

THOUSAND ISLANDS MINOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE



Date: May 9, 2019

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Location: 541 Days Road

Recording Secretary: Rob Christian

In Attendance:

Joe Pacheco (Chair), Chad Haffie, Chris Flake, Sara LeRoy, Krista Nitschke, Sean Reade, Matt McLeod.

Recap of March 30th, 2019:

1. The expectation of the league is to teach the fundamentals of the game, enhance physical condition and to promote sportsmanship. The program is to ensure that each and every member shall have a chance to play in a positive and uplifting environment, regardless of their weight, height or playing ability.
2. No kick-offs or kick returns will be permitted this year. Teams will start with the ball at their own 35-yard line. Higher level leagues have realized that a great deal of injuries occur during the kick-off. The move also evens the playing field for teams who do have great, athletic kick returners.
3. Football Canada will be eliminating 12 on 12 football for those under age 12. This one of the reasons for the changes to the rules at the Atom level.
4. A central registration process would help areas that are down in numbers. From a safety and liability point of view, having balanced teams is essential. Numbers in certain areas have fluctuated. It was noted that not all families have the ability to travel to another area for practices.
5. With respect to liability, the league has utilized the legal services of John Crouchman. When the league left the Ontario Football Alliance, due to not having enough players on each team, and after obtaining an insurance broker, John recommended to meet or exceed the standards of Football Canada.

6. If a coach does not understand the expectations of the league or interprets a rule incorrectly, communication needs to be provided.
7. It was clarified that on field goal attempts, converts and punts, the defense can have more than the normal 4-person line in order to attempt a block. The centre is still given protection.
8. If a team decides to punt, that team can substitute either the punter or the long snapper but not both.
9. Both Head Coaches will meet before the game to introduce each other and discuss any “unique situations”. Such situations are to clarify items such as the number of players on a team and injury situations. If a team has 24 or more players, every player must exit the field at the change of possession. The Area Representative (or a designate), will also be part of the discussion in order to adjudicate disputes. The coaches know who to approach if a concern arises.
10. TIMFL, as indicated previously, has received a donation of \$1,000 from the Larry Gibson Foundation. Allen Champaign, from the Center for Neuroscience Studies, School of Medicine, Queen’s University, has been informed of this donation. Allen suggested using the funds for renting a field and/or equipment/staff to run the cameras for the kids to take part in the football drills and 40-yard dash, similar to what occurred last year.
11. The Concussion Education Safety and Awareness Campaign will also be part of the day to educate athletes and parents about sport-concussion. This is an effort to raise awareness about head injuries and change the culture towards creating safer playing fields. Sensors will be placed in 20 helmets and the data will be tracked over a six-year period.

Final Weekend of the Season:

There was a substantive discussion at the coaches’ meeting to remove the end of the year playoffs and replace it with a “finals weekend” that promotes equal games and not necessarily a championship. Other events could be tagged onto this day.

Concerns were expressed by two areas regarding this change. Some thought this requires further consideration and should be decided at a later time with greater input.

Last year there was negative response from people involved with Peewee teams. The feeling was there was no real champion. This was in large part due to the imbalanced schedule and having an odd number of teams.

Sean Reid indicated that he had a petition signed by parents desiring playoffs and a championship. The final weekend of the season will take place on June 22nd and 23rd at Regi. This would be the showcase weekend. These two dates are not currently on the web site.

Each division will have a championship. The team in first place will play the team in second place. All other teams will also play real games. Everyone will be included with the hope to add additional events.

The idea is to have comparable teams play each other and all teams involved in the final weekend. There are 6 Bantam teams, 5 Peewee game teams, and 4 Atom teams.

Families must be notified of the happenings on the final weekend. The Executive will have to be better at communicating the mission of the league and explain why certain decisions have been made.

There were a lot of moving parts this year given the late AGM, expanding the registration dates in order to fill teams, and as a result of cleaning up from previous years.

There was a suggestion to have a greater number of Area Representatives, Executive Members meeting during the course of the season.

Competitive Edge:

All present were in agreement that coaches at this level should not be trying to obtain a competitive advantage by going outside the spirit of the rules. At the end of the day, TIMFL wants to have the players attain a positive experience.

Next Meeting

Area Representatives and the Executive will meet again in June 2019.

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY