A meeting of the MPA Football Committee was held on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dan Clifford, Brendan Scully, and Joel Stoneton.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Derek Galway and Fred Lower.

**LIAISONS PRESENT:** Dan O’Connell and Allan Snell.

**GUESTS:** Ralph Damren and Jeff Benson.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Burnham.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On a MOTION by Stoneton/Clifford, the minutes of the January 31, 2019 meeting were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The football correspondence was reviewed and placed on file.

**REVIEW OF UPCOMING FOOTBALL SEASON:** The following topics were discussed:

- 8-Man Rules – The rule differences for the 8-man season were reviewed and discussed.
- 40-Second Clock – Mr. Damren reviewed the new 40-second clock procedure that will be utilized this season.
- Approval of Cooperative Teams - On a MOTION by Clifford/Stoneton, and UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED, the following cooperative teams were approved:
  - Ellsworth/Sumner
  - Madison/Carrabec
  - Oxford Hills/Buckfield
  - Lisbon/St. Dom’s
  - Winthrop/Monmouth/Hall Dale
  - Steams/Schenck
  - Falmouth/Greely
  - John Bapst/Bangor Christian
  - Westbrook/Waynflete
  - Mattanawcook/Penobscot Valley/Lee
  - Houlton/Hodgdon/Greater Houlton Christian/So. Aroostook
- Mandatory Rules Clinics – The dates of the mandatory rules’ clinics were reviewed.
- Regular Season Schedules – There was a discussion about the regular season scheduling that included cross-class scheduling for many schools.
COACHES’ REPORT: Mr. O’Connell reported the following:

- Thanked Mr. Damren and Mr. Snell for doing a rules clinic at the coaches’ clinic.
- Discussed the emphasis that the Maine Football Coaches’ Association is putting onto youth football. While it is difficult to mandate what takes place within the many organizations that sponsor youth football the association is trying to get out the message that all groups should have an emphasis on player safety. He also discussed the fact that flag football is becoming popular in many communities and that the MFCA is trying to be proactive in redesigning youth football.
- There has been considerable discussion about regular season scheduling and classification.
- There have been questions raised regarding the preseason acclimatization period.
- There is confusion about the new 40-second clock rule.
- There is continued discussion about 8-man football. The MFCA sponsored an 8-man clinic this past spring.
- The association is trying to promote membership to the MFCA.

OFFICIALS’ REPORT: Mr. Snell and Mr. Damren reported on the following:

- There will be 38 games every week this season and the four officiating boards will need to work together to assure coverage for all the games.
- Mr. Damren suggested that the point of emphasis that is included in the NFHS Football Rulebook be added to the MPA Football Bulletin.
- The rule changes for the 2019 season were reviewed and discussed.

REVIEW OF 2019 FOOTBALL BULLETIN: The 2019 Football Bulletin was reviewed and discussed.

OTHER: The following items were also discussed:

- Championship Sites – The following dates and sites were determined for the 2019 championships:
  - 8 – Man Saturday, November 16 Fitzpatrick Stadium - Portland
  - Class C Friday, November 22 University of Maine – Orono
  - Classes A, B, D Saturday, November 23 Fitzpatrick Stadium – Portland
- Sideline Passes – Tabled to next meeting.
- Meeting with MPA Sports Medicine Committee – It was determined that there are no issues that will need to be brought forward to the Sports Medicine Committee.
- Classification – After discussion it was the feeling of the committee that adjustments to classification may need to be made in the middle of the current classification cycle.

NEXT AGENDA: The following items will be placed on the next agenda:

- Classification – The possibility of forming an ad hoc committee to look at football classification
- Sideline Passes
- The Future of Maine Football – “What can we be . . . Not What We Are”

NEXT MEETING DATE: The next meeting of the Football Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the MPA office.
Minutes of the MPA
Football Committee
August 12, 2019

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a MOTION by Clifford/Stoneton, and VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, the meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Burnham
Executive Director, Interscholastic Division

/tjm
11/5/19