference call with Bahram recently regarding hosting a series of one day womens'/open tournaments. Redding mentioned combining a masters' tournament with the "Claremont Convergence" college tournament in the fall to provide an opportunity where college level referees are already in an area and working. Baba will be checking the calendar for conflict with Cousineau Cup as they offer an "open" division.

7. Point Person for JO Quals and Seeding Call

The zone is in need of a point of contact for JO Qual information and a seeding call chairperson. This person will coordinate the seeding call, verify the compliance of bid, be the point of contact on quals weekend for any troubleshooting that may occur. Seeding call is a consensus based process. Casey will be on the call so if we are sans a designee, Casey will be the backup person to chair the call. The call WILL NOT take place over the holiday weekend. A date before or the Tuesday after Memorial Day will be the designated day. Date and time TBD. Cousineau will reach out to Scott Mitchell for interest in this position.

8. Referee Development and Attrition

Redding is working to recruit more officials. Between the LA and OC areas, there are 150 registered and working officials. The weekend of KAP7/Winter Fest, there were 60 referees available from the aforementioned areas and 30 were brought in from out of the area. Redding is establishing 4 geographic areas for referees to engage in "on deck" training (Riverside, Inland, North OC and South OC). To become a referee, the startup costs may be supplemented by the zone for referees willing to commit to serving the areas at the busiest times of year. If every club could produce one recruit to officiate, we would have more than 200 hundred new officials. On impacted weekends, the zone is looking to explore a maximum game capacity as the new hosting policy (which references "courses" as opposed to "games") made need to be revisited. While we are working hard to grow the referee pool, the zone does not currently have the resources to appropriately staff those impacted weekends.

9. Financials

The zone balance is upward of \$150k. Riverside Water Polo Club is purchasing one of the timing systems from the zone at the cost of \$8264.30. A down payment of \$1500 was made leaving a balanced owed of \$6764.30. 25 payments will be made (\$250 each, one also made this evening) will a final payment of \$264.30 collected as the final.

Next meeting: TBD
Meeting adjourned at 9:56pm