

GVSA Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting

March 9, 2024 - 10:00am

Wisner Center (Cascade Township Library)

2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49546

- I. Call to Order at 7:08pm by Kevin Balcer
 - A. Board Members present: Kevin Balcer, Jane Ashby, Courtney Johnson, Andrew Johnson, Bre Brendsel, Kellie McPherson, Bruce Lane, Chris Denham
 - B. Sue Crabtree, Administrator: present
 - C. Board Members absent: none
- II. Roll was taken via club sign in and by role call. A quorum was established by Sue Crabtree.
 - A. The following clubs are represented: Alliance FC, AYSO United, CASSA, Fury FC, Holland Rovers FC, Lakeshore SC, LASSO, Lobos SA, MFA Revolution, MI Power Futbol Academy, Michigan Rangers, Midwest United FC, PASS FC, Rapids FC, Reeths-Puffer YSC, USA Soccer Club, West Michigan Galaxy, West Shore Waves SC
 - B. The following clubs are absent: Cadillac SA, Michigan Rovers AC, Northland United SC, Oakridge Soccer Club, SCOR, White Lake Breakers
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - A. A motion was made by Kevin Balcer to approve the minutes from the 2023 AGM as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.
- IV. Presentation of Reports
 - A. Treasurer
 1. Courtney: presented budget and discussed operating expenses and differences from each seasonal year.
 - B. Administrator report:
 1. Sue reported that GVSA team, coach, and team official numbers are up

2. Premier team numbers are also up
3. 24 clubs - Lobos became independent and West MI Storm merged with MFA.
4. Discussed team division placement with teams playing up
5. Risk management is now printed on the coach cards again. They expire one year from the date on the card.
6. New this year that 18 year old athletes will be required to have SafeSport requirements

C. Respect Campaign Coordinator

1. Bruce presented respect campaign scores throughout the league. More scores are being reported by the referees which allows for much more accurate reporting
2. GVSA is highlighting teams who show exemplary sportsmanship. U7 and U8 age groups are split apart from the U9-U19.
3. Cadillac and USA were recognized for earning the respect campaign bag tags
4. When game reports come in with a score of two (2) or below, Sue Crabree and/or Bruce Lane reach out to that club for a conversation.
5. Respect Campaign banners are available to all clubs

D. Vice President Report

1. Jane Ashby discussed the use of the disciplinary committee. The number of incidents has decreased.
2. The disciplinary committee is now asking for parents to write apology letters when significant poor behavioral issues arise.
3. Jane discussed Village 99, a new non-profit designed to provide resources and services to families. This will include \$500 scholarships to players in which finances are a barrier. 100% of donations go back to families in the form of scholarships.

E. Referee Report

1. Andrew Johnson is working toward providing more referee courses. There are currently four classes coming up this month. There are plans for more referee courses for spring and summer.
2. There are 450 referees in West Michigan. These numbers are slightly down, but he is confident that numbers will climb. A majority of referees are under 18 years old.
3. Parent, player, and coach behavior toward referees was discussed.
4. The Game Officials program will discontinue by the end of the month and a new referee assigning program will be used moving forward.
5. Referee assignor fees have not been changed since 2017 and an increase will be affected in the fall of 2024. This increase will also allow for mentorship within the referee program.
6. The number of game reports that are submitted to GVSA continues to increase.

V. Bylaw and/or Rule Revisions

A. Coaching Education Report

1. Kellie McPherson reported on the need to support coaches. Coach retention was discussed in the context of more support.
2. Clarification of the GVSA coaching license requirement in order to obtain the USSF Grassroots coaching license, which is required by US Soccer to move on to the USSF D License. The rule change will require two in person Grassroots courses in order to coach for GVSA.
3. Request for all clubs to identify an individual who is in charge of managing their coaches in order to be a point of contact for Kellie.
4. Coaching educators are working to schedule annual courses that will be the same month each year.

B. 4v4 Report

1. Chris Denham presented feedback that has been received by clubs on their experiences with 4v4

2. GVSA is urging coaches to take ownership of teaching their players the rules instead of relying on referees to stop the game multiple times over the course of the games.
3. Chris discussed the arc rule and clarified how to allow the game to continue to flow without a player standing in the goal.
4. PK's will be removed and replaced with a direct free kick from half field

VI. Election

- A. There were no nominations from the floor.
- B. Ballots were collected and counted.
- C. All incumbents were re-elected

VII. Breakout sessions

- A. Four groups

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Bre Brendsel motioned to adjourn and the adjournment was accepted at 12:24pm