

## **SOSSA EXECUTIVE MEETING MINUTES - Monday, Dec. 18/2023**

**Present:** Tim Jabs, Sean Medeiros, Jen Benoit, Jon Cairns, Jill Stiefelmeyer, Scott Barr, Jamie Coull, Kristina Alderdice, Andy Cechini, Hana Roukema, Brian Fuller

**1. 6:50 - Call to order:** The agenda was passed with no additions.

**2. Financial:** Membership Fee Update - majority have paid. Owing - Stamford, Robert Land, Great Lakes Christian, Heritage Christian. Reimbursement cheques and winter sport medals were given to zone athletic coordinators for distribution to schools and conveners.

SOSSA Account Update - insurance cost were less than expected - total \$4200.00 - both generally liability and officers and directors. Awards - medals and ribbons major increase in cost - \$12700.00 - ( 1500 medals in total ). ONCA - process done and invoice paid - \$3300.00 which was on the lower end of the estimated cost. SOSSA medals saga - we are exploring other options for next year.

### **3. Winter Sport Convener Information and Championship Representation confirmation.**

Convener pages were reviewed for corrections, or typos. Individual zone commitments to SOSSA winter championships were confirmed. Important notes: Zone 4 is hosting senior A girls v-ball and must provide a second entry. Zone 3 is hosting senior A boys b-ball and must provide a second entry. There is no zone 3 rep for boys A/AA hockey therefore, Zone 2 will provide a second entry.

**4. Fall Sports Wrap up and Zone issues or concerns:** Andy Cecchini heard concerns regarding cheating, not following rules and general dishonesty at the SOSSA golf competition. It is very concerning as it devalues the event. We will be in conversation with Chris Lychuk SOSSA golf convener with regards to strategies to correct the issues.

Jon Cairns asked about neutral competition sites particularly for the SOSSA football championship. In the past they were generally neutral sites as artificial turf fields were required for the November event. However, with more schools having new facilities it has become easier and much less expensive to avoid the rental fees and use board facilities. Cost has definitely become a major factor in these decisions. The consensus was that all other SOSSA championships would still have conveners and locations determined at the time of the AGM. Adjustments to events to find a neutral site a few days before championships would create confusion and conveners who volunteered to host want to run the games in their own gym or playing field.

## **5. Correspondence and Discussion/Action Required Items:**

A SOSSA Semi final football Incident with an official and student athlete from Westmount S.S. was discussed at length. SOSSA executive will send a letter to the Football Referees Association involved and to individuals at Westmount High school explaining the SOSSA response to this incident.

A written complaint regarding unprofessional behavior of SWC coach at the SOSSA girls AA Sr. basketball final was also discussed. Reports from referees, conveners and coaches were all reviewed by SOSSA executive members. As a result of the discussions a letter will be sent to SWC administration and the coach in question. A follow up email will also be sent to the DVSS coaches and the event convenor.

ONCA - the governance review and rewriting of the SOSSA documents has been completed and will be voted on by the executive at the next meeting. The new governance documents then have to be voted into place at the AGM by the full membership.

SOSSA Swimming - we still need to have a discussion with the SOSSA swim coaches and the championship convenor. We hope to have something to report at the next meeting.

The rotation of SOSSA major individual championships among all zones. Primarily looking at the hosting of track and field, swimming and cross country. Once again a final decision on this topic has been deferred. Executive thinks it likely needs to be done moving forward but, exactly how to present the idea in a motion form which will be accepted by the membership is the sticking point.

2024-25 will be the final year of the football playoff structure. Zones 3 & 4 get 2nd entry.

Teams declaring up in classification for winter competition. D.M. - Moving to AAA for boys b-ball. Centennial moving up to AAA girls v-ball. Spring sports - SWC moving up to AAA lacrosse.

Examined a change of date for Ultimate due to conflicts with other sports. Tuesday, May 21st will be the new date.

## **6. Transfer Committee Update:**

Jamie Coull transfer committee chair reported there has only been one transfer to deal with during the fall season. A couple of Zone transfer reps did participate online which worked in a pinch - however - SOSSA would still like to see in person attendance by transfer committee members if possible.

## **7. OFSAA report:**

Jill Stiefelmeyer presented a draft OFSAA calendar which moves the seasons of play for Tennis, Baseball and Slo-pitch. OFSAA is looking for input on this concept. SOSSA coaches and administrators who would like to provide feedback should do so through our OFSAA reps Jill or Jamie Coull. Scott Barr was looking for input from SOSSA schools on issues with the transfer policy to determine if changes are required. OFSAA is attempting to determine if the policy is impacting some students - particularly immigrant families more than others. 2024 is the 75th anniversary of OFSAA and there are numerous events being planned. Please have school staff check the OFSAA website for celebration events and opportunities for students.

## **8. Meeting dates:**

**Note: Next executive meeting has been changed to Tuesday, Feb. 20th**

Monday, May, 13th - (tentative as we may need an alternative location.)

SOSSA AGM - Tuesday, June 25th - noon. Location T.B.A.

**9. A.O.B.** - there was no new business. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Thanks to all executive members for their time and efforts for the student athletes of SOSSA.

Enjoy your time off with family and friends.

Happy Holidays.