

VPA ACTIVITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
Thursday/Friday, January 31/February 1, 2013  
Golden Eagle Resort, Stowe, VT

Members Present: Bill Lawson, Amy Molina, Rob Reardon, Bob Davis, Joe Harrington, Pam Arnold (Thurs.), Chris Hodsden, Dan Marlow, Keith Gerritt, Joe DeBonis (Fri.), Bob Johnson

Also Present: Pat Burke (S. Burlington HS), Dave Cobb (VPA), Ken Page (VPA), Lauries Singer, Jamie Kinnarney (Randolph AD), Alan Mihan, Chris Brigham (Enosburg AD), Matt Luneau, Eric Savoy, Peter Goff (VT Commons), Jeff Mills (Rochester AD), Joanna Graves Graves (Stowe AD)

Minutes:

1. motion by Rob, second by Chris, to approve minutes of 11/1/12 and 11/29/12. Vote – approved unanimously (8-0).
2. correspondence
  - Bob J. gave Fall Financial report. No action taken.
  - brief discussion on e-mail from hockey assignor (Kris Peckham) in regard to DQ's in hockey due to stricter interpretation of the Check from Behind rule. No action taken.
  - request from Websterville Baptist to allow recent transfer to be eligible immediately to participate in basketball. Motion by Chris, second by Rob, to approve request once Bob J. checks with previous school to make sure student was in good standing. Vote – approved unanimously (8-0)
  - discussion on request from Lacrosse Committee to have ASC reconsider its previous decision concerning ejections in scrimmages. Lacrosse Committee feels they should count. Discussion. No action taken.
3. 2013 – 2015 calendar – request from P. Burke (South Burlington HS) to reconsider ASC decision to have hockey start on November 19<sup>th</sup> next year due to issues with rink scheduling. Discussion. Moving the winter start dates to after Thanksgiving has been very well received. Starting after Thanksgiving also deals with on showcase issue in girl's hockey. Moving the date back was a 1 or 2 year move due to the lateness of Thanksgiving. P. Burke withdraws request. No further action taken.

Follow-up on reducing Spring games from 16 to 14. Bob J. reported that Softball, Lacrosse and Track voted against the reduction, while Tennis supported the reduction (golf has not met). Discussion. No action taken. Spring schedule will remain at 16.

4. Bob J. gave an update on S-4, the new concussion legislation. Testimony was given on two separate days. Bob did testify as did the VT Athletic Trainers Association and others. Bill is to be marked up on 2/1/13. Main issues of concern were a) requirement to have medical personnel at all games that involved contact in grades K-12, b) requirement that officials receive training in concussion education, c) statement that coaches and athletic trainers have equal authority in determining when a student comes back. Changes are going to be made. No further action.

5. Middle School Policy Revisions (Jamie Kinnarney, Amy Molina, Alan Mihan, Dave Cobb) – started with a group of 25 middle school AD's. Philosophy is till the same and changes are based on best practices for middle schools. Changes were explained. New document would be required policy, not recommended.

Motion by Keith, second by Chris, to adopt middle school policy recommendations as presented and amended. Vote – approved unanimously (8-0). Policies will now be forwarded on to the Executive Committee for final consideration.

6. Hardship request presented by Enosburg HS (Chris Brigham, Matt Luneau, Eric Savoy). Hearing conducted in Executive Session.

Motion by Chris, second by Dan, to grant an additional year of eligibility to Eric Savoy (2013-2014). Vote – Yes – 7, No – 1, Abstention – 1. Motion approved.

7. Brief update on S-13 a bill which would encourage schools to open their facilities to the public for use. Concerns from the school include a) who pays for required custodial staff during non-school time, b) damage/loss of equipment, c) supervision of the activities and d) getting the gym ready for use on the next school day. Bill is sponsored by the American Heart Association and is designed to promote wellness and fight obesity. No further action taken.

8. Presentation on Volleyball as a possible exhibition sport (Pete Goff – VT Commons School, Chris Brigham Enosburg HS, Enosburg Coach and several students from VT Commons and Enosburg). Currently is a league that has been in existence for a number of years. Finally at the point where there are enough school teams that they could qualify as a sport. VT is the only state that does not sanction volleyball as a sport. Teams can be boy's, girl's or coed. Training of officials is an issue, but they are getting help on this. US Volleyball offers a grant to schools to help offset initial costs. Is proposed as a Fall sport so that it does not conflict with winter gym use.

Motion by Chris, second by Amy, to approve volleyball as an exhibition sport for two years beginning in the Fall 2013 season. Vote – approved unanimously.

9. Bob J. gave an updated on the initiative with Special Olympics of Vermont and the creation of a Unified Basketball League in Central VT. Not enough schools indicated that they were willing to do this, so the program is on hold. Bob will meet with SOV again to see what can be done for next year.
  10. Bob J. presented sports alignments for 2013-2015. Motion by Rob, second by Amy, to approve alignments as presented. Vote – approved unanimously.
  11. Bob presented a draft of a New Sport Policy. This will be brought back in May for consideration. No further action.
  12. Bob updated ASC on his visit to the rock climbing center in Rutland (per ASC request from November meeting). Observed middle school and high school competition with approx. 12 schools participating. Parents and schools were very supportive of the program. Main issue is that a climbing center is needed in the North for it to be a state-wide program. This is something the climbing center will work on. No further action to be recommended at this time.
  13. Proposal from Rochester/Whitcomb on having cooperative teams in Boy's and Girl's soccer in the Fall 2013 season (presented by Jeff Mills, Rochester AD). Due to enrollment decline, this program is needed at both school. Rochester would go to Whitcomb for the next two years. Motion by Rob, second by Chris, to approve Rochester/Whitcomb cooperative soccer teams for the next two years. Vote – approved unanimously.
  14. Bob gave a brief update on radio PSA's that were developed by the NFHS and NIAAA. We also did this last year and Vermont radio stations were very good at broadcasting them. No further action.
  15. Request by Stowe HS (Joanna Graves, Stowe AD) to allow Stowe HS to have two Member to Member Agreements as a sending school (current policy only allows one). Discussion. Motion by Chris, second by Amy, to allow Stowe HS to enter into two MTM agreements as a sending school. Vote – denied unanimously (0-8).
- discussion on school choice legislation and possible impacts. Currently, funding does not follow the student. There may be a bill introduced that would address this issue, but probably not in this legislative session. No further action at this time.
  - adjourned – next meeting, Friday, May 3, 2013 – Capitol Plaza, Montpelier