

VPA ACTIVITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Friday, May 4, 2012

Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, VT

Members Present: Dan Marlow, Bill Lawson, Bob Davis, Frank Spencer, Pam Arnold, Chris Hodsden, Amy Molina, Keith Gerritt, Bob Johnson

Also Present: Bernie Cieplicki, Peter Maneen, Nate Kittredge, Brett Chornyak, Cindy Chornyak, Seth Chornyak, Keith Cieplicki, Jordan Napolitano, Wendy Napolitano, Mark Hamilton, Joe James, Laurie Greenwood

Minutes:

- motion by Amy, second by Dan to approve minutes of 2/3/12. Motion approved unanimously (7-0).
- meeting with Vergennes UHS concerning the wrestling team and its violation of the 2 game/match ejection policy. Ejections were the result of 2 unsportsmanlike ejections for students and 1 unsportsmanlike for assistant coach. Final ejection came on the last day during the tournament. Vergennes did meet with all 3 individuals and explained the seriousness of the offenses. Sportsmanship has been a focus of the coach. There had been no offenses of this nature in the coaches previous 5 years with the school. As a school, they participate in the student leadership conference and focus on sportsmanship through captains meetings.

Motion by Chris, second by Dan, ASC is satisfied with the current and planned steps being taken by Vergennes UHS in regards to their wrestling program. No further action is recommended. Vote – Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstain – 1. Motion approved.

- meeting with Colchester HS concerning Hardship Waiver for Seth Chornyak (session conducted in Executive Session).

Motion by Amy, second by Dan, to grant an additional year of eligibility for Seth Chornyak. Vote – approved unanimously (7-0).

- met with a group (Joe, Mark, Laurie) who were representing 10 schools and are requesting that Bowling be approved as a VPA Exhibition activity for 2 years. An informal high school bowling league was conducted last year. This is played as a coed sport and currently only 4 states have not sanctioned bowling as an exhibition or varsity sport. Matches would be played primarily on Saturday's. A match schedule would be formed and matches would be played within a geographic area. Cost will vary from site to site, but bowling

alleys will work to reduce costs as they are in strong support of this. If approved, a guide would be developed with rules. This is proposed as a winter activity. Schools who have not submitted a letter of intent will be welcomed.

Motion by Frank, second by Dan, to approve Bowling as an Exhibition activity for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. At the end of this time, the group will come back to ASC to report on its progress. Vote – approved unanimously (7-0).

- draft of 2013-2014 calendar presented to ASC. The VSADA will be reviewing this calendar at its May and September meeting. Final consideration will come to ASC at its November 2012 meeting. No further action.
- meeting with Rice HS concerning Hardship Waiver for Jordan Napolitano. (session conducted in Executive Session).

Motion by Chris, second by Amy, to table this request pending further information (Bob is to gather information and make recommendation to the group). Vote – approved unanimously (7-0) (Note – hardship waiver was approved on a vote of 5-Yes, 0-No and 2-abstentions on 5/9/12)

- discussion on a draft policy that expands the definition of recruitment. Policy is based on New Hampshire policy. In a discussion with Michael Marks (VPA Legal Counsel), he questioned the need for an expanded definition. His feeling is that the more defined a policy is, the greater the odds are that it will be challenged. Further discussion on the possible impact of the proposed school choice legislation. Concerns that an expanded school choice law could have an impact on athletics.

Motion by Chris, second by Dan, to table this issue pending the final decision on the school choice legislation. Vote – approved unanimously (7-0).

- request presented by Burlington HS concerning the use of an 8th grader on its Varsity Boys Hockey team for the 2012-2013 season. Discussion. Concern presented about the precedent this would set. Hockey is a sport with no JV teams. Some schools are running into situations where there is a gap of 1-2 years where students cannot play for youth teams and are not eligible to play on high school teams. Further discussion on issues presented by VHL at its recent meeting in regards to numbers and teams.

Motion by Chris, second by Bob, to approve Burlington HS request to use an 8th grader on its Boys Hockey team for 2012-2013. Vote – Yes-0, No-7. Motion denied.

- Amy gave a brief update on the Index Point Committee and its recommendation. Committee recommended to the VSADA that the current system remain in place for 2012-2013 and that the committee look at possible

ways that the system could be modified to include a strength of schedule component. No further action.

- Bob J. updated the committee that in several days, he will be meeting with VT Special Olympics to discuss the possibility of pursuing a grant that would create a formal Unified sports program in high schools. No further action.
- 2012-2013 proposed dates
 - August 6, 2012 @ U-32
 - November 1, 2012 @ Middlebury HS
 - Jan 31/Feb 1, 2013 @ Golden Eagle Resort
 - May 3, 2013 @ Capitol Plaza
- adjourned