



## Somers Youth Football

2019 Annual Meeting – August 8, 2019



### Agenda Topics

1. Teams and Coaches Update:
  - a. 175 tackle players across 6 teams – ties for second most dating back to 2010
  - b. Flag still low at 43 – please help spread the word.
  - c. Coaches
    - i. FLAG: Requires Commissioner
    - ii. 8U – Sean Kennedy
    - iii. 9U – Rob Seeger
    - iv. 10U – Jack Duffy
    - v. 11U – Brian Kelly
    - vi. 12U – Russ Girolamo
    - vii. 13U – Charlie Balancia
2. Board of Directors
  - a. Currently Serving 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term
  - b. Next election to be held at 2020 Equipment fitting expected May 2020
  - c. Indication of Interest required by March 31, 2020 with 7 positions open. Reminder announcement will be made in February 2020. Please notify Matt Gallino if you have interest
  - d. Current Directors: Matt Gallino, Brian Kelly, JR Newman, Charlie Balancia, Tim Sullivan, Chris Klein, Tara Duffy, Mike Senatore
3. By-Law Updates. The board is considering several by-law updates that we are providing here for consideration. We have a mandatory 60 day review period, so if approved these will be formally approved at the end of the season. I ask you to send any comments or concerns to me in writing at [matt.gallino@gmail.com](mailto:matt.gallino@gmail.com).
  - a. Expense reimbursement
  - b. Team Funds
4. Annual Budget update
  - a. Fee set at \$375 for tackle in 2019
  - b. Installment payments added this year, are expected to return in 2020 as an option
  - c. Gross budget of \$68,000
  - d. Major cost areas:
    - i. Equipment: 43% (Pads, jerseys, coach's shirts, safety equipment, helmets, etc)
    - ii. Gameday: 16% (referees, EMT, scoreboard operator)
    - iii. Lights: 14% (rental of lights for Turf 2, REIS diagonal, Firemans plus refuel)
    - iv. Admin: 6% (SIPlay Fee, HUDL costs, web service fees)
    - v. Year end: 6% (\$25 per payer year end towards team dinner)
    - vi. Insurance: 5% (Annual insurance cost)
    - vii. League: 5% (West Point, referee assigner fee, league per payer fee)
    - viii. Misc: 5% (General reserve, incidental costs)
5. Fields
  - a. Primary fields are HS turf, HS lower fields, REIS Diagonal, Firemans, SIS fields

- b. Older programs have seniority in picking fields
  - c. Fields are at a premium in the town of Somers and more are needed
  - d. We are guests of the high school and will have to play some games on the secondary turf. We will work with the school and our league to minimize this. The program does not pay for using fields.
  - e. 13U night game if possible
  - f. Reminder that when we are practicing or playing games at school or town fields we are doing so with permission of the school and/or town parks and the fire department when at Firemans field
    - i. No Smoking
    - ii. No Alcohol
    - iii. Do not drive your vehicle beyond the parking lot gate at the high school unless you are a coach carrying equipment or you are volunteering for the snack stand and need to drop off equipment
  - g. Sometimes practice field changes or time changes are required as a result of the School changing their schedule for availability of fields with little to no notice.
6. Expectations of Parents and coaches: Several key asks for 2019
- a. Coaches
    - i. Create a positive and encouraging atmosphere at practices and games
    - ii. Promote a culture that is focused on the development of our young student athletes; recognizing that each child will develop and advance at a different pace. We believe that the discipline, integrity, perseverance, work ethic, and risk/reward dynamics learned in Youth Football are critical to the development of our children
    - iii. Communicate well. Set practice times/dates in advance and make every effort not to make last minute changes that can be disruptive to parent schedules
    - iv. Help players understand what they are doing right and wrong through positive reinforcement. Communicate what needs to be done to be a stronger player or earn more play time and strive to show that hard work and focus can yield positive results
    - v. Be responsive to parents who have good faith questions about their child's progress and development as a player
  - b. Parents:
    - i. Encourage your child to eat healthy foods and come to practice hydrated and ready to pay attention to the coaches and work hard. When football is played correctly it is challenging both mentally and physically and brings great demands on strength, stamina and mental concentration. These will be life lessons that our children will take far beyond the gridiron.
    - ii. Please recognize that our coaches are volunteers that work demanding day jobs. Many of our coaches commute to/from NYC and/or have other demanding jobs that require their full attention during the day. This may necessitate that practices be moved or adjusted on occasion, or that they have limited time before or after practice at times.

- iii. Be positive fans. Please read the SYSO code of conduct. It's the right thing to do and must be followed. Jeering of any kind will not be tolerated
- iv. If you have a concern or issue with a coach – ask the coach for a good time to speak directly either in person or via phone. Remember that asking what your child could/ should do differently to earn more playing time or a different position will go much further than sending a harshly worded email or yelling at them after practice at the end of an 18 hour day. It is OK to have these conversations and concerned parents should feel welcome to talk with their coaches about their child's development, but please recognize that it may not be possible to have a same day conversation, and you may not always agree with the coach who has final say.
- v. Absolutely no smoking, vaping or drinking alcohol on school grounds, in Somers Parks, or at Fireman's field. We are guests of these facilities and use them free of charge. Please abide by posted rules and regulations.
- vi. Please be considerate of social media posts. Problems with the program should be vented with coaches, the Commissioner, the Board or SYSO in writing by direct email, via telephone conversation or in person. Posts that attack or demean the program, individuals, or our opponents will not be tolerated.

#### 7. Volunteering

- a. Flag football commissioner
  - b. 2020 8U head coach
  - c. Snack stand
    - i. Games
    - ii. 8U Red Zone
    - iii. Potential to earn towards next year's dues
  - d. Gameday: field marshalls, chains and announcing
  - e. Other
8. Expenses – SYSO has a new policy requiring that all expenses be submitted within 90 days of invoice. Expenses will not be reimbursed after 90 days. Some sports including Football have already had expenses denied that will go unreimbursed due to this policy.
9. Schedule:
- a. Started later this year due to TYFC vote to begin after Labor day
  - b. Game schedules will not be available until week of August 26
  - c. Playoffs – no seed week. Top 4 teams go to TYFC playoffs / remainder play or orange bowl
10. Tusker Gear – JR Newman has set up a team store for Tusker Gear! See <http://somersfootball.thoseguysprint.com/>
11. High School Football Kickoff Party. August 23<sup>rd</sup> 7-11 at Somers Point. Cocktails, DJ, food, dancing and more!
12. Feeding Westchester charity. Will pick 1-2 games where we will ask parents/players to donate food for the Feeding Westchester charity
13. Reminder to get updates and general info on the program [somersyouthfootball.com](http://somersyouthfootball.com)
14. Questions

- a. A polite request was made to consider Saturday games for the 8U program if at all possible in observance of families with religious obligations on Sunday. The board noted that while this is very difficult given our league schedule, we will look for opportunities .

Appendix: Proposed By-Law additions:

- b. All expenses incurred by SYSO Football Volunteers (including the Commissioner, board members, coaches and other volunteers such as team parents) that require reimbursement must be promptly submitted for reimbursement as soon as practical by notification to the commissioner, along with emailing the receipt or invoice as proof that costs were incurred. In accordance with SYSO policy, expenses older than 90 days from the date on the receipt or invoice will not be reimbursed. No later than 2 weeks following the TYFC Championship game, the Commissioner is required to email all volunteers requiring that any final season- related expenses be submitted for reimbursement within 2 weeks from date of notice.
- c. Head coaches shall have the right to establish a team fund to be funded by contributions not exceeding \$100 per player. Use of these funds is at the Head Coach's discretion subject to use for minor team related expenses. Custody of such funds is to be with the team Head Coach or designated team parent with accountability only to the Football Board. When requesting team funds coaches are required to explain intended uses by email to the respective team's Football Parents at the beginning of the season. These uses are generally intended to be: team dinners or meals, or end of year gifts and momentos, team transportation to away games, equipment items (wrist bands, supplemental equipment, training equipment, video expenses, office supplies intended for football activity) and other incidental costs associated with running and organizing a youth football team.

Coaches are required to document intake of such funds and report how they intend to allocate them to the Football Board once per season. This should come in the form of email addressed to the Commissioner no later than September 15 of each season.

Any surplus of funds at the end of the season will be managed solely by the Head Coach or designated team parent and can only be used for purposes as described in the first paragraph of this Article. Such funds may be rolled over at the end of the season and may be used in preparation for during the next season.

Team funds are optional and generally not disclosed at time of registration. Registered players may not be suspended or have their registration revoked for nonpayment of team fund contribution.

