

# MIAA FOOTBALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 25, 2019 @ 9:00 A.M

MIAA OFFICE, 33 FORGE PARKWAY, FRANKLIN, MA

## Minutes

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome & Introductions
  - New Members, Attendance
3. Housekeeping
  - Conflict of Interest Statements were passed out and Governance Document was referenced
4. Election of Officers
  - Nomination for Committee Chair – Jim Pignataro
  - Nomination For 2<sup>nd</sup> chair (VP) – Jim O’Leary
  - Nomination For secretary – David Pignone
5. Minutes of Previous Meeting – [May 14, 2019](#)
  - Motion to approve – Bill K 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don Heres approved 16-0-1
  - Rich Pearson wants to introduce a new committee member for Officials, Tom Azevedo replacing Dennis Donovan.
6. 2019 Tournament & Format – Discussion/Planning
  - Sites & State Finals/Gillette Stadium- Rich P. is confirming with Gillette for All 8 games – 2 on Friday and 6 on Saturday, Balfour is sponsoring the Breakfast again.
  - Quarters at Superbowl are 10’. Steve Dembowski, conflict for coaches. Rich Pearson mentions that we have played 10’ qtrs. For many years this board has voted on this very topic to change to 10’ for the experience the kids would have playing at Gillette and mathematically 12 ‘ qtrs. Don’t fit in our time slot at Gillette. Jim O’Leary We have had 2 div. play outside of Gillette in the past and we should be consistent and keep qtrs. At 12’
  - Jim O’Leary. Motion to keep state Finals games at 12’ Qtr.’s. – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Dembowski.
  - Discussion: Joe Gamache – Agrees 12’ qtrs. but let us do due diligence and work some magic in getting all 8 games at Gillette. It is easier to communicate to families when football committee had divisional rotation on who plays at different venue

- Motion – In Event of unsuccessful negotiations with Gillette with 12' qtr.'s and all games (8 divisions being played) we will move 2 games to alternative venue/venues (division 2 & 7 are in rotation to be out for this 2019-2020 season) Motion passes 18-0-0
- Scheduling Committees  
Regions:  
South – Brad Bustin  
North - Dave Pignone/Jim O'Leary/Don Heres  
West – Joe Gamache  
Central – Mike  
North & South Seeding Meetings -October 27, 2019  
Central & West Seeding Meetings –November 3, 2019

#### 7. NFHS Rules 2019-20

- Rich Pearson wants to introduce a new committee member for Officials, Tom Azevedo replacing Dennis Donovan. Tom offered some feedback on the transition to NFHS Rules. Fans lack of knowledge for rule changes, hash marks and language on kick formations were some topics mentioned.
- Joe Doyle – been to many games and there have been no issues and it looks like everyday football. Jim O'Leary agrees
- David Pignone - Half time – getting teams to return to the field with 3 minutes remaining and warming up has been a bit questionable and officials have commented on not wanting to flag a team.
- Steve Dembowski – inconsistent on cut blocking rule, also that there needs to be more understanding or knowledge that with high humidity weather, there can be a water break taken and neither team is charged a timeout.
- Richard Pearson will work with Tom and send out something to officials on rules that may need to be highlighted or reminder of specifics that have come up. Can also do a midyear newsletter, bullet quick helpful rule reminders

#### 8. Officials Topic

- Minimum number of officials – Regular Season  
No action taken
- # of Officials at State-Semis & Finals  
Steve D – Motion- add 6 officials to State finals game  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jared Shannon; Motion Fails 6-8-2

#### 9. Alignment Planning 2021-23

- TMC has some changes that will affect football as example 2 year alignment rather than 4
- Jim O'Leary explained the appeals process and some guidelines to how the divisional alignment will go.
- Max Preps will be in place for next year on power rating seeding

- Already voted and approved is equal geographical sections (ex. Was some west schools who by enrollment fall in D1 but have been allowed to play lower will no longer have that ability they will be in D! or where ever they fall by state wide enrollments. Majority of including football will move to 5 divisions
- Rich Pearson suggest a subcommittee to meet and be proactive on how football can be prepared and make suggestions. Date TBD  
Committee:  
David Pignone - North  
Steve Dembowski – Coaches Rep  
Jay Costa – Central  
Ed McGuire – North  
Jared Shannon – West  
Paul Demanche – South  
Joe Gamache – West

#### 10. Coaches Topics

#### 11. Other

- Paul Demanche - discussion on Co-op teams needing ability to co-op for sub varsity levels
- Rich P Pre determined tournament sites are on the web sites Football page

#### Upcoming Meeting Schedule

New Date due to conflict for 2/26 - Now March 11<sup>th</sup>  
May 12, 2020 – Committee meeting @10:00am

Adjourn