

10/13/2023 - 7:30pm - 9:00pm

Competitive Team Meeting with Board of Directors

Attendees:

All comp head coaches with staff including asst coaches and team managers

- Santino Fortes, Minh Lien, Lawrence Younan, Ken Bada, Mark Navarro, James Kusters, Lupe Soria, Mike Rice and Sulabh Dayal Asst. Coach for Mohamad Esmail (not available)

Board of Directors

- Joe Lowry (Vice President) and BJ Navarro (Comp Director)

Email or Verbal Replies from the following Board Member

- Vishnu Mather (Treasurer)
- Amin Fazal (Registrar, Master Scheduler, Arbiter Administration)
- Rajesh Bangalore (Rec Equipment & Uniform Coordinator, Coaches Coordinator, Webmaster)
- Cheryl Oldham (Rec Age Group Coordinator)
- Dan Beedy (Referee Assignor)

Minutes of the Meeting:

7:30pm – Opening Remarks (Santino Fortes)

Explanation of who is in attendance. 9 Coaches and 15 Teams

Reason we are all here. We want the option of playing in the NorCal League.

7:40pm – Why NorCal (Lawrence Younan and Mark Navarro)

Distance of travel to play away games. No teams are playing against District 2 opponents. All comp teams are traveling more than 1hr for away for away games and in some cases 2.5 hours for a 25 minute away game.

Skill Level disparity. There are not enough teams to make appropriate skill level brackets and the teams are getting clumped together. (Copper vs Gold/Premier teams). Game play is not fair

7:50pm – Coaches Remarks. The difficulties each team is facing

Ken Bada

- Mixed age brackets, 3 different age groups all in one with CalNorth. Every season it seems to get worse. There is lack of teams with CalNorth/CCSL.
- It's hard to convince players/parents to come out and play games 1-2+ hr away especially with the opposing team's skill level does not match. Players and Parents won't make the drive to get beat 0-8.
- It's hard to judge just how good the team is because they aren't playing teams at their level. Are we a true Silver team or are we Gold?
- He wrote an email to President Niranjana back in August asking to for an option to go to NorCal, but only received a one sentence reply

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Mark Navarro

- Emailed Niranjana 8/23/23. Provided reasons to move to NorCal, issues his team is having with CalNorth/CCSL. Niranjana responded 5 days later saying he would look into it.
- Emailed Niranjana again on 9/5/23 asking for status of his concerns. No response from Niranjana
- Having same issues with CalNorth/CCSL. His team would take the time to travel the 2 hours for the away game, in some cases the opponent won't travel to Milpitas therefore forfeiting the game.

Mike Rice and Ian Beresford

- Mike expressed his concerns and hardships with teams and travel.
- He sat down with Niranjana and had conversation asking for us to get to NorCal. We just want to have the option of NorCal. He stated, let the coaches decide which league they want to play for in a season.
- When speaking with Niranjana, Niranjana was not open to applying for NorCal. Niranjana cited opinions he had gathered from other people. "The grass is not always greener on the other side"
- Mike indicated FC Milpitas is losing home town players to other clubs because they would much rather play games closer to home

James Kusters

- He wants to keep his team together, but it's hard to keep all the players on the team especially with all the challenges of travel, mixing of brackets, older teams playing younger teams

Minh Lien

- His youngest U10 girls team only had 4 games for the entire season. One of the away games was 3 hours away and each family had to pay a minimum of \$80 for gas for just one game. His whole team came out to play and some players only got to play 10 mins for a U10 game which is 7 vs 7.
- His U10 team is a copper team playing games that are Premier. They lost 1-14.
- Just wants to play fair games closer to Milpitas.

8:10pm – District 2 leagues participating

We took a poll of the coaches/teams in the room to see if any teams are playing local games in District 2. Only a few teams are playing NEW District 2 teams. Only 1 North Valley team is playing CCSL, U15 Girls. Due to the lack of teams in CalNorth/CCSL all districts, brackets and some age groups are combined with younger teams playing older teams.

Confirmed there is NO COMPETITIVE DISTRICT 2 cup tournament this season. Why? Have not heard the official answer from Cal North, but it's believed there are not enough District 2 teams and no venue was able to be secured.

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8:15pm – Request to Apply for NorCal

- We need Board of Directors approval ASAP. We want our request to be heard at the next board meeting on 10/18/2023 and voted on. We need an answer to our request.
- Application for NorCal is due no later than 12/1/2023 for acceptance for Fall 2024 season.
- We need to get approval from the Board of Directors and get our initial application into NorCal by 11/1/2023. It is recommended that we turn in the application early so it can be reviewed and revised, if necessary, before the final 12/1/2023 deadline.

8:18pm – Cost of NorCal.

Overall playing with NorCal is seems to be possibly less expensive than CalNorth/CCSL.

Cost per team to apply for NorCal is \$275.00. There is no cost per player for registration. There may be a cost for insurance per player approx. \$15-18.

All the comp coaches agreed that the costs associated with registration for NorCal would be something that each team and their parents would be ok incurring. Raising registration player fees were discussed.

The cost versus reward is worth it.

Example: Team of 12 players

With CalNorth/CCSL ---- Gas for travel to one game (2.5 hours away) = \$80 x 12 players = \$960.00

With NorCal ---- Team Registration \$275 + Player Insurance \$216 = \$491.00. Estimating there would not be as much money spent on gas to travel to away games.

8:20 pm – Calls from Niranjana and/or CalNorth Executive Director Marley Wilson

Santino, Mark, Lupe, Lawrence, Mike

- Coaches were called and they expressed their concerns with CalNorth/CCSL, explained the major issues. Niranjana called some. Cal North Executive Director Marley Willson called others and had Niranjana listening in on one conversation with Santino.
- No solutions were provided.
- No commitments to make things better were provided. The coaches were left to feel like their voices and opinions were not being recognized.
- They were told that not all the coaches felt that way – incorrect. All the comp coaches were in attendance at the meeting and we all took a vote and agreed we all want to apply for NorCal.

8:25pm – Presented the Petitions to the Board

We have support from the competitive team parents, players, all the coaching staff and all the comp teams to apply for NorCal League

8:30pm – We are requesting for the Board Members to approve our request and begin the process of applying for NorCal League on behalf of the FC Milpitas competitive teams. We understand the next board meeting will be held on Wednesday 10/18/23 and we expect a vote of approval at this time.