

2006 Centennial Conference Field Hockey Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Laura Moliken, Kelly Wilcox, Barb Jordan, Carol Cantele, Megan Eddinger, Sarah Fosdick, Colleen Quinn, Beth Walkenbach, Danya Pilgrim, Melissa Miranda, Megan Callahan, Rachel Boyle, Alison Risser.

Discussion on officials - Pat Shollenberger is not assigning anymore after this season. Sue Diffenderfer will assign in '07 if Pat is definitely retiring. When looking for an assignor, things to look for: availability, can you call with questions, assigning fee, mileage. If we were to hold a "class" for getting new officials into the mix, the following schools would be willing to host: Swarthmore, Hopkins, Gettysburg, F&M and Dickinson.

Discussion on eyewear – It was felt by several coaches and the conference office that it was not clear in how it was written, as to what is and what is not acceptable to wear for competition. Eyewear can be worn for medical need only. The player must have in writing the medical need and it must be kept with the trainer and shown to officials at each game. Our coaches are in no way in favor of eyewear.

Discussion on All Centennial Conference Ballot – this is a reminder for Kim to talk to Steve! The goalies are not to be ranked. As coaches we feel that the position does not really matter, and if a coach chooses to list their player as Mid/Forward, this is fine. All coaches are in agreement.

Discussion on jewelry – No jewelry is to be worn. It is your job as the host school to enforce this with the officials. It is not a requirement when playing non-conference games.

Discussion on sportsmanship – All players should shake hands with the opposing team following the game. Head coaches should shake hands with the opposing head coach.

Discussion on injured players on the field – There is a danger factor, and it is a major distraction for the teammates of the injured player. How do you know if the injured player is in immediate danger? The officials typically do not stop play unless play is occurring around the injured player and she is in danger of being hit. We feel that no team (coach or player) would use this as a means to just stop the clock. We feel this is a conversation that needs to take place with the officials. We are concerned about the player and getting care for them as quickly as possible. As coaches, we should all talk to our assignor and express our concern for safety. Rachel is going to check to see if there is clarification in the rules as to when play should be stopped. We are looking for some clear clarification, and we are asking that the officials pay more attention to the severity of the injury. We do understand that it is more difficult to make the call to stop the clock when it happens away from the play, especially if they are watching the play. It is a good idea to have your trainers ask the visiting coach how they would like to handle injuries. Rachel is planning to add this topic to the agenda for the NFCA convention.

Discussion on ball people – If we can have them, great! Make sure if you do have ball people, that they understand the game so that not too much game time is lost. It is requested that the home coach will have a conversation with the visiting coach on how it will work with the ball people, or ball situation in general. It would be good if each school could get a pool of consistent student workers to use throughout the season. We, as coaches, need to make the point with our administrators that ball people are a necessary part of the game and extremely helpful in maintaining the flow of the game, with minimal game time lost.

Discussion on the Centennial Conference tournament format – The suggestion was made to maybe change it to:

1 - Wed - #2 plays #5 and #3 plays #4, winners play Saturday and the winner then plays the #1 seed on Sunday.

2 – have it be a 4 team tournament

Most coaches were in favor of keeping it the way that it currently is.

Discussion on the new regions for field hockey – For Pennsylvania teams, any team in New York is now also considered in region, along with the 250-mile radius and our teams already in the South Region. Laura will be sending everyone the list of the new regions.

Discussion on tape exchanges – Most coaches are not in favor of tape exchange.

Discussion on scouting during the NCAA tournament – most coaches felt like they would like to be able to do it. The policy was changed to no scouting at any time during the NCAA tournament, mainly because Messiah for religious reasons cannot play on a Sunday, but yet they were going to scout other teams on a Sunday.

Discussion on proper stat taking – it is highly recommended that all coaches take the time to talk to whoever is doing their stats and make sure they are doing it the right way. It is also recommended that the stat people for both teams should communicate and share information throughout the game, and most certainly at half time and at the end of the game.

Discussion on pre game handshake – we would like to recommend that players do not carry sticks when jogging over to shake the opposing coaches hand.

Discussion on holidays – there were some problems this season with scheduling around religious holidays that fall during the season.

Discussion on turf/synthetic playing surfaces – much discussion took place on this matter. All coaches are in agreement that the game is best played on the most consistent surface possible. We all feel that with the way the game is progressing, it should be played on a synthetic surface. We would like to put forth a motion regarding this matter.

The coaching community recommends that if a conference school has a synthetic playing surface, home games should be played on that surface. We would also like to recommend that all conference schools have a synthetic playing surface by the year 2010.

11 coaches were in favor of this motion, and 0 opposed.

There are many reasons why the coaches feel this way. With the high skill of the game and the ability to perform skills most consistently on a consistent playing surface, whenever possible, it should be played on that surface. Teams are also starting to experience some difficulty in scheduling non-conference opponents because most teams do not want to play on a grass surface. When playing on a synthetic surface, there are far less cancellations due to weather. Safety is becoming more and more of a concern when playing on grass surfaces. A synthetic surface is the preferred playing surface of the NCAA and the game is being played on an artificial surface more so than ever before. This is the direction in which the game is headed, and we feel that it is in the best interest of the Division III student-athletes participating in field hockey for safety, and for the best game experience possible, to have the game played on a synthetic surface.

Ursinus and Muhlenberg have Astroturf. Swarthmore, Johns Hopkins and Washington have field turf. Gettysburg and Dickinson have field turf and grass and split games on the two surfaces. McDaniel has grass and a field turf surface that they are not permitted to use. Bryn Mawr, Haverford and F&M have grass. F&M is talking about getting field turf for next season. Haverford is discussing getting field turf in the future. We are not aware of any discussion about a new surface at Bryn Mawr.