

Fairfield County Football League – October Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 10/1/14

Meeting Commenced at 8:23pm. There were 11 total reps in attendance.

Tom mentioned that an E vote approved a motion to go back to 11 min quarters.

Tom passed around a Peoples Bank statement showing a balance of \$10,500. Tom was going to ask Carmen, who was not in attendance if all towns had paid the additional \$200 per town to cover the new Officers and Directors insurance. He seemed to think not everyone had paid.

Tom mentioned that the FCFL Constitution was still not updated and posted and the 501c3 was not completed. We discussed distributing some more responsibilities to other members so it all didn't fall on just one or two people.

There was also discussion about scheduling of the refs and that Jerry only wants to deal with one person for the entire league. We would have to decide who would be given that responsibility, to make sure he had the weekly schedule and any subsequent changes.

Briefly discussed that a compromise was reached between Weston 7 vs Darien 7 White to move the 11am game being played on Yom Kippur to 4pm. Weston said they would need to forfeit for lack of players do to the holiday, but could not do Sunday either and requested Monday. Darien could not do Monday so they settled on 4pm.

This opened up a discussion lead by Mitch that if a team is scheduled to play on Sat like the Weston 7 team and can't play on Sat, then the game must be played Sunday. They can't say, but we can't play on Sunday either, which was the case here. This would also apply to the Sat only teams, whether in season or during the scheduling process, that if a Sat only team could not play on Sat for any reason, or their game was cancelled (i.e.- weather) then they need to be able to play it on Sunday. It creates too many issues and the example given was the Wilton 8 Blue/Darien 8 White, had their Sat 9/6 game cancelled because of the storm, but Darien would not play Sunday because of Sat only status and the game could not be played Mon or Tues (as per the rules say game must be played by Tues or both teams get a loss) for whatever reason they had, and the game was subsequently never made up.

Which opened the discussion of whether the teams should both get a loss as per the rules or both get a bye. Wilton said they tried and should both get byes. We left it where the rules/policy committee would receive info from both towns on why the games could not be played Mon or Tues and then decide what to do. If an exception should be made.

This topic would be discussed in next year's meetings.

Discussion on any team balance issues and the two brought up were the Darien 6th, where NC felt one team was clearly much better than the other, not just in record by level of talent. The weaker team had no or min wins the last 3 years so it's not just a fluke for this year. Darien said they would look into it.

The other was the Fairfield 5th that has 3 teams, 3-0-1, 0-3-1 and 1-2-1. Fairfield ran through their schedule and scores of games of the weaker team and showed it was because of the strength of their schedule and that the teams are closer matched than the records show.

These teams and all would be reviewed after the season ended to see of action needs to be taken during the offseason for next year (e.g. - shuffle 50% of roster as per the new rules)

We took a vote that passed unanimously in favor- that a play in which a penalty takes place does not count towards the min play count.

Discussed clarifying the 50 front and that if you deply a NG, then you cannot have a MLB. The LB's must stay no tighter than the OG and no wider than the OT. If you have a def player and he is at least 6 yds back, then he is not considered a MLB, he's a safety and that's permitted.

It was determined that the spirit of the rule was written to prevent a MLB and ensure 2 LB's in the box, i.e. preventing 5 defensive backs. ("nickel D")

The big loop hole is that, even with the LB alignment restrictions left and right, there is no restriction to how deep those two LB's can play. This would be re looked at off season as to possibly be re-written to remove the loopholes.

Wilton asked for a waiver of suspension for a player ejected from the Wilton white team against their game against NC. They argued the ref made an overzealous call to player being asked to sit out and cool down when that player yelled something negative to his coach not the ref. The ref thought it was directed at him and threw him out. The play that lead to this was actually a personal foul on the NC kid and those two players had gone at it all game. Wilton wanted an exception to suspension based on a safety issue. Both the Wilton teams are down to 16 players and if this team had to play their next game without this kid, they would be playing with only 14 players, and possibly less, and that would pose a safety issue. He's trying to avoid possibly petitioning FCFL to combine the teams if any more players are lost. He said the NC coach agreed the kid should not have been ejected and supported his claim.

There was a vote on whether an exception should be made based simply on making an exception to the rule since Wilton felt the kid had no right being thrown out in the first place by a ref who was doing a poor job to begin with. The exception failed to pass by a vote of 2-9, with

Wilton and NC voting in favor of the exception. Then a second vote was taken whether to approve the exception to suspension based on the safety issue of having to play their next game with a min of 14 players. That vote passed 9-2 with Darien voting no.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

Submitted by:

Anthony DePasquale, Secretary