RBWLO Board Meeting April 26, 2015 at St. John Fisher College.


Meeting was called to order at 6:34 by Don Smith.

Motion to approve minutes from the February 23, 2015 business meeting was made by Paul Wood and seconded by Carl Davis. Motion passed and minutes were approved.

Don said that USL would like to use this board as a trial for an endurance test for officials. This test would not be a determining factor for ratings and it is for data purposes only. It is on a volunteer basis and the volunteers would run for 12 minutes to see how far they could run. It was requested that this was done 2 times, once at the beginning of the season and again at the end of the season. It was suggested that the volunteers team up to do this. Paul Wood, Steve Simon, Shannon Kelley and Kathy Brown volunteered.

Steve Simon spoke about the “Muddy Buddy’s” tournament that is to be held on May 31, 2015. He sent a sign-up sheet around. This is held in Brighton and the participants are from 1st and 2nd grade to middle school. Officials will receive service credit. The proceeds from this tournament will go to kids with cancer.

Steve also reported that the sportsmanship site has been updated and is sent for the 2015 season. He encouraged all to submit their information.

The board recognized 2 of its members. John Natti is to be inducted into the Geneva Athletic Hall of Fame. Jill McCabe was recognized for all of her help with securing St. John Fisher for all of the meetings and training sites. The board made a $100.00 donation on her behalf to the St. John Fisher soccer program.

Game day procedure was reviewed. Once an official has accepted a game on Arbiter, they are to contact their partner and decide what uniform they will be wearing. Arbiter should be checked every day for any changes that may occur.

Stick check procedure was also reviewed. Officials are to take time and review the pictures of legal and illegal sticks that are on the RBWLO web site under the rules link, rules interpretation. When a coach requests to have a stick checked during the game, they must give the number of the player of whom the stick that they want to be checked. The official is to put the ball in the pocket and slightly push it down. They should also be facing the coach who requested the check. Any stick that is deemed to be illegal during the game is to be put on the table and may be rechecked during the halftime.

Officials were told to only charge mileage that would be due. Riding together if possible is encouraged. Officials are entitled to tangent miles if they ride together. If an official has 2 games in 2 different
locations, they are to charge the first school mileage from their home (or work) to the second school location and the second school from that location to their home. Double dipping the schools for mileage is not allowed.

Game day delays and postponements due to the weather were reviewed. The first concern for all officials is to get all the players off the field and to a safe place. A game can be considered complete when 80% has been played (10 minutes or less remaining on the game clock). The game can resume 30 minutes after the last lightning strike sighting has been observed. If the game is resumed, the teams will be allowed no more than 15 minutes of warmup again. The officials are to take a mental note of where the players are and where the ball is if the players are to leave the field. This is how the play will be restarted. The official also must notate the time on the clock, the score, and who has possession of the ball.

When the game is postponed due to the weather the following procedures need to be followed. The officials need to make note of the score, the time remaining on the clock and whether it is the first half or second half. They also need to make note of the team in possession of the ball, the cards issued (team, player number, infraction, time card was issued), team timeouts remaining and how many stick checks each team has remaining. This will all need to be recorded in the home team’s scorebook.

This information must also be entered in Game Report in the Arbiter: decide which official will input the Game Report; change the Status to "Rainout"; enter teams and their respective score; enter all other game notes under "Comments" of Game Report. Jason is to be emailed once the game report has been completed. Jason will then email the officials on the rescheduled game to check the game report (yellow icon) for the details on resumption of the game.

Rescheduled Suspended Game Assignments: The YELLOW icon in the "Notes" column of a game assignment indicates it is a rescheduled "Suspended" game. Assigned officials should click on the YELLOW Game Report icon to view the game resumption details.

MJ asked that those who need to be rated let her know it they were rating in season or at the Irondequoit tournament. She also stated that all the officials who rated during the season would be paid by the board and not by the schools.

Chris Pessagno went over the requirements of receiving service credit. To be in good standing with the Board, all officials must submit service credit on RBWLO web site. It is required that officials get 3 credits per calendar year. A request must be submitted to another official for confirmation. Chris will receive verification via email that the request was submitted.

Steve mentioned that service credit can be received during the summer by officiating at Aquinas during the GULL league. Officials will have the opportunity to learn and work with the 3 person system. This will commence on June 2, 2015.

There will be an opportunity for L2 and L3 officials to be considered for post season play for semi-finals and finals. A training session for L2 and L3 rated officials to learn the 3 man system will be held. Those interested are to email Jason. The training will be held on May 3, May 9, and May 17 with the session on May 9th being a mandatory session for all who are interested. To be considered, officials must pass a 20 question test and post their picture on Arbiter. Each coach involved in post season will have the
opportunity to select 3 officials that they want and 3 officials that they do not want to officiate their game.

Carl went over some of the game situations, questions and concerns that have occurred during the season so far. He stated to take special notice of mouth guards. They must cover all of the teeth. Also, the players are not allowed to play with “gauges”. They are considered to be jewelry and are not allowed. Goalies should be checked to make sure that they do not have any earrings on under their helmets. False starts occurring in the critical scoring area need to be blown up immediately. All the players are to return to where they were originally with the player committing the offense going 4 behind.

Carl also wanted to make sure that all the officials understood that when a player receives 2 yellow cards during a game, she is disqualified for that contest only. If a player receives a red card, they are disqualified for the remainder of that game as well as the next one. Disqualification forms need to be sent out to the Board Chairperson, Section V Executive Director, Section V Coordinator and the School League Coordinator within 24 hours. Carl also told that NYS has a waiver for uniforms in effect. A violation of the uniform should not be enforced especially with the JV and modified teams as they usually get the hand me downs from the varsity teams.

Carl stated that cards are to be issued when a stick hits a player during a follow through. When a coach requests that a player stick is check after a goal is scored, they are to give the official the number of the player. If the stick of the player that scored the goal is found to be illegal, the goal does not count and the stick is to put at the scorer’s table and is to remain there until half time when it can be rechecked by the officials. When doing a youth game the 3 second call should be audible and there should be a visible count for the players.

The Board received a stipend for $2500.00 to help with new official expenses from USL.

The post season meeting will be held on June 9, 2015 at Eddie O’Brien’s in Farmington. At this meeting the following positions will be up for election; Chair, Chair Elect, Sportmanship Coordinator, Rochester USL Representative, Sub Assignor, Member at Large, and College Board Representative. The Chair and the Chair Elect position will be 2 year positions. The remaining positions are for 1 year.

The following nominations were made:
Chair: Colleen Spiegelhoff
Chair Elect: Ellen Fanning
Sportmanship Coordinator: Steve Simon
Rochester USL Representative: Paul Wood, Jill McCabe
Sub Assignor: MJ Vrooman, Don Smith, Frank Marino
Member at Large: Refik Nuhanovic
College Board Representative: Steve Simon

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.