

I.Y.R.A. Minutes

Date: 1-10-09 GENERAL MEETING

Chair: J. Tyke Nollman

Time: 10:00am

Minutes: Lana Bergman

Attendance

Committee members: Tyke Nollman, David Hall, Lana Bergman, Tank O'Brien, Jay Crawford, Michael Pateras. All-State Tornados coach, Nolan Day, Des Jones. Coaches and/or representatives from the following rugby teams: Arlington Stallions RC, Arlington Stallions Middle School, Brother Rice, Elmwood Park, Ducks Rugby, St. Ignatius HS, Lincolnway Boys, Lincolnway Girls, Montini Catholic, Mt. Carmel, Mustang RC, Naperville RFC, New Trier HS, Noble Street Boys, Noble Street Girls, Plainfield Boys, Plainfield Girls, St. Charles Boys, St. Charles Girls, St. Charles Middle School St. Rita HS, Sycamore HS. Meeting host, Mark Kaufman, Tim Higgins and John Honcharuk of AthletiCo. Absent: Ray Dempsey, treasurer.

Discussion

Tyke Nollman, iYRA President, gave the Welcome, introductions and President's address. Tyke introduced Mark Kaufman, owner of AthletiCo and thanked him for his services and commitment to youth rugby. Tyke thanked the committee members for their service to iYRA.

He noted that iYRA as an organization is strong. Success depends on commitment from all members. Tyke then announced that he will not be seeking another term as President.

Lana Bergman, Secretary, presented the minutes from the August 26, 2008 General Meeting, acceptance was motioned, seconded and approved by voice vote. The Code of Conduct form needs to be in before season begins. Code of Conduct forms signed by Coaches and Representatives for the 2009 season will not be required to sign a new form unless changes are made.

Members were reminded to send their scores within 48 hours to scores@iyra.org.

David Hall, Vice President, presented the Financial report which was prepared by Ray Dempsey. The report is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

David Hall, Vice President, gave his report. The primary objective was to implement programs with the assistance of others that would expand the participation of youth of all age levels and gender, in playing the sport of rugby.

Discussion
(cont)

New programs that started in 2008:
Arlington Stallions Middle School, DeKalb HS, Elmwood Park HS, Hyde Park Academy, Rauner College Prep, Rochelle HS, Schaumburg HS, St. Rita HS.

Park District Programs promoted:
Chicago Park District – South Region, Northbrook, Naperville, Palatine, Villa Park

Administrative Initiatives:
Obtained 501(c)3 status, compiled newsletter on monthly basis and organized USA Rugby Coaching Clinic

Future Initiatives:
Continue to explore opportunities to expand youth rugby clinics. Maintain emphasis in the first part of 2009 is to promote a summer youth rugby camp in Round Lake Park, Illinois. (Information attached to these minutes).

New Programs starting in 2009:
Chicago Hope Academy, Naperville Middle School, Palatine Pioneers Middle School.

Tank O'Brien, Tier I Coordinator presented. He stated that 5 alternates from an A side team can play down to a B side game. He suggested that there be a B Side state championship to make the B side competition meaningful, like a "B Side Sub League". It was also stated that each team in Tier I must have a B side in the B side competition if they have a second team competing in Tier 2

Tank then reported on the State Based Organization (SBO) through USA Rugby. Tank reviewed items from the USA Rugby National Youth Rugby Conference in Colorado that he attended as a representative of iYRA. He talked about "Rookie Rugby – Pick up the Ball and Run with It" that USA Rugby was promoting. Registering on-line through USA Rugby, you can receive a kit with a jump drive and flash cards on the basics of the game. He also discussed positive culture in coaching.

Michael Pateras, Tier II Coordinator presented. He stated that he should have the Tier II schedule out by the end of January. Senn and Noble Street opted out of the program this year. There will be 5 team divisions with 1 BYE. Which day of games can be agreed on between the coaches and the Referee Coordinator, Des Jones. He announced that Hyde Park and Hope Academy have committed to Tier II.

Larysa Santiago, Girls Coordinator, was not present and had no report.

Discussion
(cont)

Jay Crawford, of the disciplinary committee, reported that there was only 1 red card for the entire season. No big problems. He asked the coaches to talk to their players about red/yellow cards and behavior when traveling. He commends the coaches for teaching their players how to play the game with sportsmanship and continue doing so. He mentioned there is the USA Rugby web site for eligibility and disciplinary reports.

Nolan Day, Tornados head coach thanked the coaches for sending great players last year. He stated the Cody Cup will be held June 6 and the Midwest All Star Tournament will be June 12 & 13. He stated that he needed assistance with coaching now that there is a U-17 team newly formed...and also asked for volunteers for the trip to Elkhart. Nolan mentioned that Windsor will be visiting Illinois this year July 3-4-5 and needed volunteers for hosting players.

Nolan also asked the coaches to please work on left handed passing and speed with their players.

Des Jones, CAFRU Referee Society, reported observations and concerns from results of the 2008 season.

Coaches need to:

1. Communicate – directions, locations, times, bad weather, team colors
2. Match Fee – present to the referee prior to the game. \$70 this year.
3. PreMatch – have the field ready. Have EMC, ATC available on sideline...if iYRA supports it. Have the restraining ropes on both sides of the field. Use a hand-held alarm devise that measures lightning. (Wait 30 minutes EACH time lightning appears).

Mike Fleming mentioned that if the condition of the field needed corrected, a time frame of getting it corrected should be established.

Des reported that there were 120 games refereed last season. He also stated that Week 1 of April will be posted by Week 1 of March.

He stated that the ELVs (Experimental Law Variations) can be found on the iRB web site. Three issues: kick from 22, number in line out and quick throw.

Safety in the tackle: no diving forward with the head and toward the feet. Provide a safe scrum platform with 4 step engage. 1.5 meter shove. Consistent scrum collapses will result in penalty.

Discussion
(cont)

Rick Turner from the Legal committee presented. He told members to be sure to register as a non-profit organization when incorporating in order to be covered with liability. He mentioned that iYRA should look in to Director and Officer Insurance.

Proposal for the changes in the Bylaws for Article 9, Safety were adopted by the members with a unanimous vote after discussion and minor changes.

Article 5.9 will be tabled for discussion at the Summer Meeting.

Field condition and safety was discussed and a remedy to the condition should be made in a reasonable time **to** the satisfaction of the referee.

Tyke headed the elections.

It was voted by members to appoint the following officers:

David Hall, Vice President
Brian Gilmartin, Treasurer
Lana Bergman, Secretary
Tank O'Brien, Tier I Coordinator
Michael Pateras, Tier II Coordinator
Coley O'Connel, Girls Coordinator
Jay Crawford, Disciplinary Chair

Since there were no nominations for President, it was voted by the members to give the committee authorization to appoint a president.

Paul Bergman, coach of the Arlington Stallions, presented Tyke Nollman with a gift of gratitude and appreciation for his service to iYRA in the past two years as President.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.

President