

# I.Y.R.A. Minutes

Date: 8-02-07

Chair: J. Tyke Nollman

Time: 7:00pm

Minutes: Lana Bergman

## Attendance

Committee members: Tyke Nollman, David Hall, Ray Dempsey, Lana Bergman, Tank O'Brien, Jay Crawford, Michael Pateras. All-State Tornados coach, Nolan Day. Coaches and representatives from the following rugby teams: Lincoln Way Penguins RFC, Plainfield Girls & Boys, Mustang Rugby Club, St. Rita High School RFC, Naperville HS Rugby Club, Warriors RFC, Hersey Huskie Rugby Club, Elgin/Batavia, Renegades HS Rugby Club, Montini Catholic HS RFC, St. Charles HS Boys & Girl's Rugby, Ignatius RFC, Mt. Carmel, Sycamore HS RFC and meeting host, Mike Overturf of AthletiCo.

## Discussion

Tyke Nollman, iYRA President, gave the Welcome and President's address. He noted the progress of iYRA and the vision for the future. Some of those visions were as follows:

- Public Relations
- More Funds 501c3
- Build relations with U.S.A. Rugby
- More Volunteerism
- More clubs
- Fundraising
- Branding
- Logo development
- Younger Age Development
- U-19 Development
- Coach Development
- Recognition from IHSA

Our goal is to build a great state organization. The current state of iYRA is strong, but a lot of work needs to be done.

Lana Bergman, Secretary, presented the minutes from the January 13, 2007 meeting, it was motioned, seconded and approved by voice vote. She asked that all members to update their contact information on the form passed out to them. Lana mentioned that there were suggestions for revision of the Code of Conduct. A draft will be sent to all members for review no less than 4 weeks prior to the January meeting. She asked that everyone visit the iYRA web site at [www.iyra.org](http://www.iyra.org) for news items which announce tournaments, camps, clinics and events and reminded everyone that there is a link for reporting scores. Future initiative for the web site is to create a web page on "How to Start a Rugby Club".

Ray Dempsey, Treasurer, gave the financial report. (See attached). He noted that there were 21 dues paying members. The 501c3 status is a work in process. Ray reviewed the balance sheet and the State Championship Income Statement. Tank O'Brien requested future donations be listed.

Discussion  
(cont)

David Hall, Vice President, gave a Power Point presentation (see attached) and recapped the 2007 season. He discussed his recent visit to USA Rugby in Colorado. USA Rugby has invited IL and a few other states to be a State Based Development Model. The IRB is proposing, through USA Rugby, to assist iYRA grow youth rugby in Illinois with their donated funds. Illinois, in return, would need to focus on accelerating the growth of youth rugby within the next few years.

David announced that iYRA will be part of a non-contact pilot program on August 18. There is a need for 10 coaches and it is USA Rugby funded.

David mentioned that USA Rugby was still looking for volunteers for the USA vs Munster Rugby match on August 26.

Nolan Day, IL All State Tornados coach, displayed the new tornados jersey and the professional look of the team. He said the camaraderie amongst the players was great. There were 60 kids at the trial sessions and 37 kids at the skills day. Nolan reviewed the Tornados season.

Nolan will e-mail coaches what, of the 7 categories, of skills he is looking for in a player. He also would like to know when prom dates and graduation dates will take place.

Nolan's future initiatives were:

1. To hopefully go to U-19 next season. (There were mixed reviews from a few members about combining college students with high school students)
2. Create a developmental side
3. Possibly tour the UK

Tank O'Brien, Tier I Coordinator, reported that 36 games were played. Doug Andrews mentioned that he would like to see more B side play in Tier 1. The competition committee will address Tier I and Tier II movement and criteria.

Michael Pateras, Tier II Coordinator, reported that all games were played except for 2 forfeits. Standings were posted on a weekly basis. Michael addressed his challenges:

- Make sure we have early confirmation of team participation
- Get the schedule out early
- Schedule games with reasonable travel
- Would like to see a week-end schedule. Some discussion was presented regarding difficulty of week-end referees.
- Would like to see a standard format as an organization for points/standings.
- Better communication within Tier II.

Discussion  
(cont)

Girl's Coordinator, Larysa Santiago, was absent. Allison Warrick-Allen, St. Charles coach, noted that all the girls got their games played, with the exception of a few bad weather games. She mentioned that the girls had some problems with allocating referees.

Jay Crawford, of the Disciplinary committee, reported that there were a couple of Red cards issued this season. It was also noted that any player sent off is suspended for 8 days or 1 game, whichever is longer. Jay wanted to make sure everyone knew that the Rules and Regulations were posted on the USA Rugby web site at [www.usarugby.org](http://www.usarugby.org). We are referring the #2 All State jersey matter to the disciplinary committee for action.

Ken Westergaard reported on Public Relations.

- Fox News did a segment on youth rugby giving exposure.
- The Chicago Tribune did a nice article on the Mustang Rugby Club shortly before the State Championship.
- Ken encouraged all coaches to call the papers to report scores. A list of numbers will soon be distributed to coaches and/or posted to the iYRA web site.
- He suggested getting information posted in school announcements
- Expose our web site in the newspapers.

New Business:

There will be a special competition meeting called by David Hall for this fall to discuss movement of teams from one tier to another, play (eligibility) for adult teams by HS players and scheduling matters.

The Chicago Blues will not be participating next season. St. Rita's will be forming a team.

It was reiterated to all members the importance of CIPP compliance, Referee certification and coach certification.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

---

President