

Thursday February 13, 2014

Special meeting of ISSA Board. Called by a majority of ISSA Executive Board.
Meeting started at 6:30 pm due to late arrival of a couple of Board Members.

Roll Call: (ISASA Bard Present)

Branko Ilic	President
Ante Lon car	Vice President Admin
Hector Nava	Secretary
Goran Kunin	Treasurer
Philip Cejovic	Recording Secretary
Andy Sotiropoulos	Delegate at Large
Claudio Frigo	Delegate at Large
Luis Lince	Administrator

Absent:

Joe Zelda	VP & Cups Commissioner
Spiro's Arsenis	VP of PR & Marketing
Steve Siomos	Director at Large

Member League REP's:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

USASA Representatives:

Duncan Riddle USASA Executive Director
Bill Davey Region II Director (by phone)
Nick Radu Region II Deputy Director

AGENDA

- Roll Call
- USASA Suspension –Authority of current ISSA Board
- Financial position – Creditor list, income forecast Fiduciary responsibilities
- Payment Plan
- Future Operations –Player registrations, passes insurance, escrow
- Future Board
- USASA suspension termination

USASA Suspension:

Meeting was opened by Duncan Riddle explaining that while the ISSA Board is suspended from conducting Soccer Business, the ISSA is still a functioning Board under the Illinois State Non Profit Organization and can function and conduct the business of running of the ISSA Corporation.

League members present expressed that they have not been communicated to in regards to the problems of the ISSA and were here to understand what is going on and to know when and how they can help.

Duncan explained that findings by the ISASA Treasurer have not been fully explained even to the ISSA Board and explained that the Board needed to go into an Executive Session to be updated on the ISSA Financial findings.

League Members expressed their appreciation for being told of USASA actions and in leaving expressed their desire that Board Members resolve the status of the ISSA and improve communication.

At 6:40pm Louis Lince expressed that he had a great distance to drive but wanted to know what the outcome would be. Duncan explained the suspension to Louis and Louis's response was that ISSA had been late with payments before. Duncan explained that the financial findings are such that ISSA cannot meet its financial obligations and cannot operate as a USASA body until they fulfill their financial obligations and resolve the issues raised by Board Members.

Louis departed and Board went into Executive Session.

Nick Radu asked for clarification of how the meeting was to be conducted and who was running the meeting. Andy Sotiropoulos motioned and seconded by Claudio Freigo that Duncan Riddle facilitate the meeting with a voice vote all were in favor.

Board motioned that Nick Radu take minutes.

Duncan summarized the actions communicated to Branko in writing in a letter dated February 3, 2014 suspending the Illinois State Soccer Association from running the business of soccer operations for failure to meet it's responsibilities as a member State Association pursuant to USASA Bylaw 213 Section 4.

Financial Position:

Duncan asked Goran (Treasurer) to present his financial findings of ISSA financial transactions and business records. Goran explained that he was new to the position and recorded keeping was not done in accordance with accounting standards finding it difficult to work towards a concise report. Based on what he was able to find ISSA bank balance is \$1,271.50 their liabilities \$41,667.36, major concern being that ISSA had not paid their Illinois state employee withholding taxes, their 2013 payroll liability state tax, rent, utilities, USASA player registration

fees or the extra excess medical insurance owed to USASA Insurance Carrier. Players are currently playing under the assumption they are insured, when they are not. Treasurer Report attached:

Treasurer presented what he considered a conservative budget projected for the 2013-14 season: \$53,509.11 Income. \$50,270.00 the proposed income included the sum of \$27,700.00 from Team affiliation fees. A concern as to whether ISSA would be able to continue collecting that fee was discussed. If not able to collect those fees, ISSA will not be able to meet its financial obligation under the current structure.

Board members entered into an open discussion as to their possibility and options for restructuring their expenses to bring them within the means of their income.

Payment Plan:

Duncan explained that players and member leagues of the Illinois State Soccer Association currently registered with USASA will be under the Operational Administration of the USASA National Office, until the ISSA Board fulfill its Fiduciary responsibilities and gets its Board in compliance with USASA Bylaws.

Future operations, such as play payment plan, board decided that additional meetings have to be held to conclude how they would handle their payment responsibility. Open discussion ensued on how they could divest themselves of fixed expenses such as office staff, office rent and utilities.

Future operations were explained above by Duncan, informing that once the ISSA Board presents a viable financial plan, Board re-structure and Bylaws in compliance with USASA the NBOD would consider their status. Duncan explained that expectation be that this can be done by the March NBOD meeting.

Future Board:

Duncan asked for clarification of how those present got on the board, some explained that they were elected while others said they were appointed.

Andy Sotiropoulos motioned that Board discuss issues that were being ignored by ISSA President Branko Ilic, Claudio Frigo seconded voice vote in support. Andy went on to explain that he had submitted formal notice on several occasions citing irregularities conducted by various Board Members yet his demands for meetings to resolve these concerns were ignored. Andy submitted a written formal complaint stating that unless those responsible are held accountable he would file a formal complained with USASA. (Attached.)

Andy demanded to know what Branko Ilic was going to do about Spiro Arsenis submittal of fraudulent complaint letters against NSL, falsifying eight player passes while a Board Member of the ISSA.

Branko Ilic responded that while driving to the meeting he received a call from Spiro Arsenis who advised Branko that he was resigning from the ISSA Executive Board. Branko explained that Spiros was no longer a Board Member.

Andy went on demanding to know why the findings of the committee appointed to investigate the misconduct of Spiros and Hellenic SC were not acted on or communicated to Board or member leagues, Branko was asked by Board Members present to explain his lack of action and failure to uphold the suspensions mandated by his appointed board. Branko sat quietly and did not respond after several questions about the printing of fake passes without payment for registration and the irregularities cited by Andy in his letter. Branko responded "I'll let you know tomorrow". This response seemed to have infuriated the Board as they continued to demand answers from Branko. Duncan asked for short bathroom break for everyone.

9:25 pm meeting re-conveyed with Branko asking to speak stating that he had always worked for the good of soccer, ISSA and Region II and with that in mind he decided that it was best for ISSA ,and Region that he resign as President of the ISSA.

Board accepted his resignation with a unanimous consensus, while each board member made remarks explaining that while Branko served Illinois Soccer very well as a promoter his performance as President was not acceptable. Each board member recognized Branko for his contribution and thanked him for service explaining that while he was lacking as President there is still room for him to promote the ISSA. Branko explained that would give that some thought.

Andy asked for clarification of Hellenic SC status, it was pointed out that Hellenic SC was suspended by the NSA and this body upheld the suspension. A vote was taken to honor the NSL. Motion carried with Philip abstaining. It was also clarified that a board member should write Hellenic a notice informing them that their suspension would be lifted upon payment of outstanding debt. As communicated by NSL, Andy Sotiropoulos agreed to write a letter informing National Soccer League that their request for suspension of FK republica Srpska, United/Hellenic AC and team manager Spiro Arsenis will be upheld.

Andy Sotiropoulos also asked that the current board under the USASA structure declare votes taken regarding U-23 League at the January ISSA meeting be declared null and void. After a lengthy discussion on Bylaws and how they applied to the U-23 League it was concluded that the U-23 League could not leave ISSA, vote was upheld by a voice vote.

Future Board

Duncan reiterated that ISSA Operation will be under the control of USASA until an acceptable financial plan is submitted, a new board structure identified and revision of current Bylaws bringing ISSA in compliance with USASA and the Ted Stevens Olympic Act on Amateur Sports.

USASA Termination

Duncan explained that the ISSA status will be addressed at the March USASA NBOD meeting. It would help if the current ISSA Board submit a written financial and board restructure plan.

It was decided that Duncan Riddle would notify Joe Zyzda ISSA VP and Richard Groff USASA President of this evenings outcomes first thing Friday February 14.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 pm.

Sincerely submitted by

Nick Radu
Region II Deputy Director.