

# MIAA Rugby Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

## MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** - Welcome/Introductions- Brian Scott, Amy Daniels, Geoffrey Zini, Tom Conley, Sarah Greeley, Scott Hutchinson, Ryan Madden, Jesse Nocon, Greg Bruce, Jeff Sperling, Mike Mocerino, Kate McCabe, Pete Elenbaas. Phil N, Katie K,
2. **Election of Officers**
  - Chair- Jeff Sperling - Nominated by Greg 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ryan- Approved 11-0-0
  - Vice Chair- Sarah Greeley – Nominated by Greg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian- Approved 11-0-0
  - Secretary- Jesse Nocon – Nominated by Jesse 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff 11-0-0
3. [Minutes of March 9, 2022 meeting](#) – Motion to approve by Sarah, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike- Approved 11-0-0
4. **2022 Tournament Review**
  - a. Tournament Directors Report –
    - Amy Daniels gave a review. Praised Curry as a great location and we plan to continue there. Food truck went well and was a nice addition to the experience.
    - Phil- and Amy will continue to work with Next Level Rugby to live stream the games.
    - Feedback/Suggestions for improvement
      - \*Greg- It was a great tournament. Very well run. Curry is a great facility
      - \* Brian- Great crowds. It would have been nice to see younger kids in attendance. Is there a way to get the youth more involved? Maybe a youth flag game at halftime?
      - \* Kate- Need more bathrooms on site at Curry
      - \* Note to remind schools to bring tent for shade, like they do in track.
      - \* Note to see if Curry can assist the handicap by driving them in golf carts?
      - \* Phil and Amy will work with Curry on how to make this work for the future.
5. **New Business**
  - a. 2023 Rugby Format DRAFT–**ATTACHED**
    - \* *Removing all Covid related items (3b)*
    - \* *Working with 2 different companies for ball sponsors*
    - \* *Kate- Forfeit games-games are still being played even when there are not enough players but they are going in as a forfeit. Not all AD's have this understanding. If you are not playing live scrums, there needs to be better communication between coaches what makes a forfeited match*
    - \* *Changes the boys tights rule*
    - \* *Peter-In order to grow the game why not allow whoever wants play in tournament play in the tournament. Can we remove the qualifying criteria? There are only 7 teams in the boys bracket*
    - \* *Phil- we have already changed the qualifying criteria, and if we continue to change it, it will look more like club and not like MIAA Varsity sport. We would have to go to TMC*
    - \* *Scott-do we need to look at the alignments?*
    - \* *Ryan- I agree, we took a step away from what the other sports were doing*
    - \* *Greg- LS had a great season last year, having an open tournament and giving teams the opportunity to opt out will not work with time to fit everything out*

*\*Peter- I am not proposing open, I am just saying open until open until a certain number of teams (8)*

*\* Kate- Less bi weeks there are the more participating there will be*

*\* Ryan- why extend out the girls tournament?*

*\* Phil- to give the girls the same experience as the boys*

*\*Kate and Sarah-keeping the same tournament as the boys is every important to our girls. They enjoy the experience and like playing at the same time.*

*\*Only have 1 year of data with Power Rankings*

*\* Ryan- I do not like the Power Rankings for Rugby*

*\*Coach committee questioned the MOV 10- it is to low*

*Teams wanted to play all of their players, they didn't want to feel like they were playing to the MOV. Wanted to have a reasonable MOV and still be able to play their bench and not want to chase points.*

*\* Jesse- If leagues agree to it you can do in and out subs, you have 12 motions. MIAA tournament you cannot do this, but during the regular season you are able to do this.*

***Format- Brian motion to approve format as is 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ryan 11-0-1***

**b. Regular Season update – Tom Arria**

- Ryan- Bay State officially has their own conference this year. They will no longer be part of the Patriot conference.

**c. Growth of Rugby - Next steps to promote the sport**

- Presented at the 2022 MSSADA conference. Consider doing a virtual option in the future
- Norwood (boys), Cambridge (girls) have registered for rugby for this coming year
- Sarah- there are not enough adults at the school that know about Rugby to work with these kids
- Jeff- Youth Model- bringing people in with baseline skills- pre-course work- looking at college kids that may have just graduated.
- Sarah- maybe creating internships with current coaches and college kids
- Brian- working with head coaches and assistant coaches
- Free Jacks- Coach development there is a missing piece in this area. They are very interested in that missing piece and are working to help fix that.

**d. TMC Update- 2023-25 Alignments-**

- Phil will set up a sub committee to review. Use strength of program and not the enrollment alone was considered. Motion by Greg 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter 10-0-2

**6. MIAA Rule Change Proposals were reviewed and voted on**

**7. Coaches Input**

- MIAA Coach of the Year – Sarah Greeley & Ryan Casey

**8. Officials Input**

- MIAA Official of the year- Amelia Luciano

**12. Adjournment - March 9, 2023 @10:00am**