

East Central Academy
Agenda
Kimberly Municipal Center
Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Club	Representative	Club	Representative
DePere	Andrew Jepson	New United	Killian McKenzie
Electric City	Nick Laabs	Oshkosh	Matt Callahan
FC Green Bay	Quinn Ross	United Hurricanes	Andrea Leszko
FC Menasha	Kurt Schodort	E.C. Academy Comm.	Sean Breitzen
Fox Cities United	Renee Sullivan	East Central	Sue Ann Evers
GB Lightning	Cory Romdenne	East Central	Doris Schommer
KASA	Wayne Stoflet	East Central	Chris Billstrom
Neenah	Mike Jones		

Absent: United of Allouez, Water Cities

Introductions: Members introduced themselves

Roll Call (by sign-in)

Season Review

- Build out line for the 08U was successful
- Teams seemed to be matched up competitively. If not, some coaches were making adjustments to game play.
- Some duplications of teams playing each other more than once.
 - Reminder that when the schedule is sent out for review, clubs need to look at it carefully and point out any errors. (Look for teams playing each other more than once, teams scheduled on blackout dates, traveling to the wrong event, etc.) Once the schedule is public, it is very difficult to make changes.
- Rainouts hurt the season, but there is little to be done about that.
- Silent weekend was better with the rule adjustments.

Mentoring Referees:

- Mike Jones worked with Neenah on their referees.
- A mentor was working at an event while wearing street clothing. Spectators thought it was a parent talking to a young referee. To avoid confusion at the field, it was suggested that mentors wear a referee shirt to let everyone know he/she is mentoring younger referees.
- Clubs hosting academy events should talk to referees about the academy rules before the event starts. The host club is the first line of contact to the referees. As the referees come in, have a location for them to check in and explain that they can seek help from host club if they have issues or concerns.
 - Note: it is easy to meet the first few referees, but the later games are hard to make sure contact happens.
- KASA indicated that they were using a rotating 4-man crew and that seemed to work well.

Discussion about 4 v 4 standards:

- The key section is the 4v4 standards.
https://www.usyouthsoccer.org/assets/1/6/pdi_february_2017.pdf
- Standards suggest that you have 08U teams as in-house teams only.
- Removing travel from the 08U would reduce stress.
 - Drawback is that smaller clubs do not have large enough pools to make an in-house program work.
 - 08U look forward to traveling each week. This builds camaraderie and sportsmanship.
 - Parents want their younger players to go to the same location as the older players.
 - Making 08U players play in house may force clubs to push players up to 09U so they can travel.
 - Clubs have already promoted the program as it was structured in past years.
 - A way to solve these issues could be to have an 08U event.

Conclusion: Clubs need to continue to educate their coaches, parents and players to try some new concepts and be more flexible. The academy program is for player development and everyone needs to be open to new ideas.

It was decided to continue to allow the 08U players to travel to academy events.

Making game competitive

- What should coaches do when they encounter teams that do not match up in level of competition on game day?
 - Some academy programs create side by side games. That way, they can move players around to make the games more competitive.
 - East Central tried this method in their recreational program and it was not found to be successful for our district.
 - Coaches are encouraged to talk to each other at half time and come up with a plan to make the game balanced. Possible solutions:
 - Switching players among clubs to balance the teams for a competitive game.
 - Parents and players may have trouble with this concept as they have a strong club identity and do not want to play with the opposing team.
 - Adding a player to the team that is struggling
 - Field gets congested and kids are unsure of formation.
 - Dropping a player from the stronger team
 - Issue with dropping a player is that you have kids sitting out that want to play. Especially hard when you have a full roster.

Academy Guidelines

- Things that might seem like common sense for most of us, might not be so for new coaches.
- It was suggested that we create a list of guidelines for academy coaches to refer to. Club representatives were asked to send Sean ideas of guidelines to help coaches make academy games the best that they can be. Please have them to Sean by Wednesday, July 18, 2018.

Scheduling

O8U teams will be allowed to select three blackout dates independent of the 09U/10U group
09U/10U will have three blackout dates independent of 08U teams.

Eight weeks of scheduled games

A Mega Date will be scheduled for the beginning and end of the season.

Clubs will be allowed to add more characters to the names of their teams. Information will be sent out with the data sheets as to how the naming process will occur. See attached data sheet.

East Central will not be using a scheduling tool to schedule academy games. Event information will be posted in excel spreadsheets.

Dates for Academy Program Fall 2018: September 8, 2018 - October 27, 2018

Email Date Sheet to Sean and Sue Ann.	August 8, 2018
First draft to clubs	August 13, 2018
Revisions of schedule back to Sue Ann	August 20, 2018
Schedule will be posted on East Central website	August 25, 2018

Respectfully submitted:

Sue Ann Evers
East Central Director of Operations