

PCYSA General Annual Meeting, 2013

President's Report

This being the first Annual President's Report, as stipulated by the by-laws adopted for PCYSA in 2012, I shall cover major initiatives since my involvement with the governance of the organization, which began in Fall of 2007.

ORGANIZATION and GOVERNANCE

- Fall 2007: due to inconsistent understanding of league playing rules, PCYSA developed a printed set of age-appropriate rules for U6, U8, U10, and U14 Recreational soccer. These rules may be found here:
<http://pcysa.com/index.php/leagues/20-league-rules>.

- June 2009: we developed a Recreational League Operations Manual to streamline the administration of the Rec League. The Manual is organized both by subject and date, so that the VP and Assistant for Recreational Soccer can follow the appropriate steps at the appropriate times.

- August 2010: after a hiatus of several years, PCYSA re-applied to join Indiana Soccer, the governing organization for youth soccer in the state. We were accepted. This made us able to register all players with the state, and take advantage of being appraised of soccer opportunities across the state, participation in state-sanctioned leagues and tournaments, and liability insurance coverage for players and participants.

- June-October 2012: drafted new by-laws for PCYSA, incorporated our club formally with the Indiana Secretary of State, and requested to be part of the Group Ruling Umbrella for 501(c)3 tax status with the IRS for non-profit purposes through Indiana Soccer. This gave us a non-profit status separate for the first time from Big Walnut Sports Park (the umbrella group for sports leagues that operate at the facility) for the first time. We were approved for the 501(c)3 status by the Indiana Soccer Board of Directors on Oct. 8, 2012. Our Federal EIN is: 46-0893070, under Group Exemption Number 5283 for the Indiana Youth Soccer Association (whose own EIN is: 35-1845779).

RECREATIONAL PROGRAM

- Growth in player participation. Spring numbers have historically tended to be larger than Fall numbers, with the exception of Spring 2013 (but the last two Springs we had about 40+ more Travel players).

Fall 2007: 250 in the Rec league.

Spring 2008: 279 in the Rec league.

Fall 2008: 245 in the Rec league.

Spring 2009: 391 in the Rec league;

Fall 2009: 273 in the Rec league;

Spring 2010: 402 in the Rec league;

Fall 2010: 292 in the Rec league;

Spring 2011: 395 in the Rec league;

Fall 2011: 267 in the Rec league;

Spring 2012: 341 in the Rec league

Fall 2012: 299 in the Rec league

Spring 2013: 292 in the Rec league

- In Fall 2009, we initiated online player registrations through Active.com in order to increase the number of ways parents could register and pay for their kids' soccer experience (including credit-card payments). In Spring of 2011, we moved our online registration over to GotSoccer.com, since that system is used by Indiana Soccer for their statewide programs. The functionality of GotSoccer has continued to improve.

- In Spring of 2010, we introduced a season-ending tournament for U10 and U14, which has now transformed into the final-day jamboree, in an effort to raise excitement and interest in team play.

- We have continued the practice of getting local organizations and businesses to sponsor teams and select team names; these sponsorships fund the team shirts that the rec players wear on game days.

- We also have continued programs that allow families to swap (by donating or taking) equipment and cleats in good condition, as well as Food Drives to support the Putnam County Food Pantry.

COMPETITIVE PROGRAM

- Significant growth in player participation, and expansion of opportunities for levels of play at the appropriate level. In Fall of 2009, we had traditionally fielded 1-2 teams playing at the U12 and U14 level in the Central Indiana Youth Soccer League. In that season, we kept the last travel teams and then re-booted the Competitive Program by entering the West-Central Suburban Soccer Federation (WCSSF) RecPlus program to build from levels of appropriate competition. We have now registered all teams in ISL, given the recent restructuring of that state-wide organization. Spring participation has tended to be higher the last two years as we have begun to offer club play for high-school players at U16, U18, etc.

Fall 2009: 60 players on 4 teams: U12 RecPlus co-ed, U13 Travel, U14 girls RecPlus, U14 boys RecPlus;

Spring 2010: 41 players on 3 RecPlus teams: U12 girls, U12 boys, U14 co-ed;

Fall 2010: 46 players on 3 RecPlus teams: U12 co-ed, U14 girls, U14 boys;

Spring 2011: 46 players on 3 RecPlus teams: U12 co-ed, U12 girls, U14 co-ed;

Fall 2011: 60 players on 5 RecPlus teams: U10 co-ed, U12 boys, U12 girls, U14 boys, U14 girls;

Spring 2012: 88 players on 7 teams: U10 co-ed Travel and U12 Boys Travel; U12 Girls, U12 Boys, U14 Girls, U14 Boys and U18 co-ed RecPlus;

Fall 2012: 73 players on 6 teams: U10 co-ed, U12 Boys RecPlus, U12 Boys Travel, U12 Girls Travel, U14 Boys Travel, U14 Girls Travel;

Spring 2013: 91 players on 7 Travel teams: U10 co-ed, U12 girls, U12 boys, U14 girls, U14 boys, U16 co-ed, U18 co-ed.

- There is always the challenge with a small county program that the very best players will move to play for a larger suburban program (Carmel, Westside Utd, USAi, Zionsville, Bloomington, Vigo County). This drains our county teams of talent and role models, though it also allows those players to improve their individual abilities to a further degree, which

will be brought back to high school teams eventually (unless a player earns a spot in the Developmental Academy and gives up high school competition). There's no easy way out of this; if parents want to drive their kids an hour each way to practices at a suburban club, and pay the requisite fees, we won't be able to compete with that, as we don't have paid coaches. But we can continue to raise our overall level of training and skill development so that a larger number of kids get better instruction, and continue to get challenging levels of play in the ISL and through participation in tournaments.

- We are currently in conversation with ISL and with other neighboring small rural soccer clubs, such as Clay County, Montgomery County, and Parke County, to explore ways in which we can collaborate or confederate in order to 'fill the gaps' in rosters and skill that small clubs often encounter. Solutions may include: bringing nascent clubs under our umbrella for Travel registration until such time as they have the four-team minimum to register independently for ISL; creating joint teams at certain age levels and genders when individually we might not be able to field a team; or creating a Western Indiana 'division of play' for our clubs which might include 8v8 competition for older age groups if rosters are short. Conversations are ongoing, but we have the support of ISL administrators to build and strengthen competitive soccer options for all players in western Indiana.

COACHING and PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

- In Fall 2011, PCYSA held a U.S. Soccer Federation "E-license" clinic in order to train and license Travel and RecPlus coaches with USSF credentials. All current Travel coaches hold at least that level of credentials.

- In Spring of 2013, on a trial basis, we purchased a year's license for *iSoccer*, an online system that allows coaches to assess and track players' basic soccer skills on a basis that allows us to compare their progress on a local and national level. This system is meant to accelerate progress by individual players with their foot skills and speed.

- A comparable development program that looks to coordinate practice plans for team play has been under discussion. Indiana Soccer has partnered with the Rene Meulenstein Academy to offer resources and sessions that offer a coherent curriculum for training and play. As the level of soccer continues to rise in the United States, adopting a coaching and player development program for club use will be critical in enabling our players to be competitive and continue their positive advancement.

- We continue to offer the Challenger British Soccer Camp in the last week of June; this camp has offered high-quality instruction and fun to scores of local kids from ages 4-14. Recent numbers: 2009 (47 campers); 2010 (40 campers); 2011 (28 campers); 2012 (34 campers). Current numbers (17 campers) are lower than normal, with two weeks to go before camp starts.

REFEREE DEVELOPMENT

- In January and August of 2011, we held our first local referee clinics to certify new referees, and in the Fall of 2011 we began annual local recertification clinics to help local referees keep their licenses current. These have been important steps in building and

developing our pool of referees. With the vastly increased number of Travel and RecPlus games in the last two years (especially in the Spring), it is often a challenge to staff games with licensed referees. Refing games is really the only way to improve as a referee (though trial and error in learning how to manage a game safely and positively), so the current overall level of experience for our referees is not all that high, simply because we have so many newly-minted refs (and many of those refs are also travel players, and so are not often available). We are far enough away from other clubs that refs from Terre Haute and Indianapolis do not tend to make themselves available for games in Putnam County. Referee development is a long-term process, and we are still on the early end of that process.

- We are also encouraging young players to take the certification clinic once they reach the age of 12, not only to help staff Rec games (and eventually Travel games), but to develop their knowledge of rules so they can become better players.

FIELDS and FACILITIES

- Due to the accident in Fall 2010, when young Eli Hardwick was hit by a car in the newly-paved parking lot next to the playing fields, we raised funds to erect a 3-rail split-rail fence along the north edge of the fields, helping to block soccer balls from rolling into the parking lot, setting a barrier for kids from running right from the fields into the lot, and helping to funnel foot traffic from the parking lot to the fields. Due to the generosity of the community and local businesses, sufficient funds for the fence were raised, and it was installed in March of 2011. It continues to serve its purpose.

- We have twice expanded and diversified the number (from 9 to 14) and size of our playing areas to provide age-appropriate playing fields, and more options for small-sided training at all levels. We now have:

- two full-size (11v11) fields (1 & 2): 110 x 75 yds
- two U12 (8v8) fields (10 and 11), with two more possible on field 2 (2A and 2B): 75 x 50 yds
- two U10 (6v6) fields (9, 14): 55 x 40 yds
- three U8 fields (3, 4, 5): 35 x 25 yds
- four U6 fields (6, 7, 8, 12): 25 x 20 yds

A final area (Field '13') now enjoys, as of Spring 2013, a full-size rebound wall usable on both surfaces for efficiently practicing shooting, passing, and goalkeeping.

- We have replaced aging goals (sometimes made of iron, which rusted) with newer, lighter, and safer aluminum models (see especially Fields 1, 9, and 14, featuring "Golden Goal" tip-resistant models manufactured in the USA). We have replaced the stake system for anchoring goals with sandbags enclosed in durable polyvinyl sacks, which hold down the goals in any weather (wet soil would allow the stakes to be pulled up; hard dry soil prevented pounding the stakes in).

- In Summer 2009 we replaced the old, small concession stand with one four times as large, adding lofted storage as well to keep the balls, cones, bags, and pinnies for the recreational and travel teams. The old stand was moved westward and is still used for storing aluminum

benches during the winter months. In Spring of 2013 we added a Bulletin Board (wonderfully developed by Katrina) under the porch to post events, schedules, and notices for club members.

- For the past year (2012-13), we have been working with the City of Greencastle to develop plans and financing for a multipurpose Indoor Sports Center at Big Walnut Sports Park. The plan is still active, and the city is now looking to engage an architectural firm to produce operational construction plans. The Indoor Center would permit practice and games of futsal (a 5v5 game with goalkeepers), as the indoor version of soccer most suitable for player development in the winter and during inclement weather. Our plans are to be able to create two small-sized futsal fields or one large tournament-sized field. Basketball, volleyball, softball and baseball could also be practiced in this facility.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

- July-Sept. 2012: we undertook a complete rebuild of the PCYSA website using *Refined Sites*, featuring integration of social media feeds, member-editing of content and pages, improved look-and-feel, and more content. <http://www.pcysa.com/>

FINANCES

- League finances remain stable; in summer 2012, we conducted an audit of expenses for operating the recreational and competitive leagues. As a result of that audit, we re-set the registration fees to ensure that we are covering expenses with income. Our operations (checking) balance is regularly positive by a few thousand dollars, and we maintain a modest savings (capital) fund, currently ca. \$8000, for infrastructural investments, which we try to build using fundraisers, chief among which is the annual discount card sale. Our treasurer has provided a financial report for this annual meeting.

IN CLOSING

- No community organization dedicated to the development of youth through team sport can operate successfully without the vision, collaboration, and sweat of volunteers. I'd like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of volunteers who have built a better organization and better experience for everyone: Katrina Asher, Drew Brattain, Bill Dibble, Roger Doan, Tiffany Friars, Jamie Grivas, Jenny Heithaus, Rock Kaiser, J.C. Lopez, Susan Lorimer, Rich Martoglio, Ed Neumann, Scott Parsons, Alex Riggs, Angie Weeks, Bob Urban, Michelle Villinski, Scott Weltz, and Chris Williamson.

Respectfully Submitted,



Pedar W. Foss
President, PCYSA
10 June 2013