



## **ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES: DECEMBER 14, 2014**

### Hosting Policy:

Concerns were raised regarding the fees attached to hosting large tournaments. Mark C. will organize a meeting with the four major clubs that host in attempts to revise the policy.

### Plan for 2015:

Arbiter: Many entities are using Arbiter. It isn't a perfect system but it is improving. When writing checks to Arbiter, write separate checks for events. Each zone will now have an account where monies can be designated to specific tournaments within the zone. This should streamline the system and get referees paid faster. Coaches/Tournament Host would like a "view feature" to see referee assignments. Haz Ortega will look into that.

Referees: There is going to be exploration for new levels to be created (2 ½ and 3 ½) showing progress and movement for officials that are between levels. This is a national movement with a rubric designed to clearly define the levels across the country; standardizing how referees are evaluated and assigned a "level". The zone has a policy for level 3s, 4s and 5s to volunteer time as part of their obligation for being deemed a higher level of referee. To maintain their designation, they must put in time mentoring younger officials.

Annual Plan- What are we doing for the year? For 2015, the roles and job descriptions are defined and can be found in the document titled "Zone Plan". Institutionalizing the responsibilities will help define duties as new leadership cycles in and out of leadership positions. The SOPAC Zone has the highest density of members in the smallest geographic area (good and bad). We will continue to offer developmental leagues in attempts to grow the sport. There is much opportunity for high level play...we need to get more for new players. Want to create more opportunities for "Open" and "Masters" play as well as "Splash Ball". If there are ideas for participation or growth, please help. 16s are the bulk of membership currently. The zone is interested in creating more educational opportunities in the areas of leadership and character development for athletes; we are also hoping to reach parents.

Code of Conduct Changes: Currently, if an "A" AND "B" team qualifies for JOs, you can move 2 players from each team up/down respectively. This privilege was used against the spirit of the rule and many

are not happy with the current policy. This topic will be a discussion item at the USAWP Annual Meeting. The zone has an affiliation rule to mitigate club hopping and/or recruitment. There is no interest from anyone in the zone to change that.

Member Input (what would the members like to see the zone do for them):

Zone subsidizing tournaments to get level 4 and 5 referees out at large tournaments to mentor.

More developmental opportunity, supported by the zone, hosted regionally...minimizing the burden of travel to OC. Perhaps the zone can help with some of the costs involved to provide more play days; equitability in travel for participants.

Asking John Abdou to create a sub-tier group to Premier League to get high level masters play back in the mix. Bahram (Inter) and Maria (Extreme) are interested in hosting one day adult/recreational leagues.

Looking at the schedule for JO Quals. that is inclusive of ALL teams who wish to attempt to qualify. An idea was vetted along the lines of all clubs getting their "A" teams into the tournament prior to allowing "B" and "C" teams in. Mike Sattler (with Nick Baba) will examine draft schedules for varying team numbers (30 and above) to mitigate the "play in" games where a team may not get to play out the entire qualification tournament. Those teams would like to play a full qualification schedule instead of only one game.

Ed Reynolds suggested a 5 on 5 beach polo league, 10 minute running clocks, play for a few hours, with coaches reffing. In attempts to promote our sport in the community, some of the more affluent clubs could contribute nominally to an advertising campaign to help grow water polo. Getting 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> graders interested is where growth needs to occur and should be our target audience.

Elections: Ballots were distributed. There were three candidates that were add-on to the ballot (same day). Those were Haz Ortega, Bahram Hojreh and Jennifer Aronson. The other candidates were Jeff Diacomio, Herb Goldstein (not present), Mark Cousineau and John Kulisich. Ballot distribution, collection and tally handled by Kristine Palle (current Vice Chair). Genai Kerr provided a count audit to verify the votes. There were three positions available. Elected to those positions were Haz Ortega, Jennifer Aronson and Bahram Hojreh.