

I.Y.R.A. Minutes

Date: 8-23-09 SUMMER MEETING

Chair: David Hall

Time: 1:00pm

Minutes: Lana Bergman

Attendance

Committee members: David Hall, Lana Bergman, Brian Gilmartin, Tank O'Brien, Jay Crawford, Michael Pateras. All-State Tornados coach, Nolan Day and Lou Raymond. Coaches and representatives from the following rugby teams: Arlington Stallions HS & MS, Batavia, Brother Rice, Deerpath Braves MS, GlenEllyn Ducks, St. Ignatius, Lake Forest HS, Mt. Carmel RC, Morton Mustang RC, Naperville Youth, Naperville Warriors RFC, New Trier HS RFC, Oak Park, Palatine RFC, Renegades HS RC, St. Charles MS, St. Charles Girls, St. Charles Boys HS RC, St. Rita HS RFC, Sycamore HS RFC, Waubonsie Valley Boys, Meeting hosts: John Houcharuk and Mike Overturf of AthletiCo. Guest David Surico from Premium Preps.

Call to order by David Hall

Discussion

There were 3 main issues this spring season.

There was a CIPP issue where a team was not CIPP registered. All registered players must be CIPPed. Much discussion was had on the revision of bylaw 5.2 to be read as follows:

"All teams and players must be CIPPed before participation. Any team that is not CIPP registered or plays a game with any player that is not CIPP registered will forfeit the game and will be awarded zero points in the league standing for that game."

The second issue was "Team Loyalty". Bylaw 5.7. It was a situation where a player asked to play for another team. Much discussion was had without resolution. It was agreed by all members that we table this discussion for the January 2010 general meeting.

The third issue was policy violation of playing a 5th year High School student.

David introduced David Surico from Premium Preps who was here to present his company to the members. Premium Preps is amateur & Prep on-line sports reporting. They covered the state championship the Boys Tornados and the Arlington Stallions this past season. They can provide publicity services, 2 stories per game, pre-game and game photos and will be able to do all games. \$100 per game, but can be split between each team at \$50 each. They can also do a

Discussion
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feature on a player and are very open to the type of coverage members want. They can do a "Game of the Week". Someone suggested selling photos taken to parents, due to the better quality of photos.

Paul Bergman reported that the Executive Committee decided to cancel the High Performance Clinic due to only 6 players being registered. He apologized for the loss of \$2,000 that we were unable to get back from the Field House rental. Paul said the time restrictions of athletes, in the summer, were underestimated. Paul stated that the instructors are eager and willing to be part of any future clinic the iYRA decides to host.

Paul also mentioned that coaches need CEUs for their certification and that iYRA can grant CEUs to members through our own workshops. This could also create a revenue source for iYRA by including people from outside iYRA. We will be the entity. 4 CEUs can be awarded that are not sanctioned through USA Rugby. Coaches will need 10 CEUs per year. We will need to have a CEU program.

Paul then proposed the need for a Compliance Officer as a part of the Executive Committee. iYRA is in need of someone to monitor compliances such as dues, CIPP, coach certification, etc. Paul handed out his proposal of issues of compliance and the ramifications. An e-mail of same proposal will be sent to all members. These are for review and open discussion via e-mail, with a final proposal to be presented at January 2010 meeting. All members voted unanimously to incorporate a Compliance Officer at the Executive level. Jay Crawford then motioned to nominate Paul Bergman as interim compliance officer until elections in January 2010. There were no other nominations. Motion was seconded and all approved Paul with unanimous vote.

David discussed the clarification of crossover of participation when teams have more than one side. Tank O'Brien, Tier 1 Coordinator stated that the B side competition worked well except for teams without enough players and having to use A-side players for the game which was then not allowed in competition. He stated B-Side needs to be better defined, needs more laws and more structure. Tier I teams need to commit to a B-side.

Definitions

Tier I – Every Tier I team must have a certified coach and a certified referee.

Tier II – Every Tier II team must have a certified coach and a certified referee, however, sanctions will not be heavily enforced.

Tier III – It is proposed to enter a Tier 3 program for all new clubs to Schedule their own friendlies. iYRA will be available to assist with

Discussion
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scheduling efforts. iYRA is trying to find ways to get other teams from other areas of the state involved in iYRA program. These new teams need to be in existence for 2 years and complete their games before being considered for moving up to Tier 2.

Middle School completed 5 weeks of competition this season. There were 6 teams. Next season, Wisconsin (SW Milwaukee), has asked to join the Middle School league. There will be 2 potential teams added next year, making the total 9 teams. Members voted on creating a Middle School Coordinator. It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to add this Executive position. Al Burton was nominated for Middle School Coordinator. No other nominations were presented. iYRA members voted unanimously for Al Burton to take on this role.

David Hall discussed the Centralization of Purchasing apparel as an option for clubs on their web sites. The club would establish prices and get a kickback. This is an option that David will look further in to at this time.

Nolan Day mentioned the importance of promoting rugby to big name sponsors if the Olympics were to come to Chicago and rugby being on the sports venue. Nolan will establish a Task Force.

David Hall reported on the State Based Organization. David and Brian Gilmartin attended the SBO meeting where 10 to 11 other states were in attendance. The goal is to centralize youth rugby in Illinois under one body iYRA. It is hoped that with revenue generated we can create the position of Executive Director that would be a compensated position. The state would be responsible for coach certification, USA dues and CIPP. iYRA members voiced concerns in restructuring from a Club sport into a fully functioning IHSA sport.

Jeff Winterkorn, Project Coordinator gave his report. He stated the State Championship went well as far as team aspects and profitability. Volunteerism was the key issue and is critical to the success of the event. Next year will be focused on volunteers and earlier planning. Jeff asked for e-mail feedback on state championship. Jeff reported that the USA Rugby Coaching Clinic was attended by 28 people. 18 for the intro and 10 for the developmental portion of the clinic. A majority of those attending were iYRA members. Jeff stated that he will be attending the Northern Illinois Convention Bureau's "Sports Huddle" in Lincolnshire. They will present land usages. Jeff will report what he finds. Jeff voiced his concerns for our distribution list and wants to create better access. He also mentioned the importance of updating Lana with e-mail addresses.

Discussion (cont)	<p>David reported that iYRA has been working with Park Districts. Al Burton handled 3 camps this summer. Hoffman Estates, Palatine and Lake Barrington. David also stated that iYRA will be promoting Rookie Rugby.</p>
	<p>Nolan Day, Boys Tornados Coach, reported that 18 clubs sent players and 90 players signed up for tryouts. 60 ended up taking the field for the Cody Cup, Elkhart and Windsor.</p>
	<p>Tank O'Brien, Tier 1 Coordinator reported that 25 games were played with 1 game not getting played. This one game was weather related but did not have an impact on playoffs. Tank mentioned that there will be a Nov 1 deadline to inform Tier 1 and 2 coordinators of requests to move tiers.</p>
	<p>Mike Pateras, Tier 2 Coordinator, reported that he ran the same division structure. Many teams were on the schedule and one "blip" in the schedule made for huge problems. Mike asked members to come up with 2 to 3 options for issues of game cancellations and replaying games before the last scheduled game of the season. He asked that these options be brought to January 2010 meeting.</p>
	<p>Mark Johnson volunteered to coach the All State Women's Tornados, which has not been launched as of yet. Mark stated that the Midwest Girls Championship was held in St. Charles this year and looks like the venue will be St. Charles again next year.</p>
	<p>Jay Crawford, Disciplinary Coordinator, reported that the big disciplinary issues were brought to Executive Committee. These issues were discussed at the beginning of today's meeting. No Red cards issued this year. Jay reiterated the monitoring of language in chants and cheers. All issues need to be handled right and in a safe manner.</p>
	<p>An iYRA member mentioned that iYRA has no "due process". David Hall has asked the Legal Committee to address the language for "due Process" procedures.</p>
Adjourn	<p>David mentioned that iYRA has registered for a booth at the IL Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Pheasant Run.</p>
	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.</p>
	<hr/> <p>Vice President</p>

