

Torrington Youth Soccer  
Board Meeting Minutes for  
March 22, 2010

Members Present: Ed Matthews, Joy Flowers, Mark Molitano, Scott Rosengrant, Dawn Dell'Agnese  
Excused: Laura Wilcox, Karen Pfeffer & Anna Chiaravallotti

7:05- Meeting begins – Public Forum

Guests Present: Wayne Titus, Jen Titus, Lisa Smith, Doug Smith, Dianne Manchester, Lehrudin Sujic, Mark Church, Paul Merritt, Glenn Albanesius, Joe Fazioli, Jeannie DuBois, Allen Royer, Devon Schoenberger

Meeting opens with Ed thanking guests for coming and states he understand they have concerns and we, the board, will listen to the concerns but will not debate anything tonight. He invites the guests to begin. Glenn Albanesius begins with introduction as a parent with one of the Winsted kids on the team but thought he was 'here' for an open forum on the issues and rebuts Ed to state 'his' (TYS) concerns first. Ed reiterates that the board is going to listen to all the concerns and Glenn tells Ed that Ed 'has set the pace of the meeting with his opening comments'.

Wayne Titus read the letter he received from the board stating he's 'being gotten rid of as a head coach' and he has the right to petition and reapply. Wayne continues to state his displeasure in 'his' teams' placement and that "TYS makes no attempt to listen as we sit up here at the Yankee Peddler without any consideration of teams and we (TYS) do not behave as an organization should be run". Wayne states "Rich Zimmerman acknowledged the team should play up and even the trainer (Stephen Osbourne) gave comment".

Ed speaks to Wayne- "You were told what bracket you were in (regarding his team playing in a U13/U14 competitive bracket but being committed as a U13 team) and Rich Zimmerman combined the brackets for competitive play. ALL the trophies your team received were labeled U13".

Wayne states if U13 issue was proclaimed to him back in November, he'd have broached the subject then. Ed reaffirmed the U13/U14 bracket was never of issue-they (the team Wayne coaches) were never put out of that bracket.

Dianne Manchester added- "all other teams speak of this team in the competitive U14 bracket so in essence "we" put them back into the U13 bracket and not fighting for them to have more competitive play". Noted again that Rich Zimmerman is putting the team back into the U13/U14 competitive bracket.

Crowd begins shouting at Ed and Ed refrains from answering during this shout fest. Dianne M. tells the board she removed her own son "from Wayne's team because he didn't deserve a spot on that team." Mark Church continues to ask why Ed couldn't keep communication open between Wayne, the parents and himself (Ed). Parents continue to shout their aggravation at not having any communications regarding the situation, Ed continues to explain he could not give an answer because he did not have an answer. Shout from crowd demanding a time frame of how long 'this' has been going on and Ed answered "2 weeks" and replied he received emails from only 5 people regarding this issue.

Glenn A. calls this a personal issue and brings up uniforms and night games and issues associated with with such and Ed reminds the parents that this team received new uniforms, new flags, new balls, news pinneys and the parents replied "having this new stuff is a given."

Letter- Ed states Wayne did not reveal the true reason for the letter he received acknowledging Wayne's resignation as U13 coach. Ed tells the parents that the Winsted Soccer Association president called him to tell him Wayne tried to move the team to Winsted. Ed states the rules that in doing so, only 2 Torrington players would be allowed to play in Winsted. The parents all begin shouting at once, words inaudible and Jeannie shouts out to all to "ask the board if one of its members doesn't have a child that asked to play on the team"

Dianne M. asks Wayne why they can't pull all the kids from TYS to take one season off and not play competitively, Glenn is speaking over everyone interrupting Scott trying to talk. Scott states the board is here to listen and up until very recently the issue was being handled between Ed, Laura and Wayne and Glenn interrupts again to state he doesn't believe the board didn't know about the issue at hand and becomes accusatory that TYS does not do anything to help this team when Scott spoke up and reminded Glenn that "this all started years ago when he invited Glenn into his dining room to help bring the Winsted kids to Torrington to play where he (Scott) did bend over backwards to help".

Unnamed Parent asked for an amicable resolution to the problem and Scott reminds all of the letter to Ed from Wayne that states "if this team is registered as a U13 team he is not coaching..."

Wayne stated that TYS came to him and told him the team was 'going back' to being a U13 team, he stated he pleaded his case with TYS, said all parents read the emails and accused TYS of never speaking to him about 'competitive brackets'. Scott reminds all that Wayne turned in his roster and his equipment and said he wasn't going to coach a U13 team, therefore, resigning his coaching position and Wayne responded by stating he was forced into the resignation and TYS (board members other than Ed) should not be left in the dark. More shouting, "forum opened up to hear concerns" and Scott restating Wayne turned everything in. Parent asked question about replacing the coach and Scott replied that we didn't replace him but we did need a name on the roster for spring commitments because Wayne resigned and Wayne points fingers to Ed and shouts that Ed is the one to be blamed.

Parent comments that "all individually asked for this meeting to resolve any issues" More inaudible shouting.

Ed brings up the fact that not all the equipment was returned to him and Wayne brought the team to FSA to play without approval of TYS. Wayne quotes that on the {TYS} website it states that winter soccer is not a part of TYS and he was free to play the team at FSA. Ed reminds him that the team wore TYS uniforms while playing winter soccer making it a TYS issue...Dianne M. interjects by stating "the girls team plays {FSA} in TYS uniforms so is their coach being asked to step down as well?". Wayne begins to quote CJSA rules, inaudible due to the commotion of the meeting and Ed brings up the point of being lied to, that when Wayne turned in the team's equipment to Ed he turned in size 4 balls – not the new size 5 balls he was issued (Wayne says he doesn't know b/c the boys all bring their own balls to practice...) and the flags turned in were the old flags and the pinneys and cones were also the old ones and Wayne begins to tell Ed he turned in what he had then states he told Ed if anything was missing to give him a list. Someone shouts "aren't you thinking about the kids?" More inaudible shouting.

Scott states there wasn't ever any formal request to move the team up, Wayne reminds him that the requests to move the team up were verbal, they played 2009 winning the bracket so they did not make a second request because according to district rules they already thought they were already moved up. Commitment status – registered and stays the same but Dianne M. tells Ed that he has the power to change this, to fight or appeal this district decision.

Scott asked Wayne for a copy of the letter he received from Rich Zimmerman and Wayne read the letter (will try to obtain copy of letter for minutes). Parent(s) again ask what can be done to resolve this issue. Jeannie thanks Scott for listening and can Wayne email Scott with all emails pertaining to this issue. Mark Molitano asks "only U13 would move to Winsted" and the answer is yes. They want to play against U14 teams in the U13/U14 bracket. Wayne- "all we want is competition". Scott asks Wayne why he didn't continue to address this issue back in November, parent interrupts stating TYS letter to Wayne is 'illegal' because Ed states he is writing on behalf of the board but the 'board' is saying the did not vote on the letter. Many shouting parents asking if the board did or did not vote upon the decision in the letter.

Ed states he was at the CJSA meeting Wednesday night and this issue was brought up and Wayne requests a copy of those minutes and a copy of any minutes where the vote was discussed. Dianne M. said she asked for sit down in resolution of this issue weeks ago.

Mark M. notes the time is now after 8pm and tells Wayne he can repetition the board and reapply as a coach that we (board) will look at the facts in this matter in the meantime when Wayne points a finger to Mark and shouts that Mark is the Disciplinary Chair that it was Mark that had Wayne in for a Disciplinary meeting before and now its time to discipline Ed for his actions in this matter, conti nuing to point and shout at Ed when Scott interrupts and reminds Wayne the board will get together to look at the facts and will vote then. Parent asks why cant 'we' rescind the letter to Wayne and Ed states he stands by his letter and Dianne then asks Ed to rescind the letter to Wayne. Parents asks whats to stop the team from going to Winsted and Ed reminds the parent that only two kids from Torrington can go to Winsted and that Wayne did not give all the facts to his parents that because Torrington does have an age bracket available for this team, per CJSA rules only 2 players from Torrington would be allowed to play in Winsted. Parents shout that they just want the team to stay together. Parents shout they want TYS to release their players and sign the waivers and Ed states he will sign for the Winsted players only and several parents shout and storm out of the meeting and Dianne asks Ed if this is personal.

Shouting...Ed states again that not all the equipment was turned in and he was lied to when he asked Wayne for the balls etc and Wayne states he told Ed to give him a list of what was missing. Mark calls Wayne of the resignation, asking Wayne if he did or did not say he would resign as U13 coach if he wasn't moved into the U14 age bracket and a parent asks what if Wayne is not coach then what bracket will the kids play in. Ed replied they would be a U13 registered team playing in a U13/U14 competitive bracket. Ed tells all that district wanted to put the U13 team as in a U13b bracket but Ed and Laura fought for the team to be in a more competitive bracket. Then Jenn Titus brings up already discussed issues shouting to Ed that he didn't fight for the team. Wayne says again he had no reason to think 'his' team would be moved backwards. Ed and Scott explain again that the team is registered as age category NOT bracket and bracket is determined by the district.

Dawn speaks on Wayne's behalf that she was at his last game and Nicole was reffing and at the end of the first half she overheard Wayne telling his kids not to score (based on they were playing a team that was not any competition for them) and she states she has been away all weekend and did not respond to Ed's email requesting a vote on this matter. Parents begin to shout at Dawn and the board asking if there was or was not a vote on this issue that they were first told there wasn't a vote and now they are hearing there was a vote. Wayne requests everyone's emails and parent (Mark Church) wants list of all the equipment owed and he will write a check out for whats owed. Parent asks for a time frame, will the issue be resolved before the start of the season. With 2 weeks before the season starts the board clarifies it will have resolution by then.

Stated again that the team is committed as a 13a bracket in a 13a/14a competition. Parent asks Scott what will happen if Wayne wasn't the coach. Scott states he can not answer that question and parent continues to ask Scott what he would do if he were the travel director still and Scott finally gives in stating and reiterating he is not the travel director but in a hypothetical situation if Wayne were

removed an assistant coach would be asked to step up as head coach, TYS would find another (outside) coach or it was up to the parents. He followed his statements by reminding the parents he is not the travel director.

It is decided that Wayne will reappear to the board, reapply as coach and he and his parents will send the board copies of all past email correspondence and parents can send emails to the board in support of Wayne. Ed tells the guests that if its any consolation he does not vote on this issue. The issue of whether or not there was a quorum or not available to vote is discussed along with FOI issues regarding all email correspondence. Parent that previously stepped out of the meeting came back in to state all emails are subject to FOI. She then continues to ask about how many on the TYS board and she and Dianne M. talk about the 2/3s needed to be a legal vote. It was asked if this was a regular scheduled meeting being there are only 4 voting members present or was this a specially set meeting with such a low number of members in attendance (regularly scheduled monthly meeting).

Parent asks for board member emails, told he could find them on the website but board opts to provide him with emails of those members present. Board is told they will be receiving emails in support of keeping Wayne on as coach of the U13 boys and Wayne will send the board all emails he has regarding this matter.

9:35: Meeting adjourned.