

# I.Y.R.A. Minutes

Date: 1-14-12 ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING

Chair: Tom Peroulas

Time: 9:00am

Minutes: Lana Bergman

## Attendance

Attendance: Committee: Tom Peroulas, Tank O'Brien, Paul Bergman, Lana Bergman, Jay Crawford, Alan Burton and Vinnie Lapiana. Club Representatives: Arlington Stallions, Brother Rice, Chicago Hope Academy, Chicago South Side MS, Chicago Wapitit, Chillicothe, Cicero MS, Deerpath MS, Glen Ellyn, Elmwood Park HS, Fenwick, St. Ignatius, Lake Forest, Luther North, Mt. Carmel Rugby Club, Naperville Crusaiders, Naperville Warriors, Neuqua Valley, New Trier, Noble Street, Palatine, Plainfield Boys, Pritzker, Renegades, Rockford Ravens, Rowe-Clark, Schaumburg-Palatine Barbarians, Springfield Celts, St. Charles MS, St. Charles Boys, St. Charles girls, St. Rita, Sycamore, Twin City, Warrenville Warthogs, Waubonsie Valley Boys, West Suburban Barbarians, West Suburban Bulls.

## Discussion

Call to order by Tom Peroulas, Vice President

Roll call completed and the Summer meeting Minutes approved.

VP Report – Tom Peroulas

Announcing the Executive officers who are stepping down as follows:

Disciplinary chair, Tier 2 Coordinator, Tier 3 Coordinator, Girls Coordinator, Treasurer.

### 2011 accomplishments

To see the growth we've had has been pretty amazing.

5 high school all Americans

6 selected to U20

1 scholarship to Davenport

Year round rugby

Summer 7s

Fall girls and boys rugby (festival format)

Middle School program headed by Alan Burton

Rookie rugby is growing rapidly

New Frosh/Soph division with Vinny Lapiana

Girls are holding steady – Ann Schwab is taking over

MIDWEST Inaugural Rugby 7s event – Midwest was very pleased with the results.

Coach certification course

Tornados select side Canada

Chicago Rush half time exhibition game

Development:

A great source of opportunity, the IL AHPERD convention trained over 75-100 PE Teachers

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| Discussion<br>(cont) | <p>Community clinics and programs – we continue to generate interest. World Sports Chicago<br/>Summer camp</p> <p>iYRA Rookie rugby training<br/>Approved for CEUs for certified coaches through USA Rugby.<br/>Rookie rugby approved by Chicago Public Schools</p> <p>2012<br/>High School Boys Clubs:<br/>Albany Park<br/>Champaign County HS Rugby Phoenix<br/>Fenwick RC<br/>Luther North<br/>New Berlin Pretzels<br/>Shepard HS (Palos Hts)<br/>MIDDLE SCHOOL<br/>Warrenville Warthogs<br/>ROOKIE<br/>Chicago Western Suburban YR<br/>Chicago Northshore YR<br/>St. Charles Predators YR</p> <p>Key Dates 2012:<br/>Jan 28-29 - USA Rugby Development Conference. Bryce Elliot and Tom Pettit attending<br/>Feb 4 - CARFU AGM<br/>Feb 25-26 - Eagle Impact Rugby. David Fee hosting<br/>April 4 – season begins<br/>April 20-22 - Serevi Camp. TBD Eric Sanderson<br/>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in May is a 15's Tournament in Sycamore<br/>May 13 – Frosh/Soph Tournament<br/>May 28 - HS 15s Championship Lemont<br/>Highland Games 7s June 15 Itasca<br/>Firehouse 7s June 23 Lemont Nolan<br/>Lakefront 7s June 30 Milwaukee David Hall<br/>Great Lakes 7s Jul 7 Lemont Nolan<br/>Midwest YRugby 7s Jul 14 St. Charles David<br/>Lake County Summer camp June 18-22? Lake county Paul Acutt<br/>Tornados Tour July 25-Aug 12 UK, Europe Nolan Day<br/>World Sports Chicago Community Games Jul 28-Aug 12 Tom Peroulos – looking for volunteers. Games to coincide with the Olympics.</p> <p>7s Tournaments:<br/>Last year, St. Charles hosted the Midwest Tournament<br/>6 teams from IL, 1 from IN, 1 from OH . Midwest was pleased with the venue and management.<br/>Sycamore won the championship<br/>MW YR was pleased with venue and mgt<br/>Awarded the 2012 venue</p> |
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Discussion  
(cont)

Competition committee policy summary:  
- home & away parity - Tier coord. are going to make sure equity in home and away games.

make-up-match scheduling – coaches to plan the make-up match when scheduling regular match.

Promotion & Relegation –

Defining criteria

Team/side moves up to a Tier if:

- a) Won it's tier (2 years in a row) OR
- b) Won its tier in current year and has an average point differential of 28 points/game or greater in that division will move up a tier.
- c) TEAMS who elect not to move up will play “friendlies” and will not be eligible for playoffs.

Team/side moves down a Tier if it:

- a) finished last in current tier for 2 consecutive. year OR
- b) finished w/avg. point diff of  $\leq -28$  points/game for 2 consecutive years OR
- c) finished last in tier in current year AND had avg. point diff  $\leq 28$  OR
- d) Forfeited more than one match in their current tier due to insufficient numbers or refusal to play scheduled matches.

Spirit of the game standing points:

Monitoring red cards – disciplinary guidelines – 1 standing point for every match you get through without a red card. Incentive to coaches to run programs appropriately.

Monitoring referee abuse - tracking reports from referee society – from probation to expulsion for the rest of the season. These issues will be discussed at session breakouts.

Discussion was had on the points with accidental high tackles versus a player punching another player. There are concerns that red cards are called differently.

Disciplinary policies are going to be written.

Question was asked about teams who have to travel. It was explained that this is the rule and the expectation. It needs to be worked out when scheduling the game. It was also noted that members can petition the competition committee if they feel they can't follow these rules.

Tier 1 Coordinator stated that a B-side in Tier 1 is only required if the B side is playing in Tier 2. Currently there are no Tier 1 teams that have a B side for Tier 2.

Discussion  
(cont)

USA Rugby Coaching Certification Program is going to be introduced – USA Rugby HS. A little more accessible for coaches. Requires membership and in person training tied to the Federation of State HS Assoc.

First year there will be a cost, but over time it will be a renewal process and will cost less. We will have control over this. David Fee and Ryan McBride have been selected by USA Rugby as HS Cert instructors for IL

Development Priorities

Continued growth outside greater Chicago 6 county area

Get legs under new Rookie Rugby Programs

Continue PE Teacher training and Development

Penetrate the Chicago Public Schools (Tim Daly)

Continue and evolve community clinics

Engage in “Becoming a Man”. (An after school program in Chicago)

Lead “Summer Games”. We need volunteers

Gridiron Teams (Nolan Day) – to play in spring.

Build a 3 year strategic and financial plan

Dan Wiseheart – Chicago Public Schools. Professional Development Hours – seminar in feb. 2 tracks:

- how to get rugby in PE curriculum
- start a rugby team at your school

Flyer going out to 100 Chicago Public schools.

TREASURERS REPORT

In summary - we have \$13,000 in operating account – try to use for development purposes if we can.

Increased our ante for the coaches certification – ended up being a slight loss. It was a great event. Made money on our tournaments and development programs through some of the grants.

The summer program at Hyde Park - had a dozen kids who came through who had absolutely no other chance to play organized sport or anything positive outside of class and they really enjoyed it. It was a Positive and organized program and there was positive feedback.

Brendan Meany of Sherpard HS introduced himself and asked for 6 or 7 friendlies.

Dave – Chicago Rugby Alliance – growing in to non-profit. We want to include CARFU & iYRA in order to promote the game. Not taking away from iYRA – just supplementing. Collective bargaining entity – to benefit ALL mens, youth...etc. [dave@rugbyloop.com](mailto:dave@rugbyloop.com)

Discussion  
(cont)

CARFU REF SOCIETY – Tony Carr, President of Referee Society asked that members work with the referee society with schedules. We've shared some of our concerns about scheduling. We've had an increase in Saturday matches. It's hard to schedule Saturdays. The best thing we can do is to tap in to parents and players to get them involved in refereeing. Link on their web site – for coach feedback. Info goes directly to the executive committee.  
Tank – suggest referees to hand a card to coaches for feedback after each game.  
iYRA has a link to referee allocations on the club page.

It was asked if Tony could ask the referees to talk to the kids and correct them and to speak up – sometimes coaches can't hear. Tony said he will have a conversation with the referees.

Malcolm Hurcombe asked

1. Do you have more referees this year? – Tony's response – a few
2. Can you schedule games on Sundays? – Tony's response – We can schedule referees on Sundays.

Paul Berman stated – it behooves us to work as hard as we can to recruit referees....it can only help us. We're only going to grow.

The Referee certification class is an 8a – 3p day that would need classroom and outdoor area. Let Tony know if you would like to host.

Referee Abuse – we're trying to formalize a process. Which may be similar to what iYRA has put in place today, however, our executive committee will meet with iYRA executive committee to discuss further. We will have a better protocol in place. Jay mentioned that coaches need to coach...and not get caught up in refereeing during a game.

Red Card and soft red is same as last year. Information is on web site.

Referee Fees are going up. \$90 per match (up \$15 from last year)

BREAKOUT SESSION

All Tiers broke out in to separate sessions.

COMPLIANCE OFFICER – Paul Bergman

~ CIPP your players. IF you have a player on the field...practice or play...CIPP then.

Supplemental health policy for every one who is CIPPed. Coaches and Administrators need to be CIPPed. This is in our bylaws. Rugby CIPP year is Sept 1 to Aug 31.

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Discussion  
(cont)

Liability coverage when you are in compliance.  
~ Coaches Certification – USA Rugby generates a listing of certified coaches. It's not alphabetized...it's put in and grouped by workshop.  
~ Background checks – when you CIPP yourself, USA Rugby will do the background check. If somebody fails, getting something expunged is next to impossible. But USA Rugby regulates this. States can not. If you fail, you can not be involved in Youth or Collegiate level. You can file a grievance with USA Rugby. Youth level does not have an appeals process.  
Visit USA Rugby website. The policy on background checks is easy to find. There is an article on USA Rugby website to file a grievance.  
DISCIPLINARY CHAIR – Jay Crawford  
I'm stepping down as Disciplinary Chair. After being involved for 15 years, I've decided to take a back seat and appreciate being involved. I'm busy with my own club.

TORNADOS – Nolan Day, Head Coach  
We won the Midwest this year. Your work is paying off. We toured Canada. We beat the Ontario Select Side All Stars. We're very proud of this. I submitted our budget. It's the same as last year. No major changes, but we keep growing, we have 60 players in upper grade pool.  
We're stretching it out – we have more people involved in evaluating these kids. Finances are an issue for these kids – please go back to your clubs and try to allocate some funds for them for select side activities. Even a couple hundred bucks for Elkhart would be a great help.

UK tour England Wales & Scotland. \$2,525. We're staying 2 extra days. 6 matches. Olympic events. If you have players interested. We can take 25 players and have a few slots available.  
We probably have had 50 apply to go, but we can only take 25. We'll have another trial.

Feb 11 & 12, or 18 & 19 in chicagoland area...please let me know if I can have a venue.  
Greatlake 7s - Information will be on line.  
We also have a facebook page. We do morning postings. "Illinois Tornadoes2012".  
Our information is also on the iYRA website.  
Sunday practices will be posted on the website or open to everybody.  
Tim Graf is going to be working with us again, he was an Olympic sprinter.

CARFU Liaison – Lou Raymond  
College side rugby seems to be doing a better job of controlling behavioral stereotypes. CARFU is going to National Championships and you'll see a lot of our previous youth participating.

EVENTS – Norm Smythe  
Need volunteers for State Championship.  
I'm helping Nolan with getting an Ad book together for Tornados  
If you know any businesses who would like to Advertise in the rugby community, please let me know.

Discussion  
(cont)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Treasurer – (**Bill Ganon** appointed after the meeting, on recommendation by Bryce Elliot).

Girls Coordinator – **Ann Schwaab** – elected per unanimously vote

Disciplinary Chair – **Eoin Quade** (volunteered, but not present) – elected per unanimous vote

Tier 2 - **Bill Mahon** – elected per unanimous vote

Tier 3 N & S – **Rob Copland** – elected per unanimous vote

TIER TWO COORDINATOR – Michael Pateras

Mike Pateras reiterated that everyone here needs to get involved. We are trying to move away from coaches being involved in executive committee, it would be ideal to have volunteers outside of coaching.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COORDINATOR – Alan Burton

Alan had two handouts showing the growth of Middle school. (see attached). Going into our 4<sup>th</sup> year. Middle School games are a festival format. Alan encouraged teams to create a middle school program and reiterated that it doesn't take much to add a middle school program to HS clubs. We are a developmental league, not a competitive league. If you only have a handful of kids, we'll still get a game for you.

Tom Peroulas stated as rookie rugby starts to grow the continuity of the middle school program is there for the players.

Adjourn

No other business. No other questions or comments from members.

Meeting was then adjourned at 12:00pm. The Summer General meeting will take place on Sunday, August 19, 2012.

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Vice President, Tom Peroulas