

VPA ACTIVITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
Friday, November 7, 2014  
Middlebury UHS, Middlebury, VT

Members Present: Jay Hartman, Joe Harrington, Dan Marlow, Mark Mooney, Amy Molina, Frank Spencer, Bob Davis, Bill Lawson, Lisa Atwood, Joe DeBonis, Rob Reardon, Bob Johnson

Also Present: Sarah Johnstone (Middlebury UHS/Sports Medicine Committee)

Minutes:

- motion by Rob, second by Jay, to approve minutes of 8/8/14. Vote – approved unanimously (10-0)
- discussion on draft policy that would allow students from Independent schools to participate in activities in their public school. Several concerns expressed. Clarification needed on a) displacement issue, b) are there issues with realignment and c) who determines academic eligibility. Questions about whether schools can charge a fee (home school students are eligible for a partial FTE). Consensus that public school must agree to this and not mandatory. Recommendation that policy be reworked with some language used in MTM agreements. Consensus that issue is tabled pending revisions. To be presented for final consideration at February meeting.
- discussion on August item concerning a request from a member school to accept a student from their community who attends a private school in NH that is not a member of the NHIAA and does not offer any sports.

Bob J. checked with NH and they have no issue with this since the school is not a NHIAA member. Bob J. checked with VPA Legal Counsel and he is also in favor of allowing this. Discussion. Does it set a precedent (yes)? Will this result in numerous request (Bob J. does not think so)? If approved, it could be a Member to Member program.

Motion by Bob D., second by Amy, to approve request to all a student from a NH private school to participate in their local schools athletic program as long as the NH school becomes a VPA member school. Vote – approved unanimously (10-0).

- request from VPA Basketball Committee to have ASC form a committee to examine the current VPA policy on recruitment. Basketball Committee discussed a letter from the VT Basketball Coaches Association outlining some concerns and issues. Discussion. Things such as Public School Choice, Act 77, Flexible Pathways are all going to have an impact on students and athletic

choices. How do we enforce/investigate issues? Should we consider using a multiplier?

Consensus that a committee should be formed. Rob Reardon will Chair committee. Membership is to be made up of Athletic Directors as this issue will affect all sports. AD's will be encourage to discuss this with coaches to get their feedback.

- Presentation by Sarah Johnstone, Middlebury Athletic Trainer and member of the VPA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

At recent SMAC meeting, members discussed the rise in exhaustive heat injuries that are being seen nation-wide. SMAC revising the current VPA Heat/Cold policy. One concern is how do we educate officials about this. There have been several instances where officials have debated the need for "water" breaks on days when it is extremely hot. SMAC will initiate a discussion with the VT Interscholastic Football League and will return to ASC with an update.

SMAC also feels that CPR/AED training should be required of all coaches. Current VT school laws stipulates that this must be done with all students, so many schools already have someone on staff who is responsible for this. Consensus that this issue should be referred to the VSADA for consideration and then return to ASC for further discussion/action.

- Recommendation from VPA Officials Committee that officiating fees (\$75 Varsity, \$45 Sub-Varsity) and mileage (\$.50) remain the same through 2016-17.

Motion by Dan, second by Joe D., to accept VPA Officials recommendation to have officiating fees and mileage rate remain the same through the 2016-17 school year. Vote – approved unanimously (10-0).

- discussed recommendation from VPA Officials Committee that current concussion education requirement for coaches be made mandatory for all officials by all 2015. Consensus that this recommendation should be referred to VSADA and VPA SMAC for consideration and recommendations.
- request from VPA Basketball Committee that ASC review the current point index system to determine if updates/revision/changes need to be made. Discussion. Do we need a committee or should we refer to VSADA. In the past, this issue has been dealt with by the VSADA with recommendations to ASC.

Motion by Dan, second by Joe H., to refer the issue of examining the current VPA point index system to the VSADA for consideration and possible recommendations, Vote – approved unanimously (10-0).

- Bob J. presented request from Lamoille UHS to be allowed to enter into a second MTM agreement with Stowe HS in boys hockey. Lamoille currently has an agreement with Mt. Mansfield UHS. MTM policy only allows “sending” schools to have an agreement with one “receiving” school.

Discussion. Lamoille students do have a place to play this winter. Decision to enter into an agreement lies with the schools involved. In this case, the Peoples Academy boys hockey team was disbanded this past Spring. Stowe has entered into a MTM agreement with Peoples Academy that would allow their students to participate in Stowe’s program. In addition, Stowe received permission to include one student from Hazen (who also played for Peoples Academy last year) in the MTM agreement. This student may or may not play. Stowe has indicated they would accept the Lamoille UHS student, but they have already maxed out their MTM numbers.

Motion by Joe H., second by Bob D., to approve Lamoilles request for a second MTM agreement with Stowe HS. Vote – Yes-0, No-10. Motion defeated unanimously.

- requests from South Burlington HS and Champlain Valley HS to expand their Member to Member numbers in girls hockey from 5 to 7. Last year, SB/CVU had a cooperative agreement. However, due to some players graduating, both school felt it could be handled through a MTM agreement this year as CVU predicted 5 students would be involved. Due to a change in the coaching situation, several additional CVU players are now asking to be considered. This was an unexpected development. SB will be having an information meeting with their parents on 11/10/14. They are expecting 15 to 16 players to attend and try-out.

Consensus that this request would be tabled until a conference call on 11/12/14 (9:00 a.m.). ASC is interested in seeing how the meeting at SB went on 11/10/14. ASC would also like some additional information on the effects of the coaching change and how it impacted CVU’s numbers. No further action taken.

- Bob J. presented 3 “straw votes taken at the recent VSADA meeting. One vote Involved moving the beginning of the Fall 2015 season to after Thanksgiving. Second vote involved reducing the number of games in the Winter season from 20 to 18. Third vote involved reducing the number of maximum games from 16 to 14 in the Spring. These items were not officially on the agenda and as a result, it was a “straw” vote and not a “formal” vote.

Motion by Rob, second by Lisa, that the “straw” votes taken by the VSADA at its recent meeting need to be referred back to the VSADA for formal discussion and vote before coming to ASC. No further action.

- Bob J. presented information on student enrollment by boys and girls from 2010, 2012 and 2014. Figures show the decline in student enrollment. No further action taken.
- Other business – Bob D. presented a letter from North Country requesting a waiver of the MTM policy that would allow Lyndon Institute to have to agreements in girls hockey. LI already has an agreement with Northfield HS for the two girls. Discussion. LI was not included in this correspondence. This is basically the same issue as with Lamoille UHS and Stowe. MTM policy only allows the “sending” school to have one agreement with a “receiving” school. North Country would be the “receiving” school.

Option by Jay, second by Amy, to approve the request from North Country UHS that would allow Lyndon Institute to enter two MTM agreements (with Northfield HS and North Country UHS) as a “sending” school. Vote – Yes – 0, No – 9, Abstention – 1. Motion defeated.

- Adjourned

Next meeting – February 5/6, 2016 – Golden Eagle Resort, Stowe, VT