

Minutes of Liberty League Spring Meeting May 31-June 1, 2023 – Turning Stone Resort – Verona, N.Y.

Present: Stefanie Carrington, Samantha Robbins (Bard); Laurel Kane, Ben Gaebel (Clarkson); Brian Miller, Liz Dennison (Hobart and William Smith); Susan Bassett (Ithaca); Lee McElroy, Kevin Beattie, Katie Paradise (RPI); George VanderZwaag, Kristine Shanley, Morgan Stout (Rochester); Jackie Nicholson, Scott McVean, Bethany Marren (RIT); Randy LaBrake (St. Lawrence); Gail Cummings-Danson, Megan Buchanan, Peter Fisher (Skidmore); Beth Tiffany (Union); Michelle Walsh, Kaitlin Leach, Matt Brennie (Vassar); Tracy King, Katie Meline (Liberty League).

I. Call to Order

Jackie Nicholson (Liberty League President) called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. Review of Minutes

The minutes of the January 13, 2023, meeting at the NCAA Convention were reviewed. No changes or corrections were noted.

Motion: A motion (McElroy, Nicholson) to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2023, meeting was APPROVED 11-0-0.

III. Financial Report

- A. FY23 Budget Report:** Tracy King reviewed the financial report. Current Liberty League checking account balance totals \$265,218.10. This does not include the league's certificate of deposit (CD), which totals approximately \$52,000. Revenues for FY23 totaled \$325,152 while current expenses total \$213,288.67. Primary expenses remaining include NCAA conference grant expenditures and payroll expenses. A budget surplus of approximately \$11,000 is projected for FY23. Full-member dues are \$20,000 for FY24 and \$21,500 for FY25. Associate member dues (football) remain at \$2,000 for FY24 while associate member dues for single-site championships (golf, rowing, squash) increase from \$250 to \$500 for FY24.

IV. Commissioner's Update

- A. Recap of 2022-23 Champions / League Success:** Katie Meline reviewed a document highlighting the academic and athletic accomplishments of Liberty League student-athletes and teams during the past academic year. Four Liberty League teams – Ithaca (football), William Smith (women's lacrosse, women's

soccer), RIT (men's lacrosse) – reached at least the quarterfinals in NCAA competition. Seven different institutions captured Liberty League championships. Additionally, a total of 2,200 student-athletes qualified for the Liberty League All-Academic Teams (3.30 cumulative GPA or higher) in their respective sports.

- B. Report on Hardship Waivers Granted:** King reported that a total of 22 hardship waivers have been granted during the 2022-23 academic year – 10 in men's sports and 12 in women's sports. Women's soccer (four) was the sport with the most waivers granted. The 22 hardship waivers granted is the most since 2019-20, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The extra year of eligibility granted during the pandemic likely resulted in fewer student-athletes seeking an extra season of eligibility.
- C. NCAA Woman of the Year / Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year:** NCAA Woman of the Year nominees must be submitted via the NCAA online portal by June 21. King will conduct an email vote for the Liberty League Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year. These awards are presented to graduating seniors who have demonstrated excellence in academics, athletics and leadership/service. The individual selected as Liberty League Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year will be the league's nominee for the NCAA Woman of the Year award. Both honorees will also be the league's nominees for the Division III Commissioners Association Student-Athletes of the Year.

V. Review of Sport & Committee Reports

- A. Single-Site Championship Dates and Host Rotation:** King reviewed the single-site championship dates and sites for 2023-24. The sites of the men's and women's golf championships are still being finalized. The preference of the coaches is to return to Turning Stone (men's golf) and the Edison Club (women's golf), but will depend on the availability of the courses during the preferred weeks.
- B. Reports from Sport Groups:**
 - 1. Field Hockey: Discussion items:** 1.) The league schedule was reviewed. With the current four-year schedule extending through the fall 2024 season, a new four-year schedule needs to be drafted for next spring for the 2025 season. 2.) The new five-team championship format was reviewed. The coaches were supportive of having a fifth team and were comfortable with the Tuesday-Friday-Sunday tournament schedule. It was suggested that Liberty League Championship banners should be provided for all rounds of the league tournament. King will utilize NCAA grant funding to provide new banners to all institutions. 3.) Officiating was discussed. The league has agreed to continue with Julie Clark as assigner for the 2023 season. The coaches developed a list of preferred

officials for Liberty League tournament games, including Julie Clark, Aubree Coon, Angelee Hitchcock, Eileen Jones, Corinne Paige and Barb Wachowiak. 4.) The coaches also discussed the all-league selection process and how to best select the most deserving student-athletes. The coaches agreed to reinstitute the conference call to discuss the all-league nominees, recommending it be held on Wednesday of the tournament week. It was also suggested that statistics from all games – including Liberty League tournament games – should be considered in the selection process with voting remaining open until after the championship game. A Sunday selection deadline could be a challenge for the league in compiling the teams before Monday’s all-region nomination deadline. Action items: None.

2. **Football:** Discussion items: The primary discussion item focused on non-league scheduling opportunities. Filling non-league schedules has proven challenging for some teams. With several conferences forming scheduling partnerships, non-league opportunities have become more limited, particularly in week four, which has forced some schools to travel a significant distance to find opponents. The Empire 8 and Landmark Conference, which have formed a scheduling partnership for the 2023 and 2024 seasons, are willing to include the Liberty League in a partnership for 2025 and 2026. Additionally, an institution within the league’s geographic footprint has inquired about the associate member application process. An additional team would guarantee each school seven league games, lessening the need for non-league games. The question is whether the league intended to add an associate member AND participate in a scheduling alliance. A separate call/meeting will be scheduled with football administrators regarding non-league scheduling opportunities. Action items: None.

3. **Soccer:** Discussion items: 1.) In an effort to improve and standardize video quality for scouting purposes, Spencer Barr from Hudl provided an overview of the company’s video products to the coaches. The cost of the Focus Flex camera would be \$2,000 annually per school, which could be cost prohibitive. Some coaches also reported issues of lagging with the camera system. Rather than focus on a particular device, it was suggested that the league establish a common set of recording standards that all schools can follow. 2.) Postseason scouting was discussed. League guidelines currently prohibit live scouting of league tournament games. Other sports with a similar tournament schedule – basketball and women’s lacrosse – do not prohibit live scouting. With video exchange and games now being live streamed, coaches are able to view postseason games. Additionally, excluding penalty kick shootouts from tournament video exchange was discussed. Even if shootouts are not included with exchanged videos, they would likely still be accessible on live streams or archived video. 3.) The coaches also discussed concluding the Liberty

League regular-season schedule on Friday rather than Saturday. Doing so could allow for an earlier start to the tournament and a less compressed schedule. A committee consisting of Shawn Griffin, Bill Garo, Adam Clinton, Zac Shaw and Mindy Quigg agreed to explore options and make a recommendation to the full group. Action item: 1.) To remove the current prohibition on live scouting during the Liberty League soccer championships.

4. **Volleyball:** Discussion items: 1.) The coaches discussed the concept of re-seeding the Liberty League tournament after first-round matches, but ultimately agreed that if the sixth-seeded team recorded an upset, it should be rewarded by playing the second seed in the bracketed tournament and not the first seed. 2.) League-mandated match times were discussed. Under the league guidelines, the start times for a back-to-back weekend are 7 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday. The coaches noted that travel distances can vary significantly from the Friday opponent to the Saturday opponent. For example, a team playing at Clarkson on Friday and at Skidmore Saturday has a much longer trip than a team playing at St. Lawrence on Friday and at Clarkson on Saturday. It was suggested that times could be adjusted by mutual agreement. 3.) Similar to field hockey, the coaches expressed an interest in conducting the all-league voting after the Liberty League tournament and were seeking feedback from the athletic directors. 4.) Concerns with officiating were discussed. The North Country schools continue to have issues and challenges with securing officials. King scheduled a meeting with assigner Mara Wager along with coaches and administrators from Clarkson and St. Lawrence to discuss the challenges. Action items: Discussion of match start times and permitting teams to adjust times by mutual agreement.
5. **Cross Country:** Discussion items: 1.) To provide the Liberty League championship host institution additional time to order and prepare bib numbers, the coaches discussed moving the entry deadline from 5 p.m. Tuesday to 5 p.m. Sunday. 2.) The coaches discussed moving the championship start time up an hour, from noon and 1 p.m. to 11 a.m. and noon. Most teams participating in the championship have traveled the day before and have previewed the course, so the later start times are not necessary for travel. Also, many regular-season meets start at 11 a.m. and noon. 3.) It was recommended that a standard number of portable toilets – at least 10 – are provided if indoor bathroom facilities are not available on-site. NCAA regional sites require 20 for a field of approximately 300 competitors. 4.) To provide an enhanced spectator experience, it was recommended that the host institution work with the timing company (typically Leone Timing) to provide a minimum of two split points in addition to the finish line. The cost of timing services in 2022 at Vassar was approximately \$4,400, which included two additional split mats.

Action items: 1.) To establish an entry submission deadline of no later than 5 p.m. Sunday prior to the Liberty League championship. 2.) To establish championship race times of 11 a.m. and noon. 3.) To require the host institution to provide a minimum of two split points – in addition to the finish line – at the Liberty League championship meet.

6. **Track & Field:** Discussion items: 1.) A committee consisting of Sam Albert, James McCowan and Billy Poole-Harris worked to revise the Liberty League track and field guidelines. The guidelines were reorganized into separate sections for Indoor Track and Field and Outdoor Track and Field. Each sport was subdivided into two sections – Pre-Championship Guidelines and Meet Operations. The revised guidelines were approved at the Jan. 13 administrator meeting. 2.) Qualifying standards in several events were adjusted to address large field sizes, including the men’s indoor 3,000 and the men’s indoor mile. Qualifying standards will be reviewed with the goal of establishing field sizes of 20-24 for indoor championship events and 24-30 for outdoor championship events. 3.) Additional changes were made to the meet schedules and seeding of distance events to make the championships run more efficiently. Action items: 1.) To utilize Tom Mooney as the officials assignor for the Liberty League Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships (approved at the Jan. 13 administrator meeting).

7. **Basketball:** Discussion items: 1.) The coaches received a product demonstration from Spencer Barr of Hudl on the company’s video exchange platform. The coaches unanimously agreed that Synergy is still a superior product and were supportive of extending the league’s agreement. 2.) Men’s basketball officiating coordinator Tom Reinisch discussed the concept of video review and what it would take to implement it in league games. A computer or tablet would be needed at the scorer’s table to review the live stream of the game. The NCAA may require video reviews for institutions that host future NCAA championship games. The question is whether the league has the capability to implement video reviews. 3.) Wilson Sporting Goods provided a proposed contract in which each team would receive two free basketballs for every 12 purchased. Additionally, the league would also receive 24 new game balls for the league tournament. This is a standard agreement Wilson has made with other Division III conferences. 4.) St. Lawrence women’s basketball coach Dan Roiger proposed two alternative schedules that would change the rotation of games in the league schedule, but would continue to utilize the same weeks. While there was interest in Roiger’s schedules, the coaches wanted to see how the schedule would rotate over six years. King offered to work with Roiger on extending the schedule. Action items: 1.) To adopt the proposed 3-year video exchange agreement with Synergy. 2.) To adopt the proposed 3-year basketball agreement with Wilson Sporting Goods.

8. **Swimming & Diving:** Discussion items: 1.) Edits were made to the Liberty League championship packet pertaining to the event scoring. The points listed in the packet for ninth place, for both individual events and relays, were not consistent with NCAA rules. This was an oversight and will be corrected for the 2024 championship. Also, the points awarded in the men's 200-yard medley relay were incorrect for the 'B' relays. This was likely the result of the points being adjusted manually for the ninth-place relay, which does not swim in the finals session. 2.) A new voting process for the end-of-season awards was implemented with the coaches voting on league awards following NCAA championship competition. While the process followed that of other league sports, some coaches felt it was rushed and could have been explained more thoroughly. In the future, the nomination deadline will be extended to Tuesday or Wednesday following the NCAA championship with the nomination form separated into three parts – dual-meet season, championship meet and NCAA/postseason. Action items: None.
9. **Squash:** Discussion item: 1.) Following the recommendation of the College Squash Association (CSA), the coaches agreed on the weekend of Feb. 10-11, 2024, as the date of the Liberty League championship. St. Lawrence, which has the largest squash facility among the squash members, will continue to host. 2.) The coaches remain interested in exploring options to grow the league's squash membership. The coaches support Haverford (men and women), Mount Holyoke (women) and Western Ontario (men). Both Haverford and Mount Holyoke have provided written applications for associate membership. There are currently six men's teams and five women's teams competing in the squash championships. The preference of the coaches is to have eight-team championships in a bracketed format. 3.) The potential use of professional referees was discussed. Having two roving referees throughout the tournament would help improve the experience by removing student-athlete referees from challenging situations. Availability of referees was a concern, but according to CSA executive director David Poolman, there is a sufficient pool of officials if enough notice is provided. Fees range from \$150 to \$225 per day plus per diem, lodging and travel stipends. Action items: 1.) To utilize two roving referees throughout the league championship. 2.) To accept Haverford College as an associate member in men's and women's squash and Mount Holyoke College as an associate member in women's squash.
10. **Men's Lacrosse:** Discussion items: 1.) The coaches inquired as to the feasibility of increasing the size of the Liberty League championship back to six teams. The men's lacrosse tournament was previously a six-team tournament before Bard discontinued its program, which resulted in the tournament size decreasing to four teams. With the league adopting a

championship access ratio of 60 percent in all round-robin championship sports, the men's lacrosse tournament increased to five teams (five of eight, or 62.5 percent). It was conveyed to the coaches that it is unlikely that another team would be added to the tournament without further expansion. 2.) Peter Fisher (Skidmore) will replace Gail Cummings-Danson as the administrator liaison for men's lacrosse. Action items: None.

11. Women's Lacrosse: Discussion items: 1.) The coaches proposed the addition of a midfielder of the year award to the league awards program. The Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) recognizes a midfielder of the year – the 2023 selection was Maddie Montgomery from William Smith, the Liberty League's offensive player of the year. Midfielders don't always have the scoring statistics of attackers and can get overlooked in offensive player of the year voting. The Liberty League does not currently recognize a midfielder of the year in other sports – men's lacrosse or soccer. 2.) Scheduling was discussed. The coaches would like to consider scheduling models that do not include back-to-back weekends as they feel it is a health and safety issue. 3.) Ben Gaebel (Clarkson) will replace Laurel Kane as the administrator liaison for women's lacrosse. Action items: To add a Midfielder of the Year to the yearly postseason awards.

12. Men's Golf: Discussion items: 1.) While the NCAA deadline for declaring the conference AQ is Sunday, May 5, the preference of the coaches is to continue holding the tournament the last weekend in April (26-28), assuming Turning Stone is available. 2.) The coaches discussed the format and pairings for the championship. While the tournament had previously been played in threesomes, the preference was to have the top four teams play together in foursomes and have those groups tee off in the second wave each day. 3.) The coaches agreed to reconvene to review and revise the league's golf guidelines to reflect how the tournament is being conducted. 4.) The tiebreaker for determining the champion and AQ representative if the tournament cannot be completed was discussed. The drop score (fifth golfer's score) during the most recently completed round would be utilized. 5.) The Liberty League fall preview tournament will be discontinued. Action items: 1.) To specify that the top four teams would play together in foursomes and would play in the second wave of tee times while teams five through seven would play in threesomes and would tee off in the first wave of tee times. If weather or darkness jeopardizes the completion of the round, the tournament committee can adjust the schedule to send the top four teams off in the first wave. 2.) To conduct competition in stipulated nine-hole rounds. In the event of a tie after the last stipulated round is complete AND there is no ability to conduct a playoff, the drop score (fifth golfer's score) from the last round will be used as the tiebreaker.

- 13. Women's Golf:** Discussion items: 1.) While the NCAA deadline for declaring the conference AQ is Sunday, May 12, the preference of the coaches is to continue holding the tournament the last weekend in April (27-28). The coaches are supportive of returning to the Edison Club (Rexford, N.Y.) if it is available. The course is centrally located to all of the schools and was playable and fair to all teams. 2.) William Smith is the designated host institution for the 2024 championship. The league office will provide support where feasible. 3.) Requirements for receiving and maintaining a conference AQ were reviewed. In order for a conference to receive an AQ, a minimum of six teams, including four core members, must complete a minimum of six events with four golfers participating. Several teams struggled to meet the sponsorship requirement this past year as several rosters were smaller than expected. Rosters are expected to be larger for the upcoming year. Action items: None.
- 14. Rowing:** Discussion items: 1.) The future date of the Liberty League championship regatta was discussed. The championship has traditionally been held on Friday, but with the NYS collegiate championship moving to a date earlier in the season, it is possible that Saturday might be an option. Saratoga Rowing Association (SRA) will be contacted to discuss options. 2.) Championship enhancements, including the use of a drone to enhance spectator viewing, were considered. SRA will be contacted for a cost estimate. 3.) For teams traveling to Saratoga the day prior to the championship, a practice window from 2-6 p.m. will be established so crews can practice on the course. 4.) The concept of "shirt betting" was considered. Shirt betting is a long-standing tradition in men's rowing where teams give shirts to the winning boat after each race as a way of recognizing and congratulating the winning team. The Intercollegiate Rowing Association has an exception to the NCAA rule that permits the practice. In order to do this at the Liberty League championship, all teams would have to participate. It would not be permitted under NCAA rules for women's rowing. 5.) The men's coaches discussed a push among Division I institutions to make men's rowing an NCAA sport. The coaches of the five men's teams participating in the league championship were supportive of the concept, but skeptical that it would gain much traction. Action items: 1.) To engage in the traditional practice of shirt betting for all races at the Liberty League Championship.
- 15. Tennis:** Discussion items: 1.) The requirement of having an official at league tennis matches was considered. An administrator suggested that if two schools mutually agreed prior to the season that an official wasn't needed, then perhaps one would not have to be scheduled. The consensus among the coaches was that it would represent a step backwards if officials were not required at all league matches. The coaches worked for several years to add the requirement of an official.

2.) The league championship was reviewed. A suggestion was made to extend the team warm-up from 30 minutes to an hour for each match, but there were concerns that doing so would extend the day significantly. The first two days typically conclude between 9 and 10 p.m. 3.) Conducting the championship during the last weekend of April, rather than the final available weekend prior to NCAA selections, was considered. It is unclear whether Cornell's facility would be available at that time as that weekend may conflict with Cornell's varsity schedule. Action items: None.

16. **Softball:** Discussion items: 1.) Scheduling and a possible make-up policy were discussed. The coaches were not in favor of a league-mandated make-up policy due to a multitude of factors, including travel distance between opponents and the fact that softball plays two different opponents on a given weekend, unlike baseball. 2.) A revised schedule was proposed. With the change in the NCAA calendar with the championship being pushed back a week, most coaches reported having an open weekend prior to the start of league play. To alleviate the congested schedule, it was proposed that one of the Friday-Saturday weekends could be split up into two single Saturdays with league play starting one week earlier. 3.) Championship host requirements were discussed. It was recommended that if there are any issues with the host school facility that the institution should notify the competing teams and make them aware of how the issues will be handled. Action items: To adopt a revised schedule for 2024 and 2025 with league play starting one week earlier with the travel-partner weekend and would include two Friday-Saturday weekends and three single Saturdays.
17. **Baseball:** Discussion items: 1.) The coaches expressed a strong preference to conduct all Liberty League games as nine-inning games, noting that other conference, including the SUNYAC have moved to all nine-inning games. With the implementation of a pitch clock, nine-inning games are typically played in just over two hours. 2.) Adding a second relief pitcher to each of the two all-league teams was proposed. The coaches felt that the league had sufficient pitching depth to recognize additional relievers. 3.) Conducting the league tournament at a pre-determined site was discussed. Doing so would allow the league to secure hotel rooms well in advance, which can be an issue for host schools that could potentially have commencement the same weekend. Tournament staffing was a concern. 4.) The coaches discussed standardizing the pregame warmup, providing each team with 50 minutes of field time to utilize as they saw fit. 5.) The league schedule and playoff structure was discussed at length. While no recommendations were made it was agreed that additional scheduling models should be explored. Action items: 1.) To conduct all Liberty League baseball games as nine-inning games, including regular-season, crossover division series and Liberty League

tournament. 2.) To add a second relief pitcher to each of the All-Liberty League teams. 3.) To establish a standard pre-game warmup schedule in which each team would be allotted 50 minutes of field time.

18. **SAAC: Discussion items:** Megan Buchanan provided a recap of the in-person Liberty League SAAC meeting, held Oct. 23, 2022 in Utica. Dr. Jarrod Spencer conducted a program on the importance of sleep as it relates to peak performance. The group also discussed NCAA legislation and key campus initiatives and issues. Ideas for potential future topics are welcome. Action items: None.

19. **Sports Medicine: Discussion items:** 1.) The athletic trainers have expressed concerns with the implementation of the 114-day legislation and how they will be able to provide coverage with an increase in playing and practice dates. The group discussed whether it would be feasible to draft conference legislation to further define playing and practice seasons. Varying staffing levels and different facilities would likely make a conference-wide policy difficult to implement. Long hours are leading to burnout across the profession and fewer athletic trainers are available. 2.) The group also discussed single-site championships and whether the league could provide additional support – either financially or with additional personnel. Action items: None.

VI. NCAA Update

- A. **Management Council Update:** Michelle Walsh, vice chair of the Division III Management Council, provided an overview of key Management Council issues including Division III philosophy statement review; championship updates; athletic trainer working group; evaluation of the enrichment fund; financial risk management working group; international student-athlete eligibility; federated player rules; full-time enrollment blanket waiver; mental health hardship waiver; name-image-likeness. Individuals are urged to contact Walsh directly with questions or to share concerns.

- B. **President Baker Meeting Recap:** New NCAA President Charlie Baker met virtually with a group of Liberty League presidents and athletic directors on May 18 to discuss key issues and initiatives within the association. Feedback from meeting participants was very positive. Having knowledge of Division III with his kids participating in athletics at Division III institutions – including a son who played football at Union College – may be a benefit to the division.

- C. **Mental Health Initiatives:** President Baker raised mental health as a key issue within the association. How can the league better support its institutions and student-athletes with mental health challenges? Several institutions have begun training coaches and staff members with basic tools in recognizing and handling mental health issues. With counseling centers often understaffed, some

institutions have utilized telehealth services that provide students with access to support when needed. Students may be reluctant to walk into the counseling center, which can often have a stigma associated with it.

- D. Campus Implementation of 114-Day Legislation:** Implementation of the NCAA's recently adopted 114-day legislation will create challenges from both a compliance and athletic training perspective. The most difficult time period for athletic trainers is the transition between seasons from fall to winter and winter to spring. To ease the transition, some teams are practicing in smaller groups, focusing on skill development, which may not require the presence of an athletic trainer. Tracking athletically related activity may be a challenge as there are not many software solutions. Some institutions will have coaches complete declarations of seasons, marking the days they will utilize, prior to the year.

VII. League Sportsmanship – Supplemental Discipline

Officiating coordinators in several sports have suggested that the league take disciplinary action against athletes for incidents that have occurred during games. In other conferences for which these coordinators work, supplemental discipline might be handled by the commissioner working in conjunction with the commissioner. Liberty League guidelines outline a process for handling issues of unsportsmanlike behavior, but the specific process may not always be followed. The league will research how other conferences handle incidents of unsportsmanlike behavior and will provide a review at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned for the evening at 4:58 p.m.

Thursday, June 2

Meeting reconvened at 8:33 a.m.

VIII. Vote on Sport Action Items

- A. FIELD HOCKEY: Motion** to conduct the All-Liberty League voting to be inclusive of postseason contests. *FAILED 0-8-3.*
- B. SOCCER: Motion** to remove the current prohibition on live scouting during the Liberty League soccer championships. *PASSED 10-0-1.*
- C. VOLLEYBALL: Motion** to permit Liberty League match times to be adjusted by mutual agreement of the competing institutions. *PASSED 9-0-2.*
- D. CROSS COUNTRY / TRACK & FIELD: Motion** to establish an entry submission deadline of no later than 5 p.m. Sunday prior to the cross country championship. *PASSED 9-0-2.*

Motion to establish Liberty League cross country championship race times of 11 a.m. and noon. *PASSED 9-0-2.*

Motion to require the host institution to provide a minimum of two split points (in addition to the finish line) at Liberty League cross country championships. *PASSED 8-1-2.*

- E. BASKETBALL: Motion** to adopt the proposed three-year video exchange agreement with Synergy. *PASSED 10-0-1.*

Motion to adopt the proposed three-year basketball agreement with Wilson Sporting Goods in which each basketball program in the Liberty League would receive two (2) free NCAA Evo NXT game basketballs balls for every twelve (12) such game basketballs balls purchased by that school from a local authorized Wilson dealer for each year of the Agreement. Wilson will deliver these balls directly to the school upon proof of purchase. Men's and women's programs cannot combine quantities. For the LL – Twenty-four (24) NCAA Evo NXT game basketballs balls (12 for the Men's championship and 12 for the women's championship) each contract year at no charge to LL. *PASSED 10-0-1.*

- F. SQUASH: Motion** to utilize two roving referees throughout the Liberty League squash championship. *PASSED 5-0-6.*

Motion to accept Mount Holyoke College as an associate member in women's squash – per the college's letter of application. *PASSED 4-0-7.*

Motion to accept Haverford College as an associate member in women's squash – per the college's letter of application. *PASSED 4-0-7.*

- G. WOMEN'S LACROSSE: Motion** to add a Midfielder of the Year to the yearly postseason awards. *FAILED 5-6-0.*

- H. ROWING: Motion** to engage in the traditional practice of shirt betting for all races at the Liberty League Championship. *FAILED 0-7-4.*

- I. MEN'S GOLF: Motion** to specify that in each round of the Liberty League men's golf championship, the top four teams would play together in foursomes and would play in the second wave of tee times while teams five through seven would play in threesomes and would tee off in the first wave of tee times. If weather or darkness jeopardizes the completion of the round, the tournament committee can adjust the schedule to send the top four teams off in the first wave. *PASSED 6-0-5.*

Motion to conduct competition in stipulated nine-hole rounds. In the event of a tie after the last stipulated round is complete AND there is no ability to

conduct a playoff, the drop score (fifth golfer's score) from the last round will be used as the tie breaker. *PASSED 6-0-5.*

- J. SOFTBALL: Motion** to adopt a revised schedule for 2024 and 2025 with league play starting one week earlier with the travel-partner weekend and would include two Friday-Saturday weekends and three single-Saturdays. *PASSED 8-0-3.*

- K. BASEBALL: Motion** to conduct all Liberty League baseball games as nine-inning games, including regular-season, crossover division series and Liberty League tournament. *PASSED 8-3-0.*

Motion to utilize the NCAA baseball 10-run rule (Rule 2, Section 79) in all Liberty League regular-season games. *PASSED 9-1-1.*

Motion to add a second relief pitcher to each of the All-Liberty League teams. *FAILED 0-11-0.*

Motion to establish a standard pre-game warmup schedule in which each team would be allocated 50 minutes of field time unless the teams mutually agreed to a different schedule (i.e., if weather or conditions prevent on-field warmups). *PASSED 11-0-0.*

- L. ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS: Motion** to specify that first-year graduate transfers are eligible for Liberty League all-academic teams based on the cumulative grade-point average from their previous institutions, consistent with nominating criteria for College Sports Communicators (CSC/CoSIDA) Academic All-America awards. *PASSED 11-0-0.*

IX. FloSports Proposal

A proposal from FloSports, a web streaming company, was reviewed and considered. Under the proposal, FloSports would serve as the Liberty League's official web streaming partner and would provide the league with a guaranteed annual rights fee of \$230,000 for three years. FloSports is a subscription-based service. Subscribers would have to pay an annual subscription fee that would charge users approximately \$9.99 per month. With the majority of Liberty League institutions offering free web-streaming services, it would require these schools to move their services behind a pay wall. Some multidivisional institutions charge a fee for their Division I games, but the production for these contests is a higher quality than the Division III contests. FloSports also has specific production standards that would need to be followed, including a 1080x1920 camera resolution and play-by-play for basketball, football and soccer games. At the present time the league members are not interested in pursuing the agreement.

X. League Membership Review

During the April 5 meeting of the Liberty League presidents, the question was posed as to whether the league should be proactive in considering expansion. Would expansion strengthen the league or address any key issues? While the landscape among conferences in the northeast continues to shift, caused in part by college closures, they appear to pose little threat to the Liberty League's stability. Certain league sports, such as football, have lower sport sponsorship numbers that might benefit from additional teams, but adding full members to address issues in one sport might create issues or challenges in other sports, such as scheduling and added travel. The consensus among the administrators was that expansion would not currently serve to strengthen the league or address critical issues.

XI. Other Business

A. Future Meeting Dates / Sites:

- 1. Fall Meeting:** Thursday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m. - noon (virtual meeting).
- 2. Winter Meeting:** Friday, Jan. 12, 2024, at NCAA Convention (Phoenix).
NCAA Convention dates: Jan. 10-13, 2024.
- 3. Spring Meeting:** May 29-30, 2024, in-person meeting. Memorial Day – Monday, May 27, 2024. King will contact The Landing Hotel (Schenectady, N.Y.) as a potential meeting site on the eastern side of the membership.

XIV. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned and the athletic directors conducted an executive session to evaluate the performance of the Liberty League staff.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.