



Special General Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.

Moncton, New Brunswick

Moncton Football Association Building, Centennial Park

Participants:

Executive: Terry Allen, Commissioner, Larry Timms – Secretary/Treasurer

Board Members: Fredericton Red Bombers – Larry Wisniewski, Justin DeMerchant (alternate)
Moncton Mustangs – Dan Fougere, Roger Collette (alternate)
Saint John Seawolves – Barry Ogden, Bill Todd (alternate)
Holland College Hurricanes – Mike O’Grady, Vernon Doyle (alternate)
Dalhousie Tigers – Bryce Wade, Rick Rivers (alternate)

Guests: Dalhousie University – Mike Tanner
NBFOA – Al Gates

- 1) The meeting was called order at 10:10 AM
- 2) Terry Allen, the new commissioner of the AFL, introduced himself and then asked the voting members of the Board to agree that the meeting would be a Special General Meeting, so the proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws could be addressed. It was so agreed, unanimously.
- 3) Those present, then introduced themselves and their affiliation.
- 4) **Agenda** - Prior to adopting the agenda, 2 items were added under new business a) insurance and b) expansion
- 5) **Website** - Further to previous correspondence, Terry noted that the AFL has an agreement with Pointstreak to develop a Website for the AFL and teams were reminded, if they had not already done so, to forward pictures and their team logo to Terry. . Terry suggested expanding our visibility through Facebook and Twitter and indicated that with Pointstreak could potentially provide sponsorship opportunities. The domain name atlanticfootballleague.ca was registered by Bill Todd back in 2009 and can be transferred when appropriate.
- 6) **2011 League Schedule** – A schedule developed by Vernon Doyle was distributed and each team made any concerns known. Al Gates from the NBFOA also expressed his concerns about 2 home games on the same weekend and via a previously distributed letter concerns about any playoff games scheduled on Saturday, Nov 12 and/or Saturday Nov 19. Dal. expressed concern that they had bye’s on both the opening and closing weekends. Vernon indicated he will make another version ASAP and one the weekends and agreed, each home team will have to decide whether they want to play on the Saturday or

Sunday of those weekend, settle on a start time and ensure field availability. It is key that we resolve all these issues soon so the schedule can be posted and made public ASAP. .

- 7) **Motions** – there were 4 proposed motions to amend the AFL Constitution and Bylaws.

Motion 1 was to amend Article VII - Administrative Procedures: - Section 2 to the following amend version of the tabled motion was unanimously adopted:

The Annual General Meeting of the AFL Governing Board must be held by May 15th of each year. The AGM must be held in person and will be open to the public.

Motion 2 was to expand the executive of the AFL to include a position of Assistant or Vice Commissioner.

This motion was unanimously adopted.

Motion 3 was to amend the bylaw 5. so that all playoff game revenues and expenses would be the host team's responsibility, exception for the cost of bussing for the visiting team and the cost of officials for the playoff game. This motion was unanimously approved.

Motion 4 was to amend the bylaw to add articles 3.15 and 3.16:

3.15 - Teams cannot commence practices in any form (inside, outside, classroom, with or without coaches) until 21 days prior to the first scheduled AFL regular season game. (For 2011 that would be 21 days prior to Sept. 17, i.e. August 27)

3.16 - All spring practices in any form (inside, outside, classroom, with or without coaches) AND all spring games or scrimmages must be completed by May 31.

Both of these amendments were unanimously adopted.

- 8) **2011 AFL Budget** – After reflecting the impact of motion 3 above, the revised budget (copy attached) was unanimously adopted. The 2011 League fee will be \$1,500 for all 5 teams. The 3 NB teams will settle on their collective addition charge for their regular season bussing, regular season officiating and insurance, once the final schedule is determined.
- 9) **League Sponsorship** - It was noted that the AFL was involved in all 3 provinces so that was good for national or regional companies. General consensus was that we do not need to exclude beer sponsorship as long as the League protects it's name. Subway was one suggestion as they currently are involved with the AUS and High Schools. It was left that we all test local markets and if a potential name comes forward pass it on to Terry.
- 10) **Disciplinary Guidelines** – Terry expressed concern that we did not have league guidelines to address issues when a player was ejected from a game by the officials. After some discussion, it was agreed that we would look into the CIS procedures in this area and then draft some guidelines for both disciplinary guidelines and appeals.
- 11) **Other Business – Insurance** – Dan Fougere raised a concern that with teams playing in different provinces there was restrictive remuneration for things like travel (ambulance cost) retuning from one province to another and as such there could be significant out of pocket cost not covered by our insurance policies. Larry indicated he would look I this al least from the NB insurance plan.

- 12) Other Business – Expansion – This item was tabled and will be addressed in the subsequent ‘planning and strategic’ session.
- 13) Adjournment – Terry recommended that we adjourn the Special Annual General Meeting, seconded by Larry Wisniewski and passed.

Strategy session

Expansion – where? – Truro, second team in Halifax (more community based), practice squads with CIS teams (Acadian, St. Mary’s, Mt A), UdeM

Media – League exposure – internet – live stream games. Terry would like to consolidate the lists of each team’s media contacts – radio, newsprint, cable

Promote AFL Identity – the AFL versus individual teams

Action Items

Responsibility

Team Logos and Pictures to Terry Allen

Each Team

Schedule Finalization

Vernon Doyle – Each Team

Domain Name Transfer

Bill Todd – Terry Allen

Proposed Candidate’s Names for Vice Commissioner

All

Potential AFL Sponsors – names to Terry

All

Disciplinary Guidelines and appeal procedure (CIS?)

Terry Allen

Insurance Concerns

Larry Timms

Media contact lists to Terry Allen

Each Team