

VPA ACTIVITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Thursday/Friday August 7/8, 2014
Killington Grand Hotel, Killington, VT

Members Present: Bill Lawson, Joe Harrington, Bob Davis, Mark Mooney,
Joe DeBonis, Frank Spencer, Bob Johnson

Also Present: Beth Cody , Bill Croteau (Websterville Baptist
Principal), Pat MacDonald, Crista Ordway, Celeste
Moulton, Michelle Bello

Minutes:

- motion by Bob D., second by Joe D., to approve minutes of 5/2/14 and 6/6/14. Vote – approved unanimously.
- request from Green Mt. UHS to allow a student attending a private school in New Hampshire (that has no athletic teams) to participate on the GMUHS Girl's Soccer team. Discussion – Parent lives in GMUHS region. School is very small with no activities. Question as to whether we have any procedures that deal with this type of situation as VT/NH rules are very different. There is no precedent for this type of situation.

Motion by Joe D., second by Bob D., to approve request from GMUHS. Vote – Yes-0, No-5, motion defeated. Request that Bob J. check with VPA Legal Counsel concerning this issue and get recommendations.

- Bob J. gave an update on multi-school cooperative team in wrestling that ASC heard about in May meeting. VPA has been notified that due to budget defeats, Colchester has eliminated their wrestling team (they were to be the host school) and as a result the program is in limbo. Other schools involved are looking at possible options at this time. Bob J. will give an update at November meeting. No further action needed.
- Hardship Waiver Request – Poultney High School. Hearing conducted in Executive Session.

Motion by Bob D., second by Frank S., to grant William Rice III an additional season of eligibility (Fall 2014) and an age waiver. Vote – approved unanimously.

- Request from BFA-Fairfax to be allowed an addition 4 students as part of their Member to Member Agreements with various schools for 2014 Football. MTM program would allow 7 students, request is for 11. Discussion.

Motion by Bob D., second by Joe H., to grant Fairfax's request and allow 11 MTM participants on the 2014 Football team.

Vote – Yes-3, No-2, Abstention – 1 (tie broken by vote from the Chair). Motion approved. Also noted that Fairfax was to be notified that this is for one year only and ASC will not look favorably on this type of request for 2015.

- Bob J. notified that one VPA member school was requesting assistance with the VPA transgender policy. Bob heard from the school in early July, but has not heard anything since. No further action needed.
- Request from VT Hockey League to all Girl's Division 1 hockey to have only 8 Teams (usually 9 is required for a championship). This issue is due to declining numbers of teams and issues of inequity in terms of ability level.

Motion by Joe D., second by Bob D., to accept 2014-15 VHL alignments as presented (this includes 8 teams in Division 1 Girls hockey). Vote – approved unanimously.

- Bob J. presented football film exchange policy as recommended by the VIFL and approved by the VPA Football Committee. Football Committee did add consequences to the policy if not followed. No further action needed.
- Bob J. presented information on number of 2 games ejections for 2013-14. Total numbers were down as new hockey rule interpretation on checking from behind came into effect. List also showed a 5 year comparison. No further action needed.
- Bob J. presented request from Winooski HS to have girl's soccer team moved to Division 4 for state tournament (initial request heard at May meeting). Addition information from survey of D4 schools and soccer committee indicated that they were split on this issue for a number of reason. Many people understood the request, but felt it might set a precedent that would lead to other request.

Motion by Joe D., second by Joe H., to approve Winooski HS request to have its D3 girls soccer team participate in the D4 soccer tournament. Vote – Yes-0, No-5, motion defeated.

- Discussion on proposed policy on use of 8th Graders on High School Teams. Draft policy has been presented to the VSADA for input. In addition, a survey of all schools was conducted and a committee was convened to discuss this situation. VPA has been receiving more and more request from schools to be able to use 8th graders on high school teams. Draft policy expands the number of schools that would qualify for this use and presents a more extensive

criteria. Draft policy addresses issues such as use of 8th graders on contact teams such as football and hockey (must get a waiver for this).

Motion by Bob D., second by Joe D., to approve recommended policy on the use of 8th graders and to forward it the VPA Executive Council for final consideration. Vote – approved unanimously.

- Discussion on Burr & Burton request from Headmaster to consider changing VPA eligibility policy. This is related to ASC denial of Hardship Waiver Request at May meeting. Bob J. has sent follow-up e-mail to Headmaster, but has not heard back. No further action needed at this time.
- Bob J. presented hand-out fro three students who participated at the New England Council's Summer Student Leadership Conference. Student's are requesting the formation of a student advisory council. Bob J. supports this idea and will follow-up with students involved.
- Meeting with representatives from Websterville Baptist. Group is requesting That the VPA home-school policy be expanded to include students from Independent schools who attend schools that offer no sports or activities. Survey has been done of the VSADA membership and results are split. Discussion. Consensus from ASC, that a draft policy be developed for the November meting and run by VPA Legal Counsel for his opinion. Also requested information on who is doing what at this point within VT and Section 1. No further action needed.
- Bob J. presented 2014-15 Committee Assignments for approval.

Motion by Joe D., second by Frank, to approve assignments as presented. Vote – approved unanimously.

- Bob J. gave an update on Coaches Education Coordinator. Amy Molina from U-32 has been hired to fill this position.
- Bob J. handed out list of New AD's for 2014-15. No further action needed.
- 2014-15 Calendar handed out. No action needed.
- Bob J. gave ASC list of cooperative teams for 2014-15 school year and a list of the MTM programs that existed in 2013-14.
- 2014-15 will begin the realignment process for the next 2 year cycle. Bob J. will be working with committee chairs to determine actual procedures to be used.

- Discussion on using 4 years of eligibility in a 5 year period of time tabled until November meeting. Request that we get information from the NFHS as to how many states currently do this.
- Adjourned

Meeting Dates for 2014-15 – November 7th (Middlebury HS)

February 5/6, 2015 – Golden Eagle Resort

May 2015– TBA (depends on EC meeting)