

MIAA Football Committee

Minutes – Sept. 15, 2022

The Football Committee met at the Franklin office on Sept. 15, 2022. After the meeting was called to order, the members of the committee introduced themselves as has been the precedent for first meeting of the year. R. Pearson mentioned completion of the Conflict of Interest statement and spoke briefly to the standard Governance Document.

Election of Committee Leadership: Committee leadership opportunities were opened to the members of the committee.

Motion: To elect Jay Costa as chair of the committee. No other nominations were offered. (D. Pignone, S. Dembowski) Approved 15-0-0

Motion: To elect Don Heres as the vice-chair of the committee. No other nominations were offered. (J. Costa, B. Fonseca) Approved 15-0-0

Motion: To elect Dave Pignone as the secretary of the committee. No other nominations were offered. (D. Heres, M. Procacini) Approved 15-0-0

Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting were moved and approved, (J. MacCreery, J. Gamache) 15-0-0

Football Format 2022: R. Pearson stated there were no changes to the format other than an update for the Medical Personnel necessary to reflect current requirements for medical personal for each team at all games, home and away. Additionally it was also mentioned that a reminder be sent to schools if they wish to opt. out of the non-playoff scheduling/brackets.

Non-Playoff leadership was appointed. S. Traister – South, D. Pignone – North, P. Jones – Central, and J. Gamache – West.

O’Bryant High School football team lost a game due to cancellation of another school program and have been unable to acquire another opponent. They appealed to the committee to allow them to be eligible for the tournament even though they will only have 6 games during the qualifying period.

Motion: To allow O’Bryant High School qualification possibility with only 6 total games during the qualifying period. (D. Pignone, D. Heres) Approved 15-0-0

Motion: To allow R. Pearson to approve similar should it arise. (J. MacCreery, R. Conway) Approved 15-0-0

Technology use during games: R. Pearson mentioned that some schools have reached out about challenges with technology use during games. The rule as listed in the MIAA Handbook was mentioned. Discussion only, no action.

Alignment Cycle 2023-25: R. Pearson discussed the current development of alignments for football (and all sports) to be published by the end of September. Appeals will be open until the

end of October with final decisions by the end of November. A representative, of the football committee (Chair or designee) will serve on the first level of appeal consideration.

R. Pearson showed the committee how the new Competitive Equity Modifier will be applied to all member schools. The committee asked questions and discussed the alignment process.

Officials Topics: Tom Azevedo, official's representative, mentioned disseminating a preseason memo to all officials. He also mentioned that officials were helping to clarify expectations with coaches before the start of game, in particular medical personnel for both teams and any other requirements. Pants and pads (knee length, coverage and pad present) are a challenge for officials.

Coaches Topics: S. Dembowski, coach's representative on the committee, presented a Coaches' Association proposal to alter the playoff format. That proposal will be linked from the MIAA Football page when finalized.

MIAA Rule Change Proposals 2023-25: The committee reviewed and voted on all rule change proposals.

Next meeting: January 19, 2023