

I.Y.R.A. Minutes

Date: 1-8-11 ANNUAL WINTER MEETING Chair: David Hall

Time: 9:00am

Minutes: Lana Bergman

Attendance

Committee members: David Hall, Brian Gilmartin, Lana Bergman, Tank O'Brien, Mike Pateras, Joe Goett, Alan Burton, Mark Johnson, Paul Bergman, Jay Crawford. Event Coordinator Norm Smyth. Guest Tony Carr from the CARFU Referee Society. All-State Tornados coach, Nolan Day and Lou Raymond. Coaches and representatives from the following dues paying teams (voting rights): Arlington Stallions, Barrington HS, Batavia HS, Brother Rice, Cicero MS, Deerpath MS, Chillicothe, DeKalb, Glen Ellyn, Elmwood Park, Hope Academy, St. Ignatius, Lake Forest HS, Metamora, Montini, Mt. Carmel, Morton Mustang RC, Naperville MS, Naperville Boys, Nequa Valley HS, New Trier, Palatine MS, Pearl City, Plainfield Boys, Plainfield Girls, Renegades, Schaumburg, St. Charles MS, St. Charles Boys, St. Charles Girls, St. Rita HS, Sycamore HS, Twin City, Waubonsie Valley Boys. Guests: David Tyrell, Luther North HS and Jeff Cook Chritian Hertiage Academy

Discussion

Call to order by David Hall.
Minutes approved.

David Hall, Vice President

There was no old business to discuss.

Trying to get rugby in the schools and park districts. In the last year, we introduced rugby to about 2000 children. Hopefully we'll get some recruits from these programs.

It was asked by a member to hold the summer meeting earlier than August, due to school starting. It will be taken into consideration.

Lana Bergman, Secretary, reviewed the importance of updating contact information and that all contact information is current on the iYRA web site. Visit www.iyra.org for resources to start a new team and to register a new team through the web site. Remember to report scores to scores@iyra.org with number of tries. She also announced that Tom Pettit has volunteered to manage the scores and standings on the iYRA website.

Brian Gilmartin, Treasurer. Handout attached and made a part of these minutes. iYRA took in a substantially low revenue this year. iYRA is a 501©3, which means you can get parents to donate to iYRA and it's tax deductible. Donations of over \$100 would be ideal due to the limited time and resources to process smaller amounts.

Discussion
(cont)

Vincent Clarkson Memorial Foundation – (former youth rugby player) Donations are tax deductible. Any questions or inquiries, please contact David Hall or Joe Clarkson. To date there is \$11,000 net.

Total assets are roughly \$15,000. State Championship was our money loser last year due to the rain. We only made \$2,923, when in 2009 we made \$6,425.

USA Rugby Development is listed under operating revenue as USA Rugby has donated money to get iYRA going with the development of youth rugby.

Our biggest expense is select side. We now have 4 select side teams. Boys U19, U17, Girls and Middle School. We budget for the select side but will need to spread it out a bit this year. Players for the Boys Select side are paying a fee to offset some of the expenses, plus the fund raising that Nolan coordinates has helped in that area.

Tier 1 Coordinator, Tank O'Brien. Schedule guide was given to Tier 1 coaches in order for coaches to start organizing their time and allow referees to get scheduled. Tank stated they will be scheduling crossover games with teams that haven't played each other. He asked coaches to initiate their contact with other teams.

Playoffs - Top 4: 1E v 4W; 2E v 3W. Higher seeded team gets home pitch.

It's been difficult to fill slots for single source schools and clubs for Midwest HS Tournament. We need teams to step up so as the season progresses we will try to establish who will be able to go. Problems sometimes arise because it's disruptive to league play, the costs that are involved, and the commitment to go to the National Championship if you win. Must have at least 25 players. If coaches wish to send a team, let Tank know, then the Competition Committee will meet to determine who goes.

Tank also noted that Tier 1 could easily add 2 more teams to their schedule, if any teams from Tier 2 would like to move up.

Tier 1 must keep a B side and make it a meaningful season. Any Tier 1 team that is on the Tier 2 schedule must have a B Side. At the end of the season, the 2 top B side teams will be playing a Championship.

Tier 2 Coordinator, Michael Pateras. Schedule guide was given to Tier 2 coaches. We now have 2 divisions in tier 2, North and South.

Home and Away games are set. Travel might be a bit of an issue, but feedback Mike received was good. You have 5 days within the week to contact the opponents coach to reschedule a game. This is the flexibility that has been built in. There must be a confirmation and both must agree on the rescheduled date.

Discussion
(cont)

Tier 2 cont.

The referee society must be involved in the communication with the rescheduling of games. If a league match is not played, both teams will be awarded -0- points, unless a coach can prove diligence in attempt to schedule. Point system is as follows: 4 points for a win, 5 points for a win by forfeit, 2 points for a tie. Bonus points if you score 4 tries or more, or lose by 7 points or less.

Playoffs will be Seeded 1 thru 8.

Tier 2 VOTE

YES - Higher seed is always the home team.

NO - 1st round, Home team is the higher seed. 2nd round goes to the lower seed, unless they hosted the 1st round.

Arlington - abstain

Schaumburg – No

Glen Ellyn - Yes

Lake Forest - Yes

Sycamore – Yes

Montini - Yes

New Trier – No

Batavia – Yes

Nequa Valley - Yes

St. Charles - Yes

Brother Rice – Yes

St. Rita - Yes

Schaumburg – No

DeKalb - No

Sycamore – Yes

Downers Grove - No

10 – YES; 5 - NO

Will have a permanent schedule completed shortly and distributed.

Tier 3 Coordinator, Joe Goett

Tier 3 South

Season start March 26 to May 14. Springfield would like to host any team who would like to play a Tier 3 South team. Please contact Jim Carlberg (217) 341-3291. There are 8 South teams. The Tier 3 Tournament will be held May 21. At the T3 AGM, Coaches agreed that they would like to support a Tornado South select side team to send to Elkhart.

Tier 3 North (David Hall)

T3-N plays a friendly schedule, when and where they can. We've lost 2 teams from last year that moved up to Tier 2. We will have 7 or 8 teams for T3-North.

Middle School Coordinator, Alan Burton

3rd year of MS. We encourage teams to share players. Our approach is, we are a developmental league. We've grown very quickly. We play our games all on the same day at the same pitch. We sent 2 teams to Elkhart last year.

MS played Indiana, who has a comparable Middle School program.

Discussion
(cont)

Alan asked coaches to please ask players, who have younger brothers, consider MS rugby. Alan will include new teams in the schedule upon request.

iYRA has worked with 5 different Park Districts for youth rugby programs.

Alan mentioned that one of the unique things the MS is doing this year is all of the MS clubs have younger or smaller players, so it was decided to set aside one game per weekend where there will be a Midi Rugby game for anyone U12 or weighs less than 115 lbs. Coaches are going to be asked to send them to this game. The goal is to deliver a safe game for them. No age limit, but must be 8th grade or younger, and can be co-ed.

Girls Coordinator, Mark Johnson

The Girls program is declining in numbers. There are clubs that are looking to add a girls team. Naperville asked about doing a festival format, like what the middle school does. Naperville had 12 girls interested. It is in discussion to move from a spring schedule to a fall schedule.

Paul Bergman, Compliance Officer

It was reiterated that disciplinary actions come from Disciplinary committee, and decisions get resolved by the Competition Committee.

Based on Paul's own experience in this organization, and the liabilities involved from the lawyers presentation last spring, he has created a wish list:

- Club Administrators will sign the Code of Conduct and CIPP themselves. (CIPP covers Sept 1 to Sept 1)
- Read and Sign the Code of Conduct. It's a summation of what members have agreed to do from the Bylaws.
- Every club will CIPP players before allowing them to do ANY activity with the club.
- Every player and family will read the waiver that they sign to CIPP themselves. This form does not carry forward to the next year. Ask the parents if they have any questions. Every form must be signed and in the Coaches possession.
- Every Coach will get certified and attend Professional Coaches Association meetings.
- Every club will adhere to the sideline barrier issue, on both sides of the field.

Discussion was had on amending the Code of Conduct, #6.

Eliminating the language of: "If our club is not affiliated with any specific school...I pledge to follow said regulations from the school which the majority of club players attend." Schools are not going to release this information to clubs.

Discussion
(cont)

A member asked if we had guidelines for Concussions. Paul stated the trainer decides and coaches shouldn't debate it and adhere to the trainers decision, however, the organization will partner with AthletiCo to create guidelines. He also noted that concussions will be discussed at the PCA meeting on the 29th.

Disciplinary Chair, Jay Crawford

During last season there was bickering among coaches, which has to stop. Coaches are role models and need to present themselves professionally; coaches have a big audience behind them. He reiterated that iYRA is trying to grow the sport and to be more aware of their actions.

Tornados – Boys Select Side, Coach Nolan Day

Nolan offered to lend jerseys to the Girls Select side. The Boys have 2 sets of jerseys that were donated to them. Nolan stated that if clubs can set aside money for their players who are selected to play for the Tornados, it would help them with their costs with the Tornados, especially for those players who struggle financially. Nolan mentioned that he had to charge \$100 per player for the trip to Elkhart to offset some costs.

There are roughly 100 kids coming out for trials. The Tornados got to play in 3 countries last year.

Tornados are going to start practices earlier this year in order to be competitive in the Cody Cup (Wisconsin Select Side). Beginning, April 15 in Lemont from 3-5p, there will be low contact practices. Tim Graf from Graf Speed Enhancement will charge \$90 per player from 3p-4p for players who are interested. Practice will start at 4p and end at 5p. Nolan stated that he received compliments from the coaches in the countries they went to on the speed of our players.

Nolan reviewed the different fundraisers that he's used, such as entertainment coupon books and the Irish rugby tours fund raiser.

Nolan stressed to the members to film their games and forward the DVD to him or the appropriate USA coach.

He stated that there are more scholarships available through University Rugby.

CARFU – Liaison Officer, Lou Raymond & Tank O'Brien

Tank and Lou established this to enhance the relationship with CARFU. Lou Raymond states that CARFU is aware of iYRA goals.

Discussion
(cont)

David Hall: Farewell to Des Jones
Des Jones, Referee Coordinator for youth rugby and has stepped down as Referee Coordinator. David recognized Des' commitment to youth rugby with a personalized iYRA paper weight and a gift certificate from the Executive Committee.

Des Thanked the iYRA and members. He said he will still be involved with youth rugby and refereeing. Members thanked him with applause.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Elected by member vote:

President – David Hall

Vice President – Tom Peroulas

Treasurer – Brian Gilmartin

Secretary – Lana Bergman

Tier 1 – Tank O'Brien

Tier 2 - Michael Pateras

Tier 3 - Brian Weller

Girls – Mark Johnson

Middle School – Alan Burton

Disciplinary – Jay Crawford

Compliance Officer - Paul Bergman

CARFU Referee Society President, Tony Carr

Josh Houston will be replacing Des Jones.

Just to review CARFU processes:

- 2 Round Billing System: one at the end of Regular Season, one at the end of Playoffs
- Invoices will be sent based on the current contact information on the iYRA website
- Rate \$75 per game (2/3 of \$75 goes to Referee)

Tony strongly encouraged members to get someone on their club L1 Certified as a referee. It is a risk not to. The next clinic is Sunday, February 20 8a-5p at Sycamore High School. There is no age limit to be certified, and they do not expire.

Much discussion was had on coaches concerns with getting someone L1 certified and allocated, then losing them to CARFU, thus not being available to referee. Alan Burton suggested that coaches get certified and not allocated.

New Business, David Hall

David approached the Midwest Union to request that Chicago host the Midwest Youth Union- Boys HS 7's Championship. This was approved and will be held July 9-10, 2011. There will be 16 teams in the international format. Four pools of 4 teams. Round Robin on first day. As other states enter, we will drop Illinois teams (2 slots for each union).

Discussion (cont)	<p>Members were encouraged to play Firehouse 7's, mid June. Based on Firehouse 7's, iYRA Competition Committee will select teams for the MW 7's. There are 7 unions in the Midwest, there will be 2 for each union and reserve 4 slots for Illinois. (dropping the 2 Illinois teams if we have full participation) Club or Single School can participate. Only players CIPPed with their club or school can participate with that club or school. All Clubs in attendance signified support of the Midwest Sevens Championship would enter a team if needed due to lack of support from the other States in the Midwest</p>
	<p><u>Norm Smyth, Event Coordinator</u> Need to raise money before State Championship. Ads for program for State Championship. Will send out ideas for fund raisers to members. Discussion was had regarding procuring corporate sponsorship. It was also suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pre-selling gate-admission of \$3 instead of \$5.- Group ticket pre-selling <p>It was then decided to table the discussion on pre-sale admissions.</p>
	<p><u>Paul Bergman added a few items:</u> Paul reminded members, who use Cook County Forest Preserve permits, that they can use the iYRA 501©3 status to save money.</p> <p>For High School Players - Last fall a few clubs played 11 a side. There are a handful of players who do not play football and can play. It was suggested that we pool all these players into an academy format, like intramural, and have a 6 week season. Depending on the number of players that show up, divide in to teams and have them play. Paul spoke with the Lion's head coach, Marty Wiggins and stated Hope academy, which has a field, classroom and locker room, may be available. Paul will send more information on this via e-mail.</p>
	<p><u>David Fee, Brother Rice Coach and USA HS Assistant Coach.</u> Asked coaches to film their games! USA coaches can't take your word for it. He also asked coaches to open up their lines of communication with him on the talent they have.</p>
Adjourn	<p>Meeting was then adjourned at 12:00pm. The Summer General meeting will take place on Sunday, June 26, 2011.</p>
	<hr/> <p>President, David Hall</p>