



MDCVSA General Council Meeting
Saturday, March 19, 2011, 10 a.m.
Fredericksburg Field House, Fredericksburg, Va

1. Roll Call

Member Leagues

Capital Coed Soccer League
Central Virginia Soccer Association
Commonwealth Soccer League
Culpeper Soccer Association
Northern Virginia Adult Soccer League
Northern Virginia Soccer League
Shipps Corner Soccer Club
Southeastern Virginia Women's Soccer Association
Tidewater Women's Soccer League
Washington Area Women's Soccer League

Nick Macri
Gary Rule, Mike Brown, Justin Regan
Tom Leiss, Damian Cobey, Adrian Kerr
Bill Partin
Lou Chinchilla
John Eskandary
Rick Joy, Ali El Kadi
Michelle Martinez
Michelle Martinez (by proxy)
Kelli Guilliams

Officers

James Sadowski
Marti Bevan
Cara Rooney
Registrar

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Position Vacant

Delegates

Anita Hood (by proxy—Steve Long)
Steve Long
Tom Leiss

MDCVSA Admin Staff

Mary Beth Falk
Diane Larkin

Administrator
National Cups Commissioner, Admin Asst

Invited Guest(s)

Richard D. Groff

USASA President

2. Credentials Report

There were 84 of 134 eligible votes in attendance. A quorum was achieved.

3. Agenda

Motion to accept the agenda was approved.

4. Minutes

Motion to adopt the minutes from the January 29, 2011 Meeting was approved.

5. USASA Affiliation and Insurance Discussion

a. Power Point Presentation by James D. Sadowski (which will also be available to all leagues for future viewing).

Jim Sadowski shared an informative power point presentation that he created (with Executive Committee input) to highlight the different forms of liability insurance, insurance options, and positive and negative aspects of continued affiliation with USASA. The presentation was accompanied with a handout of all the slides. Richard Groff disagreed with the USASA budget data as presented; he felt that budget had passed before his tenure as USASA President and was not accurate (the budget that was used came from the USASA Administrator). Jim showed several video clips as part of the presentation to highlight "a level playing field." Jim pointed out that MDCVSA submits all the data and required fees to USASA while there have been several recent instances where state associations have been caught not properly reporting all of their players. Therefore, he argued, that the MDCVSA pays more into the system than the state associations who underreport. One slide noted, "Should the MDCVSA stay with USASA if it is not a level playing field?" Jim noted that the MDCVSA Executive Committee operates under the principle that the MDCVSA is a fiduciary of the players' funds, but in the end the leagues must decide what they would like to do with their money. The PowerPoint's key points were: insurance facts and costs; the MDCVSA's claims history; options that may be available to members regarding insurance; and should the MDCVSA continue to get insurance with USASA or instead purchase its own insurance and/or self insure.

b. Insurance Survey Results Presentation by Cara Rooney

Cara Rooney reported on the Insurance Survey results. MDCVSA created and delivered the survey in order to evaluate our customer's needs, and to help evaluate the "Value of our Insurance," with an added disclaimer that, "We are not survey writers." Cara highlighted key points of the survey including: What insurance levels do people want? Do the majority of players have insurance? Do players understand MDCVSA's affiliation with USASA? Do players even know they are a member of the USASA? And finally, do players know what USASA does? Cara distributed a handout she created highlighting responses from the survey. 335 people responded; of those 90% were players. The key findings were: the majority of respondents want the option for leagues to select insurance coverage they want; respondents are okay with leaving USASA to get liability-only insurance; and there was a 48% dissatisfaction rate with MDCVSA and USASA. All agreed that, going forward, the main issue is to make people aware of the insurance that is available to them.

c. Speaker, Richard D. Groff, United States Adult Soccer Association (USASA) President

Richard D. Groff, representing USASA, presented an overview of USASA (accompanied by handout)—its number of players, leagues, committees, and board of directors. He noted that USASA is committed to growing its membership, and has hired a new Executive Director who worked with the Club Aston Villa in England. Highlights of his presentation: USASA believes it has the "Best Adult Insurance" program in the United States (which includes Director & Officers - D&O insurance) for free. Richard argued that USASA provides coaching development and education programs, referee education, a grants program, a commitment to women's leagues, sponsorship, and a future online registration program (that should be operable by 4/30). Richard also announced they have a new "Open tournament" concept that he believes has the potential to bring in new teams. Richard agreed with Jim that USASA must be responsive to individual states and focus on cost effectiveness, but USASA has a "mandatory system" of insurance and there is a view toward reinterpreting that system (Richard used the state of Massachusetts as an example—they currently pay for a liability only policy since medical insurance is mandatory in that state). He also noted that every league can upgrade to a \$25,000 policy for an additional \$2.50 per player.

Richard summarized the options for MDCVSA: Stay affiliated with USASA and leagues could purchase an accident medical insurance policy individually, participate in USASA programs, which include National Cups, Veterans Cup and Coed Cup, and help continue to grow USASA programs. Or, if disaffiliated with USASA, MDCVSA would have to purchase its own insurance, and might have less leverage with 17,000 players as opposed to 200,000 in the player pool.

d. Open Discussion and questions and answers from the floor.

The open discussion's main focus was on cost and value. With everyone struggling in these economic times, how can the MDCVSA best serve our members without raising our costs? Is affiliation with USASA still of some value? Insurance coverage seems to be the main reason the MDCVSA affiliates with USASA, for less than 10% of its members play in USASA sponsored events. USASA allowed the State of Massachusetts to purchase a liability only policy, with no additional costs being passed on to its other members. USASA, as a body of close to 200,000 strong, has the leverage to continue to get better options. A few members commented that they do not see enough value in USASA, and they would prefer the MDCVSA use their money to focus more on obtaining better fields and referees. Richard Groff commented that there are plans to develop an open tournament concept—this would allow a player to participate in a tournament by paying a lower \$5.00 registration fee. This fee would cover insurance for that tournament only, and, he believes, has the potential to bring in new teams, and increase league enrollment in the future. This open tournament concept would not include the National USASA events, which are, National Cups, Veterans Cup, and Coed Cup. One person asked does USASA give the MDCVSA anything back. The USSF does give the MDCVSA a percentage of the International Games played in our geographic area.

e. Time-line for follow-up and Decision

Jim noted that he was still in the process of obtaining insurance quotes from multiple carriers. He would like to have all those quotes by the end of April, 2011. MDCVSA will provide that information to all member leagues, and would like to schedule a meeting in June to vote on whether or not to continue affiliation with USASA.

6. Old Business

a. Tom Leiss (CSL President) requested \$1,000 for the 3rd annual Commonwealth Classic Tournament at Patriot Park. He is expecting 24 teams and hopes to register 32 teams. The additional money would be used to increase visibility: t-shirts, banner, website. etc. Motion made by Tom Leiss to approve, 2nd by Steve Long (Delegate). Motion passed.

7. New Business

a. As a house cleaning matter, Jim asked for a confirming vote that Ships Corner Soccer Club be admitted to the MDCVSA, and as there were no objections, it was confirmed that the league was granted full affiliation, Welcome!

8. Open issues raised from the floor

a. Lou Chinchilla, NVASA, offered praise for the online registration process for his league, the Northern Virginia Soccer League, (NVASA). He is very happy with it and considers it very user friendly. The online vendor, Active Network, is extremely helpful and provides quick responses to all his question and/or concerns.

b. Question: John Eskandary, (NVSL) asked "Are we doing anything to promote participation at MDCVSA meetings?" Jim responded that various things have been tried to increase attendance, but many league volunteers are very busy, and to force people to come would require a by-law change. He noted that the MDCVSA has already lowered the threshold for a quorum to be attained, and to vote, from 50% to 40% at all meetings except the AGM. He added that the Council discussed the options including conference calls and the difficulty of keeping to Roberts

Rules on the phone. Cara Rooney also reminded members that given the number of concerns raised during the meeting about costs and spending, members should do their best to attend the August meeting which is when the annual budget is presented for comment and approval.

c. Adrian Kerr, (CVSA) asked “What avenues are there to pursue to take advantage of USASA grant money in order to upgrade fields?” Richard Groff answered, “I suggest you submit a detailed letter with an outline of your request to USASA administration, via email to grants@usasa.com.” Jim noted that the US Soccer Foundation has detailed information on grants and the MDCVSA will support such efforts.

9. For the Good of the Game

a. Jim commented that he was inspired by the meeting attendance. He added that everyone in attendance is out there in the trenches, doing a lot of hard work for the players, and that the MDCVSA is trying to make decisions in the best interest of all of its leagues. Jim thanked Richard Groff for attending the meeting. Richard said that he would be sure to send Jim the correct USASA Budget.

Next meeting—[Proposed for June 18, 2011 but not finalized]

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Falk and Diane Larkin

MDCVSA Staff (on behalf of Jessie Kratz, Recording Secretary, who could not attend the meeting due to a conflict)