

**GSSA Board Meeting  
September 22, 2014, 7:00 PM  
Minutes**

**Attendance:**

Russel Rankenburg, President  
Bryan McDermott, Vice President – Youth  
Juan Castillo, Director of Youth Recreation  
Delroy Ziadie, Director of Youth Select  
Peter Valentino, State Referee Committee Chair  
Peggy Pruitt, Director of Adult Competition  
Melissa Camp, Director-at Large  
Jim Smith, Independent Director  
Chris Etheridge, Independent Director  
Daniel McAdams, Independent Director

**Attending by teleconference**

Andrew Egan, Vice President – Adult  
Eric Keller, Treasurer  
Aly Wade, Player Athlete

**Non-voting members in attendance:**

Greg Griffith, Executive Director/Secretary

**Guests**

Kim Bowen, Director of Programs  
Sharron Safriet, Director of Marketing and Tournaments (teleconference)  
Suzanne Donahue, Executive Administrative Assistant, minutes

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Correspondence**

None

**III. Guests (to address the Board)**

None

**IV. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of Minutes (August 25, 2014)
- B. Board and Committee Reports
- C. Staff Reports

Bryan McDermott made a **motion to approve** the consent agenda; Delroy Ziadie **seconded** the motion. The **motion carries** unopposed.

**V. Items Not on Consent Agenda**

- A. Holiday Party December 11  
This may change to December 10.

- B. Town Hall meeting November 12  
The plan is to hold two sessions, one at lunchtime and one in the evening.
- C. Marketing Update  
Greg Griffith presented his report.
- D. 2015 & 2016 Youth Season and Tournament Schedules update  
The schedule for next season is not yet finalized; it will be addressed at the next meeting.
- E. New Georgia Soccer Premier League Policy  
A disclaimer was added to the proposed policy, then Bryan McDermott made a **motion to approve** the policy. Delroy Ziadie **seconded** the motion. The **motion carries** with none opposed. The policy in full reads as follows:

**“POLICY FOR PREMIER LEAGUE EAST SELECTION OF GA TEAMS  
FALL 2014 approved 9/22/14**

**For current U15 teams and older:**

The Premier League Commission will give three automatic slots to the top PLE teams. These teams will also play in the RPL. If any of these teams are from Georgia, they will automatically be included in PLE and will not be affected by the criteria below.

The selection criteria below is to select the remaining teams which we are allowed in PLE.

1. State Champions
2. State Runner Up
3. National League finishers 1-4
4. Premier League finishers 1-4
5. Semifinalist #1
  1. If the semifinalists played in the same division, #1 will be the one who finished higher in that division.
  2. If the semifinalists did not play in the same division, their finish in the following divisions will determine #1:
    1. National League finishers 5-8
    2. Premier League finishers 5 or lower
    3. Premier League East finishers 4-8
    4. Classic 1/Athena A finishers 1-2
    5. Premier League finishers lower than 8
    6. Classic 1/Athena A finishers lower than 3
6. Semifinalist #2
7. National League finishers 5th or lower
8. Premier League finishers 5th or lower

9. Classic 1/Athena A finishers 1-2
10. Premier League East finishers 8th or lower
11. Classic 1/Athena A finishers 3rd or lower

**For current U14 teams:**

We will get 2 or 4 slots in PLE for Spring of 2015. The top 2 finishers in Classic 1/ Athena A will automatically be put up for the 2 guaranteed slots. If we get 2 additional slots, the 3rd and 4th place finishers will be put up for those.

As this age group moves to U15 and in the future, the criteria above will be used to determine PL East slots.

**For current U13 teams:**

The structure for Premier League will be changing for the U13's. For this year, we will be putting 4 teams up for the PL East - South for Spring 2015. The teams will be the top finishers in this Fall's Classic 1/Athena A divisions.

As this age group moves to U14, the Premier League will have two tiers of play and there will be a true promotion and relegation system.

**Team Continuity:**

To be considered the same team as the previous year, a team must retain at least nine (9) players from the previous year's roster. If a team is unable to retain the required number of players their place will be offered to the next eligible team.

If players leave a team and choose to re-convene with a different club that team will be considered to be a new team and not the same team as before, regardless of the number of players from the previous team who go to the new team."

**Disclaimer: The regional commission may at any time accept or reject the teams submitted by Georgia Soccer.**

- F. New Registration Information Policy for approval  
The board is working on a new policy regarding access to affiliate and individual registration information, and is evaluating security in our ADG registration system.
- G. Coaches Background checks – should we require them?  
We will poll other state associations before making a decision.
- H. Region I RPL changes, should we request for Region III RPL  
This will be discussed at the Region III Fall Meeting.

- I. New affiliation process.  
This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- J. SRC appointments should have been approved in June? The board will address this at the next meeting.

**VI. Good of the Game**

- A. We look forward to the arrival of our new MLS Atlanta president! Darren Eales, the current executive director at English Premier League's Tottenham Hotspur Football Club hopes to be in Atlanta before the end of the year.
- B. Andrew Egan and Greg Griffith are headed to the USASA midyear meeting this week.
- C. Bryan McDermott, Greg Griffith, and Sharron Safriet will attend the Region III Fall Meeting next week.

**VII. Executive Session**

Executive session not held.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.