

MARS YOUTH FOOTBALL PROGRAM

Minutes of the Board Meeting on February 15, 2009

Recent Achievements / Decisions Made

#	Achievement / Decision	Responsibility
1	The Board approved the use of the new registration form designed by Larry Lewis. A correction to the fee schedule was pointed out and Larry agreed to fix it and update the new information on the website.	Larry Lewis
2	There was considerable discussion among the Board and the general members in attendance regarding the dispute between the coaches of the two Mars 115# pound teams and the dissatisfactory way in which it was handled. There was general agreement that the dispute should not have been raised on the field at the conclusion of game and that the board should devise a better method for handling these disagreements in the future.	Board
3	<p>There was considerable discussion among the Board and the general members in attendance regarding the possibility of moving to three teams. Various pros and constraints were discussed. The primary constraints are the cost of additional jerseys, the lack of lighted practice areas, Mars Boro's unwillingness to allow three teams at each age to play and practice on the Mars Boro Field and UYFL's desire to keep us at two teams for the coming season due to scheduling challenges. The primary advantage of moving to three teams is that with fewer kids on each team, more players will have the opportunity to play. It will also make it easier for the coaches to meet the demands of the four play rule and provide more opportunity to develop players in practice.</p> <p>Mark Ashbaugh informed the Board that the company he works for is willing to donate \$10K to the organization in order to offset the additional cost of going to three teams.</p> <p>Overall, there is strong interest in moving to three teams in spite of the obstacles and there was agreement among the Board and the general members in attendance that we need approximately 85 registrants at the 135# and 115# level and approximately 60 registrants at the 95# level to make three teams work.</p> <p>The Board agreed to investigate different options for playing games and providing lighted practice fields and will revisit the issue after registration to see if we have the requisite numbers.</p>	Board
4	There was considerable discussion regarding what our association's position will be on whether to change the weight limits within the UYFL. There are currently three options on the table: (1) keep the weight limits the same; (2) raise the weight limits 5 lbs. across the board; (3) raise the weight limit by 5 lbs. for red strikers only (interior linemen who are compelled to wear a red stripe on their helmets and cannot play any position other than center, guard or tackle on offense, and nose guard, tackle and end on defense). The Board agreed that we would suggest a compromise: Raising the weight limit on red strikers at the 135# group only and disallowing red strikers from playing on special teams (punts and kickoffs).	Rick Skurka and the Board
5	<p>The Board continued its discussion on the status of last years SpiritWear sales and the fact that there is a pending dispute over the items purchased from the vendor, the vendors failure to meet our specifications on product delivered to us, our failure to return the defective items, an \$11,000 bill that has not been paid, and the retention of an attorney to handle this matter on the part of the organization without board approval.</p> <p>The Board was notified that this dispute has been resolved and the two sides have settled on a full settlement of \$9,000. The Board agreed to pay this sum upon receipt of a letter or some other document signed by the vendor acknowledging that this will settle the dispute.</p>	Doug Wright
6	There was discussion regarding the need for a fundraising committee and the fact that members of that committee should be exempt from concession stand duty. The details of this plan will need to be worked out at a future meeting. In the meantime, Rick Skurka	Rick Skurka and the Board

	will consolidate the form used for signing up volunteers for fundraising.	
7	The Board voted to reestablish the Competitive Cheer program which will have one team at each age level. Audrey also requested that we send out an email requesting volunteers for coaching cheerleaders. Audrey Barron agreed to provide the information to Larry with the details on each of these issues so that it can be sent out to the membership.	Audrey Barron
8	The Board voted to support the High School Cheerleading Camp by promoting it on our website. However, participation in the high school cheerleading camp will be voluntary and will not be mandated as it has in years past. Rita Campbell will provide the information to be posted on the website.	Rita Campbell
9	There was considerable discussion regarding the best course of action moving forward regarding the filing of tax returns. Instead of begging forgiveness for our failure to file past returns, it may be more prudent to dissolve MARS and reorganize under a new name and tax ID. Doug Bayuk and Betsy Gerthoffer will look into the legalities and the expense of doing this.	Betsy Gerthoffer and Doug Bayuk
10	The board agreed that board members are not allowed to make expenditures in excess of \$100 for any transaction not previously approved by the Board without getting prior Board approval.	Board

Unfinished Business / Current Action Items

#	Person	Action Item	Due Date	Next Steps
1	Betsy & Doug Bayuk	Will file a 2008 tax return on behalf of the organization.	On or before May 15 th .	Doug Bayuk and Betsy Gerthoffer will determine whether we should dissolve MARS and start a new organization to avoid any tax liability for failing to file tax returns in the past.
2	Doug Wright	Will contact the school about posting registration notice on the high school marquis.	ASAP	
3	Doug Wright	Will book the Sheraton for next years banquet once the final football schedule is published by the league.	Once schedule is published.	
4	Doug Wright	Will contact Lisa Brown and/or the lawyer she retained to obtain to receive written documentation of the settlement.	ASAP	Awaiting written confirmation of resolution.
5	Board	Establish budget for upcoming season	Next Meeting	
6	Board	Two teams versus three teams	Pending registration	Awaiting registration numbers.
7	Board	Redraft versus no redraft	Pending registration	Awaiting registration numbers.
8	Board	Fundraising Ideas	Next Meeting	

Next Board Meeting: Sunday, March 15, 2009, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Treesdale Community Center (unless another Board Meeting is arranged for the week following registration.)