

Narrative of Events That Led to WDDOA's Grievance

July 15, 2010

On February 21, 2010, the South Texas Youth Soccer Association's Appeal Committee rendered a decision in STYSA Case 2010-01. On **page 2, paragraph four**, reads; *That said, as there seems to be some confusion among the various groups as to just who has ownership of the competition, the committee wishes to emphasize the fact that President's Cup is a STYSA competition that includes D1 and SII teams, and not a WDDOA or other Member Association competition. As, such, there is no requirement that teams from any one association be treated in a special manner with regard to scheduling. In fact, in the interest of sportsmanship and fair play, the opposite is true and every effort should be afforded to all participants to provide a fair and level competitive environment.*

Page four, paragraph two, reads, in conclusion: *The Committee recommends that STYSA immediately seek a permanent amicable agreement inclusive of all Western District Member Associations that guarantee the opportunity for play at the highest level for its member teams.*

This grievance stemmed from an Administrative Decision made by STYSA Executive Vice-President, Mr. Don Bohnet whereas the scheduling of home and away of President's Cup games would be accomplished through WDDOA and teams from Rio Valley, Coastal Bend and Laredo as well as others would not be able to play matches on their home fields.

The displeasure regarding this Administrative Decision led to the filing of the grievance and the invitation made by the STYSA Executive Committee to meet. Jesse Harrell, Don Bohnet, JJ Vela, Pat Kasperitis and Joe Bazan met in Laredo in March 2010. Although the meeting was to discuss the needs of the associations major points were:

1. Mr. Bohnet and Mr. Harrell were of the opinion that STYSA could not make teams travel,
2. Develop and present a competition plan for consideration,
3. After our meeting, I expressed the disappointment that there was no discussion of the Administrative Decision made in Kerrville with Rio Valley, Laredo and Corpus, (especially since it would affect our teams the greatest).

In preparation for the fall 2010 season and empowered with the spirit prescribed in the Decision of STYSA 2010 (*every effort should be afforded to all participants to provide a fair and level competitive environment*) and (*Committee recommends that STYSA immediately seek a permanent amicable agreement inclusive of all Western District Member Associations that guarantee the opportunity for play at the highest level for its member teams.*) CBYSA, LYSA and RVYSA approved a competition plan that was presented to the STYSA Executive Committee by the WD Vice President.

Rio Valley asked the STYSA President for an update regarding the proposal.

From: Rose Bazan [mailto:rsbazan@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2010 4:33 PM
To: Jesse Harrell
Cc: Pam Kasperitis; Pat Kasperites; JJ Vela
Subject: Fall Plans

Hello Jesse,

Attached is proposal drawn up by Pam Kasperitis for fall registration. It is based on our desire to have a district wide competition (open) whereas teams can have home and away games.

We are late in finalizing fall preparation because Pam has been unable to give us the go ahead on the proposal and stated that the STYSA Executive Committee would be providing an update.

Please provide an update so we can proceed with our plans.

Thank you,

Joe Bazan

In a follow up with Pam Kasperitis, she advised me that a decision with instruction would be forth coming from Don Bohnet. On June 14, 2010 I asked for a status of the proposal to the STYSA President and he responded the next day.

RE: Fall Plans

From: **Jesse Harrell** (harrellj@flash.net)
Sent: Tue 6/15/10 7:11 PM
To: 'Rose Bazan' (rsbazan@hotmail.com)
'Pam Kasperitis' (pamkasperitis@gmail.com); 'Pat Kasperites'
Cc: (gulfoastdoc@yahoo.com); 'JJ Vela' (jj@about-time.com); 'Don Bohnet'
(dbohnet@satx.rr.com)

Joe,

The Executive Committee approved a inter-association DI play group for Coastal Bend, Rio Valley, and Laredo. The full Executive Committee reviewed Pam's plan and approved the plan with the exception of making the league an inter-association league as opposed to a district wide league. The league would be administered by STYSA with the play format and cost structure as per Pam's plan.

There were details missing from the plan that Pam and Don were going to get together and work out to where all details were available prior to beginning play. Don or Pam would have to update you on the status of those details.

Jesse

After reviewing Jesse Harrell's response, Rio Valley gave notice to him that the counter proposal issued by the STYSA Executive Committee would not be acceptable because we never envisioned a competition that excluded teams from within our district.

Subsequently CBYSA and LYSA rejected the amended offer.

From: Rose Bazan <rsbazan@hotmail.com>
To: Jesse Harrell <harrellj@flash.net>
Cc: Pam Kasperitis <pamkasperitis@gmail.com>; Pat Kasperites <gulfoastdoc@yahoo.com>; JJ Vela <jj@about-time.com>; Don Bohnet <dbohnet@satx.rr.com>
Sent: Tue, June 15, 2010 5:12:20 PM
Subject: RE: Fall Plans

Hello Jesse,

Thank you for your response. It appears the major difference with Pam's proposal and the EC's decision is a district wide competition versus an inter-association competition. Pam's proposal adds a Division One Competition to a previously existing Super II competition.

This difference is unfortunate and not acceptable because Rio Valley envisioned a district wide competition. The drawing of a line from Corpus and Laredo causes a separation within Western District and may lead to becoming isolated similar to El Paso. That line of separation could be used to prevent a Rio Valley team from registering in WDDOA. We already having issues based on our geographic location, we are certainly not going to agree to approving a competition that excludes teams from within our district.

CBYSA and Laredo will have to specifically answer the question if an inter-association competition is acceptable to them.

Secondly, an inter-association competition moves away from the STYSA Appeal's decision stipulating competitions to be open, fair and/or reasonable. It is hard to believe the EC is proposing a restrictive type competition.

As you well know time is not on our side. Unfortunately, the EC decision is not

what I expected after our discussion in Laredo. I am disappointed that we did not express our desires clearly enough and have this type of discussion earlier. A final note to the travel issue. When WDDOA was created Austin, San Antonio, Corpus and Rio Valley all had local playing sites written into the constitution. WDDOA withdrew McAllen as a playing site. A grievance was filed at the STYSA level and the Appeal Committee ruled that an association could schedule their home games at sites of their choosing.

After this decision, Rio Valley created it own Division One Competition. Unfortunately, we do have a few girl teams that register with WDDOA and use Corpus as a home site.

Rio Valley teams no longer register with WDDOA after WDDOA changed the playing rules. WDDOA is the complaining party regarding travel not Rio Valley. We have always accepted a home and away schedule and last time I checked Corpus was not within Rio Valley.

Joe Bazan

In finalizing plans for the fall season, we proceeded to ask Jesse Harrell for directions on how to proceed. His response follows:

Division I league

From: **Jesse Harrell** (harrellj@flash.net)

Sent: Fri 6/25/10 4:54 PM

To: Pat Kasperitis (president@cbysasoccer.org); JJ Vela (jjvela@laredoheatsc.com); Rose Bazan (rsbazan@hotmail.com)

Cc: 'Pam Kasperitis' (pamkasperitis@gmail.com); 'Don Bohnet' (dbohnet@satx.rr.com)

Pat, JJ, and Joe,

Sorry for the late reply but I have been at two different Regionals and am just now getting caught up.

When Don and I came down to meet with you in Laredo our discussion was in providing a DI league for you to play in among your three associations. In fairness, we did discuss the possibility of the league, if it was run properly and in the manner that the teams desired, growing into a league that encompassed more of the Western District of STYSA.

The STYSA EC approved the plan submitted by the WDVP but as an inter-association play group instead of district wide.

The options for DI play for this year would be the following:

1. The inter-association league set up and administered by STYSA,
2. Play in the existing district league operated by WDDOA, or
3. One association beginning and solely administering a league that accepted teams from other associations to participate under the administration of that one association. In this scenario the hosting association would be solely responsible for the administration of the league.

Jesse Harrell

CBYSA, LYSA and Rio Valley agreed to proceed with option # 3. Rio Valley would be the association to administer the league which we refer to as the South Texas Alliance. The point of contacts for each of our association would be the respective association presidents. Brian Branch was hired to administer the South Texas Alliance Scheduling and Website.

On July 8, 2010, the Rio Valley YSA Governing Board approved the use of an association bank account, to use PO Box 406, Harlingen, Texas 78551 for the South Texas Alliance.

On July 8, 2010, the South Texas Alliance distributed an e-mail to announce the general description of the competition in order to proceed with registration plans. Since CBYSA, LYSA and RVYSA registration had been held up due the discussion with the STYSA Executive Committee regarding the formation of a Division 1 League, the details were distributed to offer play to any team who may have missed prior registration deadlines to include our own association teams.

Since there were no STYSA Division 1 Fall Playoffs, the competition would amount to a league competition. During the fall season, plans for the spring season would be developed and defined.

RVYSA Response to WDDOA's Grievance

The South Texas Alliance is name for a play group for teams desiring to register as Division 1 teams. The South Texas Alliance is not an association and has never been conceived as an association and would not register any players. The league will operate through Rio Valley Youth Soccer Association. Rio Valley President has received approval through its members of its governing board members.

Mrs. Pam Kasperitis, STYSA Western District Vice President has been excluded from participation in the organization of the South Texas Alliance. She will file a statement to answer the allegations made against her.

Mr. Brian Branch is also named to have allegedly been a part of the South Texas Alliance. Mr. Branch has been retained by the South Texas Alliance to create a Website and operate the Affinity Scheduling Program. Mr. Branch is not a South Texas Alliance organizer and should not a named party to the WDDOA Grievance.

The South Texas Alliance is a league whose teams are expected to register with RVYSA, LYSA and CBYSA. Teams will be registered in the Division 1 Level. The South Texas Alliance is not nor has ever been perceived a STYSA Association.

In the section titled, “**Construct**” WDDOA’s purpose authorizes **all teams** in Western District competing at the Premier League and Division 1 level shall be administered by them. This purpose does not apply to Rio Valley who has equal standing in STYSA as does WDDOA. WDDOA has taken their association definition and believes it applies to everyone in Western District registering Division 1. Rio Valley takes exception to this claim.

Additionally, Rio Valley has never sought or needed WDDOA’s authorization to operate a Division 1 Boys competition. STYSA registration rules afford any and all of its member association to register players and teams as Division 1, Super II, Division 2, Division III, Division IV, etc.

Rio Valley voted in favor of WDDOA to be admitted as a STYSA Association to service all of Western District. **WDDOA BY-LAWS ARTICLE IX 2.9** states, the designated playing sites for WDDOA matches will be Northeast Metro Park (Austin) and/or Williamson County Regional Park (Austin), Pepsi Soccer Texas (San Antonio) and Bicentennial Park (McAllen) and Gregory Portland (Corpus Christi). Other sites may be used if approved by the Board of Directors. All above sites will be utilized based on the geographic composition of a group of competing qualified team.

WDDOA has failed to operate a schedule in accordance to their Article IX 2.9 by failing to schedule Rio Valley based teams in McAllen’s Bicentennial Park. As of spring 2010, Rio Valley based teams have been scheduled in accordance to WDDOA By-Laws. WDDOA By-law violation has burdened Rio Valley unfairly and resulted in Rio Valley creating its own Division 1 competition and further the need for what we are calling the South Texas Alliance.

The South Texas Alliance conceived as a Western District Division 1 League was offered to the STYSA Executive Committee. The STYSA Executive Committee denied an open competition league and as a result, Rio Valley, Coastal Bend and Laredo proceeded to create a fall competition with league teams (teams not advancing to fall playoffs) composed of players registered with STYSA through their local associations under the supervision of Rio Valley.

After the STYSA Executive Committee denied the initial league proposal, Mrs. Kasperitis was no longer informed on matters related to the South Texas Alliance. Mrs. Kasperitis is not an organizing member in the South Texas Alliance.

In the section titled, “**Relief Sought**” WDDOA, through Reeves Moore’s Grievance has failed to provide any evidence that substantiates his grievance against Pat Kasperitis, Pam Kasperitis, JJ Vela, Brian Branch and Joe Bazan.

Summary

To date, the South Texas Alliance has registered zero teams. Rio Valley, Coastal Bend and Laredo Youth Soccer Association are guilty of embracing the spirit of STYSA Appeals Case 2010-01 by striving for an inclusive, fair level competitive environment that guarantees the opportunity for play at the highest level for its member teams.

It is unfortunate that the WDDOA has failed to comprehend the significance of in STYSA Appeals Case 2010-01. As the complaining parties, Rio Valley, Coastal Bend and Laredo Youth Soccer Association will never forget this decision.

Unknown to Rio Valley, Coastal Bend and Laredo Youth Soccer Association is the reason that the initial proposal offered to the STYSA Executive Committee was restricted to the same three associations and not accepted as a district wide competition.

Rio Valley, Coastal Bend and Laredo Youth Soccer Association have presented documents that verify that we had conversations, made an offer and stayed in constant communication with the STYSA Executive Committee. The creation of the South Texas Alliance resulted from a list of options proposed by our STYSA President.