

Minutes of E.M.S.O.A. Business Meeting held on December 6, 2008 at VFW hall, Needham, MA.

Regrets: L. Wise, C. Sanderson, P.Campbell, B. Reed, M. Orrechio, M. Salerno, R. Stowell, B. Mackey. S. Trellopoulos, A. McConnell,

Members Absent: A. Attardo, R. Beaudoin, P. Callinan, G. Chandler, J. Dobbins, W. Flannery, D. Fredricks, T. Goulet, S Goldstein, M. Kadala, H. King, P. Kristo, D. Laversa, J. Medeiros, T. Meagher, B. McGowan, C. Whiting Rice, A. Stevens, P. St. Clair, S. Segrin.

Meeting called to order by President Brown at 1:45pm. A quorum is present.

President Brown called for a moment of silence for Robert “Bobby” Jack who passed away November 27, 2008. Bobby has been a member of E.M.S.O.A. since 1965.

Minutes: Minutes of previous Business Meeting held on December 2, 2007. Motion to accept. **Voted in the affirmative.**

Election of Officers: Nominations are in order for the office of **Secretary/Treasurer** – Three-year term. Bob Ringuette is a candidate for re-election. Hearing no further nominations from the floor, motion is made and seconded to close nominations. **Voted in the affirmative.** Motion to have President cast one vote for Bob Ringuette. **Voted in the affirmative.**

Nominations are in order for the office of **Interpreter** – Three-year term. Frank Scarsella is a candidate for re-election. Hearing no further nominations from the floor, motion is made and seconded to close nominations. **Voted in the affirmative.** Motion to have Sec./Treas. cast one vote for frank Scarsella. **Voted in the affirmative.**

Treasurer’s Report: Comments regarding Insurance coverage for 2008. No outstanding bills. Motion to accept treasurer’s report as presented. **Voted in the affirmative.**

Committee Reports:

- **Judiciary – Ed Rae, Chairman:** Announcement that Sally Whelan is resigning from EMSOA due to work requirements. Resignation is accepted with regrets. She will be sadly missed and we wish more women would become active in the organization.
- **MISOA – Richard Valle, Representative:** Seven local boards have met four times in 2008, representing over 1000 state referees. One item was to have a letter sent to MIAA regarding use of non-board members assigned to the MIAA tournament. A list of guidelines was sent by MISOA was adopted by the MIAA Soccer Committee regarding this issue.
Another issue regarding the “handshake” rule and liability was discussed. A letter declaring the MIAA was being placed on notice for an *“affirmative defense for our safety,”* due to the “exclusionary clause “ written by K & K Insurance regarding the MIAA handshake policy. The MISOA Executive Board voted to support and endorse the EMSOA letter to the MIAA. As a result of MISOA efforts, site managers are now

Committee Reports: (Cont'd.)

required at all night contest, boys and girls games. This will add another measure of safety for our officials. Efforts re being made by Cal Perry to have wording changes made in the rulebook regarding responsibility and determination the level of “unconsciousness of a player” be made by either a Trainer or EMT rather than the game official. Game officials shirts, various shades of yellow shirts, socks with or without stripes. MISOA will attempt to standardize uniforms in order to look more professional. - Six new members have been inducted into the MISOA Hall of Fame, George Cataldo and Frank Scarsella from EMSOA have been inducted for 2007.

- **MIAA Soccer Committee Report: Cal Perry Referee/Interpreter.**

- MISOA is attempting to develop a standard curriculum of instruction for clinics held statewide.
- Membership concerns mentioned from last year are still in evidence, younger and fit members are needed, personal appearance and uniforms should be addressed since we are all professionals we should also look professional.
- During tournament the DSC looked terrible. Cal will discuss this issue at the January MIAA Soccer Committee meeting.
- Bill Johnson, Chair. MIAA Soccer Committee is on the NFHS Soccer Rules Committee.
- MIAA has concerns regarding “defensive walls” and “handling” calls. The way officials are dealing with these rules and how to manage the defensive wall.
- League re-alignments have been made.
- Three rules will be submitted to MIAA for review and consideration;
 - o Standardize Rule 14, offensive infractions on PK's, ball goes to be kicked out Indirect kick;
 - o Unlimited substitutions on injuries, when the clock is stopped. To replace one-for-one substitution at this time.
 - o Goalkeeper injury, allow the goalkeeper to remain in game if time is stopped for injury check.
- The USSF is stressing professionalism as a prime concern.
- Any thought to having the EMSOA Business Meeting held in AM?

Question from floor regarding colors of shirts and same colored socks for home and away teams. MIAA should be aware of this, may cause a problem. Mouth guard rule is still in force. This may not be optional any longer in all sports.

Sports Medicine Committee meeting will be held on Monday, President Brown will be attending.

Comment from the floor regarding proposed MIAA rule changes; simplify approach to improper and illegal equipment designations. Why can't we get out of the equipment business and leave this up to the coaches? Liability is a key word to keep in mind when discussing this rule. Rule reads that the coach has responsibility for equipment. MIAA has altered rule to not card coach for equipment infraction. Cal will assist in writing rule change proposal for submission in January.

Another question from floor regarding safety. An anchored steel goalpost in cement poses a potential hazard. Pads are allowed; Cal will bring these items up as concerns to the MIAA Soccer Comm.

- **MIAA Soccer Committee Report: Cal Perry Referee/Interpreter. (Cont'd.)**

Sub varsity games have a large turnover of players and coaches each year; cards for uniform and equipment infractions would not stop this problem. Also, have MIAA be explicit on their web site in describing the mouth guard rule. It is not clearly stated that inspection is nor required? Change in consequences of cards if rule is to enforced. MIAA needs to adjust the penalties to fit the offense. Cal will include these issues in January.

Are All-Star games considered under MIAA rules? A League All Star game had neither team wearing mouth guards.

Dual System, used all season, needs to be reviewed for tournament. Displaces otherwise capable referees from being used in state tournament. Can this be reversed? Write to the MIAA with concerns. If you write do not say Dual System is better, talk about system not people. Comment that this should be advocated through schools, coaches and AD's since this was how it first started, it seems we are the only ones complaining. Further discussion supportive of Dual System dealt with historical perspectives and how the Diagonal System came about. This system evolved through an assigner and Tournament Director over several years. He finally succeeded in having this system presented in a pilot plan, which allowed the Soccer Committee to accept this system. It does not appear that an official's group will be instrumental in effecting a change. This is an advocacy issue, we will express our opinion but we are only one voice in this process. It is even hard to reach a consensus in this room; agreement will be hard to reach. New members should be encouraged to reach to the college levels and USSF levels.

Are USSF rules slowly seeping into the NFHS rules? Changes usually are brought about over several years. Closer now than ever.

Chapter Reports:

- **North Chapter:** Cal Perry announced that the 2009 spring clinic would be held on April 16, 17, 18, ²⁰⁰⁹ at Hanscom AFB, Bedford, MA. Pre-registration will be required because of the nature of the venue. Regular 2009 Chapter Meetings will be held at the Lynnfield Middle School. Dates to be announced. Meeting agendas will be topical, 1st meeting will deal with new rule changes and proper handling of paperwork; 2nd fouls/ misconducts and the appropriate awarding of penalties; 3rd. video game scenarios and discussions; 4th. meeting will cover tournament rules, Diagonal System, and review of season/questions, etc. Questions from North Chapter members that should be addressed by the Exec. Bd., will be taken up at next meeting (see attached list). Please note that Bruce Anderson delivered the Chapter report in place of Cheryl Sanderson who is on assignment.
- **South Chapter:** Ron Cocuzzo announced that one of our members, Don Hussey, was recently honored at the State House for meritorious service for bravery as a firefighter. Dates of spring clinic April 28, April 30, May 4, and May 6. Examination on May 12, 2009 at Hanover High School at 7:00pm. Regular season meetings will be held at Hanover High School; Int. meeting on Sept. 3, Regular meetings on Sept. 24, October 7, and October 21, 2009. Regular season meetings start at 7:30pm. Special thanks to several members for their assistance at the fall pre-season field experience at Whitman/Hanson HS.

Chapter Reports: (Cont'd.)

- **West Chapter:** Tom Stagliano announced 2009 clinic dates have not been determined as yet, usually the first Tues. and Thurs. after the school spring vacation. Usually there are several USSF officials who inquire about membership after the regular clinic is given and Bill Carey has been conducting a “bridge” clinic during the summer. There should be a more uniform way of providing this clinic, and post it on the web site. Thanks to Ed Rae for conducting regular season clinics. Regular meeting dates will be provided at a later date.

Assessors report:

- **South Assessor:** George Cataldo assessed 55 officials with the help of Walter Mortimer. Several recommendations include handshake mechanics and use of signals by officials. EMSOA lacks conformity and uniformity with MIAA procedures. Three things should be accomplished at the beginning of the game, advise captains and coaches about taunting, equipment, and coin toss. No speeches and comments like “today we are going to protect the keeper.” During handshake we should stand ten to fifteen yards from line to strictly “observe”; use of hand signals on fouls. We should have a policy and stick to it. President’s comments to board interpreters to look into this.
- **North Assessor:** Mike Pelletier 49 officials assessed, several members assisted in these assessments, written forms are turned in to Mike, information is shared between official and assessor. Assignors do not receive copies of assessments. Mechanics need to be improved; some experienced officials are resistant with assessments. Would be good to extend assessments to more officials, North Chapter is thinking of proposing that all members be assessed. Assessments are non-judgmental. Comment from floor that video of good officiating could be used to train officials.
- **West Chapter:** Larry Wise is away and has submitted a written report 32 first and second year officials assessed in West Chapter, these individuals were glad to get the assessment and feedback. Cooperation of the assignors was terrific this year. President commented to three assessors to get together and discuss training and/or videos of good officiating. Further comments involved televising games for Somerville and not seeing signals being used by officials. Local cable affiliates have access to these games. Comment from floor, use of signals has fluctuated from being used a lot or not at all. Interpreter comments that only people interested in signals are assessors. Players and coaches know what the calls are. We tell them every year about signals. Maybe we should continue to do this. Does it make sense to have assessors at all tournament games, what happens with other sports, maybe we should have MISOA look into this?

Communications:

- **Sec./Treas. Insurance coverage** changed this year due to increase in premiums for health and loss of game coverage. K & K Insurance informed the MISOA that due to the increase in claims over the past two seasons rates would triple and the individual costs per member would go from \$6.70 to over \$15.00 per member.

Communications:Cont'd.)

A poll was taken among the MISOA local boards covered under this policy and it was decided to forego this coverage for 2008 and just have liability coverage.

Proposal – Job description for E.M.S.O.A. WEBMASTER

The job title of Webmaster is proposed in order to provide for the proper maintenance and construction of the E.M.S.O.A. Web site. The person who serves in this capacity should possess qualities to be able to perform the following duties:

1. The ability to monitor, improve and update the performance of the existing Website.
2. The Webmaster must know about the business of the E.M.S.O.A. in order to keep information relevant.
3. Be able to work with the Secretary/Treasurer and other officers and committees within the organization.
4. Attend Executive Board meetings as a participant and voting member.
5. Be a facilitator and resource person for the benefit of the E.M.S.O.A.
6. Assist and promote the development of improvements to the Website.
7. Perform additional duties as requested by the Executive Board.

Term of office: Because of the nature of this position the duration of this position will be three years with renewals voted by the Executive Board.

Compensation: The Webmaster will receive consideration of annual dues and, with Executive Board approval, the funding and resources necessary to maintain the Website.

Approved by the EMSOA Executive Board 9/21/2008

Proposed addition to E.M.S.O.A. Constitution and Bylaws

Regarding Article 2 – MEMBERSHIP: add the following.. Section III – Qualifications, Rules and Terms for Suspension or Expulsion from the Association.

1. **Failure to pay dues.** Members will receive notice of non-payment of annual dues after November 1st. of each season. A **second notice** will be sent after February 1st. Failure to respond, in writing, will result in termination of membership and **does not require prior notice.** (See Article II, Section I: Dues, Item B.)
2. **Failure to attend Mandatory Interpretation Meeting and/or regular Chapter Meetings.** (See Article III, Sect. V: Meetings, Item D.)
3. **Willful and deliberate breach of articles listed in the E.M.S.O.A. Code of Ethics.** (See Article IV, Sect. I: Code of Ethics.)

Any member proposed for expulsion will receive advance written notice stating reason for the proposed expulsion, opportunity to contest the proposal, in writing or in person, to the Appeals Committee and a final written notice of the Committee's decision.

Rationale: Presently the E.M.S.O.A. Bylaws and Constitution lists penalties for the above infractions under separate Articles. This modification will add clarification and basic information required for decision-making on the part of affected members. Also, the appeal process is clearly spelled out in order to provide for reconsideration of any action(s) taken by the Association.

Submitted by Bob Ringuette, Sec./Treas.

Approved by the Executive Board