

I.Y.R.A. Minutes

Date: 8-15-10 ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING Chair: David Hall

Time: 9:00am Minutes: Lana Bergman

Attendance

Committee members: David Hall, Brian Gilmartin, Lana Bergman, Tank O'Brien, Mike Pateras, Alan Burton. All-State Tornados coach, Nolan Day and Lou Raymond. Guest: Ray Karenas of the Chicago Lions and Brad Kilpatric, the Executive Director of Rugby Alabama. Coaches and representatives from the following dues paying teams (voting rights): Arlington Stallions, Barrington HS, Brother Rice, Deerpath MS, DeKalb, Glen Ellyn, Hope Academy, St. Ignatius, Lake Forest HS, Mt. Carmel, Morton Mustang RC, Naperville MS, Naperville boys, Naperville girls, Neuqua Valley HS, Palatine MS, Renegades, Schaumburg, St. Charles boys, St. Rita HS, SycamoreHS, Pearl City, Twin City, Cicero MS.

Discussion

Call to order by David Hall.

Minutes approved.

Secretary went over the iYRA web site and reporting scores at scores@iyra.org, with number of tries scored.

David Hall, Vice President

We've been operating without a president for the last couple of years. The last Executive Committee meeting I agreed to be President. It was moved and seconded and unanimously approved to elect David Hall as the President of iYRA.

David went over the roster of clubs in iYRA. Need to set up dues system with USA Rugby starting Sept 1, 2010. He wanted to get an accurate list to get this set up. Youth Rugby is about numbers. It has benefited us because we are 2nd in the country for size in youth rugby. We need to get our numbers up. Championship is HS and Club. He recommend, for example, Brother Rice split their school up into a High School Side and a Club Side, so we might be able to send a team to play for HS. Make sure Boys clubs and Girls clubs are separate. David will be passing the roster around to make sure it's accurate.

Paul asked if clubs who have 1 organization but 1 MS club & 1 HS club, do we have 2 votes or 1. David recommended the organization only has 1 vote.

We have a time schedule and will try to keep the meeting at 3 hours. I would encourage you to think outside the box at this meeting. We are all stakeholders at growing youth rugby. Think "big picture".

Discussion
(cont)

Nolan Day, Tornados Head Coach

Thank you to all the coaches for sending players. Especially since we started the U-17.

80 players tried out, 28 went on tour. Some '09 grads, '10, '11, '12. We wanted more younger but had to recruit early.

Speed clinic was open to all players. Everyone complimented us on our team speed. We had 2W and 4Losses. We lost 3 matches within 4 points or less. Camaraderie was great. We had one injury with stitches. One with an ear laceration. The medical specialist was great.

VC memorial fund – 2 players were able to go for ½ scholarships and those boys enjoyed the trip more than anybody. They were fine representatives.

\$1,000 left over from the tour which I would like to use for defraying our costs for the spring tour next year.

Some of the former tornados helped out at the Irish Fest – Ran drills. 60 participants.

Nolan read a letter from a host family from Windsor UK who was very impressed with the players who stayed with them. Their image and behavior reflected the team as a whole.

David mentioned that USA Rugby approves all tours and should be notified of the incident of the Welsh Club fielding players over the age of 19 against the Tornados . He also mentioned the goal of fund raising for the Vincent Clarkson memorial fund. There are also iYRA water bottles available for purchase for \$20.

Brad Kilpatrick, Executive Director of Rugby Alabama

Presented SBRO centralized buying with World Rugby Shop

- Centralized buying with World Rugby Shop, 3.4% back on what iYRA buys, gets back on products.
- De-centralized/Rebate Program. Add dollar amount to products sold to teams (goes to iYRA)
- Affiliate – place links to World Rugby Shop and iYRA gets money.
- Exclusive pricing for iYRA
- All Star Equipment Program for iYRA Tornados.

BENEFITS

- Exclusive Pricing – regardless of size of club.
- Coupon Codes – for events and on-line ordering
- New team start up

LONG TERM PARTNER

- Single team Sales Rep. You only deal with one person.
- Help direct purchasing – orders stocked...your needs are met.
- Secure Equipment – put orders “on-hold” for future order, so there’s no wait.

This is a partnership with iYRA, but Clubs do not have to buy from us. Partnership Agreement just needs to be reviewed, signed and we can get started.

Discussion
(cont)

Brian Gilmartin, Treasurer

Financial Report/Income statement handed out, which is attached to and made a part of these minutes.
We had a \$3,000+ deficit at State Championship due to the weather. Brian reviewed the process of 501©3.
iYRA is cash low as shown, highlighted in green, on page 2 of the financial report.

Brian reviewed competitive CIPP from other states in the SBRO. (page 4 of financial report). Need to get on a firmer footing. Brian proposed that we move CIPP from \$26 per player to \$30. Where before \$6 of the \$26 went to iYRA, now proposing \$10 of \$30 to go to iYRA. Member proposed \$40 for CIPP, but members motioned to go to \$30 CIPP, it was voted and approved. CIPP will be raised to \$30 with \$10 going to iYRA, effective September 1, 2010. David will notify USA Rugby.

A member made mentioned that *United Way* has been forthcoming with helping kids who are Title 19.

Tony Carr, CARFU Referee Society

Covered 180 games. 40% of games we referee are for iYRA.

- Sideline abuse has improved greatly.
- Changes in the billing for 2010, we invoiced clubs. Tony asked for and was willing to talk about any feedback on the billing. Referees not real happy with not getting paid on site. Coaches felt it was a better process.
- Reminding members of potential risk when refereeing a game, or taking on legal liability by having others referee games. One must have a Level I certification on file with USA Rugby and be CIPPed as a "Referee" in order to have appropriate liability coverage. These 2 things must be done before refereeing a game. Tony reiterated that he is not a lawyer, however, they had an attorney at a meeting recently go over this and wanted to pass the information along to iYRA members.

Contact for Referee Certification – Level 1, Jen Gray at USA Rugby. There will be a Level 1 certification course taking place at The Blaze next Saturday, August 21 at 8:00am. Probably will have another one next spring.

State Championship , reported by David Hall for Norm Smyth

This year's championship was a disaster due to the rain. David had an issue with the determination that was made with the grounds being unplayable due to standing water. We will make sure this is spelled out more clearly next year. I want to thank the coaches for rearranging the games. Proposing to eliminate 3rd & 4th place games, but will discuss with Executive Committee.

Discussion
(cont)

Jack Cushing, President - Coaches Association

We have 34 dues paying members at \$20. Dues will be a line item with the iYRA. I have a list of coaches who have paid/
We are proposing videos to be available to coaches.
We had 2 successful clinics this year. Advancing our own coaching knowledge to make the kids experience better. We had planned a 7's event this summer, but it didn't work out. Jack encouraged coaches to get 7's Programs going. It's where international rugby is going. He discussed the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA), which is funded through USA Rugby, which teaches kids morals. Strict regimen for the coaches for coach effectiveness. We will have an on-line seminar and a 2 hour hands-on session and will track our progress throughout the season. We want to be professional coaches, which will make us better coaches. Members will find a 108 page .pdf file for coaches. Goal is to get our web site going with the videos going. Password protected to access videos...and Clinics are set for December, January and February, which will hopefully be set up by Oct/Nov., and a 7's clinic in June.

David mentioned that there will be a Midwest Youth 7's Tournament on July 9, 2011. We will host. I encourage every club to have a 7's team.

Brian Gilmartin and David Hall went to San Francisco last week-end for SBRO USA Rugby meetings. David stated that they got a lot out of it. We are now 2nd largest SBRO in the country. USA Rugby wants to support us as much as possible. They like what iYRA is doing.

Tank O'Brien, Tier 1 Coordinator

There were no complaints this year from Tier 1 coaches, so we're going with the same schedule guide format in 2011. Reporting scores worked very well. I would like to see both coaches report what they had as a score and the referee report the score as well.

Playoffs are a 3 +1 crossover games, East & West. 4 of 5 crossover games were won by the East. East was much stronger than the West. Tank asked his Coaches if he should keep it this way. Yes! Should we go with Seed or Points? It was decided that Tank will discuss with Tier 1 coaches separate from this meeting.

Clubs who would like to move to Tier 1 need to inform me by November 1, 2010.

Rugby Development, David Hall – We presented at a Teacher's conference which went really well. Coming out of this presentation, USA Rugby awarded iYRA a grant of \$7,500 for Rugby Development. iYRA must match this amount so that we spend \$15,000 on rugby development in 1 year. We appointed 8 Developmental Officers, to get into the schools and develop the sport.

Discussion
(cont)

Moving forward, David Hall and Benny Kenyon are working together to develop this program. Benny has set up 6 programs in Park Districts for this Winter and Spring. He is also working with PE Teachers to incorporate Rugby in their programs. He has done 4 or 5 presentations in schools in the Western suburbs. It's going really good. We're doing a presentation at a State Based Conference in November in St. Charles. We've got high hopes for that and we've fine-tuned our presentation. We are going to do a program with World Sports in September on the South Side.

Michael Pateras, Tier 2 Coordinator

Congratulations to Sycamore on their State Championship! All the games got played, except the 3rd place championship game. We had issues with teams committing and then pulling out. Mike stated he would like to see a change in the way we determine who is in Tier 2 and would like to see a deadline for commitment. Mike would like to see tier 2 be a smaller tier and would like to get away from the 3 division set up. Propose 2 divisions, like Tier 1. We have to decide on setting a limit to tier 2. With the growth of teams, tier 2 should be a more competitive tier. This may mean more travel for the teams. Proposing we begin tier 2 season at the end of March to increase flexibility with rescheduling games. As Tank noted, November 1 is the deadline for Tier decisions.

David Hall for Joe Goett, Tier 3 Coordinator

Things went real well in Tier 3 this year. May have another team in Bloomington (girls). 5 North Clubs, which was a friendly schedule. May be a bit more structured next year, but it went the way we envisioned this year. Graeme Lawson's Pritzker team went to the Tier 3 playoffs. We need to get the Noble Street program committed to our system again.

Alan Burton, Middle School

2007-08 there were 2 clubs (40 players)
2009 6 clubs (123 players)
2010 7 clubs (160 players) fielded 8 sides.
Played 20 matches. 2 teams to the all-star tourney in Indiana South. 2 matches. The feedback has been extraordinarily positive from parents, players and coaches. It is our plan to continue to the festival format of each team hosting all clubs to play all games in one day. If a team doesn't have 15, we have teams with players who will lend you players. That's why we have a festival format. If we see a growth, we may go to 2 festivals per week. It was strongly recommended that clubs start a middle school team.

Discussion
(cont)

David Hall for Mark Johnson, Girls Coordinator

Stagnated again last year. Went down to 5 teams. Lincolnway will not be participating. Sent a team to Midwest Tourney and Open division. Mark organized select side tournament in St. Charles in June. Would like to propose that Girls move to a fall season. iYRAs position is that the girls can play whenever they want. It will be discussed with Executive Committee.

Paul Bergman, Compliance Officer

Bylaw areas I chose to address this year:

- CIPP – went pretty well.
 - State Championship Volunteerism – went fabulously.
 - Coach Certification – need to get better at letting Paul know that coaches are certified. Hoping to have stats on certification by end of 2011 season. Coaches Association, in due time, will address continued education for coaches.
- 2011 Paul will focus on:
- Assignable Referees
 - Screen for compliance of certified coaches
 - bylaw issues – provisional membership, bylaw 3.4
 - code of conduct 3.3.9. we state as clubs we will abide by the disciplinary rules of local high school. I've come to realize when you have players from different schools, we don't have access to what the disciplinary action is at that particular school, so we may have to modify that rule.
 - passes for coaching staff on the field side of barriers.

David Hall for Jay Crawford, Disciplinary Officer

Swift action was taken on a red card this year.

David Hall gave a power point presentation on the growth of iYRA. Illinois is #2 in the nation in leadership and CIPPed players. 1744 CIPPed. Middle school is starting to take off. The number of clubs are expanding their clubs by adding B sides. Over the last 3 years, we've increased 20% each year the number of players CIPPed. We now have a Vice President position open, so if any members have candidates, please let the committee know. David presented the organizational chart to the members. Tank volunteered to be our liaison with LAUs. Need a volunteer to Manage the iYRA web site. USA Rugby suggests we have a Board of Directors, which is made up of various areas of HR Recruitment/Retention, Finance, etc...

What USA Rugby has given back:

- \$2,000 – Equipment Grant
- \$7,500 – Development Grant
- \$1,500 – Positive Coaching Alliance
- \$1,000 – Funding for attending SBRO Youth Conferences/meetings

Discussion
(cont)

David reviewed the Newsletter with the members.

Next Sunday we will be presenting at a Sports Festival. There will be raffles \$50 World Rugby Shop; tickets to USA 7's; rugby balls.

Adjourn

Meeting was then adjourned at 12:00pm.

President