

Secretary's Report for Saturday, September 17, 2005

A brief meeting of the MFL Board was held on Saturday, September 17, 2005 at Sacred Heart High School during the MFL Coaches' Convention.

Present: Mark McNeil, Joyce Albert, PJ Wexler, Debbie Simon and Lisa Honeyman

1. Penalty Fee for late payment of Dues

The Board decided that the late fee for schools that do not pay their MFL dues by the dues deadline will be \$50. The motion, which was made by PJ and Lisa, read: "If a school does not pay its dues by the dues deadline set in the Rules, then a penalty fee of \$50 will be assessed in addition to the regular membership fee." The motion was seconded by Joyce and approved unanimously.

Schools that do not pay their MFL dues may not participate in States, may not vote at the following year's Annual Membership Meeting and will not be entitled to receive instructional materials that are distributed to member schools (such as DVDs) from the MFL.

2. Middle School League language in the proposed Rules document

The Board held a lengthy discussion about what to do about language about the MMSFL in the proposed Rules document. Some middle school coaches are alarmed by language that they feel takes away too much of their autonomy. Because they did not see the proposed Rules document until after the comment period closed, they were angry that they were not able to participate in the formation of the language as it pertained to their organization. At this point in time it is too late to modify language and provide adequate notice to hold a vote on the document at the Annual Membership Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2005.

In September, 2004 the Board approved a formal request by the MMSFL to be sanctioned by the MFL, including benefits such as invitations to all tournaments and to coaches workshops. Although one of the middle school coaches insisted that all references to the MMSFL be removed from the Rules document, the Board recognized that it can not do that without a formal proposal from the MMSFL followed by a Board vote. The Rules committee was charged with the job of recording current practice and procedures, not setting new policy.

In order to allow the MMSFL coaches an opportunity to propose language that better reflects their understanding of their relationship with the MFL, the comment period has been reopened until September 23, 2005. During that time the middle school coaches may draft language that they would like to replace what is written in sections 1.3, 1.8, 1.8.2, and 1.9 (and any other sections that refer to the MMSFL) of the proposed Rules document. Once finalized, the revised Rules will be distributed to the MFL membership. A membership vote on the document will be postponed from September 21 to October 22 (at the Hall of Fame Tournament) in order to accommodate this process.

3. Thank you to the Constitution and Rules Committee

Debbie Simon asked to have a "Huge thank-you to the Constitution and Rules Committee for creating documents that will add a sense of structure to the MFL" written into the minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Honeyman, Acting Secretary