RBWLO Board business meeting held on April 23, 2017 at St. John Fisher College. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Colleen Spiegelhoff.

The board welcomed 3 coaches from Section V who attended by invitation the RBWLO business meeting. The coaches attending were EJ Burse from Pal-Mac, Anthony Yandek from Mercy and Wayne Smith from Penfield. The coaches were given 6 questions. The first was on the new draw rule. All of the coaches thought this was a positive change and like this new rule. They did not think that there was anything different from previous years being called with the dangerous contact calls. The coaches thought that the game management was good. The calls being made are consistent and communication between the coaches, players and officials was good. They felt as though the communication between the coaches and officials had improved. When asked if offensive calls were being made, they thought that the calls were about the same as last year. They did have a concern about illegal picks not being called. The coaches also did not like that butt checks on the stick were not being called.

After addressing the questions that they were given, the floor was opened for the officials to ask questions and address concerns that the officials have. A question was asked on how the coaches pick officials for their sectional games. One of the coaches said that he likes officials who replicate the way he coaches. Another question was if they were concerned with the transition, speed and calls made in the center of the field. All of the coaches agreed that there is no cause for concern. They stated that section V officials did a good job with transition and calls being made. The officials had concerns of the players having mouth guards that were legal and that the players kept them in at all times. There was also a concern regarding the markings on the field. The coaches realize that this is a concern and suggested that the athletic directors be contacted regarding the incorrect and lack of markings on the fields. The officials would like for the coaches to work on how far 4 meters is with the players. When asked what the coaches thought was not being called, they stated that they thought that 3 seconds was not being called consistently or it was being called incorrectly by the officials.

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

Motion to approve minutes from the February 27, 2017 business meeting was made by Jen Dreywood and seconded by Jill McCabe. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Jill reviewed the correct procedure for stick checks. The stick should be at eye level when the ball is put into the pocket. The ball is to be pushed down once. The ball also needs to roll freely out of the stick from the end.

Colleen gave a Treasurers report. She stated that there about $8,500.00 in the RBWLO account. There are raters and other bills that have not yet been paid.

Ellen reported that ratings were set to begin this week. The highest rating that a high school official can received is a level 2. The rating form and letter will be sent to the raters this week. The officials who are being rated should look at the rating form to see what the raters will be looking for. The rating will be good for up to 3 years. All the officials who need to be rated this year have been notified.

Steve Simon asked that all the officials do the sportsmanship survey for all levels and teams that they have games with. If a team is given a rating of 2 or less, there needs to be a comment as to why they were given that rating. He also reported about a couple of upcoming opportunities for officials. Muddie Buddies will be held this year on June 4th at Brighton High School. The fee for this event will be $30.00 per game. RALL also has opportunities for officials. More information on RALL can be found on their website RALL.org. There will also be opportunities for officials to learn the 3 person game this summer with the GALL league. This will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.
Jill gave an update on Rules Interpretation. She suggested that officials have a cheat sheet with them that states the difference between modified, JV/Varisty and college rules. She also suggested that pregame procedures be reviewed in part 2 of the manual. If the field markings are not correct, an email should be sent to either Colleen or Jason so that they can address it with the school. A conversation should take place between the officials to discuss on ball and off ball. If during the stick check, a player has an illegal stick, they should step to the side to correct their stick so that it can be checked again. If thongs are broken they can be fixed by taping them. Also the officials need to make sure that all mouth guards are legal and that they are worn at all times when the players are on the field.

The table on the field must have someone at it before the game begins. The officials need to ask as soon as they arrive at the field if the coach has someone at the table. The game is not to begin until someone is at the table.

Jason updated the board on assigning information. He told the board that he tries not to assign officials to the same teams back to back. He also tries not to assign officials to games that are far from they live because of Section V not paying mileage anymore.

With the changes in the way that games are being assigned and accepted, Jason reported that if an official needs to decline a game, they need to send him an email. Arbiter now has the ability to automatically accept games once they have been submitted. Officials no longer have to accept or decline their games. The new games are listed on the top until the page has been viewed and submitted. Several officials are being assigned games on the same day at different sites. Officials are asked to contact their partner and the coach if they are traveling from one site to another and there is a possibility of arriving late to the second location.

Discussion and approval of the Off Season Document has been tabled until the next meeting.

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

Chairperson – Colleen Spiegelhoff
Chair Elect – Steve Simon
College Representative – Beth Angus
Sportsmanship Coordinator – Steve Simon
USL Chapter Rep. – Jill McCabe and John Natti
Rec Assignor (pending approval of the off season document) – Steve Simon, Jason Mohr, Frank Marino

All nominations must be submitted no later than May 23, 201 via email to Kathy Brown at kmcbrown@rochester.rr.com.

Motion was made by Beth Angus to adjourn and seconded by Chris Pessagno. Motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:51.