

**Empire 8 Football Conference Call Minutes**  
**Wednesday March 20, 2013**  
**9:00am**

**In attendance:** Mark Carr – Hartwick College, Tom Rogish – Frostburg State University, Mike Welch – Ithaca College, Paul Vosburgh – St. John Fisher College, Dave Murray – Alfred University, Sherman Wood – Salisbury University, Blaise Faggiano – Utica College, Jerry Boyes – Buffalo State, Jason Mangone – Brockport State, Chuck Mitrano – Empire 8 Commissioner, Janelle Feuz – Empire 8 Associate Commissioner, David Fontaine - Athletic Director Utica College

**Scheduling**

A Discussion was held in regards to the difficulty of scheduling non-conference opponents. Schools are being forced to play teams from over an 8 hour distance. There is also the potential in the future that if the Capital Conference had enough football participating institutions the Empire 8 would lose Salisbury and Frostburg. Coaches on the call wanted to strongly consider adding Cortland State and Morrisville State to the Empire 8 Conference:

1. Morrisville and Cortland were both asked to join the Empire 8 Conference as affiliates in football with Buffalo State and Brockport previously.
2. These schools would reduce the need for expensive overnight travel that also results in missed class time.
3. Competing with schools such as Cortland and Morrisville State that are geographically closer will result in larger attendance at games.
4. Utica College, Hartwick College, Ithaca College, Buffalo State, and Brockport State have all had positive experiences competing against these institutions.

There was a strong sense that coaches wanted to expand the Empire 8 Conference. A number of votes were taken after this discussion. The results are listed below.

Question #1: Which institutions are in favor of adding Cortland State to the Empire 8 Conference?

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Vote</b>
St. John Fisher College	Yes
Buffalo State	Yes
Alfred University	Yes
Ithaca College	Yes
Hartwick College	Yes
Salisbury University	Yes
Frostburg University	Yes
Brockport State	Yes
Utica College	Yes

Question #2: Which institutions are in favor of adding Morrisville State to the Empire 8 Conference?

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Vote</b>
St. John Fisher College	Yes
Buffalo State	Yes
Alfred University	Yes
Ithaca College	Yes
Hartwick College	Yes
Salisbury University	Yes
Frostburg University	Yes
Brockport State	Yes
Utica College	Yes

Question #3: Which institutions are in favor of expanding the conference by 1 or 2 teams?

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Vote</b>
St. John Fisher College	Yes
Buffalo State	Yes
Alfred University	Yes
Ithaca College	Yes
Hartwick College	Yes
Salisbury University	Yes
Frostburg University	Yes
Brockport State	Yes
Utica College	Yes

Question #4: How many teams would you like to expand the conference by?

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Vote</b>
St. John Fisher College	1
Buffalo State	1
Alfred University	1
Ithaca College	2
Hartwick College	1
Salisbury University	1
Frostburg University	1
Brockport State	1
Utica College	2

Question #5: Which institution would be your first choice to invite into the Empire 8?

(On the call the general consensus was that Morrisville would accept tomorrow and if Morrisville came into the Empire 8 the likelihood that Cortland would want to join the conference would increase).

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Vote</b>
St. John Fisher College	Morrisville
Buffalo State	Morrisville
Alfred University	Cortland
Ithaca College	Cortland
Hartwick College	Morrisville
Salisbury University	Morrisville
Frostburg University	Cortland
Brockport State	Cortland
Utica College	Morrisville

Question #6: Which institutions would be in favor of adding Alfred State to the Empire 8 conference? Alfred State is an NCAA provisional member in 2013. In 2015 Alfred State would become an NCAA member.

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Vote</b>
St. John Fisher College	Yes
Buffalo State	Yes
Alfred University	Yes
Ithaca College	No
Hartwick College	Yes
Salisbury University	Yes
Frostburg University	Yes
Brockport State	Yes
Utica College	Yes (HFC)
Utica College AD	Abstained from vote. Would like more information about Alfred State.

The topic of **Empire 8 overnight travel party size** was discussed. The current travel roster size reduces the participation for Salisbury and Frostburg more than it does schools that have just 2 overnight trips. The proposal was to increase the overnight travel party size from 58 to 62. Coaches expressed this would be a minimal cost increase while increasing participation and improving the game by allowing for more special teams players to travel.

Question #7: Would you be in favor of increasing the overnight travel party size from 58 to 62?

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Vote</b>
St. John Fisher College	Yes
Buffalo State	Abstained from vote (Jerry Boyes had to leave the call)
Alfred University	Yes
Ithaca College	Yes
Hartwick College	Yes
Salisbury University	Yes
Frostburg University	Yes
Brockport State	Yes
Utica College	Yes

**Film Exchange:** All coaches agreed that the process from 2012 worked well and will continue in 2013.

### **Spring Workouts**

Hand shields are now allowed, per NCAA legislation by-law that passed in Jan. 2013.

**Mike Welch (AFCA Trustee)** encouraged all of the coaches on the call to reach out to the Youth Football Programs in their community. Our game is under scrutiny and head safety is a growing concern for athletes and their families at all levels. As coaches we can be sure to communicate with our local youth programs about recent rule changes discouraging the use of the head in anyway. We should take the lead in our youth programs to make sure they are teaching the fundamentals of tackling and blocking correctly.

**Chuck Mitrano** discussed the issue of start times for games. Chuck encouraged us to communicate with our athletic directors on the topic of start times. We need to work with the other Fall Sports when making our schedules.

Chuck Mitrano asked if any coaches were interested in serving on the RAC. Blaise Faggiano expressed an interest.

### **Selection of Empire 8 Football Conference Chair (May 2013-May 2015)**

Sherman Wood, HFC at Salisbury University was nominated and subsequently appointed to the position of Empire 8 Conference Chair.

Submitted by Blaise Faggiano 3/22/2013

### **NCAA Football Rules Committee:**

A number of football rules changes were approved, however, including:

1. The Playing Rules Oversight Panel approved a new football rule that requires players who target and contact defenseless players above the shoulders to be ejected, effective for the 2013 season. The

violations will mirror the penalty for fighting. If the foul occurs in the first half of a game, the player is ejected for the remainder of the game. If the foul occurs in the second half or overtime of a game, the player is ejected for the remainder of the game and the first half of the next contest. Additionally, a postgame conference review remains part of the rule, and conferences retain their ability to add to a sanction. The committee will also allow a postgame review to reduce a suspension if warranted.

2. To add a 10-second runoff with less than a minute remaining in either half when the sole reason for the clock stoppage is because of injury.
3. To establish three seconds as the minimum amount of time required to be on the game clock in order to spike the ball to stop the clock. If one or two seconds remain on the clock, there is only time for the offense to run one more play.
4. To require a player that changes numbers during the game to report this to the referee, who will announce it.
5. To preclude multiple players from the same team from wearing the same uniform number (for example, two quarterbacks on the same team are not allowed to have the same number).
6. To allow the use of electronic communication by the on-field officiating crew (the practice was used successfully on an experimental basis by the Southeastern Conference). This is a permissive rule and not a requirement.
7. To allow instant replay to adjust the clock at the end of each quarter. Previously, this provision was in place only for the end of each half.
8. To clarify uniform rules as follows: “Jerseys must have clearly visible, permanent Arabic numerals measuring at least 8 and 10 inches in height front and back, respectively, and be of one solid color that itself is clearly in distinct contrast with the color of the jersey, irrespective of any border around the number.” This rule goes into effect for Football Bowl Subdivision teams in 2013. Football Championship Subdivision, Division II and Division III teams will have until 2014 before the rule becomes effective.
9. The Playing Rules Oversight Panel also approved a new rule regarding blocking below the waist. In the past two years, the Football Rules Committee has adjusted rules governing these blocks in an attempt to reduce or remove potentially dangerous plays. But the changes have caused more confusion and inconsistency than intended. The new rule focuses on the block itself and will allow these blocks by stationary players in typical line play.

In other action, the oversight panel denied the Football Rules Committee’s proposal to require an institution’s jersey or pant color to be different from the field of play, citing concerns that it did not enhance the image of the game. Additionally, the panel denied a proposal to move the down and distance markers to the other side of the field for the second half.

## **NCAA Convention Legislation**

### **NO. 2013-5 (NO. 2-9)**

#### **PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS –FOOTBALL – FIVE-DAY ACCLIMATIZATION PERIOD –THREE-HOUR RECOVERY PERIOD**

Intent: In football, to establish that on any day during the five-day acclimatization period, student-athletes must be provided with at least three continuous hours of recovery time between all sessions.

This By-Law was approved.

It was previously not required to have a 3 hour recovery period between a walk thru and practice.

### **NO. 2013-8 (NO. 2-10)**

#### **PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS –FOOTBALL – OUT-OF-SEASON ATHLETICALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES – USE OF HAND SHIELDS**

Intent: To permit the use of hand shields during the spring football strength and conditioning period. Bvlaws:Amend 17.9.6.1. as follows:

This By-Law was approved.

**NO. 2013-9 (NO. 2-4)**

**RECRUITING – ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSIONS – ALL FORMS OF  
PRIVATE ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE PERMITTED**

Intent: To specify that any form of electronically transmitted correspondence (e.g., electronic mail, Instant Messages, text messages or facsimiles) including private communication through a social networking site may be sent to a prospective student-athlete (or the prospective student-athlete's parents or legal guardians), provided the correspondence is sent directly to the prospective student-athlete (or his or her parents or legal guardians) and is private between only the sender and recipient (e.g., no use of public chat rooms, message boards or public communication through a social networking site).

This By-Law was approved.