

8/26/09

## The Central Maine Soccer Summit

Summer 2009

### BACKGROUND

There are currently four separate soccer clubs offering spring soccer in Central Maine. Spring soccer enables competition among clubs, not just for players, but also for coaches, volunteers, and facilities. Through the course of events in the last year, the four clubs have met individually and collectively to discuss options for integrating our resources in a way that helps us work together, rather than competing for the valuable and limited resources available to us.

Working together within the Central Maine soccer community, the clubs agreed to hold a Soccer Summit, to review and discuss a proposal to combine the four central Maine Soccer clubs (Bulldogs, Comets, Novas, Terriers) into a single entity that would be the sole provider of spring soccer within the areas covered by these organizations. Under the proposal, the Terriers would be effectively dissolved<sup>1</sup>, the other organizations would agree to focus their efforts on fall soccer, while the new club would provide both travel and premier programs within in the Central Maine region.

The Soccer Summit<sup>2</sup> was held by the four clubs to discuss how to effect such a new organization. Attendees desire the new Club to be a new entity, with its own identity, but to clearly and strongly reflect the similar values and culture of the organizations that are developing it. Through discussion, the Summit developed the following Guiding Principles, and Organizational Structure.

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<sup>1</sup> Terriers currently maintains 501(c) (3) status with the IRS. This is advantageous to the new club, so we would plan to rename the Terriers Org with the new club name, eliminate the current officers and Board, and set up a new organization.

<sup>2</sup> Alphabetically by Organization the Summit Representatives were: *Bulldogs United*: Dwayne Blomerth, Mike Falla, Monica Towne; *Winslow Comets*: Walter Carlow, Scott Smith; *Maine Novas*: Chuck Calkins, Chris McPherson; *Maine Terriers*: Jon Christensen, Gavin Ducker, Jen Holsten.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- The club will provide affordable soccer opportunities, with travel costs generally ranging from \$75-125 per standard season, and Premier costs reflecting a higher level of financial and time commitment for interested players.
  - We will structure the club offerings so all teams pay approximately the same basic price, for a basic element of a season (e.g. fixed fee for a season, plus a fixed fee for each tournament).
  - We will be flexible to allow teams to offer extra competition (more cost), or lighter levels of competition (reduced costs) at the discretion of the players/coaches/travel director.
- We will provide an integrated structure for all of the local soccer organizations to more efficiently and effectively offer spring travel programs during seasons when there are many sports competing for the player's interests.
- We will actively recruit volunteers, and make a concerted effort to distinguish the Club activities from the activities associated with fall travel soccer in order to "leverage" the time of and energy of our volunteers, rather than conflict their time. We will do this by: limiting the amount of overlap during the calendar year (some is inevitable for the Premier level involvement); assigning separate volunteers for overlapping responsibilities; talking about this issue at the Board level (how do we integrate with other clubs, rather than fight).
- Volunteers will be our life-blood, so we will strive to find a useful activity for every willing volunteer.
- Scholarships will be available. Families of children receiving scholarships will be expected to volunteer within the organization so they are making a contribution to the organization's success.
- We believe the Club should grow from the Travel level UP. In other words, the primary purpose is to run a quality travel program. Our expectation is that successfully building the travel program will yield a quality Premier Program. We will build this program off from existing successful travel teams.
- The Club will serve the united communities of Central Maine, with a priority focused on serving the communities of member organizations.

- We recognize that developing a quality program at a Premier level will likely require us to recruit and offer access to players from a broader region, and we welcome that as an opportunity for growth after fulfilling our primary mission.
- We will provide opportunities to play at different levels, according to player skills and motivation.
- We will develop constructive partnerships with other members of the soccer community:
  - High school coaches seeking feeder programs
  - Training facilities (AllPro, Topsham, Fields-for-kids [Bangor]) as appropriate.
  - Other Premier clubs (to provide access to quality players in age groups where we do not have teams.
- We will support and enhance the efforts of member organizations to offer coaching development, training, and oversight, seeking to raise the level of coaching available at all levels in the region.
- We will offer high level, high-quality coaching at the premier level, and provide a significant level of support and education for travel coaches, and as appropriate to the community.
- Coming together as a single club will allow us to continue to break down barriers between the towns, and help us to share resources (fields, volunteers, etc)
- Uniting will allow us to develop teams for kids who otherwise may not have had a place to play.
- The Board of directors will guide the appropriate balance between charging the members of the organization for operational costs, and organizing fundraising for that purpose.

## The Soccer Club of Central Maine

### **ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE**

#### Mission

- Provide an affordable and rewarding soccer experience that is appropriate to the player's ages and skill levels, and their desire to commit time and energy to the program.
- Focus on player and coach development and encourage all players and volunteers to grow within the club.
- Serve the residents of Central Maine, and beyond if that meets the needs of both players and the club.
- Offer a competitive travel program that fields at least one team in all age groups (assume age refers to both age and gender).
- Offer Premiere teams in age groups where sufficient level of skill and commitment exist to merit such a program.

#### Structure

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- The board will be voted in by the club membership (players, parents & coaches)
- Board members will have staggered 2-year terms with approximately half the Board seats being filled in any year.
- The Club leadership will prepare a slate of Board members for the membership to vote upon.
  - Any travel organization that joins The Club will have a seat at the Board (Existing Board to decide number of Seats), with Board representation elected/appointed from within that club (subject to approval of club membership)
  - Any travel organization that joins the Club agrees that it will not offer spring programs without the agreement of the Club.
  - The Board shall initially be set at 8 members:
    - Founding organizations (Bulldogs, Comets, Novas) will each have 2 seats on the Board
    - There will be 2 "at large" positions, initially.
    - The size of the Board can be changed by 2/3 vote of the Board.

## OFFICER POSITIONS

- Officers will be elected by the Board
- PRESIDENT – Chief responsibility for routine operation of the Club. Coordinates the operation of the Club with other Premiere organizations in the state, and with higher level organizations. Communicates regularly to all club members, and acts as an ambassador to build the good will of the club. The President is a member of the Board.
- VICE PRESIDENT OF TRAVEL - Oversees the routine operations of the Travel teams. Try-outs; Player recruiting; Finalize coach list for approval by Board decisions about players moving between teams
- VICE PRESIDENT OF PREMIER – Oversees the routine operations of the Premier teams. Works with Coaching Director to recruit premier coaches. May negotiate facilities for winter training, and approve winter program or tournaments.
- SECRETARY – Oversees organizational record-keeping; board member
- TREASURER – Taxes , 501(c ) (3) status; Board member ; Recruit, mentor, train Team Administrators

## NON-OFFICER POSITIONS

- DIRECTOR OF COACHING – This is the only anticipated paid position in the club, and is required in order to register as a premier organization. Responsible for Coach Development and support (designing and implementing coaching programs) Policy advice; Liaison between Board and coaches/administrators. Organize and run player development clinics and tryouts as needed. Recruiting, Coach Training.
- COACHES
  - Travel – Recruiting Criteria; Volunteer/Paid/Stipend? Certifications; training requirements; rating and review?
  - Premier – Recruiting Criteria; Paid; certifications; training requirements; rating
- REFEREE ASSIGNOR
  - Typically paid \$5 per game.
- REGISTRAR – Risk Officer and Registrar. Sign-up
- PLAYERS
  - Sign-ups vs. cuts
  - Structure to open up opportunities
- TEAM ADMINISTRATORS
  - Travel – Any????
  - Premier – YES. Collect money and communicate on behalf of President / Premier VP;
- DIRECTOR OF FUNDRAISING – (Chair of the Finance Committee??), This person would be responsible for external fundraising.

- WEBMASTER – In-club coordinator (volunteer?) and location/hosting service (paid?)

## **FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT**

- UNIFORMS
  - Transition from Terriers name to mark the investment in uniforms
  - Players pay and keep? Or Organization pays and recycles.
  - Sweat suits, etc.
- FIELDS
  - Are fields available for non-town oriented?