



MINUTES OF THE
MIDDLE ATLANTIC CONFERENCES
VOTING DELEGATES

Albright College
Reading, PA

December 4, 2012

PARTICIPANTS:

Brett Adams (Stevenson), Ken Andrews (MAC), Rick Beard (Lebanon Valley), Heidi Birtwistle (Eastern), Mike Clark (Lycoming), Jack Cole (Messiah), Scott Coval (DeSales), Chuck Edkins (Misericordia), Rick Ferry (Albright), Brad Fields (Eastern), Laura Gingrich (Alvernia), Brian Granata (Arcadia), Joe Guistina (Lycoming), Cheryl Ish (King's), David Jones (Eastern), Roger Kindel (Fairleigh Dickinson-Florham), Steve King (Messiah), Bill Klika (Fairleigh Dickinson-Florham), Nancy Latimore (Elizabethtown), Keith Levinthal (Manhattanville), Janice Luck (Albright), Addy Malatesta (Wilkes), Dave Martin (Misericordia), Jenn Noon (Fairleigh Dickinson-Florham), Gracia Perilli (DeSales), Gib Romaine (Hood), Patrick Ross (MAC), Bob Schlosser (Elizabethtown), Jack Shafer (Widener), Bill Stiles (Alvernia), Marie Stroman (MAC), Frank Wolfgang (Delaware Valley)

President McMillan (Albright) was also present for a portion of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 am by Ken Andrews.

DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT McMILLAN:

1. In an effort to emphasize the line of communication between the Presidents group and the Athletic Directors, President McMillan facilitated discussion surrounding May 7 Annual Meeting topics.
 - A. A panel of six (2-3 Athletic Directors and 2-3 Advancement staff) will be comprised with panel facilitator Kevin McGinniss (Associated Director of Athletics Advancement, Rhode Island) to facilitate fundraising interests between the athletic department and the greater college/university in an advancement discussion. The committee noted the importance of attendance of advancement staff at the annual meeting to gain the most beneficial outcome. MAC office staff will collaborate with Lycoming staff to look into the possibility of livestreaming the event for staff members who cannot attend the meeting.

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- B. Mr. Andrews will assemble a group of six people (each from different institutions) to construct a best-practices document for enhancing the student-athlete experience, and also addressing risk-management.
- C. The committee discussed many reasons why they are in opposition to an NCAA recruiting calendar noting that it would work against schools that are admission driven and create complications for part-time and dual-sport coaches. While a recruiting calendar is being presented to address the issue of work-life balance, the committee felt that an open model currently in place allows for the best chance of balance among such diverse schools. President McMillan suggested that the group consider recruiting guidelines for the MAC.
2. The committee reviewed the following from the October president's meeting:
- A. A proposal for a MAC Academic Honors Conference was reviewed. Some schools indicated attendance would be difficult considering other academic engagements. The group noted it would have to be noncompulsory. The committee should discuss this possibility with academic affairs staff.
- B. Because the NCAA legislative calendar is expeditious, a procedure for co-sponsoring NCAA legislative proposals was suggested: a group of three or more athletic directors can propose co-sponsorship with the executive director who will develop pros/cons for the proposed legislation. After some time to discuss between athletics staff and presidents/direct reports, an institutional email vote will be requested by the September 1 deadline.
- C. President McMillan also discussed upcoming MAC issues with the group.
- i. With the NCAA moving toward a regional qualification, the conference is looking into reinstating wrestling as a conference sport. Currently 6 out of the 18 MAC schools sponsor wrestling, competing in a couple of different conferences. Some schools find that their current conference alignments include a lot of travel – moving back to the MAC would reduce that travel. Members also favored reinstating wrestling to give wrestling student-athletes conference identity/recognition like their peers. One school noted that coming back to the MAC will place them against competition they are not likely to see in the regional tournament.
- ii. The MAC office will request information for the NCAA Conference Self Study to have a draft in January/March for a final report by the May annual meeting.

HOUSEKEEPING:

3. The May 16-17, 2012 minutes were accepted, **18-0**.

4. Mr. Klika reviewed the 2013 NCAA proposed legislation. The group noted that proposal No. 2013-9 [RECRUITING – ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSIONS – ALL FORMS OF PRIVATE ELECTRONIC CORRESPONDENCE PERMITTED] mirrors the recruiting legislation of Division I and II. Although not a conference sponsored sport, the committee also discussed the implications of proposal No. 2013-6 [PLAYING AND PRACTICE SEASONS – ICE HOCKEY – FIRST PERMISSIBLE CONTEST DATE – NOVEMBER 1] where it could potentially *eliminate* a weekend of permissible play and therefore moves a contest to a weekday and lead to missed class time.

OLD BUSINESS:

5. The committee reviewed upcoming MAC 100 events and promotions. The group was 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 released. *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 games are scheduled for Sunday, March 17 at Albright College. Alumni reunions are planned for the swimming and outdoor track & field championships. A student from Elizabethtown has been commissioned to illustrate the MAC 100 Family Portrait.
6. 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. Mr. Andrews noted that the Centennial Conference, Landmark Conference, and Pennsylvania State Athletic College are interested in creating officiating consortiums to get better control of the costs.

NEW BUSINESS:

7. Championships.
 - A. Mr. Andrews reviewed the fall 2012 accounting noting that t-shirt sales were generally higher than last year. The committee approved holding **host schools financially accountable for the full selling cost of any t-shirts not sent to the next championship site (18-0)**. All championship accounting will move to the end of the academic year instead of after each sport season.
 - B. Starting in 2013-14, the MAC office will assume a majority of responsibilities related to individual championship events, specifically composing the

championship program. Host institutions will still need to provide insurance and manage cross country and outdoor track & field events.

- C. Misericordia, with assistance from Bill Stiles, submitted a bid with the Wilkes-Barre Rail Riders to host the 2013 NCAA baseball regional.

The committee recessed at approximately 11:45 am to assess availability of the Catholic Youth Center for the 2013 MAC Swimming Championship. The committee reconvened at approximately 11:55 am.

- D. Central York High School returned a contract for the 2013 MAC Swimming Championship that included a \$6,600 fee for pool rental – staffing would be organized by the Central York aquatics staff and complimentary. A motion to negotiate up to \$3,700 for an all-inclusive contract was turned down **(3-8-7)** because of the nature of the previously stated terms (free pool rental for the first two years) and concerns of uncertainty with the Central York meet staff. **A motion to return to the Catholic Youth Center for the 2013 MAC Swimming Championship was approved (10-0-8).**
- E. The committee **approved an individual wrestling tournament with a maximum of two entries per weight class from each school (5-1-12)**. The group referred the date of the championship back to the wrestling coaches for further review, recommending a date in January instead of November as it may hinder participation from dual football-wrestling student-athletes.

8. Governance.

- A. After the completion of the MAC 100, conference office staff will balance the 2013-14 MAC budget including added expenses from championships (e.g., addition of wrestling, swimming rental, etc.).
- B. The next FAR meeting will take place January 3 at DeSales University.
- C. The NCAA holds no position on forfeits and no contests although the MAC Operations Committee emphasized every effort should be made to complete conference contests. The committee **approved that in the sport of football (the only sport without a championship tournament format), a tie-breaking procedure to “withdraw” games will be put in place when a game cannot be completed due to circumstances beyond the institutions control (11-0-7).**
- D. The committee **approved splitting the player of the year award in Field Hockey, Men’s Lacrosse, Women’s Lacrosse, Men’s Soccer, and Women’s Soccer into offensive and defensive players of the year (16-1-1)** to enhance national award recognition opportunities for student-athletes from the MAC by

matching award models from nearby conferences. The POY, COY, and ROY awards will all use the “green” plaques to help the conference awards budget.

9. Several issues have arisen this year relating to contests.
 - A. Schedules for the 2014-15 year with Homecoming dates should be sent to the MAC office if they haven't been sent already.
 - B. The *Fact Book* mandates that the last Saturday of the regular season for Men's and Women's Soccer should have contests that start no later than 4:00 pm. For 2013 an exception will be made for schools that have home football *and* soccer contests but starting in 2014 football and soccer games won't be scheduled at home the same day (on the last Saturday of the season).
 - C. The group **approved that each school must have a device that accurately measures lightning relative to NCAA “flash to bang” policy (18-0)**. Athletic trainers, game officials, and team members should all be aware of policy and how it's put in place *before* a contest begins.
 - D. Home field advantage was deemed more significant than missed class time in scheduling start times for outdoor MAC championship contests.
 - E. Any team taking media timeouts should notify the visiting team before the contest.
10. A few schools shared NCAA violations related to the financial aid appeals process and student-athlete reinstatement, in hopes of helping colleagues understand how the NCAA processes violations.
11. Committee Reports.
 - A. The 2012 Cross Country championship was a success. A rotation of host schools has been arranged for the future: DeSales (2013), Lebanon Valley (2014), Hood (2015), Delaware Valley (2016), Messiah (2017), and Misericordia (2018). Host schools should provide an indoor facility for awards in case of inclement weather. Chip timing technology has limited each team to only 12 entries.
 - B. All Field Hockey fields should have a properly marked 25-yard line including a line consistent with field hockey boundaries or “X's” across the field. In addition, game management staff that understands rulings should be employed at the table to oversee game re-entries. The group voted **to continue Lois Pinto's contract as coordinator of officials for two more years (17-0-1)** on the stipulation that the officials increase communication with coaches and use hand signals.

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- C. Particularly for football games, player and team safety walking to and from the game field (especially on special events like Homecoming) should be considered. The committee **supported to continue film exchange through Hudl for 2013-14 (10-0-8)**.
- D. The committee **approved a two-year agreement with Mark Garcia as the coordinator of soccer officials (18-0)**.
- E. Sports Information Directors have noted issues with ownership of video streamed contests. The committee **approved that Conference championship events are “owned” by the conference; therefore, all video streaming should be made available for free to all fans (18-0)**. The conference office will cover the cost of providing a free stream for pay-per-view schools in 2012-13 but should be built into video streaming contracts for the future. In addition, the committee **approved the “rights” to video stream a game belong to the home/host team, and they have the first right of refusal (18-0)**.
- F. Volleyball. Manhattanville (instead of King’s), Eastern, Delaware Valley, and Wilkes will host the 2013 MAC Crossover tournament. Schools should be fully prepared (financially and staff) to produce a full statistical 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 MAC office will work with officials to set up local clinics. The committee **approved to sustain a two-year agreement with Larry Fetterhoff as the volleyball coordinator of officials (18-0)**.
12. Terms and conditions for medical hardship waivers were reviewed.
13. 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.
14. The committee will next meet Sunday, March 17, 2013 at Albright College.
15. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 pm.

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