

# I.Y.R.A. Minutes

Date: 1-12-08 GENERAL MEETING

Chair: J. Tyke Nollman

Time: 10:00am

Minutes: Lana Bergman

## Attendance

Committee members: Tyke Nollman, David Hall, Ray Dempsey, Lana Bergman, Tank O'Brien, Jay Crawford, Michael Pateras and Larysa Santiago. All-State Tornados coach, Nolan Day. Coaches and representatives from the following rugby teams: Arlington Stallions p/k/a Hersey Huskies, Brother Rice, Deerpath Braves Middle School, Renegades HSRC, Elgin Students, Ducks RC, Ignatius RFC, Lake Forest, Lincolnway Boys, Lincolnway Girls, Mid Valley Students RFC, Montini Catholic, Mt. Carmel, Mustang RC, Naperville RFC, New Trier HS, Noble Street Boys, Oak Park, Plainfield Boys, Plainfield Girls, St. Charles Boys, St. Charles Girls, St. Rita HS, Sycamore HS. Des Jones, CARFU Referees. Guests: Joe Goett, Rory O'Rourke, Charlie Parod from Peoria Area Youth Rugby and Fritz Miller from the Quad Cities Barbarians. Meeting host, John Houcharuk and Mike Overturf of AthletiCo.

## Discussion

Tyke Nollman, iYRA President, gave the Welcome, introductions and President's address. He discussed his and David Hall's recent trip to Peoria to meet with the representatives of the Peoria area youth rugby and to Notre Dame La Salette HS to meet with representatives there. He noted the 2007 progress to date:

- State Championship
- 501 ©3 update
- U-19 Development
- Build relations with U.S.A. Rugby
- Branding
- Younger Age Develop.
- Logo development

Our goal is to build a great state organization. The current state of iYRA is strong, but a lot of work needs to be done.

Lana Bergman, Secretary, presented the minutes from the August 2, 2007 General Meeting, acceptance was motioned, seconded and approved by voice vote. Lana then gave an update on her attendance of the USA Rugby Youth Conference on the Game in San Diego at the end of 2007. She mentioned the workshops that were valuable for the growth of youth rugby and how we need to focus on developing under high school aged rugby. She spoke of the "Non-Contact" information on the USA Rugby web site that was headed by Nigel Davies and of the volunteer program that is being set up on the web site.

Lana gave an update on the State Based Model which is designed to create the structure needed to support the development of the game

Discussion  
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in the US. USA Rugby will be presenting the State Based Development Model to the iRB in April and are hoping to get \$2M for youth rugby in the U.S. If the iRB approves the funds we will need to be ready to go by June of this year. What this means is USA Rugby will hire a representative for our state who will work full-time to promote youth rugby in Illinois. This person will help us get the program rolling so that in 3 years, we can be self funded and survive without money from the iRB. We will be submitting a DRAFT of our Strategic Plan before March 1, 2008. USA Rugby is piloting Oregon and Southern California this month.

Lana reminded members to check out the web site for announcements, clinics and events.

Ray Dempsey, Treasurer, gave the financial report. (See attached). He noted that there were 21 dues paying members. The 501c3 status is almost ready to go pending the approval of the bylaw changes today.

David Hall, Vice President, gave a Power Point presentation (see attached) reviewing the 2007 season. There were 7 players from the IL Team that were selected for the Midwest U-19 team, 4 players invited to the U-19 National Camp and 2 players selected. David discussed the effects of the web site averaging about 300 hits per month. He mentioned the Newsletter that goes out once a month, however, during the season it will be more frequent. Players are encouraged to sign-up for the newsletter. All scores should be reported to [scores@iyra.org](mailto:scores@iyra.org). David also mentioned the work done on the 501©3 is now complete.

Tank O'Brien, Tier I Coordinator, reported that 3 teams were moved off of Tier one. The Chicago Blaze and The Chicago Blues are no longer in existence and New Trier moved to Tier 2. The Tier 2 State Champions, Mustang RC moved up to Tier 1 this season. He reminded coaches to get their players CIPPed.

The points system for Tier 1 was discussed. After much discussion, it was decided that the Tier 1 format will be resolved by the Competition Committee in the next few weeks.

Michael Pateras, Tier II Coordinator, reported that scheduling was a challenge, but that Tier 2 had 8 teams participating so far.

Girls Coordinator, Larysa Santiago congratulated the Plainfield Girls for the State Championship in 2007. She mentioned that she is looking for North and South area coaches. Larysa also announced that Junior, Jess Rogawski from the St. Charles Girls RC was selected

Discussion  
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and played for the Midwest U-19. She is a forward for St. Charles, but plays prop and flanker for MW U-19.

Jay Crawford, of the Disciplinary committee, reported that there were 2 Red cards issued last season. If a player gets a red card, it is an eight (8) day or one (1) game suspension whichever is longer. The day of the red card counts as day 1. Players can play on day 9. Jay stated that he was having difficulty with the search/investigation of the #2 Tornado jersey. Dan from the Ducks said he might be able to assist. Jay mentioned that he would like everyone to please watch the tone of the e-mails and be civil to one another.

Dan Wiseheart from the Ducks stated that there is "Free Play" being organized at The Blaze in Lemont on Monday nights. He will let iYRA know as this unfolds.

Elections

It was motioned, seconded and unanimously voted that all current committee members be re-elected for the 2008 term. It was decided that a notice will go out 60 days before the Annual General Meeting sighting who is standing and get others who are interested or want to challenge/stand to register name and position.

New  
Business  
Discussion

President Tyke Nollman asked that members please fill out the survey that was distributed so that iYRA can get feedback on areas of strengths and weaknesses. Tyke noted the progress of this past year:

- State Championship Event that will continue to build energy. This event made money and the atmosphere and awards were a great improvement.
- Overall Networking – building relationships with other areas of IL
- Network – relationship build with USA, TU, LA

Vision of the future:

- Moving and building strengths of last year
- Growth in central, east and west
- Recruiting volunteers – coaches, players, support.
- Branding – image
- 501©3

Dan Marinico of Lake Forest asked if iYRA could produce clear written standards that would help with liability issues. Standards such as First Aid, Pitch guidelines, etc. Tyke suggested that we form a Legal Liability Committee. Members volunteering where Dan Marinico, Rick Turner and Ian Wagreich.

Discussion  
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Lana Bergman, Secretary, presented the bylaws that had a few changes to reflect 501©3 status and article 2.1, Organization Purpose and article 19 Dissolution of the iYRA. A copy of the bylaws was e-mailed to all members 30 days prior to this meeting. It was motioned, seconded and approved by voice vote. The Code of Conduct was then presented for approval. Changes were made and e-mailed 30 days prior to this meeting. It was motioned, seconded and approved by voice vote. Lana asked all members to please sign the Code of Conduct before leaving today.

The membership Contact list was distributed but members were asked to please use [www.iyra.org](http://www.iyra.org) web site to look up contact information as it will be the most up to date.

Coaching and Referee certification was brought up and members were urged to visit [www.irb.com](http://www.irb.com) for more information on levels of certification. David Hall asked for a showing of hands of those coaches interested in seeing if iYRA could ask USA Rugby to set up a coaches certification clinic here in Chicago. Almost all members raised their hands. David Hall will follow-up with this.

Des Jones had to leave the meeting early, so Lana reported that the CARFU Referee Society is anticipating a certification clinic both at the Loyola Facility on First avenue, one at the beginning of February and another at the beginning of March. More information will be available at a later date.

Ray Dempsey asked members to approve annual team dues for \$200 and it was motioned, seconded and unanimously approved. The deadline for the dues will be March 15. If teams were having hardships, they were asked to contact Ray and the iYRA will work with them on a case by case basis. It was requested that the girls and boys teams from the same school will need to pay dues separately this season. Everyone will be invoiced.

Tyke Nollman asked Fritz Miller from the Quad Cities to give us an update on his area rugby. Fritz mentioned that even though they are in Iowa, they don't have youth rugby near them and they would like to schedule friendlies. They have girls, boys and middle school. He mentioned that Muskateen had a beautiful artificial turf rugby pitch. They just want more games and said his players would be excited to leave the area to play other teams. Joe Goett of Peoria mentioned that they have fourth youth clubs that are looking to play as well.

Discussion  
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David Hall mentioned that the top 6 teams will be going to the Midwest tournament. Deadline is 1 month before Midwest Tournament.

Youth Clinics:

- Develop Middle School teams
- Build Youth Clinics
- Encourage clubs to have youth clinics
- Hoffman Estates park district youth clinic starting in fall '08
- Non-contact youth rugby – coach certified

Goals:

- 501©3
- Youth Clinics
- Encourage HS teams to have middle school teams
- Increase clubs 20%
- Expand Season
- Every Team reports scores

The Churchill Cup will be at Toyota Park on June 21. This will involve international teams from USA, Canada, England, Scotland and Ireland. It is hopeful that there will be youth involvement during this event.

Nolan Day, IL All State Tornados coach thanked the Executive Committee, coaches and Des Jones for a successful 2007 season. He stated that all coaches need to inform the Competition Committee if they have a team strong enough to go to the Midwest Tournament. We need to send teams in the best seeding. Nolan also mentioned that he needed prom dates and graduations dates for their schools. Nolan submitted his proposed budget for Executive Committee for reviewing, understanding, funding and approval.

Mike Pateras, Tier 2 coordinator announced that all Tier 2 coaches need to have their pitches available all 6 weeks, which means everyone will need to obtain 6 permits, but will only use 3. Games will be on Wednesdays, however, coaches can work out alternate dates to suit their schedules. Tier 2 will have a North and South division and Mike will continue to calculate standings for the 8 teams.

Larysa Santiago, Girls Coordinator stated that her goal for this season is to form a girls All State Select Side. The committee requested a proposal that included a budget. Larysa agreed to get that to the committee.

She mentioned that the girls had some problems with allocating referees, but the games got played.

Discussion  
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Ken Westergaard reported on Public Relations.

- Asked all coaches to e-mail him information about their local newspapers.
- Ken also asked coaches to create a media write up about the club including history about the club in case an article needed to be published immediately.
- He also asked if anyone knew the history of iYRA and when it began, please e-mail him.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.

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President