



CSFL SPRING VIRTUAL MEETING

Thursday, May 21, 11 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

Call Participants:

Army West Point: Gene McIntyre and Mark West
Caldwell: Mark Corino, Joe Giacchi, and Jim Kelly
Chestnut Hill: Jesse Balcer, Jess Day, and Gio Thomas
Cornell: Terry Cullen, Willie Evans, and Bob Gneo
Mansfield: Kristen Decker and John Evans and Brian Oakes
Navy: Jason Dewald and Matt Munnely
Penn: Brad Fadem and Jerry McConnell
Post: Mike Brienza, AJ McNamara, and Adam Schultz
St. Thomas Aquinas: Nicole Ryan and Andrew Tartara
CSFL Office: Dan Mara, Doug DeBiase, and Ellen O'Brien

Not Represented:

Alderson Broaddus

Call commenced at 11:00am

I. INTRODUCTIONS

- a. Commissioner Dan Mara welcomed the group and introduced his staff. Associate Commissioner Doug DeBiase took roll call.

II. 2020 SEASON/COVID-19 DISCUSSION (*Attachment #1*)

- a. Institutional Updates Regarding Fall 2020
 - i. Alderson Broaddus: Not represented on the call.
 - ii. Army: A final decision has not yet been made. Army plans to have incoming freshman arrive in mid-July and anticipate conducting in-person classes.
 - iii. Caldwell: A final decision has not yet been made. The University is reviewing plans and options for Fall classes but do not have a set start date. A final decision will be made by the end of June.
 - iv. Chestnut Hill: A final decision has not yet been made. The College is reviewing plans and options for Fall classes. A final decision will be made by early July.
 - v. Cornell: A final decision will be made by the end of June.
 - vi. Mansfield: A final decision has not yet been made. The institution is still in the discussion phase.

- vii. Navy: Navy plans to bring the incoming freshman in during the first week of July and plans to have classes as normal.
 - viii. Penn: A final decision will not be made until the end of June at the earliest. The institution is anticipating having a combination of virtual and in-person classes this Fall.
 - ix. Post: The institution plans to arrive on campus on time and will have contingency plans in place.
 - x. St. Thomas Aquinas: A final decision will not be made until late June or early July. The institution plans to return to campus as usual with some restrictions in place.
- b. Game Schedule (later start to season, reduction in games, cancel season, move to spring)
- i. Doug DeBiase reviewed attachment #1 which includes various schedule format options for Fall 2020. The following feedback was provided by representatives on the call:
 1. Army: If Option 1 is not possible, four division games plus rivalry week and a championship is ideal.
 2. Penn: In favor of four division games plus rivalry week and a championship.
 3. Cornell: In favor of four division games plus rivalry week and a championship, but much will depend on decisions of the Ivy League.
 4. Chestnut Hill: In favor of options 1, 2, 3, and 4. Moving the season to the Spring is not feasible due to staffing and facility issues.
 5. Mansfield: In favor of four division games plus crossover week and a championship.
 6. Caldwell: In favor of a reduced schedule with in-division games to minimize travel and avoid overnights.
 7. Post: In favor of any opportunity for the student-athletes to participate. Approves of a seven-game season without a bye week.
 8. STAC: In favor of a seven-game season without a bye or a five-game season with a championship.
 9. Navy: In favor of moving the season to the Spring semester if necessary.
 10. Army: If the season is pushed late into October the league may need to consider the pod format to minimize expenses.
 - ii. Current Restrictions: Cornell has eliminated spring trips for baseball as well as their basketball trip to the west coast. Caldwell is considering the elimination of overnight trips. Fall sport teams at Penn must avoid flights and limit overnight trips.
- c. Preseason Practices
- i. A request was submitted to consider the expansion of the 16 preseason practices since schools missed out on spring practices in 2020. They want to be sure student-athletes have ample time to reacclimate and prepare physically for the season ahead.
 1. Jason Dewald recommended the number of preseason practices be increased to 20. Brad Fadem has concerns about added expenses for additional practices if the season starts on time. If the season is delayed, additional practices would be valuable. Army and Cornell agree with Penn. Adam Shultz believes additional activity and walk-through

opportunities would be beneficial. Gio Thomas pointed out that scheduling option #3 pushes the season start date back by one week and would allow time for extra practices. Chestnut Hill and Caldwell could not come back early and therefore are only in favor of additional practices if the season is delayed. Mansfield will bring student-athletes back early but they don't begin classes until after Labor Day. Post will not have preseason camps.

2. **Consensus: Coaches are in favor of additional practice opportunities if the schedule is delayed at least one week. If the schedule is not delayed, then the practice limit will remain at 16. Dan Mara suggested each coach speak with their AD regarding potential impact on budgets.**
3. Dan Mara distributed return-to-play guidelines which includes extensive recommendations for campuses to consider.

III. **PLAYING WEIGHT (Attachment #2)**

- a. Changes to weight requirements must be approved unanimously by sprint football administrators. The Day of Game Weight Challenge does not appear to have been properly approved by the League.
- b. Coaches Weight Challenge Day of Game (Jason Dewald)
 - i. Last season, coaches were allowed to make weight challenges the day of the game. If a player was over 200lbs, he could not play. In November, the league members voted to have the weight challenge as 190lbs. Jason Dewald is in favor of eliminating the weight challenge rule, or, of implementing clear guidelines and process. Mark West is in favor of eliminating the rule as well. However, if the rule is maintained, he suggested the challenge selections be random and coordinated by the Commissioner (via Zoom).
 - ii. The pregame weigh-ins have occurred previously for research purposes with no penalties involved. The weigh-in information was submitted to the Commissioner. Brad Fadem is concerned about potential liability risks associated with game day weigh ins.
 - iii. Terry Cullen is supportive of Zoom weigh-ins coordinated by the Commissioner. He suggested the (randomly selected) names be announced the night before the game – If a student-athlete does not show up for the Zoom weigh-in, then he cannot play. The current rule will be removed since it was not properly approved. Dan Mara suggested a subcommittee be formed to develop a formal Zoom weigh-in proposal. **Mark Corino made a motion to form a subcommittee to develop a Zoom weigh-in proposal. AJ McNamara seconded. Dan Mara suggested the subcommittee include two administrators and two coaches. Mark Corino made a friendly amendment to have the subcommittee include two administrators and two coaches. AJ McNamara seconded the friendly amendment. Motion approved: 9-0. Doug DeBiase will email the group requesting volunteers to participate on the subcommittee. Based on the names received, two coaches and two administrators will be randomly selected to serve.**
- c. Expand weight limit for 2020 season due to COVID-19 layoffs (Jim Kelly/Gio Thomas)
 - i. Jim Kelly proposed the group review the weight limits for the Fall 2020 season, considering the student-athletes missed out on spring practice and have limited access to workout facilities at this time. Gio Thomas has the same concerns and suggested that student-athletes be allowed to more gradually bring their weight

down. The current weight limit is 183lbs for returners to practice and 178lbs for games.

- ii. Mark West made a motion to eliminate the 183lbs (hydrated) requirement for practice during the Fall 2020 Sprint Football Season. John Evens seconded. Recommendation approved: 7-2. This item will move on to a vote of the athletics administrators. A new target weight for practice was not recommended by the group. Adam Schultz suggested the 183lbs weight be used for game requirements too. The group will discuss a phased in approach for weight requirements on the next call.

IV. PROJECTED LEAGUE DUES

- a. League dues will remain at \$2,600 per institution. The dues invoice will be sent out June 1st with a July 1st due date.

V. BY-LAWS / LEAGUE RULES (*Attachment #3*)

- a. Dan Mara recommends the bylaws be separated from the league rules/operating codes to provide a well-delineated structure. He suggested a committee be formed to include four athletic administrators and two coaches. Mark Corino made a motion to form a bylaws committee of four administrators and two coaches. Jesse Balcer seconded. Dan Mara will distribute a survey to gather feedback and input from the membership. Motion approved: 9-0.

VI. LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP POLICY (*Attachment #4*)

- a. The league does not currently have a policy or process in place for new members. Dan Mara reviewed his suggested policy outlined in attachment #4. It was suggested the policy also include minimum facility requirements. Mark Corino made a motion to approve the documentation requirements outlined in the proposed policy and to determine a fee in June. Jason Dewald seconded. Motion approved: 9-0.

VII. MARKETING PLAN (*Attachment #5*)

- a. Doug DeBiase reviewed his proposed marketing plan for the league.
- b. The group is in favor of the additional weekly awards as well as the preseason virtual media day. Doug will put criteria in place for the new weekly awards and present to coaches on the next call. The group is not in favor of implementing a coaches preseason poll this year. Doug also wants to interview coaches each Tuesday morning to review the last game.
- c. Doug would like to redesign the logo and the league website as well as add Instagram and YouTube accounts.

VIII. 20th ANNIVERSARY OF 9/11 in 2021 (Possible Game in NYC) (Mark West)

- a. Mark West asked for the thoughts of the group on playing a 20th Anniversary of 9/11 game in 2021. The day falls on a Saturday and could feature Army vs. Navy. Army is slated to have the home game against Navy in 2021, but their NCAA football team is home that day. Jason Dewald suggested Columbia as a potential host. AJ McNamara suggested SUNY Maritime as a potential site as well. All coaches are in favor of this idea/initiative. Mark will work with Doug to further coordinate details.

IX. ADDITIONAL CALLS IN SUMMER 2020

- a. The next call will be held on June 18th at 11:00am. Mark Corino asked if each school should have their sprint football administrator on the call so formal votes can take place. The ADs at Navy, Army, Penn, and Cornell hold the voting power on sprint football items and they will not be available for the call.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. AJ McNamara asked if schools were allowed to play games during bye week. **Dan Mara will review the rules and make that determination.**

Call adjourned at 12:55pm