

Redwood League Minutes for Oct 20, 2003

Meeting convened at 7:35 PM on Oct 20, 2003

Special Guests: District 2 Assistant Commissioners Bob Joyce and Dan Pereira

Redwood Board members: Mike Love, Alysia Cappa, Paolo Bonomo, Terry Pipp, MJ Lee, Bennet Weintraub

General members: forgot to send around the sign up list

Secretary was absent, so these notes are submitted by MJ. All comments from hereon are paraphrased and are not direct quotes. I've probably made a lot of errors, so let me know what those are.

Mike Love handed out "Redwood Proposals for Membership Consideration" and covered the background and history on CYSA's recent actions to disaffiliate and reaffiliate us. In order to comply with CYSA's requirements, a process has been created online.

Over the last few years, for ease of registration, RWL has required new clubs to have at least 3 teams with a club registrar. This has allowed a higher level of quality and efficiency in player and team registration. In addition, the clubs work with the local municipalities to arrange fields and equipments. The third main function of clubs is to assign referees.

Mike then turned the floor over to Dan Pereira. Dan stated that District 2 wants RWL to recognize clubs so that the clubs have some accountability. An example is the Santa Cruz League which has 5600 players and geographical clubs as dispersed as Redwood. Each club and its bylaws are adopted by the League, and each club prez is on the board of directors of the league.

Q: What is "Bad Standing" with CYSA?

Dan and Bob: It means that a player or team cannot participate in any CYSA sanctioned activities outside of RWL. This would include sanctioned tournaments, District Cup, Association Cup, State Cup, ODP, etc. Bob Joyce then took the floor to explain that if we do not comply, then CYSA will disaffiliate us for 2004-2005. CYSA had figured out that it was not a good idea to disaffiliate us in mid-season of 2003-2004. So he thinks the reason for our meeting today is for the clubs to vote on whether or not to cooperate.

Q: If RWL recognizes a club, then is the club then recognized by CYSA regardless of whether or not CYSA recognizes RWL?

There was a lot of discussion from Bob, Dan, and Mike that RWL could be re-disaffiliated again after Nov-18, but not clear to me what the grounds for re-disaffiliation would be. Bob says if we don't incorporate clubs into our league constitution at our next AGM, we will be disaffiliated in Mar 2004 for the 2004-2005 season. There was a clarification from Bob and Dan that it is District 2 that would be disaffiliating Redwood, not CYSA, and that RWL is the lone deviator from District 2's standards for club affiliation with leagues.

Q: What is CYSA's gain in asking us to do this? What problem is CYSA trying to solve?

Dan: Why not do this?

Q: What other rules are we going to be asked to add next year? How do we know we won't get more rules next year? Are other leagues in District 2 forced to have the same rules?

Bob: As an analogy, 2 years ago, CYSA required that every league needs to be a qualified incorporated non-profit even though this is not in the general rules, PIMs, manual etc. CYSA told every district that if they didn't require this, the district would not be affiliated. So every district complied and forced this requirement downwards to the leagues. Now you might ask, "Why did we do that and what is the advantage of being a non-profit corp?". Then Bob listed some benefits of having a non-profit corp, but that basically the reason why was really that we just have to do what CYSA tells us to do.

Mike: CYSA is trying to protect players and teams from bad fiscal management by a club. But we are being picked on because we are the only league being asked to do this formally.

Dan: When he was prez of Santa Cruz League, he was required to go thru this same club affiliation requirements by CYSA, and that now all leagues in D2 except RWL have the proper club recognition in place and in their bylaws.

Q: It is expensive to be incorporated, why do we have to do this?

Mike: A club does not have to be incorporated.

Q: Team monies can be kept separate from club money, right? It does not have to be comingled?

Bennet: Yes, in fact RWL has instructed that clubs not collect any registration money that is to be payable to CYSA.

Mike: Although CYSA had discussed requiring RWL to monitor/control all team money. However, this was not included in the CYSA requirements we are working to comply with. So we are only talking about money for player registration. which must come directly from the teams.

Q: So if RWL is not accepting checks from the clubs, then why are we creating a club treasurer position that can't write any checks?

Dan: The other advantage of having a league adopt a club is that every club board member who is named in the club organic documents will be covered by CYSA insurance. Current CYSA insurance only covers coaches and players and league board members. (mj note: not sure this is true)

Q: When will RWL know that we will be okay

Bob: He will let us know when we have met the current club affiliation requirements and have modified the RWL bylaws.

Q: Again, we know that not all the clubs can comply with the deadlines. So what happens if they don't all comply?

Bob: My speculation is that if only one club doesn't comply, and only a few teams are involved, then RWL will be okay. If half the clubs don't comply, then per CYSA's original instructions, RWL will be disaffiliated for the current 2003-2004 season and the good clubs will be moved to Foothill League mid-season, and all the passes will have to be reissued. The teams not moved over would not be allowed to play sanctioned events.

Q: It seems like we are being hit by personality rules generated by people outside of the process that is constitutionally mandated by CYSA or the District... I didn't expect the club documents to be judged by anyone and labelled with "Bad Standing"... As a matter

of principle, we are being picked on by a bully and harrassed into doing this.

Mike: Yes, our choices are to do this now in order to avoid disaffiliation, or we can decide not to do this and be disaffiliated, or we can approve this now and file a complaint later.

Q: What are organic documents?

Bennet: Your constitution and bylaws.

Mike's Proposal was passed with 1 abstention and 1 nay.

CYSA has made a strange ruling to separate the CYSA Equipment Show from the CYSA AGM. The Equipment Show/AGM was originally scheduled to be a 2-day event on Feb 7-8 at the Santa Clara Convention Center in District 2. The Equipment Show will remain, but the AGM has been rescheduled to Mar-14 at a location to be announced but assumed to be in the Central Valley where the current CYSA Board has more support. Mar-14 is also a major tune-up tournament weekend just prior to State Cup, which means that many class 1 coaches won't be attending the new AGM date. CYSA is positioning this major calendar change as an effort to reach League Presidents and is offering to pay for all of their hotel rooms. Such expenses are normally picked up by the leagues, but they are already paying to send their prez to the Equipment Show. Given that the CYSA AGM normally does not exceed 4 hours, it does not seem logical to cause extra expenses like this in the current California economy.