

VPA ACTIVITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Friday, November 6, 2015
Middlebury UHS, Middlebury, VT

Members Present: Joe DeBonis, Joe Harrington, Bill Lawson, Amy Molina, Lisa Atwood, Jay Hartman, Ed Hockenbury, Bob Davis, Bob Johnson

Minutes:

- motion by Amy, second by Ed, to approve August 2015 minutes. Vote – approved unanimously.
- correspondence – Springfield HS reported update on two students who had received hardship waivers at the August meeting. Once was doing well, the other is struggling with non-school issues.

Discussion on a request from Cabot HS to allow 4 high school students to participate on an 8th grade team. Rationale is that these are students who have not played basketball before and their skill level is extremely low.

Motion by Amy, second by Bob D., to approve Cabot's request. Vote – Yes-0, No-7, motion denied. Bob J. will get back in touch with school.

Bob J. gave a brief update on the NFHS Network. VPA was notified in September that a number of championships were not going to be broadcast due to poor subscriptions. Bob is now in negotiations with the Network about the Winter and Spring schedule. For the Fall, field hockey and cross-country running will not be covered.

- Bob J. gave an update on the VPA/Special Olympics of Vermont (SOV) upcoming meeting. There is interest in implementing a Unified Sports program in the Spring. There will be a meeting in mid-November at Montpelier HS to start the process with interested schools. No further action.
- Colchester HS Hardship request (Bernie Cieplicki, Colchester AD and Bob Hall, Colchester Guidance Dept. present). Hearing conducted in Executive Session.

Motion by Joe D., second by Lisa, to grant Diatourou Dranne and additional semester of eligibility and age waiver for the Fall 2016 season. Vote – approved unanimously.

- Bob J. gave an update on the heat/cold policies. There were some minor issues with the implementation of the heat policy due to lack of understanding. However, overall things went pretty smoothly. There was some concern about the cold policy from the ski coaches until they realized

that the policy stated it did not apply to them as they already have and acceptable procedure. Question as to whether we should offer a summer strand at the leadership institute that would focus on sports medicine issues. Bob J. will follow-up with the professional development committee on this. No further action.

- Discussion on the recently implemented procedure that allows students from private schools to participate on public school teams. Bob J. received an e-mail requesting that the procedures be made mandatory and not voluntary. Consensus that the procedure should remain as is. No further action taken.
- Dan Shepardson (CVU AD) presented a proposed CVU/Mt. Mansfield Girls Hockey Cooperative team. CVU has 6-8 girls. Initially looked at South Burlington HS, but it didn't work out. Also looked at Rice and MMU. MMU was the best fit. Request is for one year only.

Motion by Jay, second by Ed, to approve the proposed CVU/MMU Girls Hockey Cooperative team for one year (2015-16). Vote – approved unanimously.

- Bob J. presented proposed Lacrosse alignments for 2015-16 and 2016-16. Lacrosse committee is proposing 3 division for boys and 2 for girls. Concern in the boys has been parity in D2 and the concern that we may lose schools who feel they cannot be competitive.

Motion by Ed, second by Joe D., to accept Lacrosse alignments as proposed. Vote – Yes-6, No-1 Motion passes.

- Bob J. presented 2016-17 calendar for final approval. Calendar has been reviewed by VSADA both in the Spring and at a recent Fall meeting.

Motion by Jay, second by Lisa, to approve the 2016-17 calendar. Vote – approved unanimously.

- Bob J. updated the committee on the Stowe/Lamoille boys hockey situation. Appears that Stowe will allow an additional player. VPA will grant a waiver of the MTM agreement if this happens since the student was granted a waiver for this issue last year. No further action.
- Bob J. presented recommendation from the VPA Officials Committee to increase JV and Freshman officials rates by \$5 (from \$45 to \$50) beginning in 2017-18. From then on, JV, Freshman officials rate will always be 2/3 of the varsity rate.

Motion by Amy, second by Joe H., to approve request as presented by the Officials Committee. Vote – approved unanimously.

- Bob J. quickly reviewed VPA transgender policy. Over the past 2 month, Bob has worked with 6 different schools around implementing this policy. Suggestion that this might be a good topic for the Leadership Institute in the summer. No further action.
- Presentation by the VPA Volleyball Committee (Jeanne Hulsen – Burlington HS, Peter Goff – VT Commons, Jeff Boliba and Gino Johnson – CVU, Karen Kresser – Essex HS, Sue ___ - Essex HS and Prineet Amin – Officials) on volleyball becoming a sanctioned varsity sport.

There are enough girls teams to qualify as a varsity sport and there are close to enough boys teams. There are still some issue such as MT. Anthony being the only school in the South and having to participate with schools in MA and NY (we did this when Canaan HS was with the VPA). Committee and VT Youth Volleyball Association have done a tremendous amount of work getting the sport up and running. Great progress has also been made in the area of certified officials. This year, the championships were held at St. Michaels College and they went well. The Volleyball Committee is recommending sanctioning for both boys and girls volleyball as a varsity sport.

Motion by Ed, second by Bob D., to formally sanction volleyball as a varsity sport effective the 2016-17 school year for both boys and girls, with the caveat that boys have 2 years to reach the minimum number of teams needed (8) to host a championship. Vote – approved unanimously.

- request from North Country UHS to allow their girl's hockey team to participate in D2 (presented by Ian Dinseo – NC AD and Tracy ____, NC Coach). NC is currently placed in D1, but due to a umber of girls leaving, their numbers are low and they do not feel they can compete at D1 due to safety issues. They did approach the VHL and their request was denied. Noted that ASC was not really in a place where they could move NC since the season was about to begin. Recommendation from AS that NC consider forfeiting all D1 games (or have them as non-games) and see if they could pick up more D2 games. This would be done with NC knowing that it could not enter the tournament this year. Bob J. would send an e-mail to D1 schools explain the situation also. No further action taken.
- Steve Croucher (Randolph AD) presented Northfield/Randolph Cooperative Team in Girls hockey. Both schools have had this relationship for the past several years. Requests is for one year.

Motion by Amy, second by Joe D., to approve the Randolph/Northfield Cooperative team in girls hockey. Vote – approved unanimously.

- adjourned

Next meeting Thurs./Fri/, February 4/5, 2016 @ Golden Eagle Resort in Stowe.