

VPA ACTIVITY STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Thurs./Fri., February 2/3, 2017
Stoweflake, Stowe, VT

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

Also Present: Bob Hingston (VPA), Jeanne Hulsen (Burlington AD), Frank
Babbott (CVU Tennis Coach), Peter Maneen (Vergennes AD),
Devin Wendel (Mt. Abe AD), Joanna Graves (Stowe AD)

Minutes:

- motion by Rob, second by Jay, to approve minutes of 11/10/16. Vote – motion approved unanimously.
- correspondence – update on Fair Haven coaching issue (out of season). Fair Haven took appropriate action to address the issue. Bob J. has a copy of their report. No further action necessary.

Bob J. gave a Fall financial update. Overall, things went well. Revenues in soccer were up, revenues in football were down (Rutland was not in the championship game). Digital tickets were used at the football championships. Over 450 were sold and the process went well. Now looking at possibilities for the Winter Championships.

Milton HS reported a situation with a coach and the coaches behavior. Steps were taken by Milton HS and they were appropriate. No further action taken.

- Middle School Report (Bob Hingston) – MS is now finalizing plans for flag football at the grade 5/6 and 7/8 levels. The MS Football Committee is currently working on the rules and the guide. This will be done before June 1st.

There will also be 2 classes offered to MS Athletic Directors at the VSADA conference in April. These courses have been well received.

- on December 20th, Bob J. met with the VPA Ultimate Committee to discuss the status of Ultimate. At this time, Ultimate is requesting to stay as an exhibition sport. They are having some issues with the number of coaches (some coaches are coaching two teams) and recognition as a formal sport in some schools. They do not feel that asking for varsity status at this time is appropriate.
- Bob J. presented the 2017-18 and 2018-19 Activities Calendars. These Calendars have been run by the VSADA for review and recommendations.

Motion by Kim, second by Bob D. to approve the 2017-18 and 2018-19 calendars as presented. Vote – approved unanimously.

- discussion on alignments for 2017-18 and 2018-19, Information on charts had some errors. Bob J. will present final alignments at May meeting.
- discussion on cooperative teams. Issue of divisional placement when a team is formed. Currently, policy states that divisional placement will be made by the committee. This does allow flexibility, but also provides for inconsistency between sports. Suggestion that we come up with new language for cooperative team alignments in sports with less than four division. Bob J. will have a draft at next meeting.

Brief discussion on MTM agreements and “need” vs. “want”. MTM language is very specific in wording that the program is designed for schools who have an issue maintaining teams due to low numbers. However, this seems to be a secondary consideration now and Bob J. is seeing many agreements that have schools with full teams, but are willing to take on more. Discuss this with the VSADA to see if they have suggestions/recommendations.

- discussion on meeting in January concerning the issue of gender non-conforming and the VPA transgender policy. Current policy does not cover gender non-conforming, but there is a concern that the state law does. VPA dealt with a situation where a student was challenging their ability to play in a sport not of their gender. VPA policy needs revision and there was agreement at the meeting to begin this process. Draft policy will come to ASC at May meeting.
- Bob J. gave an update on the Executive Director search. Process has been Completed and Jay Nichols has been hired as the new Executive Director. Jay is currently the Superintendent in the Franklin Northeast Supervisory Union. ASC representative on the search committee and at final interviews was Lisa Atwood.
- Bob J. presented bid information on soccer balls. Brine had been the former but the VPA was notified earlier, that they would not be renewing the contract. A RFP was sent to 8 companies and 2 formal bids were received. VPA Soccer committee met and recommends that the bid from Select Inc. be chosen (bid is for multiple years). Several schools currently use Select Soccer balls.

Motion by Dan, second by Rob, to approve the Soccer Committee recommendation and award the VPA Soccer Ball Bid to Select Inc. Vote – approved unanimously.

- discussion on two VPA sports that were placed on a probationary status

by ASC. Bob J. feels both sports (snowboarding and gymnastics) have made progress and now have the number of teams needed to have an adequate state championship.

Motion by Dan, second by Rob, to remove snowboarding for its probationary status. Vote – approved unanimously.

Motion by Rob, second by Dan, to remove gymnastics from its probationary status, but to continue monitoring team numbers for the next 2 years. Vote – approved unanimously.

- presentation by Jeanne Hulsen (VPA Tennis Committee Chair, Burlington AD) and Frank Babbott (CVU Tennis coach) to allow boys tennis to conduct an open tournament for 2017. This is an attempt to keep tennis schools involved.

Motion by Lisa, second by Kim, to approve VPA Tennis Committee recommendation to allow boys tennis to have an open tournament for the Spring 2017 season only. Vote – approved unanimously.

- request from Vergennes UHS (Peter Maneen, Vergennes AD) and Mt. Abraham UHS (Devin Wendel, Mt. Abe AD) to approve cooperative teams in boys and girls lacrosse for the next two years.

Motion by Jay, second by Bob D., to approve a Vergennes/Mt. Abe Boy's Lacrosse cooperative team for the next two years. Vote – approved unanimously.

Motion by Lisa, second by Kim, to approve a Vergennes/Mt. Abe Girl's Lacrosse cooperative team for the next two years. Vote – approved unanimously.

Request from Rochester/Whitcomb to continue cooperative teams in boys soccer, girls soccer, girls basketball, softball and baseball for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Motion by Jay, second by Lisa to approve continuation of Rochester/Whitcomb cooperative teams for the next two years. Vote – approved unanimously.

Request from Stowe HS (Joanna Graves, Stowe AD) and Peoples Academy continuation of cooperative teams in girls hockey, baseball and softball.

Motion by Frank, second by Jay, to approve the continuation of the cooperative teams between Stowe and Peoples. Vote – approved unanimously.

Request from Stowe HS and Peoples Academy to approve a new cooperative team in boy's ice hockey for two years. In the recent past, this had been done through a MTM agreement.

Motion by Lisa, second by Frank, to approve a cooperative team in boy's ice hockey between Stowe and Peoples for the next two years. Vote – approved unanimously.

- adjourned

Next meeting Friday, May 5th, 2017 @ Capitol Plaza in Montpelier