November 16, 2013

RUGBY CONNECTICUT FALL MEETING

START TIME 2:20 PM

BILL BISHOP and ED MATTEO PRESENTING

Attendance sheet signed. Clubs represented: Aspetuck RFC, Amity, Cheshire Boys, Girls, and Youth, Simsbury Boys and Girls, Southington Boys and Girls, Fairfield Prep, Fairfield, Old Greenwich RFC, New London boys and girls, West Hartford, Madison, Drive2Succeed, Staples HS, and Darien HS

**2013 year in review**

* Highlighted state champions, 25% growth, high performance representatives from CT, Youth Development Officer hiring, 5013C status - no questions, no comments
* Competition committee – ad hoc committee this summer addressed changes . Coaches drive the competition committee. One for boys, one for girls, one for Youth.
* Youth Development Officer- Andrew “Mo” Marullo runs Drive to Succeed. Mo is filling Youth Director role right now. Getting into high schools, YMCAs, boys/girls clubs. Mo is going to AHPERD conference next Thursday and Friday. Goals for Mo, build relationships with PE teachers etc. so that they will allow him in to discuss and demonstrate rugby
* Financials Sponsorship by HSBC was key to financial viability. State is in good shape but need to raise more money to grow game 501-3C clubs should be able to use that for tax exemption

**2014 Goals**.

* Drive more youth events. Need to get younger kids playing rugby.
* Build 7/8th grade. Get 7s going in summer.
* Tryon Rugby – Girls growth initiative
* 5 year growth plan. To be recognized by CIAC. Need to step in that direction.
* Make rugby mainstream. improve rugby’s image. an i.e. medical personnel present at games is required. Protect and build image as a safe sport and kid focused.

**Safety**

* Having proper medical people and being certified is what needs to be done.
* Showing the kids and documenting what you are teaching the kids important.
* Each program level needs a level 200 coach. At least one on each staff/team. Can you take the 200 without taking the 100? No.. You can take the 100 online. 100 includes background check. JV and Freshman coach needs 100? Yes. ((Head coach needs 200? Yes.
* **Southington offered to do Level 200 in spring.**
* (how do we fit in with CIAC? Concussion training… you can send your certificate in and that will be sufficient. You can join CIAC Coaches Association for $35. )
* New – level 150. USAR is trying to put Rugby in a grade base. In January they will come out with grid of preferred handling.

**Code of conduct and Safety Document** –

* To be reviewed and signed by all head coaches. We are being proactive by putting policies in place. Each head coach will have to sign and send in. Code of Conduct… Coach requirements. Steering committee will finalize after review. Disciplinary committee involved in that. Document is pretty close to done. (Will there be something to give to players? Good idea. ((can we have one for the players to sign? Makes sense. ((U13 coach made players sign one this year. Should we standardize that? Give to competition committee to handle. ((Field set up in CA was an issue. ((Norbert – thinks its vitally important to have ropes up. Up to head coach to set the standard s for players and fans – Maybe give something to parents as well. Again – steering committee to set up.

**Referee development**

* Need to grow that area as well since the game is growing. High school kids would be good to get certified. One of the larger issues last yet was the referee assignments. Respect for refs – cannot tolerate ref abuse… at all. Need to keep mouth shut as coaches. Nerrs – we’ve been getting better refs. Spring and Fall courses every year to continue to develop refs. B matches need assigned refs. Last spring there was an issue with referee availability at the U15 level- referee shortage and communication issues .
* There are online touch judge classes that parents or others can take.

**Calendar review**

* USAR Development conference February 21-24 in Philadelphia. Highly recommended that people go.
* Thank you to Mark Stepsis for putting together schedule, etc. Mark consulted with several people before putting together document and schedule.

**Rugby CT Org Structure**

* Graeme Lindsey has been a huge help setting up our governance including bylaws.
* Executive Board has 2 people(EM & BB). Need more people to step up. Secretary and treasurer positions really need to be filled.
* Grant request – put in to have more help with the admin part. 2009 – 10 teams. Now 20 plus. As we grow, so does administrative work. EM term Is up next year and he will not be re-committing.
* Gary Mazut doing great job with the website.
* Boys HS Competition committee for 2014 – Chaired by Mark Stepsis- Fairfield Prep, Nate Gallow-Amity, Matt Golchin- Southington, Mark Downes- Fairfield, John McCarthy-Darien
* Girl’s competition committee- to be chaired by Chris Carvallo-Southington. Ally Valenti and Mike Hale- Cheshire, Doc Spada and Denis Horrigan-Simsbury, and Shannon-New London. Schedule set and state tournament date in late May set.
* DC Committee- Chaired by Norbert Desauliers. Red card automatic game suspension or 7 days – There is an appeal process.
* Youth Committee- Chair tbd. Kris Bickell (Cheshire) will organize non-contact events. Discussed age vs. grade- will follow Met NY at age grade level for now. Waiting for USAR guidelines otherwise

**Miscellaneous**

* Link will be sent for everyone to enroll as a coach so that all information is updated for each person. Fill out sections and send back.
* Spring there will be a preseason meeting in February. EM will try to get the concussion specialist in here to speak during that meeting.
* General session adjourned at 3:50pm
* Competition committee breaks outs held: hs boys, hs girls, and youth program