

# I.Y.R.A. Minutes

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Date: 1-13-07

Chair: Tyke Nollman

Time: 10:00am

Minutes: Lana Bergman

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## Attendance

Tyke Nollman, David Hall, Ray Dempsey, Lana Bergman, Tank O'Brien, Marty Perry, Jay Crawford, Michael Pateras, Paul Bergman, Chuk Riley, Nolan Day, Brian Rowan, Bob Gaggiano, Mike Holland, Mark Lancaster, Jody Ahlm, Magdalene Dale, Des Jones, Mark Johnson, Aaron Sweeney, Joe Tenbusch, Adam Kopp, Karen Kalicki, Steve Krause, Ken Westergaard, Bill Mullins, Ryan Gabey, Brian Newcomb, Allison Warrick-Allen and Mike Overturf.

## Discussion

Paul Bergman introduced the new executive officers. Tyke Nollman, President, David Hall, Vice President, Ray Dempsey, Treasurer and Lana Bergman, Secretary.

AthletiCo's Mike Overturf gave an overview of trainer and facility services.

Jay Crawford, Disciplinary chair, announced that Ray Dempsey will be joining the disciplinary committee and addressed the need for a third member. Bill Mullins volunteered his services.

Jay stated that the committee will be focusing on disciplinary guidelines.

Des Jones, HS Referee Allocations Secretary for the Chicago Area Referees Society addressed the members. Des reminded members about the Level I certification being held on February 11 and to pick up a flier at the door. Des mentioned that there were new referees added to their roster of 31. The following suggestions and comments were shared:

- Have a uniform layout of where teams and spectators are located on the field...ie teams on one side, spectators on the other
- suggests having radios with earphones for the coach, the visiting coach and the referee. (the referee would only be able to speak into the radio). The coaches could speak & listen.
- Consider having your matches filmed for feedback of game
- CIPP compliance
- Recommends a lightning detection device that sets off an alarm. The rules are to wait 30 minutes after each alarm.

Discussion  
(cont)

- There will be a new web site using a new software called ARBITOR which will randomly assign referees based on availability. Des will coordinate with Lana regarding communication and set up. Passwords will be assigned to each club.
- Requested a complete replacement of the front row.
- Des asked for patience with the time transition from tackle to ruck.
- There will be criteria of the use of disciplinary cards. There will be a philosophy on what this will be. (ie., stiff arm, tackle out of bounds, etc)
- Suggests that teams pay the referees \$60 per match this year, instead of the \$50 from last season.
- Des asked that the teams monitor the profane language on the field.

David Hall gave an overview of the USA Rugby Youth Conference that was held in Nashville, TN. A handout was given of the feedback collected at the conference. (Document attached and made a part of these minutes). Dave asked members to submit a team profile to him so he could coordinate a media release. He announced that we can accept tax deductible donations now as the Indiana Youth Rugby foundation will pass them through to us until we get our Foundation set up.

Paul Bergman reviewed the changes that were made in the by-laws which were approved in November of 2006. He brought up Article 3.3.9 which states each adult affiliated with a club must sign the "Code of Conduct". He stressed to read it, live by it and sign it. The Agreement will be e-mailed to all teams. The teams are responsible for having each adult leader sign the form and submit it to the IYRA Secretary.

It was clarified from Article 3.3.5 & 3.3.6 that one team representative can be both a certified Level 1 referee & a certified touch judge.

Paul mentioned that membership forms are in the process of being created.

Tyke Nollman stated that goals of the committee were to "Incorporate" the Association, set up a 501c3 charitable foundation and get a web site launched. He then asked the members for their "wish list" for short term, medium term and long term goals. The feedback was as follows:

- Getting a trainer at each match. David Hall will contact AthletiCo. Concern of having an option was addressed.
- Moving girls to the fall was discussed but was not decided at this time. It will be addressed again when there are more teams.
- Get purchasing contracts to help decrease costs and benefit all teams.
- Get IHSA recognition. This was met with mixed reviews.
- The Championship game last season had a huge turnout; however, there was no awards presentation or celebration.
- Market to the younger grades by having training camps. Chuck Riley mentioned a middle school clinic in St. Charles. (A curriculum to give to middle school PE instructors is part of a tool kit from USA Rugby)

Discussion  
(cont)

- Media coverage
- Irregular fields. (Dave will send a draft of field regulations to the competition committee.)

Ray Dempsey reviewed the financials. There is \$1,697.81 in the IYRA checking account. All members present were in agreement with setting up a 501c3 status. All members present were in agreement with filing the corporate fiscal year of July 1 to June 30.

Membership dues were discussed and Ray proposed \$100 annually. Tank O'Brien motioned to have these dues passed, Mary Perry second the motion and all members present agreed.

Tank O'Brien, Tier 1 Coordinator reviewed the Tier 1 Schedule. He stressed the importance of a commitment from teams for Nationals in Salt Lake City, UT. He also reminded everyone that daylight savings time is now March 11 which will allow for more daylight for games earlier in the season.

The competition committee will be meeting to discuss the playoff criteria.

Tank mentioned that we may use 3 top teams from East, 3 from West and 2 wild cards. The wild cards would be picked based on the point structure.

Adam Kopp suggested that teams play on a men's club pitch prior to a men's game. HS game would be a "curtain raiser" for the men's club, plus to players can stay and watch the clubs play.

Tier II Coordinator Michael Pateras asked all Tier II teams to let him know by January 31<sup>st</sup> if they will be competing this season. The schedule will then be ready by February 15. For those who do not meet the deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup>, it will be assumed that friendly games will be scheduled on your own. Brother Rice and Lincoln Way requested their 3<sup>rd</sup> sides be included in the Tier II schedule. This was approved by all members.

Nolan Day, the Boys All-State Team coach, asked all members to submit the graduation and prom dates from their individual schools. Nolan then went over his budget proposal (attached to and made a part of these minutes). It was announced that there will be a "skills day by position" try outs. He would like to see 2 to 3 players from each team at these tryouts as well as any films you take. Nolan requested a traveling trophy to be shared with Wisconsin when they play their Bowl game each year. The Championship game will be held in June (dates yet to be set by Elkhart officials). The Bowl game will be held during the weeks between the Championship game and the Midwest Tournament.

Tyke Nollman raffled 2 new rugby balls at the end of the meeting. Chuck Riley won.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:40pm.

Adjournment

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President

