

White Bear JO Volleyball Board Meeting Minutes

2/10/08

Members Present: Rachael Schmieg, Teresa Akermark, Stacy Hinz, Brian Teschendorf, Liz Wilcox, Roger Linnell, Chris Erickson

The minutes from 12/2/07 were unanimously approved w/ no changes.

Treasurer's report: Liz Wilcox reported to the Board that the IRS has responded favorably to the club's explanation of past tax filing practices that did not meet the full requirements of IRS regulations. Changes have now been made to our financial reporting that brings the club into full compliance w/ IRS regulations and no penalty will be assessed against the club. Great work, Liz!! A one-time fee was paid to the accounting firm of Tautges and Redpath in White Bear Lake to bring the club into compliance. All future tax reporting obligations will be handled by the firm of Boyum & Barends, for an estimated fee of \$ 500 annually. Beginning our payroll expenses for the 2008 -09 JO season in January of '09 will help limit costs to the club for tax form preparation services.

Liz has sent out payment reminders to the participating families that still have a portion of their activity fees outstanding. All fees are due by February 15th. Starting next season, the club will utilize a contract for payment of fees to be signed by any participant family not paying the full activity fee at the player-parent meeting in November. The contract will explain the expected timeframe for payment of remaining fees.

Liz also presented an itemized statement of club expenses and income. It appears that over the past three years, our balance has been shrinking. The Board decided to set the goal of having at least a \$ 5,000 cushion in the club account in the event of unforeseen expenses. We should be able to accomplish this given the outstanding income still due the club, and the limited expenses the club should incur the remainder of the season. This generated some talk of possible fund raising options to help build the club's account balance. We will discuss this at greater length in upcoming meetings.

Other Items :

Brian will continue to work with our website host to work on rectifying the problems that some families ran into during the on-line registration process this past fall.

Both Rachael and Brian have corresponded with the coaches since the beginning of the season to encourage them to keep their respective team pages on the website updated throughout the season. Upon review, it appears that some team pages are reviewed and updated regularly, while others are getting lesser degrees of attention. The club would like to see the website become an integral part of the information pipeline to all families regarding team / tournament pictures; practice schedules; play dates and tournament results. Given the variety of responses to some aspects of the coaching position (involvement in December events & practices; other obligations throughout the JO season; website update), the club may want to consider developing a more formal coaching contract that spells out the primary expectations of the coaching position to use in future seasons. This would hopefully prevent misunderstandings and allow for proactive discussion of a situation where expectations are not being reasonably met. In the meantime, Rachael and Brian will continue to encourage more involvement by the coaches in an effort to bring some of the pages a bit more up-to-date. At the end of the discussion on this topic, Brian offered to meet with the coaching staff at the beginning of next

season to explain how to update website pages and show examples of team pages in hopes this will create a greater comfort level for all coaches.

Stacy reported that player uniforms were delivered in early January and that the uniforms have worked out well. Unfortunately, there have been sizing difficulties with the style uniform selected for coaches. That may result in further delays in delivery. The board authorized Rachael to determine how best to proceed with the issue. The club has some extra JO Volleyball sweatshirts that may work well in providing club apparel for coaches to wear during games and tournaments. She will update the board at the next meeting.

Teresa reported that a few coaches have yet to pick a site for the Area Event Tournament their team will participate in. While the registration deadline is not until March 31st, she would like to know as soon as possible. Teresa volunteered to help Rachael get our parent survey form out to all participating families by the end of the season. At some point we may be able to put the survey on the club website and tabulate feedback in that way (saving time and postage and getting a higher response rate).

Pat and Rachael both reported that only a couple player or parent concerns have been raised so far this season regarding coaching decisions or behavior. Those issues have been resolved promptly and in a satisfactory fashion.

With no further business, the Board adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for 4/20/08 at 7 PM. Kim Bocklund or Chris Erickson will be hosting the meeting.

Submitted by Chris Erickson
Board Secretary