

MIAA Football Committee

September 15, 2020 - 10:00 AM

MINUTES

Call to order and attendance taken by Richard Pearson

Welcome new members: Josh MacCreery, Brian Callaghan, John Smith, Steve Traister, Paul Funk, and Scott Fry.

Housekeeping: Conflict of interest form was sent to everyone. This is done annually, Please sign and send back to Ethel ASAP.

Governance Document: R. Pearson introduced the Governance Document which is reviewed annually. It references governance protocols and how the Football Committee functions within the structure of the MIAA. Reviewed briefly and attached for all committee members.

Election of Officers:

Chairperson - nomination for Jim Pignataro (Jake C, Don H) no other nominations
14-0-1

(At this point 2 other members joined the meeting)

Vice Chair nomination for Jay Costa (David P, Jim O) no other nominations
16-0-1

Secretary nomination for David Pignone (Jay C, Jake C) no other nominations
16-0-1

Jim Pignataro welcomes everyone as Chair. Welcome new members. Introduction by Chair Pignataro – “The football committee has done a lot of work in the last few years but we certainly have our challenges in front of us this year.”

Minutes from last meeting: Correction to the minutes - Jake C. did not volunteer for the subcommittee as presented on Item 3. R. Pearson will fix minutes as moved. Motion to approve by (Josh M, Don H). Approved 18-0

Alignment update: R. Pearson presented the process that the committee and then subcommittee used. R. Pearson shared his screen with the notes and bulleted points of step by step meetings with TMC, 8 Divisions were presented to the TMC and approved but the alignment was declined. Subcommittee met again and made another presentation to the TMC on July 28th, it was declined again by the TMC as it utilized different factors of not including a factor for co-op schools and moving vocational schools down 3 divisions. The TMC then voted

to approve the football alignment with vocational schools moving down three divisions and private and cooperative teams moving up one division.

Steve Dembowski asked for clarification for the committee on how there was some misunderstanding of being locked into an 8 week season, R. Pearson clarified. Jim O'Leary (current TMC Chair and Football Committee member) added the TMC point of view that they were not sure the state proposal would pass and they needed a plan A and a plan B Jim also added depending on how many teams appeal and are approved it can throw the number of teams in each division out of balance

Jake Conca asked for clarification on where the approval currently stands for the Tournament Format for the 2021 season (8 week, 8 Div, and 16 teams qualify). R. Pearson confirmed this would be the case but reminded the committee that the process for formats go in front of TMC in the spring with a March 1 deadline for the Football Committee to submit to the TMC.

Additional alignment discussion: Steve Dembowski asked Jim O'Leary for clarification as to when alignments would be posted. Jim O'Leary replied October 1st and by the end of January they should have all appeals. Further discussion involved questions if the football committee could ask TMC to cap their appeals per division so they were not too badly unbalanced. Jim O'Leary replied that would put TMC in a bad position because they deal with every school individually but football is represented by Chair Jim Pignataro. Jim Pignataro asked for clarification on the appeals process - by email now no live in person meeting? The initial appeal is by email, the appeal committee will look for initial criteria and if there are questions then they would invite that school into a meeting.

Fall 2 Modifications and Information: Jim Pignataro asked R. Pearson to present the Fall 2 modifications information. R. Pearson showed the committee the presentation given to the EEA in August to promote consideration of the sport of football for approved participation by schools. There is no date as of yet from EEA to MIAA on meeting to discuss Fall 2 considerations. Tom Azevedo (officials rep.) said officials are watching other states closely and will have a ideas and thoughts on how to safely officiate games in the fall. R. Pearson suggested that a subcommittee be developed to discuss and consider ideas for the football committee to support in order to promote Fall 2 season participation by MIAA member schools. Possible discussion areas to include tournament structure, number of games, other modifications etc... Anyone interested in being on this committee has been asked to email R. Pearson today.

Richard suggested our football committee meet again in October to discuss subcommittee progress as well as Rule Change proposal voting. October 14th was approved at 10:00am

NFHS Rule Change Process: Discussion that NFHS will meet and present possible rule changes for the 2021 season in January 2021, with publication in February. It was suggested by Tom Azevedo that we should play by the rules of Fall 2020 as they stand now as it would be very difficult for officials and coaches to learn any new rule changes that are adopted in February. Jim O'Leary made a motion, 2nd by Tom A. Passed 18-0

Out-of-season Coaching: Steve Dembowski offered discussion about why some leagues decided not to allow their coaches to coach football out of the Fall II season. There was active discussion on how some schools are doing this and allowing it safely. It was discussed that any school that was allowing football (any other sport as well) should absolutely follow the guidelines about registering, physicals, etc for liability purposes. R. Pearson added when this topic of coaching out of season came up at BOD meeting on 8/19 it was voted that anyone who does participate must follow all EEA guidelines.

Rule change packet has been postponed to vote on at the October meeting. Suggested that everyone review the rule change proposal so that votes can be taken efficiently.

Motion made by everyone to adjourn.