

Fairfield County Football League – May Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 5/7/14

Meeting commenced at 7:30pm

Accepted the April meeting minutes. All minutes are now up to date and posted on the FCFL website.

Norwalk Youth Football called Tom Grace and they will stick with CVL/AYF for now. Not prepared to make a move though could be a real possibility next year.

FCFL is officially registered as a league with USA Football. All towns should receive an email invitation to join. Everyone must accept. This will allow FCFL to see which coaches are certified, etc.

Big discussion around whether collecting birth certificates should be mandatory. Towns can collect and scan them into their systems. Most were against it as being too difficult to do. It's already tough enough to get the medical waivers. Parents may oppose it. The way it was left is, towns must each certify through registration all their kids are age compliant for their grade. Registration systems should collect birthdates and be verified or "check the box". If a coach or town questions the age of a player from an opposing town, that town has 72 hrs to present a birth cert to prove the kid in question is of age. The accusing town must put the request in within 24 hrs of the game. These time frames were all suggested but nothing exact was formally agreed upon.

The NC/Ridgefield playoff game dispute/grievance was finally put to rest and the matter consider closed. Tom Grace sent a letter to both organizations.

It was also unanimously agreed that, going forward, as a result of Ridgefield feeling they were "blindsided" by NC's accusation of a matter they felt was already previously resolved, any new business must be submitted to the board at least 24hrs in advance of a board meeting.

We need to set the date for the HS springs meeting/session. Staples spring dates were 10 days between 5/29 - June 11. Weston will not conduct springs this year due to a new coaching staff. Towns with springs need to email Carm the dates ASAP so we can nail a couple dates down for coaches to attend.

NC wants a kid to play up on the fall 6th, who is staying back in 5th at St. Lukes. No one opposed it.

Effective immediately, the two officers on the new checking account will be Tom Grace (current President) and Carmen Roda (Treasurer). Anyone else currently listed will be removed from the account. The intention will then be to add the independent treasurer/accountant once identified. The bank account would always have that indie person and 2 active officers. We then can change the individuals as needed. (e.g. - if new President want to be on the account, he can replace outgoing Pres, etc)

Voted and passed the new rules/policy changes submitted by the rules/policy committee at the April board meeting. Effective for the 2014 season.

The following passed:

- 1) 6th Grade to mirror the 7th grade offensive and Defensive formations
- 2) Increase the game time from 11 minutes to 12 per quarter.
- 3) Allow for the use of an electronic devise on the sidelines for play counting (EX: IPAD or iPhone) This is being encouraged for all teams
- 4) Team Balance
 - a) If 2 or more players stay back in a grade, they must be split equally between the team from the town in the division.
 - b) The FCFL Policy / Rules Committee will review all teams after the 4th week for balance. If the committee is does not feel the teams are balanced then action may be taken. At the end of the season, the Policy/Rules committee will review all grades/ teams for balance. If towns with multiple teams are found not to be balanced (after a review and inquiry) then that town will be forced to shuffle 50% of the roster in the next season.
- 5) To be placed in every grade, Illegal Helmet Contact will be penalized as a 15 yard personal foul from the point of contact
 - A. Any contact to the opponent's helmet (including the facemask) by the opponent
 - B. Any initiation of contact by either the offensive or defensive player using his helmet (including facemask)
- 6) Game balls
 - a) Have consistency on the playing ball brand/type - New Canaan to research
 - b) You must use the same ball of a PAT or Punt as you are using in a game, CANNOT SWITCH
- 7) Mercy Rule - Increase from 16 to 17

FOR CONTINUED DISCUSSION AND CLARIFICATION DURING SPRING MEETING WITH HS COACHES

Allowed defenses vs. a live PAT or FG: the rule states that you have to run an approved defense vs a PAT or FG however, teams were consistently lining up all players on the LOS and rushing the kicker with overloaded defenders etc. Need to send out clarification on allowable defenses.

Clarify if you line up for a live PAT and fake it successfully, it's worth 2 points? **fake PAT is only worth 1 point because it was not kicked.**

5-2 defense: many teams still interpreting that a MLB is acceptable with an odd front. The language appears clear but a significant amount of teams were utilizing MLB's and deploying LB's wide of the tackles. Need to send out communication so everyone is on the same page...

Jamming receivers: the language is unclear on this. We need to discuss and agree on whether this is allowed, currently teams are inconsistent in their interpretation on how wide(of the DT) a DE can set up and jam a receiver. **PER HS RULES,**

The following did not pass R/P committee, therefore were not brought to the full board for a vote:

-Allow electronic communication from the press box to the coaches on the field.

-Increase the play count to all grades to 15 plays per player.

- 1) If the above does not pass then increase the play count to 12 plays on the 7th and 8th grade no matter the size of the team.

-Take out the unlimited weights on the top end

-If mercy rule stays at 16, and the losing team pulls takes out players from the winning team, the losing team cannot win

-Increase the 8th grade unlimited weight to have parity to the other grades - TABLED

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Submitted by:

Tony DePasquale
Secretary