

MIAA Rugby Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 21, 2023 @ 10:00 AM
MINUTES

1. Call to Order

- Attendance- Mike Mocerino, Peter Elenbaas, Tom Arria, Ryan Madden, Greg Bruce, Sarah Greeley, Jesse Nocon, Richard Greer, Kate McCabe, Grace Nealey, Chris Monaghan, Phil Napolitano

2. Remembering Bill Good

- Members offered their thoughts and reflections on the impact of Bill Good.
- Consideration to honor Bill?
 - MIAA sportsmanship award named after Bill
 - Pete- maybe the coaches association can do a preseason jamboree in Bill's name

3. Election of Officers

- Chair- Jeff Sperling (Jesse, 2nd by Ryan)- approved 8-0
- Vice Chair- Sarah Greeley (Greg, 2nd by Jesse)- approved 8-0
- Secretary- Jesse Nocon (Greg, 2nd by Tom) -approved 7-0-1

4. [Minutes of March 9, 2023 meeting](#)

- Motion to approve – Motion by Tom (2nd by Mike) approved 10-0

5. 2023 Tournament Review

- Weather resulted in a shift from Saturday to Sunday
- Sarah- Curry College is an excellent venue
- Greg- Tournament shifting to Sunday due to weather caused some issues. Improve communication as we had folks show up on Saturday. Venue is great. Greg had some feedback on the event.
 - At the parking gate, only allowing one car allowed in at a time.
 - No signs for the field
 - No permanent toilets or a locker room
 - Turf is hard on the players, tough to get tackled on
 - Did not have a live singer, just a recording.
 - No one knew where American flag was located.
 - Food truck wasn't available until after halftime.
 - Handicap accessibility was challenging.
 - Some unruly behavior in the stands
 - Overall thought the event was great but wanted to bring these to the committee.
- Sarah- Accessibility for those who are walking impaired (can we get a shuttle people?)
- Mike- great experience. Feedback on bus parking was somewhat negative.
- No real desire to move away from Curry. Consider Veteran's Stadium as a possible venue in the future.

Connect with Free Jacks or AD at Quincy HS, Kevin Mahoney. but if we did, we should connect with the Free Jacks about using Veteran's stadium.

6. New Business

- a. 2024 Rugby format DRAFT – ***Motion to approve (Jesse and Tom)- 8-0 approved***
- b. Margin of victory for rugby (currently 10)

- Jesse- Happy with 10 as MOV. Gives more flexibility in the last few minutes of a game. Allows you to put in more subs and not worry about winning by larger number.
- Tom- rankings look fine with 10-0
- Ryan- MIAA needs to move away from MOV, only hurting kids at the end of the bench. Playing into decision making by coaches.
- Peter- still think we are trying to grow the boys game. Why don't we allow as many boys teams to qualify as weeks we have to play the tournament? Minimum of 8 teams in D1 and D2? What did girls ice hockey do when it was an emerging sport?
- Jesse- Indiana allowed all teams in the postseason but I have grown to appreciate the aspiration and goal/accomplishment of making the playoffs? At this point, would not be in favor of expanding number. The quality of rugby is excellent under the current system/cut off point.
- Grace- agrees with Jesse that the importance of qualifying criteria is important. Helps with goal setting and keeps rugby on the same playing field as all other sports.

c. **Future cut-off dates-**

- Discussion on making cut-off dates on Sunday? Or Saturday? Instead of Monday, to allow bracket release on Monday.
- Feedback is that no one plays on Sunday, so make cut-off on Saturday. Allows teams to play the following week, per limitation of 1 match per week in rugby.
- Committee wants Saturday cut-off dates, Sunday stat check, Monday release of brackets.
- **Motion to have future cutoff dates on the Saturday before playoff week...(Sarah, 2nd by Jesse)- 8-0 approved**

d. **Regular season update – Tom Arria**

- Commonwealth Rugby Conference has added Concord and Worcester. We have a 3-tier scheduling system.
- Baystate is all set, looking to schedule non-league matches.
- Patriot League not present

e. **Growth of rugby - addition of new boys programs** (Concord-Carlisle & Worcester are in, what about Oliver Ames?)

- Jesse- Cambridge is going to have full 15's for girls this year.
- Ryan- concerned about growth of flag football and its impact on rugby
- Kate- gets emails from girls in Lexington/Arlington area
- Tom- good co-op opportunity with Cambridge and Arlington (girls)
- Mike- Algonquin/ Westboro girls are exploring a co-op.

f. **TMC Update- [2023-25 Alignments](#)**

7. **Coaches Input**

- MIAA Coach of the Year- Ryan Kiff, Blue Hills Regional
- Kate- coaches have brought up a variation of the U-19 variation of cards. Not sure what the process is to make changes?
- Jesse- I am not aware of this in the Laws. Believe this is more on educating our officials to utilize the yellow card more than the red.

8. **Officials Input**

- Law trials- floating on new rule but nothing impacts us.

9. **Future Meeting Date:** March 7, 2024 @10:00am

10. **Adjournment**