

ATLANTIC FOOTBALL LEAGUE  
EXECUTIVE/BOARD MEETING  
August 16, 2009 – 10:00 AM  
Conference Call

Members On line: Pat O'Brien, Larry Timms, Larry Wisniewski, Bill Todd

Members Absent: Barry Ogden, Dan Fougere, Roger Collette, Terry McIntyre

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

The agenda distributed earlier by Pat was accepted. New items would be dealt with under Other Issues. As there was not a "quorum", there were no formal votes on any of the points. It was felt we should carry on, documenting the discussion and where necessary, get consensus later or at the next meeting. Where it is noted below the word "consensus" means among the four individual participating in the conference call.

**1. Registration and Related Forms.** The draft forms distributed earlier by Pat were discussed. A few changes were recommended and Pat will update and re-distribute. The question was raised as to what information FNB required, and Larry indicated he would follow up on this issue. A question as to whether a birth certificate was required was raised and the consensus was that this would be left up to the individual teams. It was felt as long as the information as set out on this draft registration form and necessary signatures were available, then the exact format of the individual team registration form was flexible. It was agreed that the Release for, although hopefully it will not be required, was appropriate. The team form was also agreed to be necessary and was expanded to include the coaches, executive and players. This way it was felt there would never be an issue with knowing who was covered by the insurance program. It is believed that as long as the registration forms were available with the local team registrar, then when the team sends in the team form to FNB they are committing to the fact that they have all the necessary forms/signatures for the individual listed.

**2. Bus Schedule/Contract** – The question as to whether the schedule was finalized and the contract signed was raised. Larry W. felt that the final contract should be signed by the executive of the League (Pat/Larry). As Barry had been handling this, no one was 100% sure of the status. Bill Todd felt that someone with some legal knowledge should review the contract before signing. Further follow-up is required with Barry. Concern as to whether payment was due up front or as used.

**3. Previous Meeting follow-up –**

- The draft budget was discussed. Bill expressed concern with the security figure being a low and he will research it from the Saint John perspective. It was noted by Larry that this was a document in development.
- The minutes were table (previously distributed).

- The Constitution and Bylaws had been distributed and there was consensus that this document is in good shape. Formal adoption should occur at the next meeting.

4. **Field equipment** – Pat had included this agenda item, as he believed from discussions he had had that there may be concerns with the timing between Minor, High School and the AFL games and getting down markers/goal post pads/etc from one site to another. It is assumed that at least for this season that the AFL would be borrowing this equipment from either the local minor or HS leagues. It was felt that this should be left with the various AFL home teams to ensure the appropriate field equipment was available with backup contingency plans. Larry W. noted that Fredericton could be some issues at Chapman Field with soccer nets and football posts but felt that they would be able to resolve this issue. It was felt that having a paid “timer” would preclude any “homer” issues. Needs to be discussed.

5. **Expansion Plans** – The issue of expansion for the 2009 season had been raised but after discussion with the NBFOA it was felt that an expanded schedule was not possible for the current season. Everyone was in agreement, however, that in 2010 another 1, 2 or 3 teams would be possible. It was felt that we should wait to ensure this season proceeds as planned and then after the year-end wrap up meeting, we actively pursue expansion plans.

6. **Promotion, Advertising and Publicity** – It was consensus that the AFL should not actively pursue advertising at this time, as it was felt it would conflict with individual team activities in this area. From a promotion/publicity point of view it was felt where appropriate each team should be pushing both their individual teams as well as the league. The question of an AFL website arose – need a name for registering game results.

#### 7. **Other Business** –

- **Game Rules** – Larry raised the question as to what rules would be used for AFL games and it was pointed out that in the proposed bylaws it is set out the AFL would follow Canadian Football Rules.
- **Bank account** – Larry proposed that we use FNB to handle the banking for this first year of operation (as long as FNB agree). Larry indicated that this was a practice used by the Women’s League in their first year of operation. The proposal would be that each team submit their fee (\$4,000) to FNB. FNB would team take out the appropriate registration fees and pay the bussing, officials and other playoff game expenses. Other League revenues and expenses would also be funnelled through FNB with separate accounting noted. Any balance would then be charged or distributed between the teams at the end of the season. Larry will discuss this with Terry McIntyre (FNB). If this is not acceptable with FNB, then Larry/Pat will have to set up an AFL account.
- **Game Admission Fees** – Larry W. felt it would be beneficial if the game fee charges were consistent throughout the league – general agreement – suggestion is \$5.00 per adult, \$3 per university student/senior. In this vain, it was felt the league should have a philosophy along the lines that we need to have prices reasonable to attract interest among fans and not to be over aggressive in meeting financial concerns until the product has been proven.

8. **Next Meeting** – The format of a conference call meeting was well received from those participating. It was felt it cut down on the total time commitment required for a meeting in that there was no travel time (90 min meeting take 90 minutes as opposed to 4 or 5 hours for meeting that include travel time). The next conference call meeting has tentatively set for 8:30 PM on Thursday, August 27. If this is not convenient, please notify everyone, proposing a couple of alternate times, so we can determine if another option is preferable.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am

### **Action Items**

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| 1. | Registration Information requirements of FNB | Larry Timms |
| 2. | Status of Bussing Contract                   | Barry /Pat  |
| 3. | Agreement on Game Admission charges          | All         |
| 4. | Official Timer – paid/stipend??              | All         |
| 5. | AFL Website – webmaster?                     | Barry Ogden |
| 6. | Security costs/game                          | Bill Todd   |
| 7. | Financial/Banking via FNB                    | Larry Timms |