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COMPULSORY Meeting for All G.M.A.A. High Schools Meeting: December Secondary Advisory Meeting

To: SAC Reps
From: GMAA Office
Date: Wednesday, December 7th, 2016
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Place: EMSB, 6000 Fielding Ave, William Dawson Room (Light lunch provided)

MINUTES

100 Additions to and Approval of Agenda (Phil)

200 Approval of Minutes of June 2016 (Phil)

300 Business arising (Amanda)

Two reminders from the June minutes that were passed and will be implemented for the first time in upcoming sports.

- 1) In Track and Field the false start rule will be in effect – the first false start is charged to everyone and on the second, the student will be disqualified.
 - 2) In Rugby if we do not have enough teams to field both D1 and D3 we will play an interlocking schedule with a separate playoff structure.

400 New Business

401 Board of Directors Report

RSEQ Entente - In order to potentially receive our grant from MEES and the RSEQ we have to sign the entente with the RSEQ. The GMAA Board of Directors signed the entente with the RSEQ and asked for a one-year extension on the joint purchases of medals and banners. This will allow the GMAA to use up the stock from previous years, and to notify the current suppliers of our intention to change next season. During the year, Amanda will meet with the RSEQ suppliers to make sure the calendar can work with the GMAA's seasonal approach to sports (which differs slightly from the season in the other regions) and that all banners and medals will be offered in English. All awards starting in 2017-2018 will be RSEQ banners and medals.

EJECTIONS and REFEREE ISSUES - The list of ejections was discussed by the Board as a function of the level of refereeing. It was asked that we put together a referees' committee specifically for soccer and futsal (but perhaps also for other sports as well like softball, football, hockey, rugby, etc) to look at the contracts and the assignors in more detail. (Neil B, Michel L, Phil L, Amanda)

GOVERNING RULES and OUTSIDE LEAGUES – The Board passed a motion to include a stipulation for those teams who compete in leagues other than GMAA or other RSEQ leagues. Each school would need permission (Authorization Hors Region) to participate in any other league. The adjustment is listed below in *italics*:

RULE VI – REGULATIONS GOVERNING ATHLETIC CONTESTS

Section 1 – Participation Region

3. In order for a GMAA member school to compete in the activities of another regional school sports association (**RSEQ**) or ***Independent Sports League***, the team must receive written permission from the GMAA before registering for the league. This permission form must be signed by the SAC Rep and Principal from the GMAA member school before it is submitted to the GMAA office. (GMAA Authorisation Hors Région Form)

DEFAULT FEES - Two adjustments to the default and withdrawal fees were passed. The first is that if a team withdraws the day of the game, they will simply be charged the withdrawal fee + the referee costs – the default fee will be waived.

The second is that if a team requests to change divisions once the schedule has already been made after the scheduling meeting, they will be charged a withdrawal fee for the team we have had to remove.

402 Competition Committee Proposals – competition committee met for over 3 hours on November 29th to discuss various items from SAC, the sports committees, the post-season evaluation surveys or the office. The minutes were sent out to all of SAC last week. The following motions were passed and are being proposed to SAC for approval. Each will be voted on separately.

Soccer: We were looking at the possibility of reducing the playoff overtime from two 10-minute halves to two 5-minute halves. With the time delays of double headers, the light issue in the fall with it getting dark earlier and earlier, and with schools losing their fields to bookings, the competition committee moved that, *For all Tie breakers, Quarterfinals and Semi Finals that two 5-minute overtime periods be played, no golden goal. If the game is still tied, penalty kicks. For final games only, two 10-minute halves will be played, no golden goal. If game is still tied, penalty kicks.*

Moved: Sarah Neeff – ECS

Seconded: Andy D’Alessandro – LMAC

Unan.

Cross country: A suggestion came in this year to make the girls and boys distances the same Bantams 3km, Midgets 4km, Juveniles 6km. When the office put it out to the Cross-Country Running coaches on Survey Monkey, 61% agreed, they also asked that the Juveniles run 5km instead of 6km.

The competition committee moves that, *distances for the 2017 Cross Country Run are: 3km for all Bantams - 4km for all Midgets - 5km for all Juveniles*

Moved: Elad Ben-Eli – HZHS

Seconded Duane Collins – LAURN

Unan.

In order to be consistent and have similar rules to what we have in track and field, *the competition committee proposed that, no late additions be permitted within 2 working days of the scheduled race. Substitutions will be permitted if the students are the same gender and age, but no late additions.*

Moved: Phil Moreau - LBPHS

Seconded: Megan Littman – SHSM

Unan.

Golf: Most schools, when asked, agreed that having a bit more time to register would potentially help them be more organized for the golf tournament, so *the competition committee recommends that, the GMAA Golf Tournament (pending confirmation from the course) be moved to the third week in September instead of the second.*

Moved: Holly Durkee – STG

Seconded: Sarah Neeff – ECS

Unan.

Volleyball: *In an effort to keep costs as low as possible, the competition committee proposed that, the payment for volleyball scorekeepers (\$2 per scheduled GMAA game) be removed. If the schools find that without this payment it is difficult to book scorekeepers, it will be reconsidered in future years.*

Moved: Kathleen Cook – TRAF

Seconded: Gareth Williams – WWHS

Unan.

Basketball: The question came up regarding D3 Basketball Eligibility, in D2 we allow one AAA player on each team but for D3 the rule is that no AA or AAA are allowed. *To be more consistent in our rules, the competition committee proposes:*

D1: unlimited AA and AAA players (same)

D2: unlimited AA players and 1 AAA player per game (same)

D3: no AAA players and 1 AA player per game (changed)

Moved: Mike Bunn – MMA

Seconded: Chantale Lewis – STUDY

Vote: For: 29

Opposed: 6

Abstentions: 2

Motion is passed

SAC would also like the competition committee to discuss the possibility of the bantam level being only one division since bantam basketball is a grade 7 only category. It will be discussed at the June meeting.

Forced Technical Red Cards: The office had multiple incidences this year of forced red cards for 'yellow-card' offenses. The competition committee proposed that, any 'forced technical red card' be an automatic one game suspension instead of two. Some examples of forced technical red cards include, yellow cards for team infractions in rugby, denying an obvious scoring opportunity outside of the box in soccer, a handball denying a goal in the crease in soccer.

Moved: Maxine Rupert – LCC

Seconded: Mike Bunn – MMA

Unan.

Futsal: (motions from Futsal Meeting) With the change from Indoor Soccer to Futsal, there are many rule adjustments that will now need to be followed. In order to help the officials with the accumulation of fouls (the results of which would cause a direct free kick instead of indirect), it was suggested at the Futsal meeting this year that each host school must have a minor official at all games to oversee the scoresheets. The competition committee proposes that the rule be added to the Futsal Handbook, *In GMAA Futsal, each host school must have a minor official at all games to oversee the scoresheet.*

Moved: Louise Bianchini – VMC

Seconded: Holly Durkee – STG

Vote: For: 36

Opposed: 1

Motion is passed

A motion was passed unanimously at the Futsal Meeting to adjust the scoring system to make all game worth the same amount of points. Currently the games that go into Overtime and shoot outs are worth 4 points, whereas a regular game is only worth 3.

Now	Regular Time	Win 3pts	Loss 0pts
	Overtime/Shootout	Win 3pts	Loss 1pt
<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Regular Time</i>	<i>Win 3pts</i>	<i>Loss 0pts</i>
	<i>Overtime/Shootout</i>	<i>Win 2pts</i>	<i>Loss 1pt</i>

Moved: Andy D'Alessandro – LMAC Seconded: Duane Collins – LAURN Unan.

Right now, in the Indoor Soccer handbook it currently reads that the minimum size net is 2x3m but there is no maximum. The coaches at the Futsal meeting voted that the handbook read, the standard net size for Futsal is 2m x 3m (a Handball net). Any school without the standard net size will not be permitted to host games.

Moved: George Spiliotakis – RHS Seconded: Pat Sullivan – JFKHS

An amendment was added by Pat Sullivan that up to 5 inches of difference would be an acceptable range for the net sizes. So the motion would read,

The standard net size for Futsal is 2m x 3m (a handball net), however any measurement within 5 inches (12.7cm) of the standard will also be accepted. Any school whose nets do not fall within the acceptable range would not be permitted to host games.

Moved: Pat Sullivan – JFKHS

Seconded: Mike Bunn – MMA

Unan.

Wrestling: (motion from the Wrestling Meeting) *On a one-year trial basis, wrestlers who do not want to wear a singlet will be permitted to wear compression style shirt and shorts. Shorts with no buttons, zippers, pockets, strings or Velcro would be accepted as uniform. If any questions were to arise, the participating coaches and the officials will assess the articles of clothing to determine if the uniform is safe and can be worn to wrestle. If the uniform is denied, the student would not be permitted to wrestle until he/she changed into an approved uniform.*

Moved: George Spiliotakis – RHS

Seconded: Jeroo Jamaji – BA

Vote: For: 36

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 1

Motion is passed.

Swimming: On a one-year trial basis, students will be permitted to wear a shirt to swim. One-piece full-body polyurethane suits are still banned from GMAA competitions (as per FINA regulations). If any questions arise, the coach, the officials and the GMAA representative at the meet will assess the situation to determine if the uniform is safe and reasonable. If the uniform is denied, the student would not be permitted to swim until he/she changed into an approved uniform.

Moved: Mike Bunn – MMA

Seconded: Megan Littman – SHSM

An amendment was added by Elad Ben-Eli to include the word appropriate and safe in the proposal, the new proposal would read,

On a one-year trial basis, students will be permitted to wear a safe and appropriate shirt to swim. One-piece full-body polyurethane suits are still banned from GMAA competitions (as per FINA regulations). If any questions arise, the coach, the officials and the GMAA representative at the meet will assess the situation to determine if the uniform is safe and reasonable. If the uniform is denied, the student would not be permitted to swim until he/she changed into an approved uniform.

Moved: Mike Bunn – MMA

Seconded: Megan Littman – SHSM

Unan.

Hockey: The Hockey ages used to correspond to the 36-month contact rule that states only students born within 36 months of each other can play in the same contact sports league. Now that the leagues are all non-contact, it was asked why we do not allow those students who are in the same grade to participate (September – December birthdays at the older age limit). The competition committee proposed that, we extend the upper limit of the age category to include September, October, November & December of the oldest year. This was voted on for the Juvenile Girls coaches this year, and passed unanimously. It is being proposed as a change to all non-contact hockey leagues.

In all non-contact hockey leagues, the upper limit of the age category will be adjusted to include September, October, November & December of the oldest year.

Moved: Sarah Neeff – ECS

Seconded: Chris Viau – LCC.

Unan.

Playoff Game Changes:

This year more than ever the issues with schools not being available during the playoff week were very apparent. We had 62 changes to soccer playoff games – we only had 71 playoff soccer games... We had games until November 12th – a full 2 weeks after the end of the season. *In an effort to reduce the number of changes and to complete the season in a reasonable amount of time, the competition committee proposes that, For all sports and all playoffs, SAC reps and coaches must submit their playoff date conflicts within 5 days of the schedule being posted. If a school does not submit conflict dates, it is assumed that they are available to play. If a request is made to change a game and no conflict was given, the answer is no, the game must be played on the date scheduled, if it is not, the game will be defaulted.*

Moved: Elad Ben-Eli – HZHS

Seconded: Kathleen Cook – TRAF

There was much discussion, some topics include:

5-days after the scheduling meeting being too early to submit conflicts

Defaulting a game being too harsh a penalty for coaches being disorganized

Schools having emergency school activities that pop-up days before scheduled games

Not being able to submit conflicts before the schedule is posted

The motion was amended to, *for all sports and all playoffs, SAC reps and coaches must submit their playoff date conflicts by a specific date (set by the GMAA). If a school does not submit conflict dates, it is assumed that they are available to play. If a request is made to change a game and no conflict was given prior, the school will be given permission to make the change, however, the school will be fined \$100 per change.*

Moved: Julie Piggott – LPHS

Seconded: Sarah Neeff – ECS

Unan.

The dates for conflicts will be:

Fall Sports – the Friday after the basketball scheduling meeting

Winter Sports – January 31st

Spring Sports – May 5th

It was requested that the GMAA send out an online conflict form so that schools can easily let the office know their conflicts for each team. (Doodle, Survey Monkey, Google Survey, etc)

Soccer Division I Showcase Games:

For Soccer Division I Showcase finals only – all semifinal games must be played by the Friday before the scheduled showcase. For any two teams who, because of their conflicts, are not able to agree on a date to schedule their semi-final game the week before the showcase, the game will take place at the Showcase venue on the Saturday morning at 8am. If a team does not show up at the semi, they will default the game.

Moved: Sarah Neeff – ECS

Seconded: Megan Littman – SHSM

Unan.

403 Score sheets & Sports line / Registration / Commitment forms: Please make sure coaches are sending in their score sheets on time and filled in properly including game numbers and dates. If coaches are taking pictures and sending them, please remind them that we need to be able to see the referees' signatures at the bottom. Also, make sure coaches are calling the sports line the night of the game with the score. Once the scores are uploaded for that day, a \$10 fine will be issued for a score not called in. SAC Reps or coaches can check the "Form Checklist" on each sport's page to make sure that all the required paperwork is in the office. Check the date at the top of the page to make sure the checklist has been recently updated, unless there is a blue star in the box, the office has not received the forms. Please check to see that all your winter player registration as well as coaches' commitment forms are in and send in any missing forms asap.

404 Fall & Winter Summary: A Fall Sports Summary sheet was handed out with the number of teams and participants listed. Overall our numbers of teams and students registered is back up to around the same as in 2014. The ECA ban didn't seem to have a lasting negative effect on our participation.

Winter sports are well underway, Basketball, Hockey, Futsal, Curling and Wrestling leagues are running. Swimming player forms including their events for meets 1+2 are due before the break and in January we will schedule D3 Futsal and Badminton. Indoor Track and Field entries are also due in January.

We looked at the possibility of changing the date of the 3rd swim meets, scheduled the week of Feb 1st, after checking with the schools, there are more schools available on the originally scheduled dates, so the calendar will remain as is.

For all the swimming meets, our main officials are all volunteers from the swimming community. Many of whom started volunteering when their, now adult, kids swam. If you have parents at your school who you know have experience at swim meets, they don't necessarily need to be FNQ certified officials. If they are available to help at the swim meets it would be greatly appreciated by the office as well as our current officials.

405 Ejections, Withdrawals & Defaults: On the Fall summary sheet, we also listed ejections, defaults and withdrawals.

The number of ejections doubled in soccer we had 21 ejections compared to last year's 10 and the previous years' 9. As Phil mentioned, we are meeting with members of the board on a 'referees' committee' to look at the possibility of adjusting our assignors to deal with some of the ejection issues, but we would ask that schools stay on top of their coaches and athletes as well. Some of these ejections were 'valid' ejections, contrary to what all coaches say and we need to make sure we limit the issues in our leagues as much as possible. Soccer issues mostly consist of violent conduct and/or abuse of the referees.

Hockey ejections have skyrocketed due to the increased numbers of teams and the fact that we are running 6 leagues compared to last years' 3. Hockey issues range from violent conduct, to game infractions to verbal abuse of referee issues and unsportsmanlike conduct.

For some reason, we have also had 3 basketball players ejected from games as well. All basketball ejections were for foul, offensive and vulgar language towards the referees.

We begin to see a pattern regarding the ejections. Some were for sport-related issues, most were for issues with the referees. Please try to stress this issue with your coaches. The coaches and students must understand that the officials will make mistakes, but they must be treated with respect.

The number of defaults in our leagues has remained consistent with no major issues. As Phil mentioned, the board decided that if a team withdraws the day of the game, they will simply be charged the withdrawal fee + the referee costs – the default fee will be waived.

Team withdrawals were a disaster this season for basketball. Maybe it was since some schools were not able to play last year, but we had 5 teams withdraw completely and 3 more teams switch divisions after the schedule was already made and posted due to errors in choosing a Division. The board passed a motion that if a team requests to change divisions once the schedule has already been made after the scheduling meeting, they will be charged a withdrawal fee for the team we have had to remove.

406 Schedule changes: On the Fall summary sheet, we also listed the soccer schedule changes. The number of games changed on our schedules is still proportionately high. We continue to highly encourage SAC reps to ensure that their coaches are attending the scheduling meeting with an up to date school calendar. (or any calendar, and a pen or pencil...)

407 Invoices: Fall invoices were distributed. Budgeted costs were almost right on this year for all sports, only two sports had to pay (Cross Country Teams had to pay \$0.33 and Volleyball \$2.85 per team). For all other sports, if teams didn't incur fines, they would have a credit (Golf \$1.76 per golfer, Touch \$96 per team, Soccer \$17 or \$19 per team). Most payments were sent in promptly and we thank you for that (since we still have not received any of our grant money for this year. Some schools are carrying a balance from Winter of 2016, so please pay your invoices asap so we can get things straightened out. If you have a credit overall, please make sure to use it on your next sport registration. Also before the holidays we will try to send out the fines letters to let each SAC rep know how much their school incurred in fines from the fall teams.

408 Evaluation / Comments Form (Survey Monkey)

Medals: We received many comments from the various sports surveys regarding the medals coaches want bigger and better medals, want a change in the medals, want to include the year, etc. We are being forced to switch our medals and banners next year anyway, so the medals will be changed for next year. They will be the RSEQ medals (generic RSEQ on the front) with the sport written on the lanyard. For next year, we will also place a plate on the back of the medal with GMAA and the year listed.

Online Forms: Across all the surveys that were sent out, 84% of respondents said they would prefer that all forms be submitted online instead of the current system. We are currently paying into the RSEQ online system - S1. Through S1, team/ player registrations are submitted online using the students' permanent codes and all the stats, schedules, game sheets are available on the site. We currently use it for provincials and some of our schools are using it with sports they play in other regions, they seem to be happy with the results and the process. There are a few points that will need to be tailored to our system, including the need for SAC and principal's signatures but we plan to start using the program next year for some smaller sports and transitioning over a 2-3 period.

Referees: The common section where coaches were less than satisfied was in regards to the officiating. Many coaches mentioned that referees were inconsistent in their calls and knowledge of their sport. As Phil mentioned, to improve the quality of the officiating in the GAA leagues there will be a committee put together, to improve and standardize the future official's contracts.

This year we received 102 responses to our fall sport evaluations (out of a possible 350 teams), this is up drastically from years past. Thank you for taking the time to respond, the more evaluations we receive the better we can understand and in turn work together to improve the leagues.

409 Handbook Revisions / Motions Sports Committees (all motions were discussed in 402)

410 Spring Activities and Playoffs starting times: The office would like to remind the SAC reps that in the spring starting times for games will be later due to the in-class exams that take place and the fact that early dismissals are very difficult to get. All Spring Playoff games will start at 4:00pm or later. It was noted that some schools who rent fields receive them at a specific time. No school can be required to start before 4:00pm. If the host school cannot provide that start time they would have to find a new location or travel.

411 MVP Format: Last year a motion was put on the floor from the board to explore options for adjusting the format of the MVP Banquet. Maybe hosting the event at a school auditorium with catered snack and desserts. This would drastically reduce the cost of the evening which may increase the number of schools attending. We would still have a speaker and distribute the awards, but would possibly remove the 'formal meal' portion of the evening to reduce the cost.

We would like to create an MVP committee to discuss some options that the office has been throwing around. Are there any volunteers? We would need 3-5 SAC reps, preferably from both the private and public sector and preferably schools who normally do participate as well as schools who do not.

Maxine Rupert (LCC), Holly Durkee (STG), Jaime Guy (MACD), Marie-Helene Roy-Rioux (VILLA) and George Spiliotakis (RHS) all volunteered to be part of the MVP Committee.

412 RSEQ Report

GMAA at the RSEQ Provincials - The GMAA sent a team of 28 runners to the Cross-Country Provincials in Mauricie. We came 13th of 14 regions overall.

DeFacto - DeFacto orders are done for the year. We have posters for those schools who are not part of the internal mail system to hang up in your schools.

RSEQ Grants and Financial information - There is a bit of movement on grants and funding for next year. With ententes for 13 of 14 regions signed, the money has been released. We still have not received anything but apparently, we were approved to receive slightly more than in previous years. We will not hold our breath, until we have a check in the bank. Cash flow has not been an issue yet this year, thank you for getting your payments in on time.

Hockey - As you may have noticed on the participation statistics, our number of teams for Hockey is back up this year. This is due to the fact that we were mandated to run all the RSEQ non-contact hockey leagues for schools in and around the island of Montreal. We have teams from LSL, LAV, MRG, MTL and QCA. All schools entered as non-member schools and the leagues seem to be running quite well. We have Juvenile Girls D2, Juvenile Boys D2 and D3, Midget Boys D2 and D3 and Bantam Boys D2. Next year the RSEQ will run a pilot project to offer modified contact hockey at the juvenile level, we will send out information when we have it.

S1 – As Hughanna talked about, the RSEQ has developed an online system for all schedules, stats and player registrations. Each region is already paying for the system in our member fees to the RSEQ. We plan to start using the program next year for some smaller sports and transitioning over a 2-3 period.

413 Championship Venues: The GMAA would like to thank all the schools who hosted Championships this fall, St Thomas organized for Soccer championships to be held at Terra Cotta and Lasalle also organized to host the soccer championships at Riverside Park (due to a locker-room construction issue at Terra Cotta). Thank you to both schools for their work.

Loyola HS once again hosted the Division I Volleyball championships, thank you Loyola.

The Volleyball all-star games were back on at John Abbott College for Juvenile Boys and Girls on November 11th and College Notre Dame hosted the Juvenile Girls Hockey All-star game yesterday.

Upcoming Championships and All-Star Games: Loyola is hosting the wrestling all-star meet on February 9th. KSS is hosting the championship meet on February 16th.

We will be working with the Concordia Basketball Programs (men & women) to run the Basketball all-star games again this year, possibly on February 12th (to be confirmed).

We are still looking for someone to host the D1 basketball championships, if anyone is interested in hosting either the boys or girls please let us know at the office as soon as possible. Also, if anyone is interested in hosting one of the spring sport championships please let us know.

414 Office Issues

Choice of Division: Every year we get asked to try to come up with a process to force certain teams to enter a higher division when they historically do quite well in the lower division and year after year choose to stay in the lower division. After throwing around many ideas that have already been discussed and are not feasible in the GMAA leagues, *it was suggested that each finalist in D2 and D3 receive a letter addressed to the coach, SAC rep and principal congratulating them on their success in the year, and suggesting that their team for next year be put into a higher division.* Obviously considering students who would be moving up an age category, and/or student who graduate, etc, the gentle suggestion of choosing an appropriate division based on the criteria listed in the handbook and past success in the sport would hopefully encourage some schools to consider entering a higher and more appropriate division.

Parents: Just FYI any parents contacting the GMAA office will be referred to the school SAC Rep and/or coach.

Winter Conflicts: Winter playoffs are just around the corner, please send in all your school conflicts for the last 3 weeks of February, and the first week of March.

Derogation: Just a reminder that all derogation requests must be discussed at a Board of Directors Meeting. This includes any gender or age derogation or any transgender requests. The next Board meeting is on Tuesday, December 20th and the following meeting will only be held on Tuesday, February 7th, so please get your requests in as soon as possible.

Motion to adjourn: Sarah Neeff – ECS