

I.Y.R.A. Minutes

Date: 6-26-11 ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING Chair: David Hall

Time: 9:00am Minutes: Lana Bergman

Attendance

Committee members: David Hall, Tom Peroulas Brian Gilmartin, Lana Bergman, Tank O'Brien, Mike Pateras, Alan Burton, Mark Johnson, Paul Bergman, Jay Crawford. Coaches and representatives from the following dues paying teams (voting rights): Arlington Stallions, Batavia HS, Brother Rice, Cicero MS, Deerpath MS, DeKalb, Elgin Students, St. Ignatius, Lake Forest HS, Morton Mustang RC, Naperville MS, Naperville Boys, Nequa Valley HS, Palatine MS, Plainfield Boys, Renegades, Rockford Ravens, Schaumburg, St. Charles MS, St. Charles Boys, St. Charles Girls, St. Rita HS, Sycamore HS, Sycamore MS, Twin City Tornados, Waubonsie Valley Boys and West Suburban Barbarians. Representatives from All State Boys North, All State Boys South and All State Middle School. Guests: Luke O'Toole, from the CARFU Referee Society.

Call to order by David Hall.
Minutes approved.

Discussion

President's Report: David Hall

We've had a successful first part of the year. Tom took on the V.P position in January. We've had a good tag-team relationship in getting things done. Hopefully Tom is here for the long term duration.

We received a lot of feedback from the Rookie Rugby course we did in Moline (Instructional Day) for the 20 teachers. They loved it.

We also went to Hoffman Estates and met PE teachers there to conduct a Rookie Rugby instructional course. We also went to Normal and ran a PE class for 8th graders. This is a good recruiting tool.

Al Geiser got a few friends together and spent a year organizing the Waipiti program for 4-14 year olds in the city. They have 109 members.

Teacher Conference - St. Charles - Benny Kenyon did a demonstration for PE Teachers 100+ people at our demonstration. The teachers were very interested in rugby. We're going to do this again this fall in November. The teachers purchased rugby balls.

Discussion
(cont)

Our goal was 2000 players registered. We were short by 39 players, however, there was a 15% increase from last year. Noble Street tier 3 joined us this year. We need to keep driving the numbers, with hopes for 2500 next year.

SBRO's Youth Conference is scheduled for August 12 in Colorado. We will be sending iYRA representatives. USA Rugby will pay for 1 representative from iYRA to go, iYRA will pay for the 2nd person to go. Anyone who is interested, please let David Hall know.

We have a relationship with World Sports Chicago for a Rugby program on the South side starting this week. We think we have it covered with coaches. This is an 8 week program in Hyde Park for 40 youth. 5p – 8p.

One more note: The club in DeKalb needs new coaches.

To bring up the Compliance reports, just go to USArugby.org, scroll down to LAU, Illinois Youth Rugby Association. Tank O'Brien suggested the clubs run this report.

Vice President Report: Tom Peroulas

Competitions & Development.

Congratulations to everyone on a successful spring season. Special thanks to The Blaze for hosting the playoffs. We've had a lot of growth. Sycamore and Noble girls setting up a Festival Format this fall.

Growth at the younger level 4 year olds and up.

There were a few issues that came up during the season.

Violence - 3 red cards issued. Some of the reports were pretty disturbing. Officials ran the game well, but want to reiterate, and we're all guilty of saying this is part of our culture, but when it comes to the kids, we don't want to tolerate it. It is a serious matter and not part of the game. There is a safety issue...even with one punch. It all starts with everyone in this room, reinforcing with the players not to engage in this kind of activity. When sanctions are handed down, the referees will be aware of it. We're going to be looking at Competition points for fair play. This will be discussed with the Competition Committee. The Competition Committee will also be discussing the possibility of working with the Referee Society to ask officials to give a report after the game to the Competition Committee.

1. **Officiating** – there were concerns about officiating and we are working with the Referee Society on this.
2. **Policies & Procedures** – Standard Operating Procedures. Scheduling games and rescheduling, particularly during playoffs. We will be clarifying this.

Discussion
(cont)

It was brought up from a member that they were concerned with referee bias. It was also mentioned that this could put a lot of work on the administration. "We're talking about 3 red cards at the end of the entire season".

It was also mentioned that if you hand out line judge flags, hand them to coaches, not players.

Nequa Valley stated that they moved from Tier 3 to Tier 2. We expected to play Brother Rice Tier 2 team and they brought ½ lineup of their tier 1 players. Nequa Valley found out at the end of the game. The problem is, tier 1 players can play in a B side competition. Nequa Valley stated "As far as we're concerned, we didn't feel this is a fair way to be treated." Tier 1 Coordinator, Tank O'Brien, stated this isn't a Tier 1 issue. This is a bridge to tier 2. This just needs some clarification.

David mentioned that this would be a good discussion when the tiers break out in to individual tier sessions today. What ever you decide today, new guidelines will be set up.

Clarify decision making decision on Midwest National Invitational. Tank O'Brien stated that at the beginning of the season, teams need to declare if they want to go to Elkhart. A club/school that wins may not necessarily be invited to go to Nationals.

Chicago World Sports has officially approved our program to help us promote rugby in the Chicago Public Schools.

One member Stated that getting involved with the Boys & Girls Club could help get our foot in the door. Tom mentioned to meet with member after the meeting today.

David mentioned that if any one creates or runs a program, to let iYRA know.

Secretary's Report

Secretary reminded members to check the contact information of the iyra web site for accuracy. It was also mentioned that the bylaws are available if needed during break up session.

Treasurer's Report: Given by David Hall

Financials attached and made a part of these minutes.

We registered 1960 players.

First year clubs didn't pay iYRA dues.

The kids CIPPed for the fall are not on the report yet.

State championship, we made a profit.

Discussion
(cont)

7's coaching clinic was not well attended. About 20 coaches attended. Visiting coaches fund – funding for coaches. W-9 will be handled by David Hall. This was all discussed at the January meeting. There were numerous 501(c)3 donations.

David Hall stated that he will be gone for 4-6 months, but will be back. Brian Gilmartin is still in the "loop" of treasurer and filling in while he's gone.

CARFU Referee Association: Luke O'Toole

- **Referee Abuse:** Coaches lead by example. Refs lose credibility when coaches scream and yell at the referee. The players and parents see it. Use your half time to talk to referees if you have issues. We're all adults.
- **Invoices Outstanding:** There are still invoices outstanding. The money goes right to the Referees Society and then payment goes out to referees.
- **Fees:** there may be an increase in fees. Probably \$5 increase.
- **Recruit:** If you can identify someone on your club who would like to be involved in refereeing, let us know. They can shadow a game.

Tank O'Brien suggested submitting invoices at the beginning of season once the schedule comes out, instead of after the season.

Luke mentioned that the invoice process needs improvement.

Paul Bergman stated as our numbers grow, the need for weekend play is going to increase and asked Luke if the Referee Society talked about this or have a management plan? Luke stated this is one reason why he's asking for numbers for recruiting.

Paul said, once we get into playoff, there may be a greater request for 3 point judges during playoffs and are willing to pay for it.

David Hall stated that iYRA now has Vinnie LaPiana who has volunteered to take on the appointment of Frosh/Soph Coordinator.

BREAK OUT SESSION – All Tiers met in separate areas of the meeting area.

Girls may be getting a fall schedule together.

USA Rugby is holding a Director of Rugby Conference. A 3 day conference in Denver. They will be giving a certification for this course. Go to USA Rugby's web site. It will be held Aug 10 – 12, 2011. USA Rugby is trying to help people make a career out of rugby, making a business of rugby and how to make it grow.

Discussion
(cont)

Disciplinary Chair, Jay Crawford

Started the season with the 1st week having 5 red cards. Most of them were high tackles.

When coaches are badgering referees, they stop coaching. Stay focused on the kids. Get past it. Be sure you're coaching and not refereeing. Honor the game.

Jay then announced that after being involved with iYRA as long as he has, he will be stepping down as the Disciplinary Chair. "I feel we need to get some new blood. I've enjoyed the run, from 4 teams to where we are now." Jay stated. David thanked him for his service.

Compliance Officer: Paul Bergman

Six items addressed:

1. Referee Abuse – one of the expectations of all involved is to read and, with a witness, sign the code of conduct. Treating referees, players and other coaches with courtesy.
2. Criminal Background check – USA Rugby expectations
 - every adult goes through a background check
 - if you have a hit – it shows as "incomplete". USA doesn't inform us, it just shows as "incomplete". If you see that, they will inform you. If you wish to appeal, you go through USA Rugby. Their vision is that local organizations will be managing things like this.
3. Certified Coach – in our bylaws. If you're not certified, get certified or maintain your certification with CEUs.
4. Certified Referee – in our bylaws.
5. Side-line Barriers – safety issues. This is in the bylaws.
6. Referee Report – in the future we may have to depend on the referees to report safety issues
7. CIPP – Your Liability Insurance could be invalidated in the case there is an accident if a player or coach is not CIPPed. If you're having players CIPP themselves, don't assume they are. You need to check.

Comment: You can send a spreadsheet to Lucy at USA Rugby and she will do it for you in bulk.

New Business:

Tornados (North) – Boys Select Side, Coach Nolan Day

We've had a pretty successful summer so far. 44 players representing 16 or 17 schools for both U17 & U19 programs.

We went to Wisconsin for the Cody Cup where U-17 tied and U-19 lost. We went to Elkhart and U-19 won the Midwest Championship.

Great camaraderie amongst the players. We're playing Ohio North at Chicago Hope Academy coming up. July 20th – U-16 v. Wales coming in to play us.

Discussion
(cont)

If you have talented players, please let us know.
We had at least 8 kids that USA Rugby came and spoke to at Elkhart.

Tornados (South) – Boys Select Side, Coach Rory O'Rouke

South's first year and the kids were very pumped up. Rory assured that next year we'll have a lot more players.

Tornadoes (Girls) – Girls Select Side, Coach Mark Johnson

No report

Hurricanes (Middle School) – Boys Select Side, Coach Alan Burton

This was the second year for the Middle school kids going to Elkhart. 40 kids went, and were very keen to playing in Elkhart.

Other Business

7's Rugby

Midwest 7's Championship on the Weekend of July 9-10. It's a 16 team tournament, but so far we only have 2 or 3 teams registered.

Fall Rugby Initiative, Paul Bergman.

A year ago we talked about fall rugby. High School only. We would like to have a 6 week fall program. In conjunction with Hope Academy. I've received only 22 RSVPs. I'm going to send out another reminder e-mail this week. If it's not significantly increased by July 10, I'm not going to take it any further.

I'm sure there are athletes who aren't playing football who would be interested in. If driving to the City is a barrier, let me know and we'll change the course.

A member asked if there were Scholarships for Rugby. If we can get a list for the web site.

Plainfield is moving down to Tier 2

Sycamore Staying in Tier 2

Arlington may move to Tier 1 and will submit their decision to Tank at a later date.

There were 220 Middle School players CIPPed. Coaches were encouraged to add a middle school team. It's a developmental league and we all play at the same venue. We will fill up teams who are short players. We are seriously considering breaking the Middle school in to 2 levels, with one level being 6 grade and under/or smaller players.

Discussion (cont)	<p>Bryce from the Blaze mentioned the expansion of a new building at the Blaze. It will have 2 changing rooms, a referee room and a big open area for concession and on the 2nd floor a club house/banquet hall. Bryce stated that anyone can invest \$200 per share with 3% dividend each year. The Blaze has raised \$200,000 and still needs \$600,000 to break ground. Parking will also be improved.</p> <p>The building will be professionally run.</p> <p>Tank O'Brien asked if The Blaze can solicit iYRA members. It was approved by all members. Alan Burton asked to put this on the Winter AGM Agenda to possibly have the iYRA invest in this as well.</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>	