

MIAA Rugby Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 2022 @ 10:00 AM



Minutes

Virtual meeting link: <https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1440280259>

Or dial in number: 1-470-869-2200 meeting ID-1440280259#

1. Call to Order @ 10:10 by Phil
 - Attendance-Phil Napolitano, Katie Kampersal, Jeff Sperling, Chris Monaghan, Danny Ventura-Boston Herald, Jesse Nocan, Josh MacCreery, Rich Greer, Ryan Madden, Scott Hutchison, Mike Mocerino, Sarah Greeley, Seelan Manickam, Amy Daniels, Greg Bruce, Geoff Zini, Keith Crowley, Tom Arria, Kate McCabe, Jon Bartlett, Brian Scott, Sean Bevan,
 - Welcome from Jeff and Phil-thank you for joining us today.
2. [Minutes of November 2, 2021 meeting](#)-Motion to approve by G Bruce 2nd by Seelan. (14-0-0).
3. New Business
 - a. Rugby Tournament – [Power Rating Qualification](#)
 - Phil-all sports must follow the approved format that TMC has put into place. We need to identify as the committee the qualifying system that Rugby will use.
 - D1 Top 4 plus anyone over 500
 - D2 Top 6 plus anyone over 500
 - Ryan-concern about Power Rating. We already follow a different alignment system than that of other sports. Will established teams not want to schedule against new teams and risk forfeits etc.
 - Tom-How much in terms of power ranking due to having so such few teams (compared to other sports) how much does a 6-7 game schedule will make a difference in where teams are getting seeded.
 - Ryan-the more games played the more accurate the raking will be. The less games played the less accurate the ranking will be.
 - Jess-I agree with you Ryan IF we did not have the 500 qualifier. I do not mind have an expanded playoff pool, we already have a limited number of games. If we include an extra game or two it gives more game, it helps with the rebuilding/recruiting rallying with the sport.
 - Phil-Min number of games that need to be played is 4. We may want to put into place a min number of “wins” for teams.
 - Jon-Number of wins min counters the whole power ranking system. I do not think there should be a min number of wins
 - Ryan-I agree with Jon

Motion by Tom 2nd by Ryan : Top 50% of power ranked teams qualify in each division. After that, anyone .500 of better also qualifies. No minimum win threshold for rugby. APPROVED 17-0

- Phil -Format-field size is 55 wide-however football field is smaller. Should the group consider a recommendation of 55 wide to have some flexibility.
- Jeff-we have all been in the situation where a football field has been used, not ideal but it has happened. I would hate for a school not to consider Rugby because of the field size.
- Greg-as a coach we prefer the wider field, however with what we are trying to do in regards to growing the field I believe that making this a recommendation is understandable.
- Phil-because it was in the format we need a formal motion to change the language.

- Kate-I move to change the language to make the field size width to “recommended 55 yards wide” 2nd by M Mocerino-Approved 17-0-0
- Jeff-point margin of victory currently is 14. I think that with some of the restarting/new teams. I think 10 may be a softer landing spot. Just a thought, it is written now as 14, Lacrosse and Basketball is 10.
- Ryan- I like 10 as well
- Motion by Jesse 2nd by Ryan- Recommend MOV change from 14 to 10. Approved 17-0-0
- Kate-is there another rule that says if a team is up by 40 by half time you would stop keeping score
- Jesse-that is a league rule not an MIAA rule. We can change that at the league level.

b. Growth of the Rugby- Sub-Committee update

- Survey Results-A few schools have expressed interest and others have started a program.
- MSSADA Conference – Rugby Session – March 31st from 11:00-12:30. Jeff and Tom are signed up to come to this conference, it is important that a coach’s rep from the girl’s teams is present. Sarah said she will be there. The unique part of the conference is that they are “open” sessions, there are no registrations. An email has gone out to these schools notifying them of this session and encourage them to attend.
- Greg-one other big thing is the communication with Free Jack and the connection they have started with the schools.
- Reach outs/Interest
 - Tom-sent out communication to all District 4 school. There are 2 schools that are still talking about starting a program, but they are just rumbles. We may be able to get them to start a program next year.
 - Jesse-we are looking to play some 7’s with the girls who are interested.
 - Phil-encourage schools to also utilize the co-ops that are out there.
 - Greg-maybe reaching out to the men’s clubs to recruit refs and coaches etc.
 - Jeff-US Rugby is hosting many coach and ref courses, I can share the calendar they have posted and we can share with anyone who may be interested.
 - Jess-Ref courses this weekend in Quincy.
 - Sarah-how do we get our HS kids into Ref and Coaching. Can we design a course for these kids who have some interest with coaching/ref at different levels?

c. Regular Season update – Tom Arria

- Jeff/Tom: Let see how the new start date works, if min contact is needed during this new process we can request this at a later date. Sports Medicine committee was very understanding and was asking if we could work with the new start date or was more time needed. They are very supportive and invested in the safety of the students/athletes.
- Phil-the last group of athletes who had a regular season are now seniors and haven’t played since they were freshman.

d. TMC Update

e. Other

- New laws that were adapted that we will be pushing out to the schools
 - Jesse 5 new Laws-New Kicking Law, New Safety Law for tackling, 3 new rules around defensive/end goal. Coaches/Players need to be aware/educated on these new laws.
 - Jesse-refs are excited to be back and back to a normal season!
 - Jon-can the rules be sent to the AD’s so the coaches can start to prepare.
 - Jesse-I will send it to Jeff and Greg. I can also create a document that will help with providing the information.
- The NFHS Voice - [Regarding Sportsmanship, It’s Time for Wake-up Call in High School Sports](#)
 - Phil-everyone should take some time and read this. This hits home to all of us, we have to do our part to educate out athletes, parents and coaches.

4. Coaches Input

- a. Greg-coaches and refs are ready to get back to normal/pure form of the game. Coaches are happy with the way the schedules are coming together.

- b. Seelan-Having had a modified can the refs be aware of the safety of the scrums. Our kids haven't done this, for many this is their first time playing.
- c. Sarah/Kate-it is exciting to have 2 new girls team this year. We are all excited to get back out there.

5. Officials Input

- a. 5 News Laws this Year- Jesse
- b. New kicking law- 50:22 law
- c. New safety law related to tackling
- d. 3 new rules around handling defense around end zone
- e. **Jesse will provide document to share with Ads and Coaches outlining rules**

6. Educational Athletics Initiatives- Reviewed

7. Future Meeting Date: Rugby Seeding – May 31, 2022

8. Adjournment- 11:07