

Maine Volleyball Coaches Association Annual Meeting August 10th, 2013

Husson College, Bangor 11:00AM

The Meeting was called to order at 11:00 am, President Todd Brophy presiding.

Attending high school coaches: Todd Brophy (President), Mike Kelly (Vice President)- Ellsworth, Gary Powers (MPA Representative)- Falmouth, Cory Papadopoli (Technology Officer)- MDI, Kelvin Hasch- Greely, Rob Thompson (Secretary)- Cape Elizabeth

Attending college coaches: Jody Fairbank-Husson

Attending others: Jeff Scully (Maine State Games, Maine Associations of Volleyball Officials)

Order of Business:

- I. Introductions were made and a review of the minutes from the last meeting took place.

Rob moved to accept the minutes as presented, Mike Kelly seconded the motion.

- II. **Presidents Report** was provided by Todd Brophy.

-In eight years we have doubled the amount of high school teams playing in the state of Maine

-Last year we made the decision to separate the Senior Showcase into Class A and Class B matches. This seemed to go well and was met with positive feedback.

-We are still having issues with player attendance at the Showcase. Coaches need to remember that they should only nominate those players that are able to attend.

-At the Showcase we were able to have a "Most Valuable Player" that was elected by the Executive Board. We used the R1 Official as the voting tiebreaker.

-At the Showcase we had a fundraising raffle for a volleyball. The question of whether we should do a 50-50 raffle this year, as we have done in the past, was raised.

-The awards portion of the Showcase was very hectic. We need to figure out a better way to recognize the players and present the awards in a more timely fashion.

-Todd asked if we wanted to give gifts to players at the Showcase as we have done in the past?

-The members voted for the "Coach of the Year," but Todd wonders if perhaps we should

wait until after the State Finals to vote for this award, his rationale being that a coach might perform impressively at the Finals. (Jeff thought that if we waited too long we may lose the value of the award or lose people's attention).

-Last year we picked the All-State teams earlier than in years past. Do we need to pick the teams even earlier so that school's can recognize the participants at their own school team banquets?

-The State Finals will be held on November 2nd.

* Several items were brought up during this time and tabled until the "New Business" discussion. Please refer to New Business (*1) & (*2)

-Having a Class A and Class B for the Allstate picks worked well, 99% of the coach feedback was positive.

-Todd had heard that the Maine Principals' Association (MPA) had an issue with the playoff programs and might want to take that piece over from our Association.

-Todd would like to have coaches provide drills of the week to submit to the website.

-At this point we do not know who the coaches are for the Sumner and Cony high schools. We would like to include them in our e-mail correspondence throughout the year.

-John Kessel from USAV is coming October 8 and 13th...we should see if we can plan a coaches clinic with John presenting.

-Greg Albright, the Athletic Director from Atlanta International School who recently ran the Varsity clinic at Greely, would like to support Maine coaches and assist with getting volleyball more established in the state. He is willing to talk to the MPA on behalf of our Association or answer emails from our coaches.

-The Maine Juniors volleyball club had their most successful year and was able to add new teams, including a 17 Gold team and a 15 Gold team. Both teams played at the "Open" level.

Cory moved to accept the President's report, Gary seconded.

III. **Treasurers Report** as reported by Todd Brophy, submitted by Chris Davis-Treasurer

-We currently have \$2627.19 in the budget.

Cory moved to accept the treasurers report, Jeff seconded.

IV. **Secretary Report** as provided by Rob Thompson

-The Constitution draft is finalized and ready to be sent out to members.

-Do we want to have a straight vote on the Constitution or have members provide feedback first?

-Is it possible to attach the Constitution to a survey so members could give their feedback online regarding portions of the Constitution?

Mike moved to accept the secretary's report, Kelvin seconded.

V. **Technology Report** as provided by Cory Papadopoli

-Cory will make minor changes to the website to include coaches surveys and forms for All-State selection.

-An item was brought up and tabled until the "New Business" discussion. Please refer to New Business (*3)

Rob moved to accept the technology report, Gary seconded.

VI. **MPA Representative Report** as provided by Gary Powers

-The MPA has given us a new volleyball to use this season, the Wilson I-Cor.

-Gary explained that the MPA has a ball committee and they vote on which ball to use.

-Gary asked the MPA if the Association could add people to the ball committee in the future and the MPA said yes.

-Gary asked the MPA about coaching out of season. Several high school coaches are also club coaches, but cannot coach their high school players out of season. The MPA's response was that no one should be doing this. They want a level playing field for all schools. They explained that you can get a waiver for coaching your players out of season. Gary discovered that they have only granted one waiver in the past, so it is very unlikely.

-Gary asked about the possibility to add more matches to the schedule...the interscholastic committee is the portion of the MPA that takes care of this.

- The MPA did not want to add additional matches at this time.
- In the next two years the MPA will actually be looking at decreasing the number of countable matches due to budgetary issues for schools.
- Gary suggested to the MPA the possibility that volleyball could do “mini tournaments” on the weekends with a couple of schools participating in order to keep our current schedule of 14 matches, but offer potential cost savings to schools.
- In the next two years, the MPA is also considering dropping the heal points system for all schools.
- Gary had asked about the MPA concerns regarding the Playoff Program. The MPA does not want to take over the volleyball programs, however they have concerns about the accountability of the programs and the sales receipts. They would like to see greater accountability for receipts, a cashbox used to collect funds, and some type of log to track the dissemination of the programs between the school sites.
- The MPA would like the Association to come up with a suitable plan for the volleyball programs including the items listed above and let them know as soon as possible.
- The MPA recommended that we utilize each school’s Athletic Director to assist the Association with obtaining the information needed from teams that will be put into the state program. They recommended that any team that does not provide the appropriate information in a timely fashion be left out of the program.
- The MPA is getting a new volleyball committee chairman.
- The times for the state tournament are not set. The MPA is favoring a 5 o'clock or 7 o'clock start time. They would like to have the earlier start if a team is playing in the finals that has to travel a great distance.
- During the Officiating clinic, Jon Roberts (Scarborough) had brought up the point that it seemed to make more sense to have the State Finals at a location that was in between the two schools that were playing. Gary had asked the MPA about this and they reported that they would not have an issue with this particular format, but were currently following the suggestions made by the MVCA last year.

Cory move to accept the MPA representatives report, Mike seconded

VII. **Maine State Volleyball Association Report** as provided by Cory Papadopoli

- The MSVBA plans to host many adult tournaments this season. They would like more

high schools to provide locations for these tournament, which would be held on Sundays. This can be a good fundraiser for schools.

-MSVBA would like to be involved with more clinics if possible

Todd moved to accept the MSVBA report, Kelvin seconded

VIII. Committee Reports

Playoff Program Committee

-We will try to put all the forms and directions online so that the program runs better.

-The preparation for the program went better this year and most were happy with the results of the program.

Senior Showcase Committee South as reported by Rob

-The showcase went well overall, however there were some players that were nominated for the Showcase, but did not attend. This is a major issue, as one team did not have a setter.

*An item was brought up and tabled until the “New Business” discussion. Please refer to New Business (*4)

Showcase Committee North as reported by Mike

-Mike shared similar concerns regarding players who were nominated but did not attend. He believes that an online set up might help.

Rob moved to accept the committee’s reports, Corey seconded

IX. New Business

a. **Senior Showcase.** (*1) The showcase will be November 9th, do we need to do it earlier in the day? We started it at 3 o'clock last year do we need to do 1 o'clock? (*4) Discussion and questions regarding the Senior Showcase and the awards that the players will receive. Should we set up a table to pass out the awards to recognize players? Do we want to add a team practice for the players into the format? Do we want to add a lunch? Is it possible to live stream the match? Jody said that she could help assist with this but we will need to plan it ahead of time. Could we use the showcase for recruiting video and

sell the video? Rob moved that we disseminate the awards electronically as PDF files and have the school coaches or ADs print and pass them out, but recognize the players receiving the awards by reading the names at the senior showcase. Gary seconded.

b. **Constitution.** The participants discussed the Constitution. Rob moved that we form a committee that would create a survey so that members could comment and accept or reject portions of the Constitution. Gary seconded. The members of this committee will be Rob, Jeff, and Corey.

c. **Playoff Program.** Discussion and questions regarding the state playoff programs. (*2) do we want to make the \$50 ad mandatory for the program? Gary moved that we form a committee to handle aspects of the program, including asking all coaches how many programs they want for their teams in advance. they will cost three dollars apiece and coaches and/or ADs will be responsible for providing a \$50 ad which will be mandatory this year in order to have their team included in the program. Kelvin seconded. A program committee was formed with Kelvin, Gary, and Todd.

d. **All-State.** Do we need to go to seven players on the All-State teams? Kelvin moved that we go from six players to seven on the All-State teams. Jeff seconded.

e. **MVCA Annual Meeting.** Rob moved that the MVCA Annual Meeting agenda be created and sent out ahead of time so members would know what was on the agenda, Jeff seconded.

f. **Maine Association of Volleyball Officials (MAVO) Fee Structure.** Jeff Scully explained the MAVO position regarding their current fee structure and the proposal they have put forth to the MPA to increase their pay. MAVO would like our Association's support going forward as they continue to negotiate with the MPA. They would like their paid to be more aligned with other sports and would like our support to facilitate this. Rob moved that we attach the Fee Structure letter that MAVO sent to the MPA to the Annual Meeting minutes so our members would understand the proposal, Todd seconded.

g. **MAVO Concerns.** The officials would like the home schools to provide locker rooms and a place for officials to debrief after the match. They feel this will assist with increasing the level of quality of the officiating cadre. There continues to be a need for more officials statewide. MAVO would like the coaches to consider starting the JV match later in the day, in order to help facilitate transportation of officials who are often getting out of work and rushing to officiate the matches. Kelvin expressed his concern regarding the experience level of some officials. He has noticed significant discrepancies between many officials and wonders if we have enough qualified officials for the current schedule. He wants to make sure that we have qualified officials, especially at matches that are between stronger team where the game moves much faster or the "high-stakes" matches, for example, playoffs. Kelvin asked what stops a coach from becoming an official? Jeff

answered that MAVO sees having coaches as officials as a conflict of interest, as does the MPA. Rob moved that we ask MAVO to provide us with a plan of how they intend to ensure that we have qualified officials in the upcoming years, Jeff seconded.

h. State Finals. Due to the concerns put forth from the coaches, Jeff recommended that for the State Finals we have class A officials doing the class A match and Class B officials doing the Class B match. At this point officials are not designated Class A or B, thus they currently officiate any match assigned to them. Todd moved that we keep officiating assignments the same for the State Finals for now, Rob seconded. Kelvin wondered if it was possible to do live streaming of the volleyball state finals. Rob moved that we send an email to the MPA to find out if live streaming of the State Finals was a possibility, Todd seconded

i. Bruce Churchill Classic. Jeff reminded the coaches about the Bruce Churchill Classic tournament to raise money for ALS.

j. Promotion of Volleyball. Jeff discussed possible ideas regarding how to promote volleyball in Maine. These ideas included: having a coaches' meeting at the State Finals, having a coaching clinic or some type of professional development event for coaches at the Finals, having a more general event open to anyone at the finals to attempt to draw in more volleyball enthusiasts, getting coaches together for Allstate voting, and having an event at the Senior Showcase. Rob moved to form a committee to discuss further how to promote the sport and to send an email to members see if folks are interested in becoming members of the committee, Todd seconded

k. Data Tracking Of Statewide Trends. As the sport continues to grow, it might make sense for the Association to use data in order to track statewide trends. We continue to get more teams and several schools are now offering "First teams" or middle school programs. We currently keep data on regarding Varsity teams only. (*3) Do we want to keep lists of all players Varsity, JV, and First teams with their numbers so they can be put into a database in order to track trends and growth? Is it possible to attach this to the current Playoff Program set up somehow? Rob moved that we table this conversation until the next meeting, Jeff seconded.

X. Business to Carry Forward to the Next Meeting.

a. We have to figure out how to decide issues regarding the State Finals, including location, format, whether we want to have both classes at the same site? etc.

b. Should we modify the website to accept credit card or PayPal transactions for program ads or add a discussion forum section?

c. In order to track statewide trends regarding the growth of volleyball does it make sense

to put information regarding Varsity, JV and First-teams into a MVCA survey or database?

Kelvin made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Mike seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Thompson, Secretary