

# **MINUTES OF THE 2011 G.H.T.F.A. YEAR END MEETING**

**Held on Monday, October 24, 2011**

**Meeting opened at 7:10 pm**

**In Attendance:** Frank Bolla, Bill Fournier, Rick Little, Brad MacNamara, Geoff MacVinnie ('B'), Dave Nelson, Terry Roberts, Tony Spagnoli, Steve Surya ('A'),

**Absent:** Sean Seaton ('C')

## **Enrollment Issues**

- Dave Nelson expressed concerns about the lack of new teams joining the association and the aging population of current players
- Discussions about how to recruit new players and teams including making the league a Sunday only league to allow people to pattern their schedules around Sunday only games

## **Field and Scheduling Issues**

- Brad MacNamara has distributed the proposed schedule for 2012, based on 24 teams, and indicated it has 4 triple headers scheduled and continues to utilize Tuesday and Thursday night games.
- 2012 schedule has been revised so that B and C leagues will not have tournament weekends off, few players at these levels play in tournaments and with the unavailability of fields continuing to book these dates off is becoming increasingly difficult to schedule and manage
- Tony Spagnoli will be placing field requests with the City of Burlington before the deadline, November 7.
- The Association is taking a harder stance on accommodating team requests to have numerous weekends off; the unavailability of fields is making this difficult to manage.
- There is increasing competition for fields from the Frisbee, Soccer, BMFA and other sports leagues which is making scheduling and field availability a concern.
- Rick Little noted that BMFA overbooks many fields, receives preferential treatment from the City in terms of lead time required to cancel fields and receive refunds and is charged half the rate that the GHTFA is currently charged

## **Referee Issues**

- Discussions were held around the necessity to fine teams for not complying with referee requirements, as stated in the constitution.
- Consensus was that the level 2 and 3 requirements are difficult to enforce as it is difficult for players to achieve the necessary game experience.
- It is felt that the referee program is working well to educate teams and build a bank of available referees.
- The Executive felt that there should not be a “referee opt out” ability at this time
- There is a concern about developing crew chiefs (level 3) and maintaining that into the future.
- Dave Nelson noted that the website will be updated to indicate what the registration fee will be for any team that does not have five referees on their player list, teams will prepay for non-compliance instead of being assessed fines at a later date.
- It was noted that SOTFOA is also having problems getting new referees and that it is becoming increasingly difficult to look to that Association to supply the necessary referees.
- Tony Spagnoli suggested that the Hamilton Referee Association be approached to find additional qualified referees to complement the GHTFA referees.
- It was also suggested that an email be sent to all current Masters players to see if any of them would consider joining the GHTFA referees.
- Rick Little is still struggling to schedule referees.
- GHTFA referee no shows this year were 4 in A, 1 in B and 2 in C, whereas there were 12 SOTFOA no shows.
- The Executive reviewed the request from Sean Seaton on behalf of the Assassins missed referee assignment fine and determined that the standard no-show fine will be enforced.

## **2011 League Issues**

- There is a continuing problem with teams bringing bottles to games. All League Presidents are reminded to ensure that teams are aware that this is unacceptable. Anyone seeing teams with bottles should inform them that this is unacceptable and that they are putting the GHTFA at risk of losing their fields if this continues.

## **Team Movement and Rosters**

- 2011 teams were ranked according to their league and playoff standings in preparation for the 2012 season. Rankings (without consideration of respective leagues) are:
  1. Balls Deep
  2. Rhinos
  3. Hard Knocks
  4. Thunder
  5. Spartans

6. Bandits
7. El Muchachos
8. Longhorns
9. Slow Fat White Guys
10. Renegades
11. Offenders
12. Steelers
13. Broncos
14. Mavericks
15. Delta Squad
16. Assassins
17. Old 'N Orange
18. Eagles
19. Jack Daniels
20. Wildcats
21. Pie Rats
22. Beavers

- Teams have been ranked for the 2012 season, as shown above. Team movement between leagues will be determined at the 2012 AGM after all new team presentations have been made. As per constitutional requirements, teams identified for movement to another league will have the ability to contest any movement at the 2012 AGM.
- Discussions were held around building the leagues from a top down scenario, first 8 will be 'A', next 8 will be 'B' and remaining teams will be the 'C' league. It is felt that teams are competitive enough that this structure can be followed at the 2012 AGM.
- Discussions were also held around the possibility of a super league, teams playing once to achieve a ranking and then splitting into individual leagues after the initial ranking. There are concerns around whether this ranking would be accurate plus the scheduling issues it may cause. This may be considered during the 2012 AGM once final team counts are available.

### **Other Business**

- Geoff MacVinnie proposed a "State of the Union" message be sent to all players via email indicating the current enrolment issues, referee needs and other pertinent GHTFA concerns to hopefully entice players to become more involved and be more active in the GHTFA. Geoff will produce an initial draft of the letter for approval.
- Concerns were expressed about the aging executive committee and the lack of new blood. This is a concern for the continuing operation of the GHTFA from a succession viewpoint.
- Rick Little reminded all executives members that they should be creating a "position profile" of their duties and responsibilities to allow potential replacements to identify the roles and responsibilities and enable new people to transition into executive roles easily.

- Brad MacNamara will be drafting a new constitutional amendment concerning the return of championship trophies. All trophies should be returned prior to playoffs, non-complying teams will be subject to fines.
- Sean Seaton suggested that the tie-breaking format should also become a constitutional amendment as currently there is no defined format. Brad MacNamara has proposed the following amendment:
  - Article 9.3 Tie Breaking Rules:
    - When two or more team are tied:
      - 1st – Head to Head match up is considered (The Team with the superior head to head record will advance)
      - 2nd - Total Wins amongst the affected teams;
      - 3rd - Points against amongst the affected teams;
      - 4th - Points for and against differential amongst the affected team;
      - 5th - Total wins with all team in the League or Division;
      - 6th – Points against with all team in the League or Division; and
      - 7th – Points for and against with all team in the League or Division.
    - Once a team is eliminated from the tie they are no longer considered to be included in the tie breaker.
- Dave Nelson noted that this is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first touch football league, started by Frank Bolla in 1961. Dave is currently working with reporters to produce a newspaper article.
- Dave Nelson is the current holder of Frank Bolla's photographic records over the past 50 years and will be scanning these for inclusion on the website. It is hoped that some volunteers can be recruited to help with this process.
- Dave Nelson noted that the GHTFA used to utilize Nelson Stadium for Championship Day to allow Cogeco to film games. Dave will be looking into doing this again to resurrect Cogeco involvement. There are concerns around the fact that this will mean the event will be a day-long event, due to Nelson having only one field, and the BMFA typically using Nelson on weekends.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm**