

**MYSA State Council Meeting- Summer**  
**Sunday August 4, 2024- Butte MT, Copper King**

	<u>Board of Directors</u>	Present	No	Excused
P	John Lovell, President	X		
VP	John Lacey, Vice President	X		
T	Julie Jaksha, Treasurer	X		
S	Jenny Wilcynski, Secretary	X		
CR	Julie Van Hise, Classic Representative	X		
SR	Phil McGovern, Select Representative	X		
PR	Erin Williams, Premier Representative	X		
SYR	Justin Harcrow, State Youth Referee Admin	X		
	<u>Staff</u>			
R	Katja Andrew, State Registrar/ODP Admin	X		
TD	Hunter Terry, Director of Coaching/TD/ODP			X
ED	Jill Marlow, Executive Director	X		

**Call Meeting to Order - Meeting Called to Order ~9:04 am by P.**

**Roll Call-** Laurel Storm- Aaron Christensen, GESC- Joel Ganey, Strikers FC- Natalie Hiller-Claridge, Mining City- Mike Maser, HYSA- Andy Adamek, Rush- Jeremiah Kirschman, Laura Buus, Montana Rush- Sam Holum, Heather Starnes, Queen City- Kolynn Traynor, James Johnston, Lewistown Soccer- Brett Thackeray, Miles City- Caleb Bolman, Big Sky FC- Doug Hare, Kootenai Rapids- Kate Stephens, Hi-Line United- Julie Sparks, Billings United- Jessica French, Jaxon Willet, Flathead Valley United- Damion Blackburn, Roland Benedict (16/28 Clubs Represented)

**Credentials-** Quorum- 16/28 MYSA teams represented.

**Approval of 2024 Winter Meeting Minutes-** Rush moves to approve minutes, Laurel Storm seconds- All Approve.

## Reports-

**Budget-** T reports on Budget- T reports that the new ODP Director will look over the budget for approval within the next 2 weeks. Approval vote will come on or around September 1 for board to approve State ODP Budget. T announced that MYSA/ODP will split the State Registrar's salary, new equipment also on the budget for ODP. For any questions, please reach out to T directly. Questions by the AGM include Missoula Strikers asked about salary levels for staff, specifically ED & R and being more in line with the new TD/ODP director. (Monday August 5 is the official start for the new TD/ODP Director- August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024) Salary levels a bit off for the State level compared to Club levels. GESC asked for a per player fee break down would like to see how the \$32 per person is broken up. P&L Overview- Financials will be done next week (August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024) which will incorporate all MYSA financials through June 2024. There will be profit for 2024 eventually. ED reported that most income comes in during July & August for the summer tournament events, teams have been billed through Got Sport Billing.

**Communications Report-** ED reports Superior Stompers will look to field teams in Spring League but only Recreational level for fall. Browning is also hoping to start up some teams soon, Big Timber will also field Recreational teams this fall, and Sidney will field teams again for the Spring League. Dillon is also working to build teams starting at the Rec level.

**SYR Report-** SYR representative provided handouts -"2024/2025 Referee Information", reports state for 2024 with percentage of Increase/Decreases. SYR reports the zip code distribution looks good for referees throughout the State districts. Look for new information coming for 2025. Reminder fees are: \$60 main clinic fees, \$40 + background check (good for 2 years) \$27 for Digital fee-US Soccer, Safe sport/Referee/Background all needed for new participants, Host a new referee clinic- please submit date and place if you can host, recertification- no changes here but currently open and good thru December 31, 2025. Assignr.com platform (which is preferred platform), SYR reports there are a few minor outstanding fees and funds waiting for users. New to assignr will be blackout dates/referees will be able block dates they are not available. Any club can run the assignr program including High School, Collegiate, all MYSA programs. Self-assigning access to games is available. Also new for 2025- Captain Arm Bands-enforced for 2025 Fall- Captains will have access to discuss with referees rather than entire team, Shin Guard Size- law state shin guard to "adequate size", also changes to fouls/handballs-intentional more language clarification, Box- Penalty area/retake kicks. Reminder to keep recruiting! 18-30-year-old age group make for great referees! Questions- Laural Storm asked about incentives for referees? Still \$100 for 100? SYR received 62 applications- 297 new referees but only 62 applied for the scholarship. Rush shared that they have instituted a program that teams do not get schedule until they have a referee for each team. Is there a larger Campaign for Referees? Something at the National level? SYR suggest perhaps reach out

to college students at MSU B, Carroll, UM, MSU and +, to help recruit past players, students from other areas make great referees. Laurel Storm asked about fees? AR vs CR. wages are currently the same with bonus program still in effect, only 60 referees took advantage of the bonus. (although not permitted for tournaments). CR discusses AR vs CR- once certified does not matter if you are an AR/CR. AGM discussion- Host teams need to have referees, not just traveling teams. Should the host team provide the CR? Lewistown asked how many games were affected with no referees? SYR reports that only a few games actually turned into friendlies due to not having enough referees this past season. The Referee drop-out rate is +200/-200 we really need to get referees to get re-certified and continue to recruit! HYSA added please do not wear out the veteran referees, Rec and Academy level need to build young referees- Do we need to redistrict to cover games? Queen City added they pay for Referee programs.

**Classic Report** – JVH provided a report/update to the classic meeting. No further discussion was added, also added information on the MYSA Senior Scholarship Committee- 32 applicants- Discuss rubric for grading, there are more competitive and higher quality candidates applying. Increasing to 15 from 10 scholarships and recipients will cover classic club players, select players, premier, small & larger clubs and referees. ED will announce upcoming scholarship recipients later in spring.

**Select Report**- PM reported good discussion amongst the select meeting. Added weather discussions after Montana Cup- implementing a “weather tree” to inform programs. Added there will be no room scheduling for the upcoming spring season- The vote will come to clubs regarding scheduling process, if not moving forward with new scheduling, then a date for “the room” will come. ED is very involved with the new scheduling process. Please identify the age group and who will be playing. Laurel Storm added that age groups change throughout the registration period so make adjustments as this process takes place.

**Premier Report**- EW reported 2-hour meeting for Premier programs. Ideas for next spring include weekend games, sights to host multiple games. Hope to host a premier zoom in November or December of 2024. Consistency of schedule and cancellation of friendlies especially at the end of the season were discussed. Enforcement of fines, referee fees (Refs should be paid even if games are cancelled) all were discussed. The Premier program's goal is to provide a good schedule with teams that are premier and at the right level of play- please ask if teams belong at this level for the upcoming season. No further questions for Premier report.

**Scholarship Committee**- See select report an update was provided by JVH.

**Vice President Report-** JL stated he is doing a comprehensive review and prioritizing with board members/ED very involved where things can be updated/changed. Provided a review of the 3 Strikes Policy that MYSA is implementing- consequences that will take place when issues arise. More to come.

-GESC asked about the Winter AGM and if it was necessary to meet. P noted USYS mandates 2 meetings a year. Missoula Strikers noted traveling and the amount of time is substantial for programs and individuals. Is there an option for a virtual meeting? GESC updated there is no reference to 2 meetings by USYS. It was noted that MYSA's own bylaws show 2 meetings a year. What are the potential solutions? Can we consider during week meetings? Weekends are limited for people; can we do all agenda items in 1 day? Discussion had by all AGM participants.

**ED Report-** ED reported ITG grant is open- please submit and provide all needs for the grant, there is a 2%/\$2500 cap grant administration fee for this grant. 2026 Tournament Host sites for State events are due in January – will be announced at the 2025 Winter AGM. New “USYS University” – provides educational resources to coaches, players, parents, officials, administrators, memberships are available please reach out to ED for more information- ED will send presentation from USYS for this program. ED is happy to visit club programs and available to help when needed. No questions.

**T Report (update)-** T reported player fee includes insurance. Recreation players fees are \$13. Background fee, administration fees are all included with the \$13. T will send out actual breakdown per player. T announced an Endowment is looking to be created for MYSA to assure future soccer for the State of MT. Questions- Laurel Storm asked regarding team registration being \$150 to increase this rather than increase individual player fees? Additional questions include- Missoula Strikers added concern about livable wages being provided for MYSA employees, there is a difference of frugal vs. livable wages. ED should make more than an employee (TD), State R is making less than some bigger programs pay their club R across the State. Why does MYSA supplement recreational for competitive players? Laurel added, let's look at how we can change this. Strikers added discussion on fundraising, ED should not have to do fundraising. Laurel Storm asked where is fundraising in the MYSA Bylaws?

**Unfinished Business-** None.

**New Business-** Discussion on forfeitures/fines for games was started: - Holding teams accountable. 1. Fine of \$250 per forfeit. 2. Fines need to be paid prior to the next game played. (This would not include weather issues) Lewistown/Brett asked who determines the weather? ED will help determine if weather or field status is at fault or okay to play. It was noted that Clubs need to administer their own team's fines. Laurel Storm makes a motion- “No

teams will play” (no teams from that program will play until fine is paid and \$ goes to that club)  
Montana Rush seconds. Motion. 1 Vote against, Motion is approved. (This is an amendment of the current policy)

For Spring- **January 15, 2025 is Deadline for Spring league team registration!!** ED will make the spring league schedule. Schedule will be created 3-4 weeks after the registration deadline and allow for 7 days approval or submission of changes. ED will create spreadsheets, teams will provide blackout days, no restriction other than premier – 2 weeks. (this is set in place of a spring scheduling meeting) Referee availability for hosts, club contact, phone, email will all be included on spreadsheet for spring U10-U19. The proposal is to move away from the scheduling meeting- ED will provide schedule. Rush Great falls motions to approve the schedule proposal, Missoula Strikers 2<sup>nd</sup>. Laurel Storm, MC Posse, Lewistown all vote no- Yes votes carry, Motion is approved. GESC adds to allow for 2- or 3-year trial for new scheduling procedure, 1 year is not enough to work out issues.

-Board Elections- 2024 elections include; Secretary, Select Representative, Premier Representative.

Secretary Candidates- Jenny Wilcynski, (No Opposition- Unanimous, Accepts position)

Select Representative- Phil McGovern (No opposition- Unanimous, Accepts position)

Premier Representative- Candidates: Erin Williams and Damion Blackburn. Damion Blackburn- Executive Director for FVU (Flathead Valley United) High School coach, Regional/State ODP coach. Happy to be part of MYSA-4 years and counting – Will have plenty of time for Board seat. Erin Williams- Montana Surf-Stepped into the role previous year, happy to continue service for MYSA. The voting process takes place by AGM, Erin Williams wins the vote, accepts the position.

Announcement of College Player Advisor- Austin Shick from Carroll College (Head Men’s soccer coach) will provide consulting to MYSA/ODP players looking to advance to the collegiate or beyond soccer programs. Questions asked were if he could provide this consult without NCAA/NAIA issues? Yes, he can. Larger clubs provide other college consultants- Missoula Strikers, HYSA.

For Future Meeting- Rush Great falls asks about motion to follow US Soccer vs MYSA- No heading until 11 v 11 sided games. The new TD will check into the rules for heading the ball at age levels and report back.

**For the Good of the Game-** Queen City announces niece is 8<sup>th</sup> in Olympics for shooting (she is from GA), Missoula swimmer receives silver medal at summer Olympics. Referees – Jace Duffield attended the National President’s Cup and served as referee in the final U15 game.

During the Classic meeting it was brought to the attention to look at the Bylaws for US Soccer regulations for transgender individuals and rules pertaining to this subject. Reference to 601.5 policy. MYSA board to investigate registration identification, and what US Soccer federation is doing with this subject.

Adjournment- ~12:03pm. Laurel Storm moves to adjourn, Queen City FC seconds. All Approve.