

**EFL ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA 01/26 & 27 (rev 5/6/13)**

- **9am Call to Order** Call to Order/Review Agenda (Downstairs Conference Room)

Roll Call Attendees:

Dave Burch-Commissioner	George Ashcraft-Watertown
Al Lollie-Deputy Commissioner	John Ramus-Watertown
Concetta Sager-Treasurer	Barry Keeler-Montreal
Rick Sager-Amsterdam	Kennis Davis-Montreal
Jeff Hodges-Glens Falls	Sal Iavarone-Albany
Hank Pelton-Glens Falls	Wayne Brockman-Monroe County
Ken Anderson-Syracuse	Nadlyn Kearney-Monroe County
Jamie Hanthe-Syracuse	Dan LaMagna-NEPA
Paul Barclay-Vermont	Jason Muskey-NEPA
Drew Gordon-Vermont	Pat Keleher – Plattsburgh
	Scott Aguglia - Plattsburgh

- **Acceptance Of Minutes From October 2012 Meeting:** Acceptance of the minutes for October meeting-Watertown accept/Glens Falls 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **Treasurer’s Report:** Acceptance of Treasurer’s report-Montreal accept/Plattsburg 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **Individual Status of Teams in EFL** – Albany-Sal stated that his objective was to modify professional player rule. He wants to appeal the commissioner’s decision to ban CJ. He felt he was used for the 2012 season to fulfill a schedule. Discussion highlights from member teams regarding CJ Tarver illegal player issue:
  - Plattsburg-no direct knowledge of what went on in social media regarding CJ. Must fall back on commissioner’s ruling
  - Monroe-playing CJ even though Albany was aware of the by law was wrong, but feels CJ should be allowed to come back. Lifetime ban was too harsh
  - Montreal-agrees with Monroe-should be allowed to come back, but do not question the commissioner’s decision
  - Watertown- will not go against the commissioner’s decision and we should not get hung up on one guy
  - Glens Falls-Felt that making the commissioner’s look bad, affects the entire league and its member and makes us all look bad
  - Amsterdam-agree with Commissioner’s decision but lifetime ban is a long time
  - Monroe –Motion to allow him back on probation-withdrew motion
  - Albany stated that if CJ is not allowed to play, he will go to another league
  - Plattsburg -Motion to end discussion and commissioners decision not be overturned/VT 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Vote: Amsterdam-Yes, Plattsburg-Yes, Glens Falls- no, Syracuse- no, Montreal- no, Vermont-Yes, Watertown-yes, Monroe-no
  - Amsterdam-Problem with ban for life, suggested a one year ban with a conditional return
  - Monroe-suggested ban for upcoming season and allowed back if no further incidents

- Glens Falls- one year is too short
- Deputy Commissioner Al Lollie; apply conditions for a period of time to his conduct once he returns, that is not detrimental to the league.
- Motion by Monroe - suspended for one year of semi pro and Albany stay in the league motion died due to lack of a second.
  
- **Team Status continued:**
  - Montreal wanted to request a leave of absence-need to have home games to obtain revenue. They plan to go independent to be able to pay their bills and pay back the league. Would like to come back in 2014. Have a potential of 5 exhibition games at home
  - Watertown-in
  - Monroe –have an issue with professional player by law. If not changed, must look at other options
  - Glens Falls-in
  - Vermont-in
  - Syracuse-in
  - Plattsburg-in
  - Amsterdam-requested a leave of absence. They are in discussion with 2 different groups to purchase but unable to pull it together at this time. Watertown- motion to grant leave of absence/Plattsburg 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion accepted.....
  
- **Membership Committee Report**
  - Finger Lakes-committed to another league
  - Buffalo Celtics-can't play if professional player rule is not changed
  - SPF league-looking to play cross over games-Monroe expressed dissatisfaction
  - Blitzen Bears/Warriors-can't attend league meetings, spoke with commissioner
  - New Team Presentations/Acceptance: NEPA Miners
  - NEPA Miners - Dan Lamagna, Jason Muskey. Est. 2006. Played first game 2007; First year MLF-Noted best new team on the East Coast. Community oriented. Each home game is for a charity, 501C not for profit, 13 person BOD, Scranton Memorial Stadium, Do not pay players
  - Motion by Watertown, Amsterdam 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept as new member. All in favor
  
- **CJ Tarver eligibility discussions (continued):** Motion by Glens Falls-one year suspension from EFL and playing or participation on any semi-pro football, minor league football or adult amateur football team and/or other similar organization followed by a 4 yr. probation in the Empire Football League. During this 5 year period, any violations of the former statement and additional conditions set forth by the Commissioner, results in a lifetime ban from the Empire Football League. VT 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous vote
  
- **Discussion regarding Albany being reinstated in good standing:** Motion to reinstate Albany with \$1000 performance bond and 1 year probation
  - Amsterdam-yes, Plattsburgh yes, Glens Falls yes, Syracuse yes, Vermont- no, Watertown yes, Montreal yes, Motion passed
  - Albany stated that as of 11:42AM, they will remain in the league.

- **By Law Change Proposals** .... (see by laws for markups)

1. (By law change, proposed by EFL Treasurer Concetta Sager)

**Key policies and procedures currently reads:** 1. ALL LEAGUE GAMES ARE SCHEDULED FOR 7:30 PM ON SATURDAY NIGHT. ANY OTHER PLAYING TIME OR PLAYING DATE MUST BE APPROVED BY MUTUAL CONSENT OF BOTH TEAMS.

**Proposed Change:** 1. ALL LEAGUE GAMES ARE SCHEDULED FOR 7:00 PM ON SATURDAY NIGHT. ANY OTHER PLAYING TIME OR PLAYING DATE MUST BE APPROVED BY MUTUAL CONSENT OF BOTH TEAMS.

**Rationale for Proposed Change:** In the past, league members have run into situations where their location would not allow the use of the lights after 10:00 PM so an earlier start time was required. Also, this change would make it much easier for traveling teams to reach a venue for food and refreshment before 10:00 PM when many places close their kitchens or close their walk up counter service.

- Change standard game start time from 7:30 to 7PM; Motion to accept; Plattsburg/Syracuse 2<sup>nd</sup>; Motion passed

2. **CONDUCT AND REGULATION OF TEAM UNIT:** For any player that is added, a photo ID and personal information must be provided. In addition, if a player has signed a professional team's contract and been paid to play (NFL, CFL, AFL, AFL2, LFL,) within the current calendar year, that player is considered a professional and not allowed to participate in the Empire Football League.

**Proposed Change:** .....

**Rationale for Proposed Change:** .....

- Professional player clause removed from bylaws; Motion to accept-Monroe/Syracuse 2<sup>nd</sup>; All accepted/Plattsburgh opposed

3. **CONDUCT AND REGULATION OF TEAM UNIT:** A one-time, per season, appeal to add one player, to the judicial committee may be made due to hardship or extenuating circumstances (medical or physical injury only). The player will be eligible to play in the playoffs. This appeal must be made prior to the player being allowed to play in an EFL game.

**Proposed Change:** .....

**Rationale for Proposed Change:** .....

- One time appeal to league-deleted; Adding players after the 6<sup>th</sup> week modified; All accepted revision

## **LUNCH**

- **Stadium Athletics Presentation:** presented their products and options for EFL member teams.

- **AFLAC Presentation:** To Manny presented the accident coverage provided by AFLAC

- **1:40pm Albany requested a year leave of absence:** Watertown made a motion to accept; 2nd VT; motion carried.

- Amsterdam yes, Plattsburg yes, Glens Falls yes, Syracuse no, Montreal no, Vermont yes, Watertown yes, Montreal yes
- Motion passed

- **Scheduling**

- League Start & Stop Dates (Playoffs, Championships)
- Began discussion on schedule; Begins July 6 through Sept 28; 4 team playoffs; Championship Oct 12<sup>th</sup>

## **Old Business**

- Collection of EFL Dues (\$450) – dues were collected from some teams but not all. Some had to wait for funding from their sponsors.
- Wilson NFL Footballs: NFL Footballs available through the AFA for \$65 each plus \$20 shipping = \$410
- Approve 2012 Schedule: Vermont team expressed concern regarding 4 long trips for 7 team schedule; 8 team/East vs. West. Asked Montreal if the teams will travel to them, if they would come back; they Agreed. Discussion regarding the issues encountered with crossing the border into Canada. Glens Fall and NEPA proposed to pay them \$300 to play game at Bailey Stadium. Rick proposed that the league pay \$300 towards the officials for the game in Bailey. Syracuse suggested to play the best team in the NFA and have it count towards their season. Representative has gone to the NFA meeting as a liaison. Need an 8 week schedule with 2 byes for each team. 6 team playoff schedule-top 3 in each division.

Question...will the 2 games count towards record; Concern about matching up equal teams. Either count all 10 games or count only 8. Motion –all 10 games count towards player stats and all-star selections but only 8 games count towards league playoff seeding –unanimously passed. Voting on schedule minus the NFA teams-passed

- NFA Crossover Championship Game: Discussed proposed state cross over championship game with NFA-winner of our league will play them week after our season is over 10/19/13; it was proposed Watertown to host.
- All Star game with NFA:NFA will host this game. Home team will get a percentage of the proceeds and leagues will split the rest. Additional information will be forth coming once the discussions are completed with the NFA.
- Collection of “Player Equipment Owed” Lists: Equipment owed list-Watertown and Plattsburg submitted to the Commissioner. Players who still owe equipment to teams cannot get a release until the equipment issue is resolved.
- Review of Banned Players: the listing of players banned from the EFL was reviewed
- EFL Statistics Program: Rick Sager currently reviewing 6 other options ; will conclude selection by Coaches Officials Meeting
- EFL team websites: all team websites are all linked to EFL site
- General Liability Insurance (need to take care of NOW): 100% Enrollment As League; Premium \$350 for \$2M General Liability Policy; \$350 per team per year/Sadler or Philadelphia; Accessible through the AFA website
  - League decided to use only Sadler
- Other Committee Reports: .....

- Election of EFL Officers – Motion-same slate of officers for 2013- passed. The commissioner appointed Rick Sager as Deputy Commissioner and tasked him with researching a new stats tool

### **New Business**

- EFL Fund Raisers
- EFL Officials & Coaches Meeting (Time & Place) **May 5<sup>th</sup>**: Next meeting was scheduled for May 5, 2013; Winner's Circle (possible location)
- Team Contact Lists: Contact lists were provided to the Commissioner
- Media Contact Lists (Need Markups From Each Team): teams provided their contact list markups
- EFL Contracts & Team Waivers: contracts and waivers were distributed; Need to be able to lock the roster after the 6<sup>th</sup> week. Photo with the name on the roster is req'd
- Official Press Release: discussed content and also the need to engage with Communications Director, Terrance Lollie.
- Steve Weed – solicited interest in team webcasting. Teams can gain revenue by selling advertising during the game.....
- Date & Site Of Next Meetings (June, September):

Motion to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,  
Concetta Sager

*Note: Digital Audio transcript of meeting is available and filed. The above highlights major discussion points and decisions from this meeting.*