

## INTRODUCTION

All members present introduced themselves

Matt Perkins-President, Bon Sinclair-vice president North, Mike Hathaway-secretary, Dan OConnell-treasurer, Skip Capone-clinic director, Kevin Cooper, Mark Bonnevie, Joe Rafferty, Jason Fuller, BL Lippert, Mark Soehren, Joe White

Absent: Brian Curit, Tim Roche, Fred Lower, Rich Drummond, and BJ Robbins

There was a review of the role of officers. President Matt Perkins will schedule meetings, build agendas and run the meetings. VP's Bob Sinclair and Tim Roche will support the president Secretary Mike Hathaway will record minutes and correspond with the MFCFA members. Treasurer Dan O'Connell will have authority over all financial matters. Dan will investigate the use of quickbooks to manage our account and report back at the next meeting. Executive board members from each class/region will gather information and feedback from their leagues, attend meetings to report out, and have a vote on MFCFA matters.

Update from Jason Fuller on classification and discussion:

There is a classification committee meeting tomorrow to look at proposals after the football committee's proposal was tabled at the last meeting. The football committee really wants 18 teams in class A. Several teams sent in correspondence in regards to their placement in the proposal. Specifically, there is concern over Noble and Gorham moving to class A and with Morse, Nokomis, Medomak and Fryeburg moving to class B. A schools are worried that it is tougher to get a good schedule in class A because no one will crossover with them. They want more flexibility in their schedule to prevent the bottom of the league playing vs. the top of the league, but don't have the same ability to crossover like the other classes do to remedy this.

C + D seem pretty good with the current proposal and seem willing to play crossovers to get competitive schedules.

Discussion on terms of officers in MFCFA organization:

There was a motion to make them 3 years terms which was seconded but the discussion led to an amended motion to make the terms 2 years. Secretary and Treasure can reapply for their positions every 2 years if they choose. The President will serve a two year term, and then move into a past president role on the executive board. If the current president is from the south, then 1st VP will be the North rep and vice versa. 1st VP is in line to become president in 2 years, and 2nd VP from the other region will replace him 2 years later. This allows us to keep consistency amongst the officers, but move some new members in at the same time as VP's will be replaced by other MFCFA members every 2 years. We need to draft some specific bylaws to lay this plan out in detail and will vote on them in our next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Treasurer Report:

Dan O. reported that he should be all set with transferring over the bank account so he can be in charge of it by the clinic and we are all set to pay for the cost of the clinic. Specifics on finances will be discussed next meeting

#### Secretary Report:

Mike H. reported out on the MFCA coach of the year voting. This year's representatives are:

Class A-Kevin Kezal

Class B-Joe Rafferty

Class C-Jacob Rogers

Class D-Tim Roche

Class E-Paul St. Pierre

These awards will be shared on the new website and given out at the March clinic.

#### Clinic Report:

Skip C. reported out that the clinic speakers are lined up and ready to go. We have secured rooms for speakers who need them. All Maine colleges will be represented and we have native Maine guys who coach out of state speaking as well. We also will have 3 HS coaches speaking on youth football programs (Leavitt, TA, BE). The board of officials will be there to do the rules clinic. Mark Smith has posted the schedule on the new website and reported that next year we will be set to pre-register on the website. The staff fee of \$100 will still cover all HS, MS and youth coaches in a program. We could not secure an 8 man speaker, so we plan to try and do an 8 man clinic in late April/early May. Most of the college speakers will be presenting on position specific fundamentals as opposed to schemes. There will be a lot of effort made to improve the check in process and handle registrations quickly at the front table. Dave Wing will be there to greet coaches and we have several coaches to assist with name tags and providing information. We will have at least 8 vendors this year including Riddell, Stadium Systems, Bordick & Coutts, SportsFix, Maine Athletic Fundraising, Gronk Fitness, Wights, and the FCA. Cost is \$250 per vendor. Skip, Mike H, Tim R., Brian C., Mark Bonnevie, Mark Soehren, Matt Perkins and Mark Smith can all be present to help set up on the 15th at the Hilton. Feedback from this year's clinic and suggestions for next year will be on our May agenda.

#### USA Football report:

Matt P. reported out on his experience at the USA football clinic in Orlando. Matt provided several handouts with some great information on other states' youth football guidelines, how other states run their clinics, and the benefits of joining the USA football alliance. We currently are not officially in the USA football alliance, but will vote in our upcoming meeting on whether or not to join. Currently there are 44 state coaches association in the alliance. There is also opportunity for someone to go the clinic again next year.

#### Discussion on Youth Football:

As a coaches association we would like to draft a list of guidelines for youth football in Maine. We reviewed the High School Consensus Youth Football Position Statement from the Oregon coaches association. There is currently a bill in Mass. and Wisconsin to ban tackle football

before 7th grade. They are working on a similar bill here in Maine now. We would like to get ahead of this by publically coming out with our own statement and going back to our youth leagues to explain and implement these guidelines. If the bill in Maine ever comes to fruition, we want to be well prepared to defend our beliefs. We also want streamline what is going on around the state so there is some commonality. This will be discussed at our next few meetings. Issues for discussion will be field size, team size, progression/timeline for flag to tackle, weight limits, playing time, and alignment with the high school program. We will be sending out a survey to all high school coaches to get a gauge on what programs are currently doing surrounding these topics to help drive our discussion. At some point we would like to have a youth football summit and get youth directors from around the state together as well.

Discussion on supporting new/young coaches (and all coaches):

The new website is going to be a much better resource for coaches. There is potential here for information on 7v7, camps, contact info, vendors and clinics. We also could generate some income by using vendor logos on the site. Power points from the clinics could made available and at some point we would also like to include videos on various fundamentals and schemes, similar to the Glazier webinars. Assistant coaches can also register to be in the MFCA on the website so they have access and get all of the emails and reminders.

BJ Robbins was not present to report out on the Lobster Bowl but Coaches and teams have been selected at this point.

Next meeting will be April 28th at 9am at Lewiston HS.

Agenda will include:

Treasurer report

Vote on USA football alliance

Clinic feedback

Reclassification/Scheduling

Review bylaws for officer terms/elections

Youth football survey and statement

Website update