

Maine Volleyball Coaches Association Annual Meeting April 21st 2012 (Husson College)

The meeting was called to order at 12:15.

Attending high school coaches: Todd Brophy (President)-MDI, Kelvin Hasch-Greely, Rob Thompson (Secretary)-Cape Elizabeth, Mike Kelly (Vice President)-Ellsworth, Chris Davis (Treasurer)-Washington Academy, Gary Powers (MPA Liaison)-Falmouth, Corey Papadopoli-Ellsworth, Diane Clark-Jonesport-Beals

Attending college coaches: Pat DeBeck-Husson

Attending JO coaches: Jeff Scully (Maine State Games), Chris Cloutier (President MSVBA)

Order of Business:

- I. Introductions were made and a review of last year's minutes took place. Kelvin made a **motion** to accept the minutes as read and Mike seconded the motion.
- II. **Treasurer's Report** was given by Chris. The current balance, as of 4/21/12 is \$2830.39. She stated there were some difficulties this year with the accounting. The association had many cash transactions spread out over the year which made it challenging to keep track of payments and deposits. In addition, there were issues with the distribution of programs at the state finals which resulted in programs being sold by the MPA rather than the MVCA. The revenue generated by those programs has not been accounted for. Jeff believes he can come up with a cheaper price for printing costs for the program and will submit a bid. Kelvin **moved** to accept the treasurer's report and Diane seconded the motion.
- III. **College Report.** Was provided by Pat DeBeck. He sent an email to all college coaches to see if they had any concerns or issues, but only received one response from Candice Parent (Colby). No concerns were noted. Pat is frustrated with the lack of participation from college coaches and would like to see more. Rob mentioned that he had received an email from Karen Corey (Bowdoin) in which she offered help to any program and also mentioned she would like to run an open gym format in August. Rob will follow up to see if she can run something during the "hands off" period. There are no major college rule changes at this time. The NCAA shall start using USAV hand signals and protocol. For more information Coaches can visit the following website:

<http://www.pavo.org/Home/CurrentSeason/CurrentRuleChanges.aspx>

- IV. **Maine Games Churchill Classic.** Jeff presented information about the Maine Games to the attendees. This will be the fourth year of the Maine Game's volleyball tournament. The tournament was renamed the Bruce Churchill Classic with proceeds going to the ALS Association. In the past 3 years, the tournament has raised \$10,000 and last year they were able to bring in a representative from the ALS Association to present an informational session about the disease to the players and parents. This year there will be Northern and Southern locations for the tournament with Varsity and JV pools and coaches may reserve their team spots on May 1st. The tournament shall be held on September 15th in the South and September 22nd for the North. Jeff will send coaches a follow up e-mail providing more information. He is in the process of looking for a location that has three courts, if anyone has any ideas please contact him as soon as possible.
- V. **Officers.** The current officers are: President-Todd Brophy, Vice President-Mike Kelly, Treasurer-Christine Davis, Secretary-Rob Thompson, College Representative-Pat DeBeck, and MPA Liaison-Gary Powers. Now that the MVCA has a website, Todd wondered if an additional office should be created within the association to deal with technology issues. Mike made a **motion** to create the position of "technology officer" and Diane seconded. Corey Papadopoli was nominated for this office through a **motion** by Kelvin and Rob seconded. The vote was unanimous to have Corey fill this position.
- VI. **President's Report** was presented by Todd.
- a. **Playoff Program.** This year Chris Davis and Debbie Hastings did most of the work to get the programs ready and were able to clear up the formatting issues that occurred last year. Although the programs looked really good, there were issues with getting them ready on time, as well as difficulties with the distribution and sale of the programs. The following items were noted as concerns by the attendees: ensuring the programs stay in the hands of the MVCA and are sold by representatives of the MVCA in order to track sales and account for the revenue, timeliness of coaches submitting team information, at times the individuals dropping off the programs may not be the same ones who are selling them which caused confusion, lack of programs to sell at the quarter finals, coaches may have "given away" programs to their team rather than selling them, a significant decrease in the level of corporate sponsorship for the program, and school commitment to the "one mandatory \$50 ad" policy that was agreed upon at last year's meeting. Rob made a **motion** to form a program committee to look at the issues brought forth and establish a clear protocol for all aspects of the program, Kelvin seconded. Rob,

Chris, and Todd volunteered to be members of the program committee. The determination was made that all coaches will be sent an e-mail asking for suggestions or changes regarding the program. Kelvin made a **motion** to have the committee remind coaches of their commitment to the “one mandatory \$50 ad” policy and suggested an additional email be sent if a team has not complied by the time the information has to be sent to the printer, Rob seconded.

- b. **Website.** Todd informed the group that the MVCA website was now up and running. There have been some difficulties adding some of the information from past years; however they are in the process of ironing out these issues. The website domain is: mainevbcoaches.org and the yearly cost for the website domain name will be \$80. Setting up the website will cost a total of \$900, \$450 of which has already been paid. Links will be added to the website for MSVBA, MaxPreps, MAVO, and the MPA heal points website. We also have the ability to put up scores and have a “drill of the week” section. Todd will email coaches to solicit comments and feedback about the website.
- c. **Senior Showcase.** This year there was a couple of issues with the Senior Showcase. We had four or five players that were chosen but did not attend. Coaches need to nominate players that are sure they are able to attend. If they are not sure they can make it, they should not be nominated. Todd relayed that it was challenging to complete all the tasks that need to take place during the showcase and would like all the officers to attend the event, if possible, to help spread the workload that needs to be done. He will create a list of tasks to help facilitate the delegation of the jobs. A discussion took place regarding whether the Showcase should be the top players in the state or a representation of players from different schools. The attendees also discussed the advantages of having Class A teams and Class b teams. Rob made a **motion** to change the format of the Senior Showcase in the following manner: the showcase shall feature the best players in the state while attempting to be as representative as possible, a committee should be formed comprised of any interested coaches to determine the top players, coaches will use the new online forms to fill out player information (including position and secondary position), a total of four teams shall be created...two teams from class A two teams from class B, each team shall have up to, but not exceed 10 players. Mike seconded. Other items related to the showcase were also discussed and will be considered by the executive committee. The items were: reach out to other volleyball groups such as MSVBA to assist with the showcase, bring back the

50/50 raffle, find suitable gifts for showcase participants, present the All State awards at the showcase, and create player bios to put in a mini program.

- d. **Protocols.** At the last meeting there was discussion about whether bylaws should be created in order to help clarify aspects of the association and its mission. Several attendees expressed concern that having official bylaws may make it more challenging to adjust or change protocols in the future, especially in light of the number of new teams and coaches that shall be joining. We continue to need, however, clear descriptors of the awards players may receive and the procedure for earning them. Rob will be responsible for writing these up so they can be posted on the website.
- e. **Taxes.** The attendees had questions about tax id #s and what type of organization the MVCA is in terms of business and tax structure. The association did not pay taxes last year. Kelvin will contact a lawyer to help us determine the best course of action (non-profit, limited liability corp., or other option).
- f. **Academic All State.** Things went very well this year and most coaches were able to get their information in on time. It is difficult, however to get the awards to the players. This issue shall be taken care of with the new Senior Showcase format, as the awards will be passed out at the showcase after the third set.
- g. **All State.** The nominations and voting seemed to go well overall, however there were some issues. Some coaches are still unclear about the process, there are conference teams as well which causes confusion at times, and not all newspapers are reporting the information. In addition, some newspapers have their own “all state” or regional teams that they pick independently from MVCA. The association shall continue to pick, by committee, a 1st and 2nd team for Class A and B consisting of 7 players (not position specific). Any players who are close in votes shall be given honorable mention and listed with the All State team. The executive committee will attempt to clarify the All State and conference team processes on the website and will reach out to area newspapers to improve communication regarding these teams so the athletes can be recognized.
- h. **Coach of the Year.** Diane made a **motion** to create a high school “coach of the year” award for Class A and Class B that all coaches shall have the opportunity to vote for. Corey seconded.
- i. **State Game and Quarter Finals.** The MPA appears interested in combining the Class A and B championships into one location that is

centrally located. Todd has had conversations with the people at the Bangor auditorium who are interested in having the championship at the auditorium. They appear willing to purchase two volleyball court floors and two net systems for the auditorium in exchange for a contract with the MPA to hold the championship at this location for an, as yet, unspecified length of time. Other costs, such as security, would also have to be covered. Some concerns expressed by the attendees included being locked into a contract for an unspecified length of time and the fact that the auditorium is so large that even a great volleyball crowd of one thousand fans would look small due to the auditorium's 6,000 seat capacity. A vote was passed, with a majority of seven, to encourage the MPA to pursue the offer made by the Bangor Auditorium.

- j. **AVCA, Junior Olympics, and MaxPreps.** Todd provided information regarding membership and benefits of the American Volleyball Coaches Association. This organization has great resources and educational opportunities for coaches including: AVCA Convention Seminars, educational articles, volleyball drills, web seminars, and publications. Current membership cost for HS and club coaches is \$70 per year. For more information Coaches can visit the following website:

<http://www.avca.org/>

The Junior Olympic season is coming to a close and the last tournament is scheduled for May 6th. The Maine Juniors Club had a record number of players try out this season and the club has taken steps to become "Gold Medal Squared" certified. A breakdown of club players by high school was passed around.

Kelvin reminded the group about the MaxPreps statistics program and encouraged everyone to get signed up to use it. For more information Coaches can visit the following website: <http://www.maxpreps.com>

This year Greely was ranked No. 34 in the nation by the MaxPreps Freeman Poll, an honor that earned them a stop on the 2nd Annual MaxPreps Girls Volleyball Tour of Champions presented by the Army National Guard.

VIII. New Business

- a. **MVCA Meeting Date.** The attendees discussed the viability of having two meetings a year. A survey will be created to ask for coach feedback on: having two meetings, determining what could be done to increase attendance at the meetings, and soliciting ideas for additional membership benefits.
- b. **Sportsmanship Banner.** It was pointed out that this year the Northern teams did not have the opportunity to vote for the sportsmanship award.

Rob took responsibility for this oversight and will make sure this process is also listed on the website

- c. **Private Schools and High Performance Tryouts.** Rob mentioned that he had the opportunity to go to the volleyball finals and showcase of the Christian Schools' league. He was able to talk with a few of the coaches who were very interested in becoming part of the MVCA and would like more information on volleyball opportunities that may be happening in the state. He also went to the USAV High Performance tryouts in Saratoga Springs, NY. Watching the tryouts, he feels that the top players in our state could be competitive at this level and should be encouraged to consider the opportunity. He met with Sue Medley who runs the High Performance tryouts and she shared his view that our Maine players could compete at this level.
- d. **John Kessel.** Jeff informed the attendees that it appears McKenzie Kessel shall be playing volleyball for Bowdoin College this year. McKenzie is the daughter of John Kessel, a Level IV International Instructor for the International Volleyball Federation, USAV CAP clinician, and author of the USAV blog "Growing the Game Together." John plans to spend quite a bit of time in Maine over the next few years and is interested in helping us to grow the sport in Maine.
- e. **A.D. Survey and Officials.** Jeff sent a survey to high school athletic directors to get feedback on the volleyball programs at their school or lack thereof. He shall share the results with our association. In addition, MAVO is looking for more officials at the high school level to offset the new teams coming into the league.
- f. **MSVBA.** Chris provided information about the Maine State Volleyball Association. They are looking to grow their membership and are also looking for tournament venues. These tournaments can be used as a fundraiser for the high school willing to host. They are especially trying to expand further North in the state in order to get more players involved. In the future they plan to send out an e-newsletter to members and would like to do some type of scholarship for high school players. All are welcome at their meetings. \$25 for a tournament day membership and \$45 for the year.
- g. **Maine Principal's Association (MPA) Report.** Gary reminded us that the minimum number of practice days before the first allowable scrimmage is five. He mentioned that an MPA meeting was scheduled for the following Tuesday. He will forward potential recommendations for the MPA to consider, they include:
 - 1. Increasing the number of players on a team to 18 (includes players , coaches, managers, and statisticians)

2. Move the start up by two days in order to accommodate the lack of officials.
3. Increase the amount of countable matches.
4. Change the season ending date from the current Friday to the following Wednesday.
5. Have the first round of the quarter finals on Saturday or Monday.

Diane made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting and Kelvin seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:15?

Respectfully Submitted,
Rob Thompson