

VPA ACTIVITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Thurs./Fri., August 4/5, 2016
Killington Grand Hotel, Killington, VT

Members Present: Bill Lawson, Lisa Atwood, Rob Reardon, Joe DeBonis, Joe Harrington, Frank Pecora, Kim Maniery, Jay Hartman, Mark Mooney, Bob Johnson

Also Present: Pat Merriam (Spaulding HS AD), Carl Backman (SB Golf Coach) Dave Jankowski (VTPGA), Steve Croucher (Randolph HS), Simon Parlente (Burlington HS), Kali Salat (Burlington parent), Ishmail Liban (Burlington student)

Minutes:

- motion by Rob, second by Lisa , to approve minutes of 5/13/16. Vote – approved unanimously.
- correspondence

Brief discussion on USA Football Heads Up Program. Issue concerning the claim of reducing the number of concussions. Bob J. handed out USA Football response. All football schools are required to be a part of the Heads Up program this year.

Recruitment policy – final draft of the Recruitment policy , approved in May by ASC, is with the Executive Council for consideration. No further action.

Bob handed out new draft of neutral site procedure, approved by ASC, in May. No further action required.

Bob gave an update on the upcoming VPA/VSBIT workshop on Inappropriate Behavior by Student Athletes workshop. Currently, over 100 coaches are registered. No further action required.

Bob J. gave an update on new Coaches Education requirement. As of 7/1/16 coaches are now required to have AED/CPR and EAP training. No further action.

- Bob J. presented 2016-17 VPA Committee Assignments. Motion by Joe D., second by Rob, to accept committee assignments as presented. Vote – approved unanimously.
- Presentation by Pat Merriam, Carl Backman and Dave Jankowski on the

possibility of Fall golf. Golf is currently a Spring sport. However, there is support from the golf coaches, VGA and VPGA to have golf moved to the Fall. Information from a coaches survey and course survey were presented. Pro/cons were discussed. This would go to the VSADA at their meeting in September for input.

Motion by Rob, second by Frank, to support the effort to move golf (both boys and girls) from a Spring sport to a Fall sport. Vote – approved unanimously. Golf Comm. will present this at the VSADA meeting and final consideration for ASC will be at the Fall 2016 meeting.

- discussion on the issue of 4 years of eligibility in a 5 year period of time. This has been discussed before. However, with new possible impact from Act 77, this needs to be discussed again. There are concerns from AD's that this would result in "redshirting". This issue could be addressed through a criteria that would be established. If approved, this would reduce hardship request by 75% or more. This would be presented to the VSADA for input in September.

Motion by Lisa, second by Joe H., to support the concept of 4 years of eligibility in a 5 year period of time. Final decision would come in November after discussion with the VSADA. Vote – approved unanimously.

- brief discussion on Act 46 and the impact on VPA programs such as Member to Member. If we do have more consolidation, what does this do to sports teams? Still many unknown questions about Act 46 and the numbers of districts/schools participating. We will need to continue to monitor this situation. No further action taken.
- Hardship hearing (Burlington HS) – conducted in Executive Session.

Motion by Joe D., second by Joe H., to grant Ishmail Liban an additional year of eligibility. Vote – Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstention – 1. Motion approved. Also noted that if Burlington can get verification of official birth date, a second year of eligibility may be possible.

- request from Randolph UHS for an additional year of eligibility. Noted that this really wasn't a hardship request. The student involved had participated in a foreign exchange program, had not played sports (or received academic credit) and was asking to participate in athletics in her final year.

Motion by Jay, second by Rob, to grant Abigail Zani an additional year of eligibility. Vote – approved unanimously.

Also noted that these types of request can be approved by the VPA Office in the future as long as the student did not play in sports and did not receive academic credit.

- Hardship request from St. Johnsbury Academy – conducted in Executive Session.

Motion by Rob, second by Kim, to grant Chelsea Halder an additional year of eligibility as a non-scoring participant in Fall, Winter, Spring sports. Vote – approved unanimously.

- brief discussion on cooperative teams. Concerns are being expressed that committees need to take total enrollment into consideration when looking at cooperative teams for alignment purposes. This is the responsibility of each individual sports committee and the current rules say the committee “may” take this into consideration. Some do, some do not. This is an alignment year, so Bob will discuss this with each individual sports committee. No further action taken.
- adjourned – next meeting – Thursday, November 10th @ Middlebury UHS.