

2023 SOSSA AGM - MINUTES

Blessed Trinity High School - 11:50 a.m. - Tuesday, June 27th

- 1. Call to order:** Chair Jamie Coul called meeting to order and welcomed the group at 11:55.
- 2. Financial Report:** Brian Fuller provided the annual budget for 2022-23 and expressed some concerns on increasing cost and the need for SOSSA to dip into their reserve fund to run balanced budgets moving forward. Future discussion will be required by both the executive and at AGM on this topic.
- 3. 2023-24 Convenor pages:** Handouts were provide and reviewed for corrections/revisions. No classification declarations for fall 2023 sports were submitted. Jill reminded all school reps about OFSAA second entry forms which are due in early September.
- 4. Future Directions - Items for open discussion and future motions:** Classifications discussion regarding adjusting the threshold for junior team competition between A to AA from 800 to 700 enrollment was brief. A motion may come forward next year. A discussion with SOSSA swim representatives will be required to discuss and draft some changes to SOSSA swimming. The rotating of the hosting of major championships through each zone on a yearly basis is still a possibility. One idea brought forward was the creation of a convener manual for these championships for future volunteers. Moving forward SOSSA needs to review and revise existing sport specific funding which is based on participation and school numbers. Presently SOSSA has 47 members schools down from a peak of 63 schools twenty years ago. Jamie Coul was nominated and accepted the role of male OFSAA rep for the 2023-24 academic year. Congratulations and thanks to Jamie. Brian Fuller indicated he will be looking to retire as Administrative Director. Any interested replacements are welcome to contact Brian to discuss the responsibilities involved.
- 5. Transfer Committee:** The 2022-23 transfer report was provided by Bob Gardiner. The 2023-24 transfer committee needs to be identified for next year. This was done. Thanks to all those who stepped forward.
- 6. 2023-24 SOSSA Executive:** Changes were identified and members voted to accept the new executive. Continued thanks to these individuals who keep SOSSA running smoothly.
- 7. OFSAA update:** The Ontario Non-for-Profit Corporations Act which will require changes be made to the SOSSA constitution was discussed and it was determined legal assistance will be hired to complete the process. The membership voted to provide funds to get this done.
- 9. Order Paper:** See attached pages for voting results on all motions.

10. Retirements and Pete Beech Award: Scott Barr presented a very deserving Pete Beach award to a retiring Bob Gardiner.

Thanks to all the coaches and P.E. designates who attended this year's AGM. SOSSA would not exist without your continued volunteer commitment to the students in our schools.

SOSSA 2023 AGM - ORDER PAPER

Motion #1: Girls Slo-Pitch regulations be added permanently into the constitution.

Be it resolved: *The temporary girls Slo-pitch regulations put into place by the executive for the 2022-23 championship be made permanent by the full SOSSA membership.*

Note: A copy of the Slo-pitch regulations (appendix 1) was sent by email to all AGM reps.

Moved and seconded by the SOSSA Executive

MOTION CARRIED

Motion #2: Revisions/updates to the SOSSA hockey regulations.

Whereas: Existing SOSSA hockey regulations both girls and boys required updating to bring them in line with playing regulations used at OFSAA and also to clarify certain rules and procedures.

Be it resolved: *Revisions to the SOSSA boys and girls hockey regulations be accepted as they appear in appendix #2.* Note: See appendix #2.

Moved and seconded by the SOSSA executive.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion #3: Responsibilities of our association OFSAA representatives.

Whereas: Presently the responsibilities of our two OFSAA reps have included: chair of the SOSSA transfer committee, 2nd entry school forms, OFSAA 2nd entries, OFSAA association commitment forms, attendance at two OFSAA meetings per year, and ongoing communication between OFSAA and our association.

And Whereas: SOSSA needs to clarify the division of these responsibilities moving forward.

Be it resolved: *The responsibilities of the SOSSA reps to OFSAA shall be divided between the two reps in the following manner. One rep shall be responsible for organizing and running the SOSSA transfer committee meetings throughout the school year. The other rep will be responsible for school 2nd entry forms, OFSAA 2nd entries and OFSAA association sport commitment forms. Both reps will attend the two day overnight OFSAA meetings and be available as a communication conduit with the OFSAA head office, the SOSSA administrative director and SOSSA member schools. The positions of OFSAA rep comes with a annual honorarium of \$650 a year.*

Moved and seconded by the SOSSA executive.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion #4: Ontario Non-for-Profit Corporation Act compliance funding.

Whereas: All incorporated associations of OFSAA are required by the Ontario government to comply with new NFP legislation by the fall of 2024.

And Whereas: Compliance to the new act requires the legal review, revision and rewriting of the SOSSA constitution by a qualified individual.

And Whereas: OFSAA has agreed to subsidize part of the estimated \$3000.00 cost to have the firm SPORT LAW complete this task.

Be it Resolved: *The SOSSA members schools agree to the need of legal assistance in this matter and support the use of association funds to complete the compliance requirement.*

Moved and seconded by the SOSSA executive.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion #5: Track and Field - two motions.

A/ Whereas: The current seeding format for all timed finals for track events has the winner of each zone in the second heat (faster heat) along with the next four fastest qualifying times.

Be it resolved: *The seeding for the two heats for all timed finals for track events should be based solely on time. Therefore the fastest eight qualifying times would run in the second (faster) heat.*

Mover: Brent Mergl - SWC-St. Catharines Seconder: Mike Smith - Dundas Valley

MOTION CARRIED

B/ Whereas: The current cost of an appeal to the SOSSA meet committee is \$25 and does not include who can put forth an appeal.

Be it resolved that: *The cost for an appeal is \$50 and must be put forth in writing by the coach of the school requesting the appeal.*

Mover: Brent Mergl SWC-St. Catharines

Seconded: Jason Higgins - Centennial Secondary

MOTION CARRIED

Motion #6: Playing regulations update for boys and girls soccer.

Whereas: Procedures and rules regarding substitutions on side throw ins were either confusing or were not previously included in boys and girls SOSSA soccer.

Be it resolved: *Under Section C (ii) the wording be updated to read, "May occur at goal kicks, goals scored, at half time, on your own throw-in and on an opponent's throw-in once the opponent has initiated a substitution."*

Moved and seconded by SOSSA Executive

MOTION CARRIED

Motion #7: Rugby

Whereas: Playing Time: ii) If there is scheduled more than one game in one day: each game shall consist of two (2) twenty minutes halves with a five (5) minute rest period. In case of a tie after regulation time, then the games(s) shall proceed directly to kicks as per the tie breaking procedures outlined in

Section 8e(ii) Age Grade Law Variations for Community rugby has 90 minutes as the maximum allowed in one day. Our SOSSA playoff format for 2 games in one day totaling 80 minutes. Not using all the time available to find a winner does not make sense before going to penalty kicks

Be it resolved: *The finals will follow a 10 minute overtime period using 10 player format as stated in e) tie situations, to maximize the 90 minutes in a day.*

e) Tie Situations

(i) In case of ties after regulation time on days which teams are scheduled to play one game, following a coin toss, there will be two (2) five minute halves played with 10 aside (five forwards, five backs) with two (2) minutes between halves.

The ten players on each side must be selected from players on the pitch at the end of regulation time. The remaining 5 players shall be directed to the end zone outside the dead ball line to remain at the

end of the overtime period if the teams are still tied at the end of the two (2) five minute halves, the game shall proceed to kicks as described in 8e(ii). Then proceed to penalty kicks.

Mover: Brian Carter - Saint Michael

Second: Stef Pavlovich - Eden S. S.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion #8: - SOSSA medals.

Whereas: Per OFSAA regulations, the maximum roster size for Ultimate is 28 (including coaches). In recent years we have seen roster sizes increase to prepare for OFSAA. Currently, we hand out 24 medals to SOSSA champion.

And whereas: OFSAA regulations allow for 30 lacrosse players and coaches and presently the SOSSA constitution does not allow for that number of medals.

Be it resolved: *Increase the number of ultimate medals from 24 to 28 and the number of lacrosse medals to 30 to fall in line with roster sizes in the OFSAA playing regulations.*

Mover: Tim Harvey - Orchard Park S.S.

Second: Jonathan Fletcher - Port Colborne H. S.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion #9: Formalize the process to fill vacant representation at the ultimate championship.

Whereas: For the 2022-2023 athletic year, Ultimate Frisbee saw:

- 12 teams in Zone 1
- 1 team in Zone 2
- 7 teams in Zone 6
- 6 teams in zone 4

1. Every year, SOSSA ultimate will comprise of 16 teams
 - a. four teams from each zone
 - b. each zone will be informed, prior to their zone tournament, how many SOSSA berths are awarded to each zone
2. Host school gets a berth...this follows OFSAA playing regs
 - a. top 3 teams from host zone, plus host school

Be it resolved: *If a zone cannot fill their four spaces, the procedure to fill the remaining spots from the other three zones will be decided as follows:*

Vacant spots be filled in the following order:

- a. 1 vacant spot
 - i. host zone awarded extra berth
- b. 2 vacant spots
 - i. host zone awarded first extra berth
 - ii. zone with most schools participating in ultimate awarded an extra berth
- c. 3 vacant spots
 - i. one extra team from each zone will qualify
- d. 4 vacant spots
 - i. host zone gets extra berth
 - ii. one extra team from each zone
 - 1. so in this instance, host zone would receive two extra berths
 - 2. if not enough teams in host zone, then we go back to largest zone

As of this point, we have only had one year (the first year) where we needed to fill four vacant spots. For the past two seasons, we have only needed to fill the three vacant Zone 2 spots.

This process was utilized this current year with great success.

Mover: Tim Harvey - Orchard Park S.S. Second: Jonathan Fletcher - Port Colborne H. S.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion #10: Ultimate disciplinary protocol

Whereas: The protocols below are currently in place, with the exception of the underlined one, but I want to include the process so that they are formally listed in the playing regulations.

At the start of every Ultimate Tournament, a Jury of Appeals is struck. The jury will be comprised of five coaches with knowledge of the game and SOTG. Every effort will be made to ensure all zones are represented but it is not mandatory.

1. At the beginning of each tournament, convenor will call a jury of appeals
 - a. convenor plus four coaches
 - b. jury should be comprised of higher level/experienced ultimate coaches who know the rules of the game and the importance of SOTG.
2. Consistently low spirit scores will trigger a review by the panel members (without a conflict of interest).
 - a. Convenor can call a panel of three of the five members of the jury (without conflicts of interest) to make a ruling.
3. A member of the panel (without a conflict of interest) can be assigned to observe games and overrule calls.
4. If an observer witnesses either a player or coach knowingly disregarding rules, player or coach will receive a warning..

5. On the second major infraction, or first violent infraction, player can be removed from the game/tournament .
6. If a player is removed from a game or tournament by an observer/convener/jury of appeals, they are ineligible for the next game of the tournament as per SOSSA regulations.
7. Jury of appeals will decide on eligibility of that ejected student moving forward...
 - a. eligibility for remainder of tournament
 - b. communication with student's school

Mover: Tim Harvey - Orchard Park S.S. Seconder: Jonathan Fletcher - Port Colborne H. S.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion #11: Ultimate Tournament Structure

Whereas: OFSAA Ultimate Frisbee is a two day tournament, which includes at least 16 teams

And whereas: The present ONE DAY SOSSA Ultimate schedule includes 16 teams when most other championships consist of only the top teams from each zone.

And whereas: OFSAA games can be up to 70 minutes in length (plus a halftime)

And whereas: SOSSA Ultimate is only one day so it is impossible, given the present tournament structure (30 minute games), to play games of the required length of game to properly prepare for the OFSAA style tournament (up to 60 minute games).

And whereas: The present SOSSA Ultimate schedule has teams playing up to only 180 minutes in the entire day but at OFSAA, teams may have to play up to 240 minutes.

And whereas: If the proposed tournament structure is adopted, the top two teams from each zone (instead of the present 4 teams from each zone) would get to play longer games and play more minutes so that the resulting SOSSA Ultimate Champion will experience a day similar to what will be played at OFSAA.

Be it resolved that:

On page 1, article 5 of the SOSSA Ultimate Regulations (sport specific playing regulations) would now read. Please see Appendix #3 - Ultimate Tournament Structure.

Mover: Tammy Short - Sir Winston Churchill Seconder: Steve Bonaza - Westlane

MOTION DEFEATED

Motion #12: Baseball

Whereas: Head-first slides are much more prevalent in the game of baseball today than when this rule was created.

And whereas: OFSAA allows head-first sliding and Baseball at this age group outside of school allows head-first slides.

And whereas: more players seem to have awkward slides when they begin to slide head-first, then remember they are only allowed to slide feet first,

And whereas: OPHEA guidelines state “Before sliding is permitted, appropriate sliding techniques must be taught to minimize the risk of injury”, but do not reference head-first or feet-first sliding.

Be it Resolved: *that the section “Additional Rules (e)” in the baseball playing regulations replace playing regulation (e) with the OFSAA playing regulation referring to sliding.*

New (OFSAA) regulation:

(e) Runners are instructed to slide or attempt to avoid making contact with a fielder. A player who maliciously runs into another player is to be declared out (unless he/she has scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected from the game.

Current SOSSA regulation:

(e) Runners are prohibited from sliding head first into a base unless returning to a base (overrun or steal attempt). A player contravening this rule will be called out on the play. Runners are to avoid making contact with a fielder. A player who maliciously runs into another player is to be declared out (unless he/she has scored prior to committing the infraction) and is to be automatically ejected from the game.

Mover: Jamie Coul - Westlain S.S.

Seconder: Dave Buchanan - A.N. Myer

MOTION CARRIED