

# Laurel Highlands Developmental Football League

## 3rd Quarter 2017 "Pre-Season" Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Nate Sann (Richland), 2016 Commissioner at 7:05 pm.

Roll call:

- Present: Bishop McCort, Central Cambria, Forest Hills, Johnstown, Richland, Somerset, Westmont.
- Absent: Mainline (Penn Cambria)

Old Business:

- Update on Bishop Carroll desire to join the league. Wanted to discuss joining league with combination teams 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades. There was little movement on their end. They will continue working on this and will re-evaluate again at the winter meeting.
- Flag Football Discussion:
  - Inter-league play with 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
    - Currently Penn Cambria, Cambria Heights, Central Cambria play each other. Invites others to participate.
    - Forest Hills and Bishop McCort are interested in joining.
    - These teams will coordinate outside the league for schedules and officiating as well as any other logistics.
- Website: <http://lhdf.com/>
  - Desired functionality & content going forward
    - Need artwork/team logos from each school
    - Develop League Logo
    - Schedule for each grade
    - Direction to field sites
    - Secure log-in for league representative
      - Active roster with weights for each player
      - Meeting minutes
  - Nate requests above and team/league pictures be sent to his email account to update the website

New Business:

- 2017 Schedule
  - Schedule changes made at the meeting and voted acceptance based upon the changes confirmed by the teams

- Rules Committee Recommendations and adoptions of changes for 2017 season made to the board. (see voting sheet)
  - Adoption of League Rule Change: Huddle clock
    - Minors - will have a 30 second play clock with no officials discretion. The official will keep the play clock and give an audible and hand signal for 5 seconds left and count down. If the ball is not snapped by the expiration of the play clock. The official will stop the game clock and administer a 5 yard penalty without a loss of down. The game clock will resume upon the next snap of the ball.
    - Majors - will have a 25 second play clock with no officials discretion. The official will keep the play clock and give an audible and hand signal for 5 seconds left and count down. If the ball is not snapped by the expiration of the play clock. The official will stop the game clock and administer a 5 yard penalty without a loss of down. The game clock will resume upon the next snap of the ball.
    - *Since we changed the rule for the play clock and will implement an enforceable penalty without discretion, we elected to leave the quarter length at 8 minutes.*
  - Adoption of League Rule change to omit the mercy rule (Modified Competition Rule 1.5) from the rule book.
  - Adoption of League Rule change add a rule for both minors and majors requiring an offense to have an audible snap count. No silent count permitted.
  - Recommended Modifying the Current Rule: Field coaching rule for minors (5.2)
    - Recommend amending the rule to: once the team approaches the line of scrimmage, the on field coaches will move 10 yards back from the closest play and can no longer communicate with the players until the play is blown dead. Audible and other communication is permitted from the sideline coaches.
    - Encourage no on field coaches in 4th grade year.

- *Advised by league members to send this back to the Rules Committee to discuss with refs if they will enforce this rule. If the consensus is they will enforce, then develop an appropriate penalty for enforcing the rule.*
  
- Recommend that the addition to the rules be made to have each league representative should maintain some proof of age (copy of birth certificate) and a current academic grade enrollment (school roster, home room assignment list, etc.) for every player.
  - *The Board elected to keep the process the same due to legality & logistic issues. Can discuss modifying at the winter meeting.*
- Additional items discussed but since no consensus was reached nor formal recommendations made to the board they have elected to maintain no changes for the following. Will continue to work on these proposal:
  - Allow players to request a weigh-in after the initial weight in order to not punish a player who just missed the weight limit at the initial weigh-in.
    - ❖ *The board felt this was too difficult for logistics and unable to properly maintain accuracy. It also brings into issues of players gaining weight during the season and then becoming ineligible to carry the ball. The premise of the rule is safety and therefore the rule will be the first office weight of the season will be the weight for the season.*
  - Requiring a minimum number of officials in the league rules.
    - ❖ *The board encourages 3 referees per game. Can play with two only if both head coaches sign off on it before the game.*
  - Propose a universal monetary amount for what the league advises the referees make per game. Also encourage free food & drinks for officials during and after games.
    - ❖ *The board highly encourages paying the referees \$45 per game. Cannot dictate the universal fee schedule for the league.*
  
- Rules Interpretation Meeting August 6<sup>th</sup> 6pm at Richland High School LGI room. *All coaches welcome.*
  - *Will be reviewing the rule changes and answering questions, not discussing any changes during this meeting*

Adjourn (Motion – Richland ; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Westmont)