

VPA ACTIVITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
Friday, May 1, 2015  
Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, VT

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

Minutes:

- motion by Amy, second by Bob D., to approve minutes of 2/6/15 and 4/15. Vote – approved unanimously.
- correspondence – wrestling cooperative team agreement with 3-4 schools that was presented in February, is not going to happen due to Colchester eliminating funding for wrestling. No further action.

Bob J. gave an update concerning the basketball situation at UVM with the Rice girl's coach. Everything went well. AED was used. Some questions from UVM as to whether we should have an additional EMR person there in addition to the athletic trainers. VPA SMAC feels that have a EMR person there for the crowd (trainer for the teams) would be a good step at large facilities. There will also be discussions about emergency action plans with the venues. No further action necessary.

- presentation from Peter Maneen (Vergennes AD) about the proposed Point Index System. This system addresses areas such as strength of schedule. Proposal came from a VPA Point Index Committee and has been vetted by the VSADA (final approval to come on 5/11/15). Motion by Amy, second by Lisa, to approve the proposed index point system pending final approval from the VSADA on 5/11/15. This would go into effect in the Fall 2015. Vote – approved unanimously.
- presentation by Joe James (Hartford AD), Mark Hamilton (Hartford Coach) and Laurie Greenwood (Brattleboro Coach) on the status of bowling as an exhibition sport. Bowling committee recommends that bowling remain an “exhibition” sport for one final year. Next year they will request “varsity” status.

Motion by Joe D., second by Dan, to approve the bowling committee recommendation and allow bowling to remain as an “exhibition” sport for one additional year. Vote – approved unanimously.

- discussion on issue that no “paper” hardship (or other) appeals be allowed.

This was a major issue with the Stowe/Lamoille situation last Fall. Consensus from ASC that no “paper” appeals be allowed and that all schools/individuals must appear before ASC to present their case. Bob J. will pass this on to the VPA Executive Council for final approval.

Also, brief discussion on alignment appeal. Consensus from ASC that alignment decisions cannot be appealed beyond the ASC level. Alignment decisions are much different than hardship appeals. Bob J. will also forward this recommendation on the Executive Council for final consideration.

- Bob J. gave an update on the Rice Football alignment appeal. The ASC decision was upheld in a split vote (4-3). Bill Lawson, Sean Farrell and Bob Hingston were at the appeal hearing representing ASC, the Football Committee and the VIFL. Primary focus was on the issue of safety and the process that was followed to make the alignment decision. No further action.
- Cooperative team proposals.
  - a) Rochester/Whitcomb (girl’s soccer, basketball and softball – renewal).
  - b) Bellows Falls/Hartford (wrestling – cooperative team to be disbanded)
  - c) Mt. Abraham/Vergennes (football – renewal)

Motion by Jay, second by Dan, to approve the renewals of the cooperative team agreements between Rochester/Whitcomb and Mt. Abraham/Vergennes for a two year period of time. Vote – approved unanimously.

- d) new cooperative team proposal from Rochester/Whitcomb in Baseball. Motion by Amy, second by Bob D., to approve the proposed cooperative team agreement in Baseball between Rochester/Whitcomb for a two year period of time. Vote – approved unanimously.
- Bob J. gave an update on the USA Football “Heads-Up” program. The VPA Has agreed to become a “Heads-Up” state. By doing this, we agree to promote the issues of safety in football. The program is endorsed and recommended by the NFHS. Schools voluntarily choose as to whether they wish to join or not. By joining, a schools coach(es) receive training in areas of equipment maintenance and fitting, sudden cardiac arrest, use of AED’s, CPR and other areas. Coaches who complete the training also get additional liability insurance through USA Football. A training session for Vermont coaches is schedule in late May at Rutland HS.
- presentation by Doug Webster, Dave Feinauer and John Chase on the potential for sanctioning a FIRST robotics competition. This is an actual competition that has a high school and middle school component. Currently, schools such

as Essex, U-32 and BFA-St. Albans are involved in the program. Other states (such as Wyoming) have endorsed the program. Having the competition sanctioned like a sport activity would bring support for the activity within schools.

Motion by Rob, second by Dan, to support FIRST robotics as a potential sanctioned activity pending a final meeting between the VPA and FIRST robotics to clarify and finalize rules and criteria for the program. Final document is to be presented to ASC at the August meeting. Vote – approved unanimously.

- Bob J. presented a NFHS position statement on the use of drones at high School activities. The NFHS recommends that states delay the development of a policy until late September when the FAA publishes the rules and policies concerning the operation and use of drones. This is a VT issue as Bob has already received one e-mail from a member school concerning the use of drones in soccer. Consensus that ASC will wait until late September before taking any additional action.
- presentation by Peter Goff (VT Commons School) and Jason Robtoy (Enosburg HS) on the status of volleyball as an exhibition activity. The VPA Volleyball committee is recommending that volleyball remain as an exhibition activity for one additional year and that varsity status will be requested for the Fall 2016, Volleyball currently has enough teams in the girls division to request sanctioning, however, they would like both girls and boys to receive sanctioning at the same time.

Motion by Joe D., second by Rob, to approve the Volleyball committee recommendation and allow boys and girls volleyball to remain as an exhibition activity for one additional year. Vote – approved unanimously.

- presentation by Denise Alosa (South Burlington HS and VPA SMAC) on a proposed pre-season training program for football. Proposal was developed by the VT Association of Athletic Trainers and the VPA SMAC. It was also reviewed and updated by a sub-committee of the VPA Football Committee and has input from the VIFL. The proposal follows guidelines issued by the NFHS in response to the issues of concussions, head injuries and other safety concerns. If approved, these procedures would go in place for the Fall 2015 season.

Motion by Bob D., second by Joe D., to accept the proposal as presented with clarification around the following issues. 1) no scrimmage the first week of practice, 2) walk through/meetings. Are they countable towards practice and c) strength training/conditioning. Where does it fall into the procedure in terms of practice. Vote – Yes-8, No-2, motion approved. These procedures will also be explained to all coaches at an upcoming VIFL coaches meeting.

Denise also presented the current VPA heat/cold recommendations. VPA SMAC feels these procedures such be approved as policy and not recommendations.

Motion by Amy, second by Rob, to accept the current VPA heat/cold recommendations as policy, not recommendations, effective immediately. Vote – approved unanimously.

Final request from VPA SMAC concerns requiring CPR/AED training for all coaches under the VPA Coaches Education program. The VT Association of Athletic Trainers (VAAT) is willing to provide training to all schools at no cost. Recommendation is to have this implemented by the Fall 2016, so that VAAT would have time to go to schools that do not have athletic trainers. This training could be incorporated as part of the Anyone Can Save a Life Program. This program (from Minnesota) is endorsed by the NFHS and the NFHS will make copies of this program available to all high schools in VT. The program not only focuses on AED/CPR training, but also the development and implementation of emergency action plans.

Motion by Lisa, second by Amy, to approve the training proposal proposed by VAAT/VPA SMAC with final implementation Fall 2016. This would now become a requirement of the VPA Coaches Education Program. Vote – approved unanimously. Note – ASC would like VPA SMAC to consider the first aid requirement and whether it is appropriate or not.

- Rob R. gave a brief update on VPA Recruitment Committee. Committee has met once and will meet again on 5/28/15. Update will be given at August meeting.
- Bob J. gave a brief update on Lamoille/Stowe boy's hockey situation. Bob was Told by the Stowe AD that the school was not planning on participating in a MTM agreement with Lamoille this year. Stowe feels they have adequate numbers and if they do a MTM agreement, it will be with Peoples Academy only. No further action.
- adjourned. Next meeting Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 at Killington Grand Hotel (after the Leadership Academy)