

March 2024 CJO Commissioner's Report

Updates:

- Lease- Needs to be updated. I received the current lease from the “then interim City Manager” Chief of Police Paul Brentar. The new interim City Manager is Doug Terry. The current lease does not specify what is/is not the responsibility of CJO and does not identify boundaries. Additionally, the current signed lease puts the program at risk. Zoning identified the parcel as being owned by Bennett Park and the parcel is inclusive of Bennett Park, the tennis courts, the field, and part of the wooded lot. Meeting with Bryan M. right before the March board meeting to discuss further.
- MMPFL Meeting- Brian and I met with the pony league for rules updates on 2/26/24 in Mason.
 - Rules updates include leaving the split of teams up to each community, though it was recommended to conduct a draft. However, the community decides to split, and needs to be communicated to the league for scheduling.
 - Olivet is interested in conducting scrimmages again this year and Grand Ledge and Portland will both be hosting Game-o-ramas in August.
 - Weigh-ins will be changed from 15 minutes before game time to 30 minutes prior.
 - Rosters will be required to be turned in prior to the 30 minutes required before games to ensure time for weigh-ins. If they can be provided ahead of game day, that's preferable. CJO Board will require rosters at the beginning of the season for each team to be turned in by coaches.
 - July 1 will be the deadline date for cutoff of team's submission. 8/5 begins conditioning and does not align with MHSAA date of 8/12. Pennfield is asking to join the league and is being asked to attend the next meeting. Saranac was mentioned as possibly interested as well.
 - Scott (head ref) assured us that the referee that had such poor behavior at the 5th grade Eaton Rapids game in the 2023 season has been let go/dealt with and he discussed with the other officials the importance of identifying any conflict of interest in refereeing future games.
 - The next meeting will be on 3/17 at 6:00pm.
- Insurance- Brian and I met with the insurance company. We provided them a replacement value on the scoreboard (\$5000) to add coverage. We will remove coverage from the overhead sign (\$107/year).
- Website- Brian and I worked on getting the website up and running for registration. We will need to do more work on the site as we have time to keep adding things.

- Concessions building- Megan and I went down and looked at the inside of the concessions stand/building. There is some clean up that needs to occur pre-season and we identified some possible organizational additions that can help with storage and an overall neater facility. We would like to ensure there is a nice space for our referees as well. Doors need to be repainted, men's bathroom needs toilets replaced, locker rooms need cleaned up inside rooms. "Playhouse" is a large hazard and we need to identify a different solution for storage of hoses.
 - Megan and Summer update further-Concessions committee
- Board Signup Genius- Please be sure to sign up for various events on the signup genius. This ensures we have proper coverage and avoid having too many people at some events and not others. We will continue to add to this as events come up.
- Varsity Coach Meeting- Brian and I met with Coach Sparks to discuss alignment and updates.
 - Age-appropriate development chart- willing to help us develop this.
 - Varsity home games- 9/6 is the first home game and will probably be CJO night, as there are only 4 home games this fall. (9/6, 9/20, 10/11, 10/25)
 - NFHS rules used for 7/8 grade teams, first game will be 8/29 for these grades (need to order rule books for these coaches)
 - We are responsible for scheduling our refs
 - Academic Requirements- school will provide to me weekly during season and students cannot be failing more than one class or they will not play, as well as behavior updates (anyone suspended will not play)
 - We will be looking for 7th-12th grade football players interested in refereeing the flag games.
 - Joint effort- will be requiring a coach's clinic for all coaches, more to come on this topic
 - School football camp through the flight plan in July

Looking Ahead:

- Country Mill-
 - Interested in supplying us with cider and donuts to sell out of the concession stand
 - Will work with us on conducting a mud run fundraiser this fall, they have mentioned they know how to run one and we could keep all of the profits
 - They have mentioned being interested in sponsoring our website