

## **Empire 8 Football Conference Call Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2014**

**9 AM**

### **Call to order (Sherman Wood) – 9:04 AM**

In Attendance: Dave Murray – Alfred University, Jason Mangone – The College at Brockport, Jerry Boyes – SUNY Buffalo State, Daniel MacNeill – SUNY College at Cortland, DeLane Fitzgerald – Frostburg State University, Mark Carr – Hartwick College, Mike Welch – Ithaca College, Paul Vosburgh – Saint John Fisher College, Sherman Wood – Salisbury University, Blaise Faggiano – Utica College, Janelle Zera – Empire 8 Associate Commissioner

### **Welcome:**

The E8 Coaches welcomed Dan MacNeill of Cortland into the conference. In addition, Mike Welch and DeLane Fitzgerald were congratulated on their new appointments.

### **Sherman Wood reviewed the following D3 Council and Business notes from the AFCA Convention:**

#### **Size of Squad Allowed – No movement**

**Off Season – No movement –** It was concluded that the monitoring of player safety in strength and conditioning sessions was not consistent enough to discuss. Therefore, it is encouraged to leave all decisions to each Institution and trust that all will follow the rules.

**Spring Practice –** Mike Welch (Ithaca) is working with Pete Fredenburg (Mary Hardin-Baylor) and the American Southwest Conference in piecing together a 10 day spring practice proposal. Mike Welch also mentioned that the American Southwest Conference decided to pull the helmet proposal until further research.

Jerry Boyes (Buffalo State) believes consultation from a doctor at the convention also led to the withdrawal of helmets. He also proposed a spring format similar to the division 2 model (Mike Welch fully agreed). In addition, Jerry believes coaches must all be in agreement pertaining to this proposal as well as encouraging the support from your SAAC. Jerry continued stating that only **institutions sponsoring football** should have a vote.

**Football Rules (9:20 AM) –** Coaches discussed new target (without instant replay)/ejection rules. Coaches agreed that this rule continues to be **inconsistent** and welcomes further interpretations. Mike Welch informed coaches that both teams will discuss and decide the particulars pertaining to ejection procedures before each game. Institutions should be equipped with instant replay capabilities at halftime just in case. Blaise Faggiano (Utica) believes there should be a review of 2<sup>nd</sup> half targeting fouls

over the weekend or during the week to prevent unnecessary 1<sup>st</sup> half suspensions. Dan MacNeill (Cortland) stated that this rule already exist (established last season).

**Recruiting – A** recruiting calendar possibility was discussed and found that only 37% percent of national coaches supported this topic. However, Mike Welch will continue to emphasize at least the importance of having a Dead Period (similar to D1).

#### **Playoffs – No movement**

#### **Update Travel Squad Size (58 to 62):**

Janelle confirmed that the Overnight Travel Squad Size (from 58 to 62) was approved.

#### **HUDL:**

Blaise pushed for the use of hudl across the conference. There were very positive comments from coaches currently using hudl (Brockport, Buffalo State, Cortland, Salisbury and Utica). Hartwick will be meeting with representatives today to discuss the possible switch. The discussion resulted in **all coaches voting in favor of at least the use of hudl for film exchange purposes only.**

#### **2015-2017 Proposed E8 Football Schedule (9:43):**

Mike Welch and Jerry Boyes expressed concerns pertaining to the proposed schedule. Janelle mentioned that a redraft (2016) is being developed and voting may not be necessary. However, the coaches strongly encouraged to vote. Dan MacNeill recommended using the NJAC model (scheduling from the bottom-up). **All coaches voted in favor of revising the schedule.**

Meeting concluded with a possible conference call in May.

Meeting Adjourned at **9:56 AM.**

Submitted by Sherman Wood 2/20/14