



## PRINCE GEORGE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES

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Meeting Title: March Board meeting

MINUTES      MAR 13, 2013      START: 5:30 PM      LOCATION – BOARD ROOM

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	John Reed
<b>TYPE OF MEETING</b>	Monthly Board Meeting
<b>FACILITATOR</b>	John Reed
<b>RECORDER</b>	Len McNamara
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	John Reed, Grant Emmond, Carmen Turnbull, Brett MacPherson, Dustie Hall, Steve Raper, Heather Oland, John Beebe, Garry Neilson, Muhammad Rahman

1.     **Motion** to accept Agenda with the addition of NCSSL under New Business (John B.)  
       **Carried**
  
2.     **Motion** to approve minutes of meeting on Feb 6, 2013 (Garry) **Carried**
  
3.     **Business arising from previous minutes**  
       - John R. provided letters to Rod A., Louise H., Marty T.
  
4.     **Presentation**
  - i)     **Shelly Finch – re: Keely Finch wishing to ‘play-up’ at U18 level.**

The following information was provided by Shelly Finch:

The attached file contains information pertinent to the decision I am requesting be made at tomorrows meeting.

Included are : An email on Keely's behalf from Mato Mikic, Prince George Citizen and Province articles, one she is mentioned with regards to her keeping performance at provincials, the other is an article on her as an athlete.

I would like to request that this email along with attachments be forwarded to the board members prior to the meeting. Victor Santos was also asked to provide his opinion as he coached her for one and a half seasons. This may come directly to you or I may receive it later today. Rod Auld

coached Keely for 3 years and while he would do a letter stating his opinion he did not feel that PGYSA would take his opinion into consideration.

In making this decision I would like the board to take the following into consideration:

Assessment of her skills should be solely as a keeper as one would not assess a striker on her abilities as a keeper for a striker position, so the same should take place here.

- There is no displacement of an older player from the keeper position on this team
- There are additional keepers available to play for the U15-16 division
- In the past players who played an age group above were either grandfathered into the program or were allowed to start the tryout process there and then be released to the younger age groups
- While there are discussions with regard to her officially playing up an age group last year because it was a U15-16 division, her team was mainly made up of U16, now U17, players
- Keely has played with the U17 group for almost two seasons

Items relating directly to the Move Up Policy:

- Technical Ability - Top ranked keeper in her age group for two years, prior years it was a conscious decision to play on the Tier 2 team including when Sipho asked her to play Tier 1 at U12; Plays Tier 1 in BCISL where her team has been in first place for the last three rounds; in PGWSA last year her U16 team finished in first place during the regular season (excluded from play downs due to PGWSA rules); Please read input from Coaches.
- Physical Ability - Same size as majority of players on the team: plays high school football with all male senior team as a linebacker and kicker takes exceptional athletic abilities, she was captain of her JV Football team 2 years in a row, all males team as well; Trained with U18 boys most of last season including one on one with Jonathan Richards
- Mental Ability: has always been placed with older keepers for training; has a great comprehension of the game including movement and strategies; not everyone can be a keeper, it takes a strong personality to take on this role; plays with women's team in indoor so is used to a chronologically older age group both as team mates and opponents: being the only female on an all male team is a testament to her strength of character
- Social Ability: has always exhibited a more mature than most girls her own age; is more comfortable with the older group socially.

This request is not made lightly, we have discussed the pros and cons of both age groups. Based on those discussions I truly feel that the best place for Keely is with the U17-18 age group. Both for her continued development and socially. Her choice is based on wanting to continue soccer past PGYSA and on to a University school. The U17-18 team provides her with the best challenges while working toward this goal. Keely has received invitations to ID clinics at US universities and colleges, including schools in Minnesota, New York, South Carolina, North Dakota, North Carolina, and Washington. She is serious about her future in soccer and I hop PGYSA supports her fully in her aspirations to play at that next level.

Thank you,  
Shelly Finch

Discussion: Refer this matter back to Sonny and the Technical Committee – Keely to remain with the U16 Girls Tier 1 team and see if there is a means of providing Keely the opportunity of playing with the U18 Girls Tier 1 team when there is no conflict with the U16 team – her priority would lie with the U16 Girls Tier 1 team. - Brett will communicate this to Sonny.

Once this is discussed with Sonny, the Association can notify Shelly Finch.

**ii) Victor Santos**

Thanks for the opportunity to speak here tonight.

1. First off I never received a response to my e-mail sent on February 18th and I wondered where I stood with that.

2. I understand that the board feels that I have not acted appropriately as a coach and I would like you to clarify that for me.

I did all that was asked of me regarding training, games and tournaments. The only thing that I was asked to do and I did not was obtain my B prep ticket, but I know that there are others who do not have this level and are still coaching.

3. The situation between Marty and I was very unfortunate as we had worked together before. Afterwards he did continue to come to practices and games but the kids did not respond to him and it caused tension on the team and therefore I did ask him to resign, which I thought was best for the team.

4. There is mention that I have asked kids not to join the academy and that is not true. I am all about kids playing for PGYSA not taking them away from it. I am also wondering why last years' girls were not given the same choice as the U18 boys, where the TD gave them the option of choosing to play either A or B.

5. I would also like to clarify that the petition was not organized by me as I have been blamed.

Shaw Webmail 2.0

santosls@shaw.ca

## meeting request

**From :** ANITA SANTOS <santosls@shaw.ca> Mon, Feb 18, 2013 12:14 AM  
**Subject :** meeting request  
**To :** president@pgysa.bc.ca,  
vicepresident@pgysa.bc.ca, SPawar@sd57.bc.ca,  
executivedirector@pgysa.bc.ca

Hello Gentlemen:

I was wondering if I could arrange a meeting with you to discuss what steps I need to take to improve my qualifications to be able to coach for PGYSA. I understand there are still a couple of youth teams that do not have a coach. If at all possible, could we meet on Thursday, February 21st any time after 4:00 pm? Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,  
Victor Santos



<https://wm.shaw.ca/zimbra/h/printmessage?id=12557>

3/11/2013

### iii) Correspondence by email

#### - Carla Terroso

Dear Board Members,

I would like to address a concern I have. It is great to see so many players coming out and wanting to represent PGYSA and the Prince George area in a select level. I understand the idea of having the mixed ages, as at times it's needed but you need to see how many players you have out on the field, as there are too many kids in certain age groups to properly assess each individual player. In most groups you can do a Tier 1 team that has mixed ages and then two single age groups split into teams. If there is only one or two mixed teams you will have over 40 kids in most age groups that will not return to soccer because of the lack of competition in the house league.

That is very sad to see as they will go into other sports and choose them over soccer or leave soccer altogether. Also, when it comes to when the players that have continued with soccer are at the u-16-18 level there are not enough players to make 2 teams and even sometimes 1 team because players have left soccer. We all understand that there has to be cuts made to make the best possible teams, but having too many players cut is also not good.

I also feel that it would be so nice to have a team in every age represented in the provincials are held here in Prince George, as we get the opportunity to represent our city and go into the provincials without going into play-downs, and give other northern teams the opportunity to play.

Thank you for your time.

- Executive Director to respond
- **Linda Cutler**

March 13, 2013

Dear Technical Director, Board Members and/or President of PGYSA,

I am writing in regards to the Select selection process that is currently ongoing at PGYSA. I felt compelled to write since the desire of PGYSA is to have a transparent process as per *The Select Team Program Development - Improving Performance and Pursuing Excellence for 2012 and Beyond* document.

The first question is why are there only a Tier 1 and a Tier 2 teams created for Select teams when in that aforesaid document, there are at least three teams listed for each combined age group? Why does PGYSA want to reduce the number of select teams this year? In the document, it has stated to do both horizontal and vertical ordering but this year it seems PGYSA is only focussing on the horizontal ordering (Tier 1 and Tier 2). Given that there is a high quantity of players trying out for select, why is PGYSA moving in a direction contrary to their plan?

Especially with the upcoming B Provincials being hosted in Prince George, why are we reducing the number of B-level teams by producing two mixed aged groups that can only enter in the higher age categories due to older players. Why are we not creating single age team of the younger age groups - example U13, U15 and U17 so that they can experience the challenge of a Provincial tournament?

I greatly appreciate the work that you do, but I do not understand why the process/structure is so different than the posted document.

Thank you for clarifying this process.

Sincerely,  
Linda Cutler

- Executive Director to respond
- **Leigh Anne Paull**

To the PGYSA

This is my last ditch effort to keep my daughter and other girls in the U16-U18 category playing competitive soccer. I would like to know if there is any chance of organizing a second U18 girls team for the 2013 season or at least have a development team if there are enough players interested and go from there.

I am very disappointed that this was not an option from the start, and do think there could be enough girls interested in playing on a second U18 team for this season. I submitted a registration indicating our interest in a second team, but did not want to try out for the A team. In my opinion you may have lost a bunch of 1996/1997 girls this year due to your select program structure and it should be in the PGYSA's best interest to keep all the youth players involved in soccer for as long as possible.

**I have just heard that at the tryouts for the U18 boys, they were given the option to try out for an A team or a B team once they hit the field. Did they have enough registrations for two teams? This is not fair if you did not have enough registrations to warrant two teams. This should have been the same for both the girls and boys U18 program.**

My daughter chose not to try out for the U18 team coached by Frank Rossi for her own personal reasons, and I support her either way. I know she will miss soccer because she has been playing in the PGYSA since she was 5 years old, and in the select program for the last 4 seasons. Once you play select, the house league is not much of a challenge so she has not chosen to sign up for house leagues.

Back to your current U18 Girls team, while I would have supported my daughter either way, I am not disappointed at her decision based on the following:

- a. The core of this team is 1995/1996 players who have been able to play together for the last 5+ years and have always been a highly competitive showcase based team who's players are used to playing full games with minimal substitutions. I feel that many of the new 1996 players will spend most of the season watching from the sidelines.
- b. I feel the season for this team leads up to and ends at the provincials during the first week of July. That is assuming they qualify for the provincials, so in which case it may end even earlier. This is because:
  - i. The 1995 girls will be preparing for graduations, then college, university, etc. Which does not leave enough 1996 girls for the remaining July-September/October season.
  - ii. There are minimal high level competitive tournaments during July/August due to the fact the lower mainland and Alberta run on a totally opposite season than us. There are tournaments; however, I doubt this team would consider them.
  - iii. As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, the 1995 girls are too old to compete in any further BC Soccer tournaments because this is the cut-off for the start of the Vancouver area outdoor season. This means there will not be enough players to compete at the CMFSC Labour Day Weekend Tournament or any other Labour Day or Thanksgiving tournaments.
  - iv. I also hear that the coach will be having surgery soon, which will require recovery time, which takes away from him coaching the team properly and consistently.

Based on the above, I would rather not pay the fees and travel costs to send my daughter to tournaments between March-June for her to probably sit and watch others play, and then not even have a full team after July/Aug. It is one thing to watch for part of the season in anticipation to have the opportunity to play later in the season. I do not see possibility of this, unless there is a second team U18 to combine or draw from.

For the sake of the new 1996 girls that have joined the U18 team, I hope I am proven wrong and they have a long and enjoyable season. Some aspire to play at this level, some may wish to compete at a B level, but were not given that option. I was their manager for two seasons and was proud of how they represented the PGYSA and the City of Prince George. They were a great group of girls.

I have heard discussions of a competitive division in the PGWSA that will include PGYSA players. If there is any opportunity for my daughter to play in this division, she would like to participate. She may not need PGYSA's permission to participate, however, I would prefer it if she could register for this under the PGYSA umbrella, allowing the youth players to possibly

form another U18 team if there are enough players, or have the opportunity to be picked up by the U18 team if required later in the season.

In closing, if the PGYSA has any additional options for U18 girls, we are interested. Unfortunately, there was only one option for tryouts that did not work for us. I too will miss soccer as a parent and fan. I hope the competitive division in the PGWSA becomes an option, and that the PGYSA is willing to work together to keep the youth players under the PGYSA umbrella.

Sincerely,  
Leigh Anne Paull  
Parent

- Executive Director respond – daughter is welcome to try-out for U18 Girls Tier 1.

**5. Staff Reports:**

i) Len McNamara – Executive Director

<b>Discussion</b>	Report submitted. No questions.
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Action Items</b>	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

**6. New Business**

i) District meeting – John Reed

<b>Discussion</b>	John participated in conference call with BC Soccer officials and district representatives. A number of topics were discussed including: high performance league around the province; provincial declarations; ‘A’ Cup and ‘B’ Cup tournaments are not meeting the needs of the members – more an issue of timing.
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Action Items</b>	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

ii) Meeting with BC Soccer

<b>Discussion</b>	Overview of the new ‘Grassroots’ program as demonstrated by BC Soccer’s visit to Prince George on March 8-10.
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Action Items</b>	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

iii) BC Soccer Board Member

<b>Discussion</b>	There are a number of openings that exist within the BC Soccer Board – they are looking for more regional representation. John R. indicated he may put forth his name at the appropriate time.
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Action Items</b>	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

**iv) Select evaluations issues**

<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Discussion took place regarding the evaluations. The emphasis was on the number of players trying out in the U14 and U16 Boys age group and whether or not PGYSA should move beyond a Tier 1 and Tier 2 teams and develop a third team.</p> <p>Motion: The Board directs the Technical Committee to follow the 3-team model and the Board would like to see every birth filled at provincials and work to find innovative solutions to achieve this. (Heather) Carried. Steve Raper would like his opposition noted.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Action Items</b>	John R. asked Brett to convey this information to Sonny.
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

**v) Andy Cameron – UNBC proposal for U18 & U16 girls**

<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Steve – met with Andy Cameron and Jason Kerswell. Basically, the concept is bringing together PGYSA U18 and U16 girls with UNBC players and Women’s League players and develop four teams that could play against one another, outside of their own commitments to their individual leagues.</p> <p>Recommendation: To pursue this further once a new TD has been hired.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Action Items</b>	Len to email Andy Cameron of the recommendation
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

**vi) Governance – Johh Noonan**

<b>Discussion</b>	<p>John – I thought the evening with John Noonan was very beneficial – there are ways in which we can alter our meetings so they become more effective and efficient – we need to limit the unnecessary conversations at meetings to move things along quicker.</p> <p>Heather and John to get together to explore ways in which meetings can become more effective.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Action Items</b>	John and Heather to discuss further
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

**vii) Board Operations**

<b>Discussion</b>	John – we should ensure all Association correspondence goes through our Executive Director.
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Action Items</b>	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

**viii) North Cariboo Senior Soccer League**

<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Steve – I have been meeting with Kam Mehrassa (NCSSL) and Kristy and Shona (Women’s Soccer League) regarding cooperative partnerships between our associations and the concept of a new full-sized indoor field.</p> <p>There has been some miscommunication of information this past weekend between the message I received from NCSSL and Kam Mehrassa and I am unsure of how to proceed as I don’t believe I can continue to meet with Kam. I am also meeting tomorrow with Dan Rogers and Len concerning the new building concept.</p> <p>Recommendation: Len to contact the new NCSSL president, Matt Thomson, and clarify NCSSL’s position on these matters as well as the role of Kam Mehrassa.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Action Items</b>	Len to contact Matt Thomson
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

**7. Current Business**

**i) Concession contract**

<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Carmen – presented the contract and notes.</p> <p>Motion: Move that the Board accept the Concession contract as submitted (5 year contract). (Carmen) Carried.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Action Items</b>	Len to forward signed contract to Gaetano.
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

**ii) Xconditioning – SD 57 - DP**

<b>Discussion</b>	<p>Len – submitted an update regarding lease details – PGYSA/Xconditioning/Duchess Park Secondary have a tentative agreement in place and now it needs to go to Bryan Mix, at SD57, for his approval.</p> <p>Xconditioning would like to be in the building by April 15<sup>th</sup> - \$30,000 of renovations was submitted, again, for approval by SD57.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	

<b>Action Items</b>	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

**iii) TD interview**

<b>Discussion</b>	The Committee has interviewed two candidates – one strong candidate and one weaker candidate. A third candidate is being interviewed on March 14 <sup>th</sup> . A couple of early selections to the short-list process never returned calls. The process includes eventually having two strong candidates that will be invited to Prince George as the final stages of selecting our new TD.
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Action Items</b>	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

**iv) Whitecaps**

<b>Discussion</b>	Steve – we continue to move forward and have discussions with the Whitecaps. The Whitecaps have indicated they would run an Academy: May-July; Oct-Nov.; Jan-April.  We anticipate an announcement in Prince George on March 20 <sup>th</sup> – I will continue to provide further updates.
<b>Conclusion</b>	
<b>Action Items</b>	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	

**8. Board and Committee Reports**

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm (Grant) Carried

In camera session followed adjournment.

**Dates: Next Board Meeting Wednesday, April 3, 5:30pm**