RBWLO Board business meeting held on April 22, 2018 at St. John Fisher College.

Meeting was called to order by Colleen Spiegelhoff.

The board welcomed the USL Rochester Board President Al McLiverty. He made a presentation about all the things that the USL Rochester Chapter is doing for the players, coaches and officials. They promote, support and help fund many activities and training throughout the Rochester area.

The board welcomed 2 coaches from Section V who attended by invitation the RBWLO business meeting. The coaches attending were Anthony Yandek from Mercy and Andy Lee from Waterloo. The coaches were given 6 questions. The first was on incidental contact in the midfield and how it compares to dangerous play and their concerns that officials are making the correct call. Their main concern regarding this is that some teams may be fouling on purpose in the midfield. They thought that the officials should be making this call if the fouls are repetitive in order to keep the game safe. The second question is what their perspective was of good coach-official communication. They both agreed that if the official acknowledges that they have heard the coach even if they cannot respond immediately. A simple response such as an “I hear you” rather than just ignoring the concern of the coach. They were asked if they thought that the officials were managing the games consistently and they both agreed that the game management was very consistent and neither one had any concerns. The forth question that was given to them was the point of emphasis of illegal defensive positioning and if the officials are emphasizing this rule. They both agreed that for the most part this is being called. There have been some concerns that these calls are not being made early in the game and that some officials are waiting until the end to start making these calls. The next question poised to the coaches was if they feel that making professionalism a point interest has changed the way officials, coaches and players conduct themselves. They both felt that “leading by example” has been noticeable and has had a positive impact on the game. The final question was if there were specific areas of game management that still need to be addresses. They both agreed that the flow of the game and the calls need to be consistent. They thought that maybe give a brief explanation as to what the foul was especially to the JV and modified levels so that they can understand the game a little better.

The coaches were thanked for their input and for taking time to meet with the board.

Motion to approve minutes from the February 26, 2018 business meeting was made by Jill McCabe and seconded by Refik Nuhanovic. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Jen gave a Treasurers report. She stated that there about $11,200.00 in the RBWLO account. She reported that all of the dues have been paid. She also stated that there are several bills that still need to be paid.

Ratings have commenced and everyone who needs to be rated has been contacted. If any official is unsure of when they need to be rated, they can contact Ellen. Colleen stated that Irondequoit will not be an option for rating. Irondequoit will be used to train apprentices.

Jason reported that the assigning so far for this season has been very smooth with little issues. He said that the best way to communicate to him is through email. He has completed the assigning through May 4th. Sectionals are scheduled to start on May 19 with pre-quarter finals. Jason said that upcoming youth events are requesting certified officials to be assigned to their events.

Jason suggested that all officials look at the rule book for the procedures to follow in case of increment weather. If there is a lightning delay, the officials need to make sure that they know where the ball is so that play may resume when the delay is over. A game is considered complete if at least 80% has been played.
Steve Simon talked about 2 different opportunities for officials. He sent around a sign-up sheet for Muddie Buddies. It will be held this year on June 3rd from 8 am to 5 pm at Brighton High School. Officials may use this for service credit or they may accept the fee of $30.00 per game. The RALL league also has opportunities for officials to work and learn the 3 person system. The league will commence in June and will be played at St. John Fisher on Monday and Wednesday nights.

Jill gave an update on Rules Interpretation. She explained that a body ball is a minor foul and that it must be a deliberate attempt use the body to stop the ball. Incidental contact is not a foul. Players are also allowed to kick the ball. Jill also said that if an official calls a time out because they believe that a player is injured, that player must leave the field.

Colleen said that service credit has been reinstated for the current season. Officials are required to obtain 3 credits per season. An opportunity to get one credit will be given to all those who vote in the upcoming elections. Voting will be through Google. Colleen also said that there will be an upcoming training webinar on the 3 person system. This is another opportunity to receive a service credit.

There are several positions that are to be voted on. The positions and the nominations are:

- Secretary – Kathy Brown
- Treasurer – Jen Dreywood
- Assignor – Jason Brightful
- Sub Assignor – Frank Marino
- Rules Interpreter – John Natti
- Training Coordinator – Beth Angus
- Rating Coordinator – Ellen Fanning
- Service Coordinator – Chris Pessagno (declined the nomination)
- Member at Large – Refik Nuhanvic
- Sportsmanship Coordinator – Steve Simon
- USL Chapter Rep. –

All nominations must be submitted no later than May 22, 2018 via email to Kathy Brown at kmcbrown@rochester.rr.com.

Motion was made by Paul Wood to adjourn and seconded by John Natti. Motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:27.