

MIAA Rugby Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 9, 2023 @ 10:00 AM



AGENDA

1. Call to Order @ 10:06 by Phil

- a. Welcome- Attendance- Jeff Sperling, Sarah Greeley, Scott Hutchison, Tom Arria, Ryan Madden, Chris Monaghan, Tom Conly, Keith Crowley, Greg Bruce, Brian Scott, Amy Daniels, Peter Elenbaas, Mike Mocerino, Greg Bruce, Kate McCabe, Sean Bevan, Rich Greer.
MIAA reps - Phil Napolitano, Katie Kampersal, Steve Silva, Chuck Jackson,
 - Special Guest from Adrenaline Fundraising – Shaun O’Neill
 - National fundraising company, all inclusive
 - There is every step of the way-heavily involved, will travel to your school and work with the athletes.
 - Race 365- New App will make fundraising easier.
 - This will save contacts in the athletes from year to year. All contacts are safe and protected, never redistributed.

2. [Minutes of November 8, 2022 meeting-](#)

3. New Business

- a. Regular Season update – Tom Arria
 - Tom A- Baystate has created their own league-Now we have 3 leagues/conferences. Looking to add new teams.
 - Phil- Waiting on Concord Carlisle and Norwood on confirmation on their new teams.
 - Greg-I do not think that CC will have the numbers to have a full 15, they are looking at teams to have more games on the 7 sides.
 - Sarah-CC is close to me, I would be happy to reach out and support their girls’ team/athletes.
 - Greg- Sarah I can pass your information along.
 - Jeff- If anyone can pass the new coach’s information along I would be happy to reach out and help support the coaches
 - Ryan- Those who have B sides, maybe have a Jamboree or “play dates” with those kids
 - Ryan- Everything is going well in our league
 - Scott H- all is good in our league, looking forward to new teams coming in. Everyone is working together to fill their schedules.
- b. 2023 Tournament update – Amy Daniels
 - Finals @ Curry College-Great spot at Curry.
 - New Ball Sponsor – Ruggers
 - Phil-We are excited to partner up with Ruggers this year.
 - Practice Ball: <https://ruggers.com/collections/practice-balls/products/ruggers-practice-balls>
 - Match Ball: <https://ruggers.com/collections/match-balls/products/ruggers-all-weather-match-ball>

c. 2024 and 2025 **Proposed** Rugby Alignments (*attached*)

- Our decision will not have any impact on this season.
- Phil-TMC will be looking for more balance between the divisions. I am not sure if they will continue to accept 7 teams in D1 and 13 teams in D2.
- Do schools get to weigh in where they fall?
 - Phil-yes they are able to appeal their placement
- Greg-I polled the coaches on the alignment process and criteria. We can't go by the enrollment/ school size. We must go by strength of program. Go by record, athletes on roster, etc. A number of coaches also suggested 3 divisions.

Sarah- What is the driving force behind the equal number in divisions?

Phil-Equal path to State Championships

Ryan-This does not create an equitable patch for teams

Phil- this does not have to be 10 and 10, but 7 and 14 is not equal.

Brian-Some schools, Weymouth & Braintree, should move up. I want to see the "best" play with the best.

Kate-Maybe saying "path way to the playoffs" don't d2 boys have to play and extra game that d1 boys don't have to play?

Phil- that is correct

Phil- Schools do have the opportunity to appeal.

Greg-Ryan you made a good point about equitability, I think creating 3 divisions is a good idea. This gives more teams the opportunity to play in the playoffs, this will not water down the championships.

Ryan-this will also help the timing of the games as well. I like the concept of 3 divisions. It gives more teams the energy within the playoffs.

Peter-LS has 30 something seniors last year and did not make the playoffs last year, I do not see LS making the playoffs any time soon as a D1 school. People will not want to move to a division where they will not make the playoffs.

Phil-Don't all sports have this same problem? There are many schools that have the same struggles.

Tom-I don't think that right now we can have 3 divisions for 21 teams. What we have to do, TMC is NOT going to approve 3 divisions, we need to work with what we have.

Sarah-Does the TMC model work for Rugby?

Phil-We are still a very small, emerging sport but we are growing. If the committee has 2 proposals, then I can bring the 2 proposals.

Brian-where can you compete-Can Weymouth compete in D1, if they can then they should.

Scott-Eliminate the move up for private schools go by enrollment and have flexibility to appeal. Start with a balanced 2 divisions. Give the schools the opportunity to move. This gives us 2 equal divisions.

Jeff-New teams cannot be in D1. Concord and Braintree have to be in D2.

Peter-Milton, LS and Belmont could go up still have the ability to appeal down.

Tom-what we have right now is working, but who are the really strong teams in D2? And just recommend that they move up?

Phil- Norwood just told me that they no longer have team and Concord just emailed that they are going to be a club team. So now the alignment is 7 and 12. Do we just leave anything alone.

Ryan- I am going to ask the Weymouth AD if we put him D1 if he would appeal down?

Kate-can't we look at who has won the D2 Rugby States over the last few years?

Greg-Algonquin and Weymouth should be looked at move up to D1.

Mike M-I have a little concern, we are down about 150 kids from last year, we co-op with Westborough to try and keep the sport live. We have great coaching, but we are still trying to build the program.

Ryan- I would like to make a motion to keep the alignment as it is 7-12

Kate-2nd

Ryan-this is what we use to grow the program, not all other sports have even divisions, if we move any teams up we may lose some teams

Scott-I do not agree with that statement, the alignments do not affect the teams until the tournament, this effects 2 maybe 3 weeks. I would like to see D1 see 3 weeks of play.

Vote- 9-4-0

d. Growth of Rugby

- Northeastern Girls Rugby High School Clinic – [click here to register](#) . *Deadline March 23rd*

e. Other

- [Approved 2023-25 Rule Change Proposals](#)

4. Coaches Input

5. **Officials Input**-Greg Bruce: Adding a time out, rolling subs and looking at a closing look at Power Rankings.

6. Adjournment