



# EMPIRE 8 SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTORS MEETING

August 15, 2019 – Pittsford, NY  
St. John Fisher College – Ralph C. Wilson Building

## ATTENDANCE

**Alfred** – Chris Boswell  
**Elmira** – Don Sherman, Steve Kline, Travis Lerner  
**Hartwick** – Chris Gondek, Corey Cohen  
**Houghton** – Jason Mucher, Brian Reitnour  
**Nazareth** – Joe Seil, Kelly Vergin  
**Sage** – Ann King  
**St. John Fisher** – Sean Farnsworth, Megan Costello  
**Utica** – Gil Burgmaster, Laurel Simer, Ray Biggs, Cooper Deck  
**Empire 8 Conference** – Chuck Mitrano, Joe Venniro

**ACTION ITEMS IN RED**  
**VOTES IN YELLOW**

## A G E N D A

**Joe Venniro opened the meeting at 12:20 p.m.**

### Introductions

After brief introductions, Joe Venniro moved to create a formal SID Directory and come up with a list for Social Media accounts by school.

**File Sharing.** Group agreed to set up a way of sharing photos with the Associate Commissioner, both headshots and action photos using either Dropbox, Google Drive or We Transfer. Video highlights will be shared the same way with Plays of the Week to start week 1.

**Preseason Polls.** Group discussed the pros and cons of introducing coaches polls by sport, which would also be produced in concert with a season preview furnished by the Associate Commissioner. The group agreed that a coaches poll was not beneficial for most members. The SIDs agreed that a season preview for several team sports (football, field hockey, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, lacrosse) would be beneficial. The group also agreed to add a Player to Watch for each of those sports, one per school, furnished by the SID. The SIDs would provide Associate Commissioner Venniro with pertinent season preview information by a specified date. Joe Venniro would also release Empire 8 Championship previews for tennis, cross country, track and field and golf the week of the championship tournament or event.

**POTW.** Weekly Player of the Week reporting procedures would continue to stay the same, a reporting deadline of 10 a.m. In addition, Plays of the Week would be instituted with a deadline to be determined by Joe Venniro. With the exception of field hockey, institutions would also be responsible for reporting Players of the Week on a national level, with backup from Associate Commissioner Venniro.

**Stat Reporting.** The group stressed consistency (for conduct fouls) and finding ways to clean up submissions for the conference site. Schools discussed what stat platforms they use, with various results, due to cost and ease of software.



**All Conference Voting.** Empire 8 Awards process was discussed, as SIDs will now also receive a vote in addition to the coaches. The group also discussed the 24-hour rule if there seemed to be discrepancies in voting. Any discrepancies must be relayed to the respective Athletic Director, whether from a coach or SID. Only the Athletic Director can contact Commissioner Mitrano or Associate Commissioner Venniro within those 24 hours with a determination to be made shortly thereafter. The group also relayed that there must be better communication from the Associate Commissioner on how the awards are released.

**Empire 8 Championships.** Commissioner Mitrano addressed the group on various championship enhancements. The SIDs play a major role in creating a special championship feel with the pre-tournament promotion and on site branding. Expectations of the host institutions were also discussed. SIDs should be sure to consult the Empire 8 Championships Host Policies to ensure proper handling of tournament related responsibilities.

**All-Tournament Team.** SIDs expressed concerns on timelines and determination of the Championship All-Tournament Teams feeling all members should be recognized on site during the awards presentation rather than a couple days after the event.

**PROPOSAL:** For the All-Tournament Team to be named on site during the awards ceremony as organized by the host SID who will get the names of the honorees from the participating coaches or their designee. Supported 7-1. This will be discussed by the Athletic Directors at their Fall meeting. If approved, this will be implemented for the 2019-20 season.

**Game Links.** Commissioner Mitrano and Associate Commissioner Venniro discussed the need for member institutions to be more consistent in posting Empire 8 TV and live stat links to the league schedules. SIDs also discussed easier ways to post highlights and agreed that Associate Commissioner Venniro would supply a universal login from stretch to make that happen.

**Empire 8 Branding/Marketing.** Commissioner Mitrano expressed the importance of the SIDs assistance in sharing the Empire 8 brand. Branding has been emphasized by the Empire 8 President's Council as a strategic priority. The group also discussed various ways to patrol social media accounts. Institutions are also encouraged to send clipped highlight videos to the Empire 8 Associate Commissioner for use on the league's YouTube page. Associate Commissioner Venniro will be in charge of re-introducing a weekly feature on a student-athlete centered around the Tomorrow's Leaders brand. A form will be sent to each SID for the student-athlete to complete. A pre-determined schedule will also be furnished. Other ideas were discussed for consideration.

Commissioner Mitrano congratulated outgoing SID Gil Burgmaster on his service with Utica College. The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Venniro  
Associate Commissioner