

DEVELOPING AND MANAGING A SUCCESSFUL LEAGUE

2007 US Youth Soccer
Workshop & Coaches Convention

Paul Luchowski
US Youth Soccer Region II
Midwest Regional League
Commissioner
pluchowski@plsportsconsulting.com

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed today
during this presentation
are solely the views
of the presenter



INFORMATION

Slides with MRL logo are provided to support the views of the presenter

AREAS TO COVER

- Organizational Structure
- Governance & Operations
- Rules and Regulations
- Dispute Resolution
- Competition Issues
- Communication
- Growth/Development

LEAGUE

“an association of teams
or clubs that compete
chiefly among themselves”

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Who owns the league?

- * its members
- * an organizing entity

GOVERNANCE

Who oversees the league?

- * Board
- * Commission/Committee

Document to create league

OPERATIONS

Utilize members of the
Board/Committee/Commission
(generally volunteer)

Administrators/Managers
(volunteer or paid)



MISSION

To provide the highest standard of competitive play for youth teams in Region II and to assure the continued development of elite level players.



ORGANIZATION

**US Youth Soccer Region II
Regional Council**

(i.e. the state associations in the Midwest)



GOVERNANCE

Regional Council adopted the
Midwest Regional League
Commission Charter
(July 1, 2004)



GOVERNING AUTHORITY

MRL Commission (8 Trustees)

- Region II Director (Chairman)
 - 3 State DOC's
- 3 At-Large Trustees
- MRL Commissioner



TRUSTEES

Chairman per election

3 State DOC's and 3 At-Large Trustees
are appointed to 2-year terms

Commissioner per agreement



DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT

Commissioner serves as the
chief executive officer and oversees
all aspects of League operations

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Who can propose?
- Who approves?
- Who implements?

Also can include policies, position statements, guidelines etc.

RULES & REGULATIONS

- Acceptance of rules
- Acceptance of decisions



MRL COMMISSION

Rules/Administrative Issues

Disputes and Discipline

Oversight

Planning



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Oversees all soccer competition matters

Selection/Placement of Teams

Divisional Structure

Game Related Issues



DAY TO DAY

Scheduling

Rosters

Referees

Hosting (Game Day)

Q and A



STATE ASSOCIATIONS

Registration of Players and
Approval of Team Rosters
per State Association and MRL rules



ACCEPTANCE OF RULES

Done at the time that teams make application to join the MRL

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- Establish clear protocol
- Resolve conflict of interest issues



COMMISSION

Resolves protests and
any other issues of dispute



APPEALS

Opportunity to appeal
MRL Commission decision

Goes to Appeals Committee

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COMPETITION ISSUES

- Utilize the “soccer professionals”
- Anything on-field
- Communicate decisions
- Constant review and tweaking



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Final Approval of teams
(in conjunction with all
Region II State DOC's)

Determines divisional structure
within each age group
(formal process)



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Determine playing formats

Determine promotion/relegation guidelines



TEAMS

US Youth Soccer affiliated teams who have been successful in State Cup play and seek the best competition in a league format featuring similar elite level teams



APPROVAL OF TEAMS

Two-Step Process

State Associations

MRL Technical Committee/Commission



STATE ASSOCIATIONS

- Approval/Endorsement of teams at the State Level
- State Associations determine their own criteria for approval
- State Cup/State League as qualifiers
- 4 teams per age group guaranteed



SEASONS

U-14's

Fall and Spring

Girls U-15 to U-18

Fall or Spring

Boys U-15 to U-18

Spring



SEASONS—GIRLS (U15-U18)

Fall WI, IL, MI, MO, KS, IA, NE

Spring MN, OHN, OHS, KY, IN, SD



PROMOTION - RELEGATION

Minimum of two teams are relegated
from the Premier Division

Minimum of two teams promoted into
the Premier Division



PREMIER DIVISIONS

Each age group playing for
2 Wild Card slots to the Regionals

Premier Division slots are retained/earned
by teams through results in MRL play
(Objective not Subjective)



MRL at REGIONALS

At the U-14 through U-18 levels,
20 MRL teams
(two per age group, both boys and girls)
earn Wild Cards into the Regionals



MRL at REGIONALS

At the U-14 through U-18 levels,
more than 100 MRL teams
participate at the Regionals



MRL at REGIONALS

MRL Wild Cards have won Regional titles
in each of the past two years ...

In 2006, a MRL Wild Card captured a
National title



FIRST DIVISIONS

Level of play better than within state

Strive for promotion and compete for
Regional Wild Card slots



GEOGRAPHIC SUB-DIVISIONS

FALL U-14's & ALL FIRST DIVISIONS#

Northwest

Northeast

Southeast

Southwest

- if number of teams allows



GEOGRAPHIC SUB-DIVISIONS

EXAMPLE

Northwest (IL, WI, MN, SD, ND)

Northeast (OH-N, MI, No IN)

Southeast (OH-S, KY, So IN)

Southwest (MO, KS, IA, NE)



IDEAL AGE GROUP

Premier Division (16 teams)
2 sub-divisions

First Division (32 teams)
4 sub-divisions



COMPETITION STRUCTURE

Emphasize League Play

Encourage one game per day

Playoffs limited to where necessary
(i.e. Spring Season due to number of teams)



SCHEDULING

Premier Divisions - face to face meeting

MRL coordinates for most of the
First Divisions



SCHEDULING CHALLENGES

Lack of a common calendar

State Cups

Tournaments

State required league play

Value



SCOUTING

Regional ODP Coaches and
National Staff Coaches attend
MRL events

COMMUNICATION

- Website
- Email
- Mailings
- Office



WEBSITE

Communications Anchor

Team Registration

Schedules/Scores/Standings



1-TO-1 COMMUNICATION

email

Pre-Season Mailing

Returning Calls/emails

GROWTH/DEVELOPMENT

- Analyze current status
- Compare to goals
- Have a plan
- Implement the plan



GOALS – October 2004

Centralize Operations

Upgrade Image

Service the Teams

Increase Numbers



NUMBER OF TEAMS

2004-05 ... 317 teams

2005-06 ... 451 teams

2006-07... 514 teams



CONTINUING ISSUES

Manage Growth

Operate Efficiently

Game Environment

National Landscape

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