



January 20, 2011

STYSA Executive Committee
15209 US Hwy 290 E
Manor, TX 78653

Re: An Open Letter to the Membership of Western District and other interested members of STYSA

VIA Email, USPS, www.wddoa.org

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Executive Committee of WDDOA is in receipt of the email version of a STYSA EC administrative order dated and time stamped January 14, 2011 at 5:19 pm, whereby the STYSA EC orders WDDOA to:

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- 1) *Remove all notifications from your website and published documents which advertises or notifies anyone that Super 2 teams may participate in the WDDOA Texas Cup Spring League; and*
 - 2) *That any and all teams which have currently registered in the WDDOA Texas Cup Spring League be notified that they may not participate and refund any monies paid by them.”*

The WDDOA EC convened a meeting on Sunday January 16, 2011 and voted unanimously to comply with both points #1 and #2, to the extent that it applies to Super 2 teams and did so immediately before the adjournment of the meeting. In doing so, the WDDOA EC does not admit any wrongdoing on its part and explicitly disagrees with all elements of the administrative order.

While the WDDOA EC has removed the items above, no inference should be drawn that the WDDOA EC agrees with the position and direction from the STYSA EC. The WDDOA EC complied with points #1 and #2 to the extent that it applies to Super 2 teams in order to protect and to prevent its membership that are participating in National Cup and other STYSA Competitions from further sanctions by the STYSA EC, and to prevent further confusion for its membership and other interested teams, clubs and associations.

The WDDOA EC respectfully declines to publish a Fall 2011 eligibility document at this point as ordered. STYSA's delays in producing Cup documents and other of its recent actions have further confused teams. WDDOA will publish the eligibility format after all of the various Cup registration deadlines have passed and the shape of the competitions are determined, but before the Presidents Cup and WDDOA Texas Cup start dates. All WDDOA and other Western District National Cup teams in the State USYSNC for Spring 2011 are automatically qualified for membership in the WDDOA 2011-12 Seasonal Year subject to WDDOA's roster consistency requirements.



The WDDOA EC has the following comments:

1. **The WDDOA EC makes note of the fact that the STYSA EC has used the WDDOA Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Competition as a basis to issue its' order to WDDOA.** Since these are the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of Competition of WDDOA, their application, use and intent may only be interpreted by WDDOA, particularly as they apply to the structuring and conduct of competition and acceptance of memberships.
2. **WDDOA is responsible for organizing, scheduling and supervising Association qualifying games and offer other competitions.** The following is an excerpt from the WDDOA Rules of Competition:
 - 3.1.2 The Association will be responsible for organizing, scheduling and supervising Association qualifying games and a Fall season. The Association will also assume responsibility for organizing, scheduling and supervising the U.S National State Cup Championships. Additionally, the Association may organize and administer secondary competitions in the Spring and/or Summer of each year.
3. **The WDDOA EC believes offering opportunity to all teams in Western District qualified to play in STYSA Presidents Cup, as well as those teams in WDDOA Texas Cup has no element of inducement.** Inducement takes the form of offering a group something that another group cannot obtain without doing the same thing the first group has to do. The STYSA EC further advised the WDDOA EC that "...actively recruiting or inducing Super 2 teams to participate with WDDOA is also in violation of your governing documents". The Fall 2011 qualification for those teams playing in WDDOA Texas Cup included the top teams that played through Presidents Cup. Hence, all qualified teams in Western District have an opportunity to qualify for Fall 2011 play in Presidents Cup or WDDOA Texas Cup.
4. **WDDOA had no intent to have a qualifying tournament in Summer 2011 for the Fall 2011 League.** The WDDOA EC believed and continues to believe that the inclusion of qualified SII teams in WDDOA Texas Cup and provision for teams qualifying from Presidents Cup for the purpose of qualification into the WDDOA Fall 2011 League satisfies WDDOA Rule 3.1.2 responsibility and provides fair and equal opportunity for entry to all. The use of an additional qualifying tournament maybe necessary now at additional expense to teams wishing to qualify.
5. **In the Executive Committee meeting on Sunday January 16, 2011, the WDDOA EC has modified its Rules of Competition 3.1.5 pursuant to WDDOA By-Law 2.9.1 as follows:**
 - 3.1.5 All teams planning to participate in any competition under the jurisdiction of the Association shall be primarily registered with a Member Association of STYSA. For the purposes of qualification for inclusion in the next WDDOA Fall League, WDDOA may accept Super II teams already registered in other Member Associations, with those teams' Member Association approval, into any competition administered by WDDOA, including but not limited to tournaments, leagues and playoffs, where the ultimate outcome of standings in those will determine whether or not those teams may be included for play in the next WDDOA Fall League.



After additional analysis the WDDOA EC has the following observations and opinion to share with the STYSA EC with respect to competitive levels of soccer in South Texas:

The underlying issue remains travel across Western District. The sheer size of the District and disproportionate distribution of top level teams in the District remains the key causative reason for the discord in the travel issue. This issue has lingered for more than 5 years. The policies and methods of treatment for this discussion by the STYSA EC and leaders in Western District have fostered a hostile environment in Western District.

The view of the leaderships of STYSA and both Districts is one that reflects a lack of necessity to confer with the professional coaches on issues such as travel. The State leaders need to embrace the fact that the growth and success of competitive soccer in South Texas is attributable to the professional coaches bringing a higher standard of competency in performance, training and fitness to the players. WDDOA providing the environment to both players and the professional staffs that allows a high quality competition to demonstrate those things, says that both groups are customers that we must serve.

The delivery of the fulfillment piece for both groups terminates at the same place, on the pitch. However, the path and service that is required for both groups of customers are very different. WDDOA believes the STYSA EC needs a wider understanding of the professional needs, and therefore more input than is currently being done. WDDOA embraces their input, encourages the relationship and will continue to do so with the knowledge that it is the right thing to do. They are as much the customers of WDDOA as the parents and players.

The continued support of one side of the travel issue by the STYSA EC and Western District leaders, one way or the other, without a sustainable solution, has created the current and ongoing turmoil. Without a permanent sustainable solution, this turmoil will continue, accelerate and grow larger. This type of turmoil will ultimately lead to the permanent, unnecessary departure of clubs and teams from STYSA on both sides of the State.

The WDDOA EC challenges the STYSA EC and leaders in Western District to effectively facilitate meaningful debate on this issue, including the feedback of the professional coaches, until a solution is found that does not compromise the growth and promotion of youth soccer at its highest levels. The WDDOA EC is ready, willing and able to go forward with debate and a quest for meaningful, sustainable solution to our current problems.

Respectfully submitted,

The WDDOA Executive Committee