

VPA ACTIVITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE
February 6/7, 2014
Golden Eagle Resort, Stowe, VT

Members Present: Bill Lawson, Bob Davis, Pam Arnold, Amy Molina, Rob Reardon, Jay Hartman, Chris Hodsden, Joe DeBonis, Bob Johnson

Others Present - Dave Rousselle – Missisquoi AD, Michelle Bombardier, Andrew Bombardier, Matt Link – Montplier AD, Dennis Barcomb – Winooski AD, Eric Ramey – Fair Haven – AD, Lucas Bashaw, Natalie Soffen – Peoples AD, Joanna Graves – Stowe AD, Joe James – Hartford AD, Mark Hamilton, Lori Greenwood

Minutes:

- motion by Amy, second by Jay, to approve minutes of 11/7/13, 1/3/14 and 2/3/14. Vote – approved unanimously (6-0)
- request from Missisquoi Valley UHS for a hardship waiver for Andrew Bombardier (Dave Rousselle – Missisquoi AD, Michelle Bombardier, Andrew Bombardier present) – hearing conducted in Executive Session.

Motion by Amy, second by Joe to grant Andrew Bombardier an additional year of eligibility. Vote – Yes-5, No-1, Abstain-1. Motion approved.

- correspondence
 - a) review of self reported out of season coaching violation. South Burlington HS. No additional action taken.
 - b) review of self reported use of ineligible student by Bellows Falls. No additional taken.
 - c) Bob J. gave out legal issues hand-out that was given at NIAAA conference. No action taken.
 - d) Bob J. gave out ECAP handout concerning early admissions program and its potential impact on high school sports. Impact should be minimal as student involved with this program have early college admission program have the ability to play at their high school, however scheduling will be an issue.
 - e) Bob J. gave out dates for the baseball championships and possible issues. Centennial Field is only available on Friday and Saturday due to the Oakland Athletics minor league team coming in. Arrangements have been made to have games on Thursday and Monday at Montpelier Recreational Field. This issue will be discussed further by the VPA Baseball Committee.
 - f) Bob J. gave out article on the NFHS being sued by a group (same group that went after the NFL and NCAA) concerning concussions. Of the 4 issues mention, Vermont already does all 4 so there should be no issue.

- Discussion on Act 68 Report (concussions) submitted to the Legislature in mid-December. Several major recommendations; 1) recommends that soccer, basketball and field hockey be added to list of collision sports, 2) recommends that grades 7/8 be included in legislation, 3) requires the use of a state-wide concussion reporting form by all schools so that data can be maintained, 4) requires immediate notification to parents if their child suffers a concussion (current law says within 24 hours) and 5) requires the use of the CDC's Heads Up 4 Step Action Plan as a part of a school's Concussion Management Plan.

So far there have been no steps taken by the Legislature to deal with these recommendations. Bob J. will continue to monitor this situation. No further action taken.

- Discussion on possible language revision to VPA policies.

Article III – Eligibility – Section 5C (Penalties)

Motion by Chris, second by Amy, to accept recommended language change for Section 5C (Penalties) Vote – approved unanimously (7-0)

Article III – Eligibility – Section 5D (Penalties)

Motion by Chris, second by Joe, to accept recommend language change for Section 5D (Penalties) Vote – approved unanimously (7-0)

Article III – Eligibility – Section 4B1 (Waivers/Grounds for Waivers)

Motion by Chris, second by Rob, to accept recommended language change for Section 4B1 (Waivers/Grounds for Waivers). Vote – approved unanimously (7-0)

Article III – Eligibility – Add Section 5N

Motion by Chris, second by Rob, to accept language for Section 5N with approved changes. Vote – approved – unanimously (7-0)

- request from Montpelier HS for a hardship waiver for Eric Kuegel (Matt Link, Montpelier present). Hearing conducted in Executive Session.

Motion to approve an additional year of eligibility tabled pending further information. Request will be considered at May meeting.

- request from Montpelier HS to be allowed to use 8th graders on this years Boys Tennis team. Discussion. Montpelier currently has enough to have a team (8 players). However, there would be no substitutes. Montpelier has not examined possibility of MTM or Cooperative agreement with other schools. Team would have 5 seniors. Noted that many smaller schools play tennis matches without a full compliment of players and simply forfeit a match.

Motion by Chris, second by Rob, to approve Montpelier's request to use 8th graders on their Boys Tennis team this Spring. Vote – Yes-0, No-6, Abstain-1. Motion defeated.

- Discussion on developing an “inherent risk of injury” statement that could be included in the VPA policies. Consensus that this is needed. Directed that Bob J. will talk with VPA Legal Counsel about developing such a statement. Bring back at May meeting. No further action.
- Follow-up discussion on the use of 8th graders on a high school team. This was a follow-up to the November meeting where a situation was presented requesting us to look at our policy. Copies of other Section 1 policies and a possible draft policy were presented. Discussion on whether we should limit this and not include sports such as football and hockey due to the physical nature of the sport. Also agreement that if we do this, both the high school and middle school principals must sign off on this agreement.

Consensus that this issue should be sent to a committee (made up of AD's) to determine if we should consider modifying the current policy. Committee is to report back by late March/early April with recommendations. No further action taken.

- request from Winooski HS for a hardship waiver for Abdollah Mayange (Dennis Barcomb, Winooski AD present). Hearing conducted in Executive Session.

Motion by Rob, second by Pam, to approve an additional year of eligibility for Abdollah Mayange. Vote – approved unanimously (7-0)

- Bob J. gave an update on H.827. This bill (sponsored by Representative Lewis) would allow students in Independent schools to come back and participate in activities at their local public school (same as home-schoolers). No schedule for the bill right now. VPA will oppose the bill and will look to testify at hearings. No further action.
- Request from VT State Athletic Directors Association to move the start of the Winter 2014 sports season back to 11/17/14 (currently set at 12/3/14). The late start this year (due to lateness of Thanksgiving) caused scheduling problems with games and officials

Motion by Rob, second by Chris, to move the start date of the Winter 2014 season back to 11/17/14. Vote – approved unanimously (6-0)

- presentation by a group supporting Ultimate as an exhibition activity effective in the Spring 2015 season (see list for people present).

Motion by Rob, second by Pam, to approve Ultimate as an exhibition activity Beginning in the Spring 2015 season. Vote – approved unanimously (6-0).

- request from Fair Haven UHS for a hardship waiver for Lucas Bashaw (FH AD Eric Ramey and Lucas present). Hearing conducted in Executive Session

Motion by Amy, second by Chris, to approve an additional season (Fall) of eligibility for Lucas Bashaw. Vote – Yes-5, No-1 Motion approved.

- meeting with Natalie Soffen (Peoples Academy AD) and Joanna Graves (Stowe AD) concerning cooperative teams in baseball/softball beginning in the Spring 2014 season. Currently Stowe does not have any teams scheduled due to numbers. They have used MTM programs in the past, but feel it is appropriate to move to cooperative teams. No impact on scheduling.

Motion by Amy, second by Joe, to approve cooperative teams in baseball and softball between Stowe and Peoples Academy beginning in the Spring 2014 season. Vote – approved unanimously (6-0).

- meeting with Bowling committee concerning the status of bowling as an exhibition sports (has been for the past 2 years). Even though the activity has gone well, there are still issues such as establishing a standard fee schedule. Number of teams has increased. Because of the work still needed to be done, the Bowling Committee is requesting that they remain as an “exhibition” activity for one additional year.

Motion by Rob, second by Amy, to approve the Bowling Committee recommendation to have bowling remain as an “exhibition” activity for an additional year. Vote – approved unanimously (6-0).

- adjourned – next meeting - Friday, May 2nd @ Capitol Plaza - Montpelier