

White Bear JO Volleyball Board Meeting Minutes 8/6/07

Members Present: Elissa Kovala, Rachael Schmieg, Patrick Rinella, Teresa Akermark, Kim Bocklund, Brian Teschendorf, Chris Erickson

The minutes from 5/15/07 were unanimously approved w/ no changes.

Treasurer's report: Pat informed us that the current balance in our account is \$ 11,075. Some outstanding fees still remain from a few of last season's participating families. He continues to work on that issue. At the last meeting, the Board discussed establishing a more formal club policy regarding the timely payment of club dues. For many years the club has followed the practice of allowing postdated checks to be used, to help families in financial need defer a portion of their payment for 30 – 60 days. Given the fact that many of the club's expenses (payroll, tournament registrations, equipment, gym time, etc.) come due starting in November, it would create problems for the Club if many families chose to follow this practice. After much discussion weighing both sides of this issue, the Board passed **a policy that from this point forward, a minimum of 50% of participation fees are due at the time of registration, and that the outstanding balance will be due no later than February 15th. If the remaining dues are not paid by that date, the participant will be excluded from further involvement with the Club until such time as the fees are paid in full.** At the registration meeting, the Board treasurer will make available to any family who desires, current information about local fundraising options available to them to help defray the cost of participation in the Club.

Pat also updated us on the issue of the Club needing to address outstanding and future tax reporting obligations (i.e. – 1099 forms to coaching staff, etc.). Pat has contacted the White Bear Lake accounting firm of Tautges, Redpath & Company and will soon be setting up a meeting to address and rectify all outstanding IRS reporting obligations. Pat will update the Board on this issue at the next meeting.

General Business:

The Board revisited the issue of establishing the coaching director position within the club as a paid position. Rachael Schmieg has filled this position the past few years. Further information gathering confirmed that many of the metro-area volleyball clubs similar to ours do reimburse this position due to the heavy demands of the job. After further discussion, **the Board unanimously passed a motion to make the coaching director a paid position, at the same reimbursement rate as a coaching position.** This rate is similar to or a bit below the rate the other metro-area volleyball clubs currently pay for that position. Rachael will continue in that role for the coming season.

Rachael has begun the task of looking for gym space for teams this coming winter. The cost of gym space has risen and also become harder to secure. Given rising costs and limited gym space factors, the Board took this opportunity to discuss the issue of restricting participation in the club to those families who reside in the White Bear School District. This has been a fairly consistent topic of discussion at Board meetings for some time. Many local area clubs do limit their participation in this fashion. As the Board discussed this topic at greater length, we agreed that it is time to make a change in who we serve. In doing so, the board has no desire to penalize current players who already participate in the club at a competitive level. Therefore, **the Board unanimously passed a motion: From this point forward, any applicant desiring to play for the club must reside within the White Bear School District. However, any girl from outside the district who has already**

played for the club in the 14's or older competitive leagues may continue to participate in full for the remainder of their eligible years.

Rising costs also resulted in a review of the participation fees currently being charged by the club. The amount of practice time each age group gets, along with the number of play dates and tournaments all helped determine the fee levels established by the Board for the upcoming season.

Developmental Leagues:

12's -- \$ 325

13's -- \$ 425

Competitive Leagues:

14's – 18's -- \$ 625

These fees fall well within the average charged by comparable clubs across the metro area. A sampling of participation fees of other clubs across the metro area will be listed in the player-parent handout to help all participant families understand how other clubs are addressing this issue.

Elissa reported on the status of uniforms for next year. It seems that several problems did arise last year with Kaepa. This led to the club having to issue refunds to several families for problems not corrected by Kaepa. Rachael will have Stacy look into this and take over the role of coordinating uniforms for the upcoming season.

Pre-registration and try-out dates were tentatively set for the upcoming year (pending Rachael's securing those dates at the North Campus site): Pre-registration will be on 10/8 at South Campus, from 5 – 8 PM. The Board will continue to encourage on-line registration through the club's website, www.whitebearvolleyball.org. Try-outs will be held in the North Campus gym. For 12's and under, the date will be 11/2. All other age groups will try out on 11/11. Specific times will be set at an upcoming Board meeting. Also, the Player – Parent meeting will be held at South Campus on 11/27.

Teresa will get a promotional piece regarding the club to the White Bear middle schools. Kim will coordinate a similar article or JO flyers to the two high school campuses. Kim will also get registration and tryout information into the local paper (White Bear Press) later this fall.

The Board was pleased to welcome Brian Teschendorf to tonight's meeting. Brian has agreed to take over managing the club's website. He will consider becoming an active Board member, and that will be taken up at the next Board meeting.

With no further business, the Board adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for 9/23 at 7 PM. Teresa Akermark will be hosting the meeting. Thanks, Teresa.

Submitted by Chris Erickson
Board Secretary