

**Minutes of  
Winter Annual General Meeting of  
Rugby Illinois  
December 5, 2015  
College of DuPage**

- 1) Roll Call Sign in 60 present of 68 teams
- 2) Summer 2015 Minutes approved.
- 3) Reports circulated by email and floor opened for questions.
  - a) President – no questions
  - b) VPMarketing - no report.
  - c) VPDevelopment
    - i) Suggestions re pe program and YDO
  - d) Compliance
    - i) Suggestions and Discussion
      - (1) carrying protected and confidential information. Find a way to create a verification database that once player had presented birth cert and documented, that player marked as good
      - (2) Can Scan all docs and submit keep on flash. Email to MAD. Would need a procedure for safeguarding information
      - (3) Drop box is an option
      - (4) Age/grade and school verified once and recorded for that player
      - (5) Onecloud is a more secure transmission of player data
      - (6) USAR competition manual system – free player management
      - (7) Refer to EC for consideration of streamlined compliance procedures
      - (8) School is a much better place to rely on student information. His picture, dob, school HS and MS. We should not need to do our own verification.
  - e) Treasurer - see budget under new business for discussion.
  - f) Secretary - Presented process for group exemption application saving individual clubs cost and time of obtaining individually.
- 4) Old Business
  - a) Distribution of extra RIL Equipment - Oak Park jr friar program received old IYRA logo balls
  - b) lapherd kits sold at the convention and distributed free to schools on request. Leftover from AIG All Blacks initiative.
- 5) New business
  - a) Tax – insurance name versus club name difference and tax filing. Must ask USAR for team name addition to COI if any difference between the insured and your registered club name.
  - b) Tax exemption group request. 18 clubs in favor with proceeding with the application to the IRS. \$3,000 cost to RIL.
  - c) Budget proposal –
    - i) Discussion
      - (1) Rugby development - 5k is for what ? Estimated to account for upcoming needs under the new position. Could include requests from member clubs for their own efforts.
      - (2) Can cobras ask for money for their program ? Yes

- (3) Will Storage locker go away if equipment sold? No we will have flags tshirts etc balls and need to continue to pay for this space.
- (4) Is there any money for fall rugby refs etc? No separate line item for this but submit your requests to ec for determination
- ii) Motion to approve the budget and second. Motion carries. Budget for 2016 approved.
- d) Coaches Handbook – comments and concerns will be taken under consideration by CC
  - i) CC took under advisement the manual and all members of cc were present and unanimously approved by cc.
- (1) Why were changes made? Discussion follows. 2 minutes granted per speaker.
  - (a) Before u-14 with sept 1 cutoff date, 19 kids were a month or 2 off from playing so they have to request exemption to play. Determined that if we allowed 2 more months of birthdays more kids would be eligible to play in the same division and no one would be 15 playing in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Issue with clubs applying during spring and decisions needing to be made while competition should be scheduled.
  - (b) If all 19 players played the entire year, most never applied for exemption and played anyway. CC is aware of only 2 or 3 exemptions received from this group. Cc decided to issue waiver for 17 of 19. 2 kids would have been 15 in that season were not approved to play. Just 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - (c) Structure – how are we utilizeing Under age system. You can play up but you could not be that age and play in the U-divisions. Does U14 mean you have to be under 14 on any given match date? 8<sup>th</sup> grader now 13 as of July 1 can turn 14 during this year and still play. Bill and Vinnie explain that the date is set so that no one will have turned 15 during playing season. also there is no waiver now. Concern with waiver process is it is subjective to allow someone too old to play in the competition regardless of size or ability unless you watch a video to see if they will be a danger to themselves or someone else on the field. Parents signup based on the parameters we set. If waiver is granted, parents don't participate in that decision. This is for u12 and u14.
  - (d) Minimum age ? no waiver for player to play up.
  - (e) You must be in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or lower. By definition of MS Rugby, player is not in high school. Only thing for MS that has changed is to change the date. Elem, middle school up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. If there is a 13yo freshman in high school, age eligible could they play? Today? No. do we want to allow this is a topic of further discussion.
  - (f) Concern raised that age differential is still 3 years is not ok. If you have 2 players on u14 team having a bday of august 25, gone thru school age appropriately. Bday of aug 16 is held back and still in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and older than the 1<sup>st</sup> kid. 5'10" 170# versus 5'3" 110#. We are muddying the waters and mixing up ages and grades. We either need to be age or grade based. If we go strictly to u14 and are strict with age and eliminate middle school terminology. Then jack can still play ms rugby. Would like to take out requirement for kid being in middle school.
  - (g) If you have a small high schooler and you make a determination that he is small and we are going to push him down you put everyone else at risk. Also have a div 2 frosh soph that plays with the MS on Sundays. That is an option for the small kid who still wants to play.

- (h) Common concern is size bc we don't want the little kid getting overpowered.
- (i) We have a number of clubs in existence 10+ years and they have not hit critical mass and know they will have 40 kids at every training. If we start splitting by age and weight, very few clubs will field a team.
- (j) If we go to age we have ability to say you are 14 but you can play u19 level.
- (k) If we are concerned about safety make it age and nothing more.
- (l) New club looking at u17 and fr/soph. if you have a sophomore who turned 17 before sept 1 he cant play on the fr/soph team. You are going to have bigger and smaller kids in all sports.
- (m) We have multi-school clubs, single school, varsity initiative clubs registered with USAR. Varsity has a separate set of rules. Eligibility will be determined by HS assn and school over RIL rules. So all these rules are an attempt to come to a single set of rules to cover all the types of clubs who compete on the same level. If Brother Rice or Maris falls under that regime, they are perfectly capable of following rules of IHSA who has no requirements for sophomore participation. We are trying to align and deal with and compromise with different teams playing on the same platform and that doesn't cover every participating club.
- (n) U16 age level is defined to have 8<sup>th</sup> graders to play against 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Whole idea is USAR is moving away from age and going to grade level.
- (o) Are 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> playing in JV only? USAR is asking state groups to only have fr/soph and senior level. So are we taking a step back by doing age? IRB says no more than 2 years apart. We can still hit 2 year bands if we stay grades 5/6 and 7/8
- (p) You can't just say 5/6 or 7/8 because some kids are held back. Very straight guidelines of u10 u12 u14 u16 are used bc kids held back. Then varsity are the kids who are older and held back or bigger. That is not safe for reasons outlined in coaches listserve emails and string of discussion. We can't compare ourselves to different sports. Physical impact is different than it is for other sports. All other countries use the U-x age and it is easy and eliminates who is too young or too old if we stick to age only.
- (q) IF we want to be accepted by IHSA, and high schools that is where our future is. We don't want to confuse the population. It is the community we have to think about and not alienating
- (r) Are there truly coaches who believe that 110# freshman in the fall should be able to play down? Obv this is an issue we care about. why is there now no waiver on eligibility for few extreme case decisions? (and could there be a parent request waiver for that rare scenario?)
- (s) We are struggling to be included and compete with other sports. Other clubs don't have to abide by IHSA but if we want to be in the schools we have to follow IHSA guidelines which use grade levels and use age levels to give guidance.
- (t) There is no such state organization for other sports. And state sport org is only in high school level. Predominate model is the high school model. 2 sports most similar are lacrosse and hockey bc they are not IHSA but they are in the schools. Their state orgs who administer DO follow IHSA guidelines for eligibility.

- (u) MS who feed in have to switch gears before they have to go in. if you are grade based then you keep continuity.
- (v) Rules have to encompass and combine everybody. AD cant tell someone eligible they can't play. Last year 2 kids didn't qualify and they still have a U16 league to go to. Never had a complaint against bigger kids playing in u16. Now we have the same thing. There is u19 so they are not too old in their senior year.
- (w) MS most comparable sport they go from age based to grade based from younger to older where they have to deal with the differences. Already precedence out there for similar sports to follow this structure.
- (x) Conversation of player safety – you can't take kids off the field if too big, take the smaller kid off the field but can't tell an 8<sup>th</sup> grader that you are too big to play rugby. If that kid meets the criteria, there is no issue with him in the match. If you feel there is a safety issue, take the smaller player out.
- (y) Under one club's example and considering the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade body, if using the july 1 criteria, 15% would not be eligible, of that one kid is smallest in 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. This disadvantages the kids from playing rugby, disincentivizing them from trying rugby.
- (z) If there are 1 or 2 kids at different times, why not put the waiver in there for cc to decide to permit those kids in?
  - (aa) CC Decided against waivers. Last year we tried it but didn't come up with a quantifiable set of criteria for a player being safe enough. So rather than take on the liability, since we can't quantify what safe is and whether to play up or down, we say these are the rules and you understand them. And that's it.
  - (bb) Agree with our goal of community engagement and being recognized as HS sport by parents and al hs coaches. Don't want a freshman football player playing down. We have a responsibility to teach our sport and enforce the rules in rugby, made to protect the player. We are being safe.
  - (cc) One of our ineligible kids last year was a MS kid. Trusted the appeals and waiver process and the judgement that they will exhibit. If a kid who was a 10<sup>th</sup> grader is 17 before sept 1 of sophomore year, they will have the same u19 problem their senior year. CC says you can be 19 during your senior year during the season in which you play. Finally re size difference, as coaches and referees, we are responsible to make sure every game is safe. Big kids play against small kids every match and we make adjustments in the rules such as a savvy referee who called tackle before the play took place. Our due diligence is done every single game when we act on an unsafe situation during any match.
  - (dd) Reference to lacrosse and hockey – boys youth lacrosse – based strictly on age. But go to governing body for IHSLA. For MS and HS. See their Rules on the website.
  - (ee) For HS kids playing down who could have played based on age they are the biggest and the youngest. He turns 15 next july. Support decision for no waivers.
- (2) Boundary rules.
  - (a) Like the idea that you can name one school you can market to. It should end there. Have to market and have your efforts rewarded.

- (b) We are not to the point that every club can be only 1 school. When you get players from 1 School playing to 2 or 3 different clubs you are running counter to idea that we want to work like other sports.
- (c) When it finally happens and you have a school sport, you will have school season and then travel season. Keep on that trajectory.
- (d) 11 high schools in Rockford produce 1 boys team and 1 girls team, why is the goal to get into one high school.
- (e) Let's try to be in every high school
- (f) If you only have 1 primary school, there are still going to be conflicts. Not everyone has these conflicts, but if you do you have to deal with between coaches to resolve. There will still be conflict.
- (g) Why should we be penalized for players coming to play on our team if we don't refuse them?
- (h) If another club coops with us, we will work like that until we need to split off as 2 teams. North side and south side kids can continue to play where they want. Reach out to next available school.
- (i) Naming your primary school doesn't prevent you from going out to another school unless it is someone else's. If not a club in that territory, get them engaged. Not a problem. Boundaries are there just to keep your hands off one taken.
- (j) Single school and multi school. Clubs marketing to other clubs are welcome to do so.
- (k) Looks bad on our program if we have other schools marketing in that school. Don't want two clubs contacting same school. Elgin has streamwood, elgin and Hoffman estates. need to have school district boundaries.
- (l) Won't that test your relationship with the school to have them both available to the school?
- (m) Main objective is to have a kid play rugby so why would you force a kid to play for any team they don't want and if a kid doesn't want to play for my team, I don't want him on my team.
- (n) Disagree with boundaries – we want this to be IHSA then we need the team in each school without anyone else trying to take our players away from us. Development will be delayed if other clubs can come in. let us keep our players.
- (o) From cc perspective on the boundaries: some clubs have 6 or 7 schools on their list. Did lake forest have all of lake county? As a cc we have a lot of issues to resolve on boundaries and we didn't have enough time to meet on and solve each issue. Impossible to administer the old way, part of the reason we brought it back. When no boundaries, we had no complaints.
- (p) As a parent – Maybe I don't like a particular coach. As a consumer, you are forcing us to pick teams. Our kids go to school together, and want to play together even though we live in different boundaries. There may be a lot of family reasons for a club to be chosen.
- (q) When lake county was all one club, had close relationship with new trier. This league was right to get rid of boundaries. Boys drove in for 45 minutes. Key was that one brother and family grew with the club. League said well grant the

exception but what if there are other boys who see value in playing with that other team too?

- (r) General rules, if I have a kid from naper who doesn't want to play for me its my fault, but if other teams are actively contacting players and schools then we have a problem.
- (s) We can revisit boundaries next year if this presents too much of a problem.
- (t) Plainfield is a multi school based team but based on the school district. We have relationships with schools that we have established. We would talk to another coach if there was conflict. We encourage them to play younger with Naperville and then play with chiefs in the other season. Cc needs to change that even if only for us. Don't take kids out of our schools when we have worked to develop that.
- (u) Keep parent decision for whom to play with especially where we are in school and not where we live.
- (v) We are different– we draw our players from 4 schools. Want kids to come in at MS and be able to play with same team and continue to play through HS
- (w) Growing the sport – say you have 3 programs and all different schools. Understand if kid wants to play somewhere esle. Say some of those kids go 5 to neaqua and 5 to Naperville. In theory, they can break off and create some club started with 15 when they broke off . if you divide everyone too much can never have one club
- (x) Parents don't get to decide where you play in IHSA. When we are at that physical mass.
- (y) Some schools do and some don't recognize it right now.
- (z) Only limit the team in your school they should not be allowed to go play with another team. We are single school and we only allow players to play where there is not an established team for that school then let them play where they want. Fair game as long as school does not have a team

e) Technical Zones

- i) Refs will not officiate if you don't have these in place
- ii) Suggestion – how to deal with a stadium situation? Track around prevents us
- iii) When did this become a rule by CARFU and Midwest? MW RU implemented this from USAR when they asked us to implement it we said we will implement. Not so much the # of ppl but respecting the space. Ref society has embraced. MWRU has told rugby union what they want. It has gone downhill to the refs. Not sure how refs have carried out
- iv) Water carriers in pennys allowed on field. Try and find best players can handle that as they take water out. Coach is mandated to be behind the ropes. Have to stay behind ropes. Get behind ropes or go to stands. Coach cannot go out for injured players in Rockford last time enforced. Only allowed on field half and post match. Respect the tech box.
- v) National championships require these.
- vi) We need to work with refs so that coaches can coach the newer players. Sometimes coaches are needed on the field for development.
- vii) Also example given in Rockford when zones were not followed.

- viii) Just get there earlier and makes it more difficult to do the additional setup and another layer of PITA to deal with on game day.
- ix) We are over-regulating the game with these zones.
- x) There should be some consideration given to d3 teams who are learning the games versus d1 team running on all cylinders. We don't want anyone to explode on the sideline bc they cant run up and down touch.
- xi) Cant we just talk to referee before the game and with opposing coach and come up with ground rules before the match.
- xii) RIL with ref society – we don't get to dictate some things like this. Unless there is an alternate ref society. Elliot please convey to CARFU RS that we want to be able to have coaches and refs discuss before the games what ground rules for coach involvement in the game may be.
- xiii) How to do this:
  - (1) Cones and create a box
  - (2) Ropes
  - (3) Stripe the field
  - (4) Pennies for water boys
  - (5) 2 sets of ropes on one side and 1 set of ropes on the other
- xiv) Per kurt weaver – hey we are not putting up a second rope. The entire community used this field we cannot put more paint down. He said athletic bags or cones will work. He did offer some solutions. Just outline the boxes in some way.
- xv) What is the rationale for confining coaches? It is predicated on HS match. It looked so chaotic so wanted to make our sideline appear more streamlined for the spectators eye. But it comes down to more cost and time.
- xvi) Why model after hs football? Why not have one team on each side? Want both teams and families on one side. Less likely bc keep parents to hold their tongue. Coaches not wanted to implement. the coach is supposed to coach.
- xvii) Coach is supposed to talk to team after a try and tell them what they did right or wrong.
- xviii) Manual is eliminated for bonus points is that decided? Not on the agenda. Bill address – there has been no official changel it was suggested but not decided upon. Point system still in place as before. There will be discussion if there will be variations between divisions. As of now per last year/
- f) SportsNginer - What falls under our subscription to sports nginer. Post self help vids for coaches to access and request they investigate whether it is soemthing their team can utilize. And perhaps help us streamline issues such as player verification
- g) Development – at PE convention. Each ear we get 100 – 150 teachers sign up. Previously no follow up has been done. This year we have followed up with everyone and now getting feedback asking for us to come out to their schools who said they want us to teach rookrie rugby in PE. You know where you are, if you can assist with getting that going, contact david to help in your area. At MS level, get list out to everyone and coaches can reach out to anyone near you . showed suggested spreadsheet for coaches to take on schools in their area. (attach)
- h) Contact david if you are doing RR in a school and to help us get a dtb going where we know who has it in PE.

- i) Baderman has done a lot of these in PE classes for teachers and as groups and in classes of kids. More than happy to explain the way he does it and to give ideas. Have a plan to send to schools afterward with drills and ideas for them to continue to do. Limited time. Not going to end with a game of rugby just getting them introduced. Making it fun. See lesson plans on rookie rugby.com.
- 6) BID submissions - submit jotform application on website to apply to host state championships or RCT or 7s.
- 7) Announcements
  - a) Frosh soph – let viniie know today. Signup if you will have players in those divisions.
  - b) Janet – asked for ball runners. Dismal responses - 15 kids applied and 8 selected and 7 turned up. Please recommend kids for these positions for future international matches. Nov 5 2016 and 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - c) Lou –
    - i) Heartland rugby academy – new formation where purpose is to provide foundational skills and education for future leaders to grow. 4 seminars for 1<sup>st</sup> year. To offer education so we can develop ourselves individually and as clubs to be better leaders and grow the sport. Complete survey to help them identify areas where growth and help is needed. First seminar 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2016 introduction and pushing for recruitment and delegation of volunteers. Not for profit. Cover their own costs and nothing more. Consortium that includes RIL, carfu, designed by Penn mutual and heartland group which is main distribuer of insurance.
    - ii) Selection camps have started for state team. South Africa last wk of July to cost about \$3200 per player.
  - d) Paul – bid for facility in mt prospect would like to but that is day before they leave for tornados tour. As soon as RCT date, Rob will set date for 7s.
  - e) January 16 – 17 training with Grunbies. Nick Wees coming out to teach offensive and defensive strategies. Recommend. No signup link or cost year. Coming by end of week.
  - f) Ref society – won't be covering Saturday u19 matches. Don't schedule for this day.
  - g) Youth Development Summit - watch email for invitation to attend on RIL behalf to attend after ec mtg
  - h) Adjourned 12:03pm