

MIDDLE ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

DeSales University
Center Valley, PA

November 20, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Ken Andrews (MAC), Brad Fields (Eastern), Laura Gingrich (Alvernia), Janice Luck (Albright), Dave Martin (Misericordia), Jenn Noon (Fairleigh Dickinson), Pat Ross (MAC), Marie Stroman (MAC)

Jack Shafer (Widener) was unable to attend the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 am by Ken Andrews.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The May 15, 2012 minutes were accepted (5-0).
2. The committee reviewed upcoming MAC 100 events and promotions. Athletic Directors will be reminded to increase promotions (t-shirts, floor decals, temporary tattoos, etc.) during the upcoming basketball season. The voting for the fall sports Century Teams have concluded and Sports Information Directors are currently giving their input as well. *Memorable Moments* are being combined to publish at the MAC 100 reception in January. Nominations for the second class of the MAC Hall of Fame are due February 1, 2013 – this has given positive publicity for the conference with former member schools. Invitations were sent for the MAC 100 reception at the NCAA Convention – there are expected to be about 150 guests in attendance. SAAC will plan for the week of service (April 8-14) at their February in-person meeting. The Senior All-Star basketball game is scheduled for Sunday, March 17. Alumni reunions are planned for the swimming and outdoor track & field championships.
3. The May 7 Forum will focus on (1) advancement, (2) student-athlete experience, and (3) NCAA recruiting calendar. Relevant campus staff should work collaboratively before the event to raise any issues/questions and after to create a best practices document. Kevin McGuinnis (Associate Director of Athletics for Development, Rhode Island) will serve as the panel moderator.
4. Ken Andrews reviewed the Championships accounting noting that t-shirt sales were generally higher than last year. The committee supported holding **host schools accountable (financially) for any t-shirts not sent to championship site (5-0)**. Starting

in 2013-14, the MAC office will assume a majority of responsibilities related to individual championship events, specifically composing the championship programs.

5. The committee reviewed the MAC Strategic Plan. President Tobey Oxholm (Arcadia) is currently drafting a proposal for a conference-wide academic scholarship symposium (Goal #5). The Operations Committee in collaboration with Ken Andrews will draft the NCAA Conference Self Study Guide (Goal #12). The committee showed support of the conference office moving championship accounting to the end of the academic year instead of after each sport season (Goal #22). After the completion of the MAC 100, conference office staff will revisit and refine the conference budget (Financing Strategic Plan).
6. Governance.
 - A. The committee noted that the NCAA dashboards aren't available to the MAC because we are not submitting the data to the NCAA. Operations did not move to change that stance as conference constituents already utilize the Equity in Athletics Data Analysis (EADA) report for sharing pertinent information.
 - B. The next FAR meeting will take place January 3 at DeSales University. Ken Andrews noted there has been about 50% participation of this group in the past.
 - C. The Voting Delegates meeting at Albright on December 4 with President McMillan will review topics for the May 7 annual meeting including possible NCAA recruiting calendars, enhancing the student-athlete experience, and advancement.
 - D. The committee discussed revising the current conference bylaws regarding no contests, forfeits, etc. in the Fact Book to include tie-breaking procedures in the case of extenuating circumstances (severe weather, natural disasters, etc.) After lengthy discussion, the committee recommended that every effort should be made to play a contest and only in the sport of football (the only sport without a championship tournament format) will the tie-breaking scenario be relevant. Per recommendation from the Football Coaches group, a tie-breaking procedure to "withdraw" games will be put in place.
7. Game Management.
 - A. Ken Andrews will solidify schedules for the 2014-15 year with Homecoming dates.
 - B. Tennis coaches have made an appeal to require tennis officials at conference matches. The committee felt that at least a year should be taken to analyze the affect of not providing officials.

- C. Several conferences have taken a look at doubleheader start times (mainly in basketball and soccer) to act in accordance with Title IX regulations. Institutional autonomy has been the conference policy and the committee agreed to continue doing so. The conference office establishes game dates but contest times are determined by individual schools so they are responsible for scheduling times that take gender issues into account.
- D. The committee discussed parameters surrounding start times for MAC championship contests. Consideration should be given to student-athlete missed class time (when lights are available), home field advantage, as well as the playing surface condition. The committee recommended discussing this issue further at the December Voting Delegates meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Recently several MAC institutions have dealt with interesting NCAA issues. Ken Andrews will ask those members to share their experiences with the conference to educate fellow colleagues on the process and outcomes.
- 2. Miscellaneous.
 - A. The START Program was held at Wilkes University this November for baseball, basketball, and soccer. The program will move to the Reading area again for the spring session – sports offered are TBD.
 - B. Misericordia has been working collaboratively with the Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders to put together a proposal to host an NCAA baseball regional. Kean University and Montclair State University had previously put forth proposals but are no longer allowed to host NCAA championships due to New Jersey's regulations on sports wagering.
 - C. The committee wants to require that each school invest in an official lightning detection instrument to adhere to the conference lightning policy. There are several free apps.
 - D. Although Ramapo and Rutgers-Newark would like to bring their men's tennis into Freedom, without the women, the committee voted against their request.
 - E. Because each campus and athletic department is unique, the committee supported continuing institutional autonomy in dealing with volunteer criteria and encouraged each school to work with their HR departments to ensure compliance.
 - F. In an effort to maintain the game start time on the last Saturday of the regular season, Ken Andrews will try to schedule soccer matches away from football contests. For 2013, some soccer games may have to start after 4 PM.

- G. The committee supported **adding wrestling as a conference sport in 2013-14 (5-0)** because the NCAA conference qualification has moved to regional qualification. Ken Andrews is currently surveying wrestling coaches to determine the ideal MAC championship format.
- H. The committee discussed the possibility of only two lacrosse officials instead of three for conference games. Because lacrosse is a dangerous sport and the quality of the team of officials often varies, the committee recommended that the conference maintain three officials for conference games. Ken Andrews mentioned regional interest among conference commissioners to build officiating consortiums to better control costs for this service.
- I. Ken Andrews noted that schools should handle film exchange problem protocol in the same manner as game scheduling – a coach should contact the opposing coach first, then Athletic Director communication, and finally reach out to the Executive Director if necessary.

3. Committee Reports

- A. Cross Country. The 2012 championship was a success. A rotation of host schools has been arranged for the future.
- B. Field Hockey. The committee noted that all fields should be marked properly including a line or “X’s” across the field. In addition, game management staff who understand rulings should be employed at the table to oversee game re-entries. The committee supported **splitting the *Player of the Year* awards in Field Hockey, Men’s Lacrosse, Women’s Lacrosse, Men’s Soccer, and Women’s Soccer to *Offensive and Defensive Player of the Year* (5-0)**. The added award in sports where there are clear delineations between offensive and defensive players will improve availability to regional and national awards. The committee noted adding the awards will have a financial impact on the conference awards program and suggested modifying special award plaques.

The committee opposed **adding a third official to all conference championship games (0-5)**. Currently, three officials are employed only for the final championship game. The committee noted that any issues by only having two officials should be worked out with the coaches, game officials, and the coordinator of officials instead of adding another game official.

The committee supported to **continue Lois Pinto’s contract as coordinator of officials for two more years (5-0)** on the stipulation that she have officials increase communication with coaches and the use of hand signals.

- C. Football. The committee discussed player and team safety walking to and from the game field (especially on special events like Homecoming). The committee supported to continue **film exchange through Hudl for 2013 (5-0)**.

- D. Men's Soccer. Three proposals are currently being considered for coordinator of officials.
- E. Women's Soccer. Three proposals are currently being considered for coordinator of officials.
- F. Sports Information. Two issues have arisen out of video streaming from schools. The committee supported the motion that the **conference championship events are "owned" by the conference, therefore, all video streaming should be made available for free to all fans (5-0)**. The conference office will cover the cost of providing a free stream for pay-per-view schools in 2012-13 for basketball but should be built into video streaming contracts for the future. In addition, the committee supported that **the rights to a game belong to the home/host team, and they have the first right of refusal (5-0)**.
- G. Volleyball. Manhattanville, Eastern, Delaware Valley, and Wilkes will be the hosts of the 2013 MAC Crossover tournament. Schools should be fully prepared (financially and staff) to produce a full box for volleyball matches in 2013. Schools should also work with officiating groups to ensure certified line judges are available for each match (hired officials or certified student workers). The committee supported a **two-year agreement with Larry Fetterhoff as the volleyball coordinator of officials (5-0)**.
- H. Mrs. Stroman has attended over half of the campus SAAC meetings and noted that SAAC programs are in general doing a great job staying involved in community service initiatives but could improve in representation of student-athletes (from all teams) and regular communication with athletic administration. The MAC SAAC supported a new in-person election process for the upcoming February meeting and continues their partnership with the Make-a-Wish Foundation and Special Olympics.
4. The next Operations Committee meeting will take place Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 9:30 am at Alvernia University.

The committee adjourned at 1:16 pm.