

ISSA SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES (4-1-14)

Present: Ante Loncar, Claudio Frigo, Renata Bechtoldt, Hector Nava, Filip Cejovic, Goran Guzina, Andy Sotiropoulos

-Meeting called to order at 7:47

-Purpose of special meeting to discuss Investigate Committee Report/finalize ISSA decision

-Branko Ilic

-Board discussed at length aggravating and mitigating factors, and additional evidence. Cejovic pointed to Branko's many years of service. Loncar agreed. All agreed Branko was otherwise a "good guy" but bore ultimate responsibility as President. Lack of cooperation with current board, his refusal to admit passes and letters were fraudulent or take any responsibility concerned board most. Andy explained that Branko had offered him the position of SRA (in exchange for legal advice/services) during a meeting at a White Castle Restaurant on 79th and Harlem but that Andy declined citing the fact he felt he was unqualified for the position and there was no evidence that the current SRA was doing an unsatisfactory job. Andy also indicated that he advised the USASA and certain ISSA board members of this proposition in fall of 2013 and that he was very suspicious of Branko's unsolicited offer, especially given that Branko was not in a position to do so unilaterally.

-Claudio motioned for two year suspension. Hector and Renata concurred/seconded. Filip and Goran abstained due to conflict of interest/personal relationship with Branko. Andy abstained citing conflict of interest as a witness in the investigation. No dissent. Motion passed unanimously.

-Spiro Arsenis

-Board discussed at length aggravating and mitigating factors, and additional evidence. Goran indicated Spiro did a lot of work for Hellenic United/AC. All agreed. Ante stated Spiro was fun guy to go out for beers with. Claudio indicated 1-3 month recommendation was extremely lenient. All agreed Spiro was equally culpable with Branko (Goran abstained from this portion of discussion). All agreed they were not swayed by Spiro's remorse to the committee and that Spiro was a primary cause of the ISSA's subsequent problems. All agreed that Spiro played a primary role in the fraudulent letters and that the letters started all of the ISSA problems. Andy explained how his letter was altered by Spiro. Discussion was had about the letters at length. Andy also explained what Luis Lince told him about the passes and Spiro's involvement. Ante noted how Spiro bragged about being covered by Siomos. Claudio stated he thought more than two years was warranted. Spiro's pattern of misconduct discussed at length. Ante joked about how the ISSA computer mysteriously "malfunctioned" at the tail end of Spiro and Branko's reign and how the receipt books were supposedly "lost in the move" but magically appeared in a locked closet of the Peterson Avenue office. Andy indicated that Spiro was a relatively young guy and even though his actions were severe, the purpose of ISSA shouldn't be to end someone's involvement in soccer.

-After reconsidering his initial stance, Claudio motioned for the same suspension as Branko, two years. Hector seconded the motion. Renata and Filip concurred. Goran abstained from vote citing conflict of interest. Andy abstained from vote citing conflict of interest as a witness in the investigation. No dissent. Motion passed unanimously.

-Steve Siomos

-Board discussed at length aggravating and mitigating factors, and additional evidence. Loncar indicated Siomos had contributed a lot to the referee community. Nava, Cejovic and Sotiropoulos agreed. Significant discussion about Siomos conduct while an ISSA board member. All agreed Steve was unprofessional and belligerent, among other things. All agreed that Steve was less than forthright as a board member. Steve's emails and incident at Odeum discussed. Ante and Claudio indicated they were present for the incident and that Steve initiated the assault unprovoked, that Andy was facing the field away from Steve, and that Andy never gave Steve the finger. Claudio stated he had to take the trophy out of Steve's hand to avoid any potential problems. Renata indicated she was nearby but did not see the incident. Grave concern amongst the board with Steve's actions in relation to poaching the U23 league. Renata indicated she was most concerned about three things relating to Steve:

- 1) His repeated attempts to poach the U23 Mens League
- 2) His failure to disclose any conflict of interest he may as it relates to US Clubs and ISSA
- 3) His attempts to move the Metropolitan League to US Clubs
 - a) Renata also advised that Steve told the Metro clubs at an earlier league meeting that the MSL Board had decided to move the league to US Clubs and it was a "done deal". Renata voted against the measure and Phil from Zrinski abstained. Steve also advised at that meeting that they were moving so that they could "prove a point" and claimed there was corruption in the ISSA Board.
 - b) Renata advised the ISSA that Steve had sent out an email to the MSL clubs dissuading them from coming to the Town Hall meeting scheduled for April 3, 2014 and that her husband Mike sent an email in response asking Steve politely what was the harm in going to the Town Hall meeting.
 - c) Renata advised that Steve softened his stance with respect to going to the Town Hall meeting at an Alte Herren League meeting the day before.

-Claudio thought a suspension in excess of one year was warranted. Hector motioned for a year. Renata seconded. Filip concurred. Claudio also concurred after reconsideration. Goran abstained from voting citing a conflict of interest. Andy abstained from vote citing a conflict of interest as a witness in the investigation. No dissent. Motion passed unanimously.

-Bill Tanglis

-Board discussed at length aggravating and mitigating factors, and additional evidence. Andy offered that he felt Bill may have been deceived initially by Siomos into believing that the HUAC corporation had been dissolved. He also stated that Tanglis was very upset when he found out about the fraudulent passes in June of 2013 and instructed Andy to immediately have them replaced with valid passes.

-Claudio motioned for a letter of reprimand. Hector seconded. Renata and Filip concurred. Goran abstained citing a conflict of interest. Andy abstained citing a conflict of interest as a witness in the investigation. No dissent. Motion passed unanimously.

-Andy indicated that although in his opinion the investigative committee did an excellent job, they failed to address certain parties in the complaint. The board unanimously indicated they wanted to address every party in the complaint.

-Discussion began concerning FK Republika Srpska and Aleksander Cvijovic. Goran indicated he thought we had not received notice from USASA's legal department as to whether we had jurisdiction over the club and Mr. Cvijovic. Andy agreed. The Board unanimously decided to hold off on rendering an opinion with respect to FK Republika Srpska and Cvijovic until a response from USASA was received.

-Discussion about Hellenic United/AC. All board members agreed that a club has to be responsible for its actions and the actions of its officers. Significant discussion about how Hellenic United/AC had a long history of evading their responsibilities (fines/suspensions). Board was very concerned about how Hellenic would try to circumvent this decision.

-Claudio pointed out that the most recent ISSA case involving a fraudulent pass involved a club from his own league and that the ISSA had handed out a \$1,000.00 fine, per its rules, for one fraudulent pass. He felt anything less for Hellenic would be unfair to his league's club and all other clubs. Andy noted that if the board followed such a line of reasoning then a \$8,000.00 fine, solely for the passes, would have to be handed out to Hellenic. Andy felt that was excessive given the totality of circumstances. Claudio stated "a rule is a rule". Andy offered that the board could view all of the passes as one continuous transaction and assess a \$1,000.00 fine. After some debate, Claudio motioned for a \$1,000.00 fine for the passes. Filip seconded. Hector and Renata concurred. Goran abstained from the vote citing a conflict of interest. Andy abstained from the vote citing a conflict of interest as a witness in the investigation. No dissent. Motion passed unanimously.

-Andy pointed out that Hellenic had used five different team names in procuring player passes in 2013 (Hellenic, Hellenic AC, Hellenic United, Hellenic United AC, Hellenic Olympic Flame). Discussion about how five different team names appeared on ISSA Master Spread Sheet of Registered Players. Claudio motioned for a \$1,000.00 fine for this offense. Filip seconded. Hector and Renata concurred. Goran abstained from the vote citing a conflict of interest. Andy abstained from the vote citing a conflict of interest as a witness in the investigation. No dissent. Motion passed unanimously.

-Discussion about Hellenic United not dissolving their corporation. Andy explained how Hellenic United's board decided to fold the team to avoid fines and suspension after Spiro pulled it out of the National Soccer League. Andy indicated he was asked to attend a club meeting, despite not being a board member, in order to render his legal opinion. Andy stated he rendered his legal opinion to those present (Bill, Steve, Spiro). Andy claimed Steve later told him that the club had not received any significant monetary contributions/sponsorships, and that he thus felt the club's corporate status was not that important. Andy stated he did not partake in any board vote/decision regarding folding the team or dissolving the corporation and that he was subsequently told by Bill Tanglis that Steve Siomos had assumed responsibility for dissolving the corporation. Andy felt Bill may have been deceived by Steve into thinking the corporation had actually been dissolved. Andy also stated that Bill sent an email to the NSL/ISSA in late April 2013 advising that HUAC's corporation had been dissolved. Andy stated it was later learned that the corporation had never been dissolved and that another corporation, Hellenic AC, was formed with Bill's personal attorney as registered agent and that the club was using this name-Hellenic AC-but actually running the club's business out of the Hellenic United checking account.

-Claudio motioned for a \$1,000.00 fine. Filip seconded. Hector and Renata concurred. Goran abstained citing a conflict of interest. Andy abstained from vote citing a conflict of interest as a witness in the investigation. No dissent. Motion passed unanimously.

-Andy asked if everyone was ok with the fines. Filip stated the fines were appropriate. All others who voted agreed.

-Claudio brought up the \$720.00 owed to EuroSportsGear by Hellenic United/AC. Andy stated he did not believe the ISSA should be a collection agency and get directly involved. Filip agreed. Andy suggested that the board nonetheless agree to forward the first \$720.00 in fines collected from Hellenic United/AC to EuroSportsGear, noting that they were valued sponsors of the ISSA. Everyone agreed.

-Goran expressed concern about the fines being excessive given that Hellenic was already suspended by the NSL and owed significant amount of money to that league as well. Andy called Greg Vlamakis from Claudios phone to see how much was actually owed. Vlamakis advised the total was actually \$3,420.00. Andy asked Gregory if he would be satisfied with \$2,200.00 to extinguish the total debt. Gregory said yes.

-Claudio motioned for payment of all fines and the \$2,200.00 to NSL as a condition of being reinstated. Filip seconded. Hector and Renata concurred. Goran abstained citing a conflict of interest. Andy abstained citing a conflict of interest as a witness in the investigation. No dissent. Motion passed unanimously.

-Lengthy discussion was had about how to safeguard ISSA from such future abuses by board members. All agreed that the ISSA needed to be protected and that the committee had not addressed this issue. Claudio suggested a five year ban from ISSA service for Ilic, Arsenis and Siomos was appropriate. Renata agreed but felt that a subsequent five year probation period for Arsenis was also warranted given the totality of circumstances. Claudio motioned for a five year ban form ISSA service for Ilic, Arsenis and Siomos along with a subsequent five year probation period for Arsenis. Hector seconded. Renata concurred. Filip concurred except as to any issues relating to Branko, for which he abstained from voting. Goran abstained from vote citing a conflict of interest. Andy abstained from vote citing a conflict of interest as a witness in the investigation. No dissent. Motion passed unanimously.

-Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.