Summary of President's Meeting - Nov. 8, 2026

Please note: The motions (shown in bold) will be formally voted on by the board in January of 2027. Any votes taken at the president's meeting are not official board motions but are intended to provide the board with feedback on communities positions on the issues. Communities will be notified of the results of the motions at the annual spring general meeting.

1) Financial Update
    a) Broke even for 2026, increase education pieces to bring number down to zero (we try to break even)

2) Tournament Updates
    a) Tournament fees will likely increase next year due to increasing our ref fees
    b) explained issue with tournament weekend and Rosh Hashanah but couldn't do it any other weekend so it will remain the first weekend in October
    c) We are at capacity with 5 locations so can't make it bigger, we will look into adding U8 but not sure we have the capacity

3) Discussion of the new U8 format used this fall
    a) Discussed the pros and cons of using a different format such as small sided games (4v4 or 5v5), pod style (there are 2 locations in each region and communities sign up to play every saturday and the host community would organize and run their pod)
        i) Last time we proposed pods only 3 communities emailed us with interest so not sure we have enough to make this work, many communities already do their own in house program like this and don't need OHTSL to run a format like this
    b) Discussed the possibility of expanding the region for longer drive times or more neutral sites to allow more communities to participate and a development division for U8/U9 (no consensus for these items)
    c) Took an informal vote to see which format communities preferred. The majority of communities that are interested in U8 prefer the current format (15) but some prefer the pod set up (7) or a combination of both formats (7).

4) Concerns that players guesting down 3 or more divisions (such as D2 players guesting on D5 teams)
    a) Current Rule: Rosters are required for check in, not player cards, because only the rosters show the division the player is in and players can not play down more than 2 divisions
    b) Current Rule: Players that are playing up can only play down in their birth year when double rostered on both teams
    c) Motions for the board to vote on in January with the goal of reducing the number of teams that bring in higher divisions players to win games. The board will update membership at the spring general meeting as to the results of these motions.
        i) Allow players to guest on teams only one division lower (About 15-2 in support of this rule) starting fall 2027.
        ii) Lock rosters in GotSport after week 4 of the season. Overwhelming (about 35-7) this was NOT supported.
        iii) Recommend, not a hard rule, both coaches take part in the check in with the

referee so if guest players are used the opposing coach has a chance to verify the player is eligible starting spring 2027.

5) Discipline - Red cards & Parents
    a) Less discipline for players and coaches cards but more parent issues
    b) Explained green badge (under 18 referee) and discipline for this badge is triple punishment for abuse discipline
    c) US Adverse Event - happens if a coach is reported up thru to US Club for a coach discipline issue
    d) US Club has noticed that coaches are given more abuse to green badge referees b/c coaches consider them "less experienced" where the goal of the green badge is to create "empathy" for coaches to see these minor referees as learning.
    e) Issues reported include …
        i) No mentoring of the green badge referees with an adult. The board will work towards developing a referee mentor program.
        ii) Red cards are often not being reported to the league. The board will determine a way to make it easier for referees to report red cards
        iii) Parents are sitting too close to the lines which encourages too much communication with players and referees. Create a line (using paint or cones) that is a certain distance out that spectators must sit behind.
        iv) Not all referees are agreeing to follow the league rules. If there is a referee that will not follow our rules, let the league know so we can deal with the referee. Referees that refuse to adhere to our rules will not be allowed to referee our games.

6) Any interest in coordinating a group discount for products?
    a) Paint & Nets - 2nd largest expense could we get a bulk discount
    b) Goals - North Olmsted (FYI soccer village had a nice discount this year)
    c) Only a few using video subscription so little interest there

7) Comments from participants
    a) Will we have only 5 divisions this spring? It will depend on the age group and divisions and number of teams
    b) Spring dates will be released and posted in about 10 days
    c) Reimbursement for C license - only 6/27 coaches were from OHTSL for our last course, as of right now we reimburse 50% of the cost