

VPA SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, August 15, 2012
Orthopaedic Specialty Clinic, South Burlington, VT

Members Present: David Lisle, Matt Gammons, Denise Alosia, Sarah Johnstone,
Todd Powers, Joanna Graves, Bob Johnson

Also Present: Ken Page (VPA), Dr. Donna Miller (Bennington), Mikem McIntyre

Minutes:

- motion by Denise, second by Sarah to approve minutes of 3/29/12. Vote - approved unanimously.
- discussion with Dr. Miller concerning safety issues in Boy's Lacrosse. Over the past several years, she has noticed an increase in physical contact being made in boys lacrosse. In her opinion, officials are not making calls and as a result of this escalation, she sees the potential for more injuries and concussions. Several concerns emerged this year. Feels that officials are not enforcing the rules and that dangerous play is occurring. In a semi-final game, her son had his helmet knocked off during a play and play was allowed to continue. She sees this as an escalation of physical play which could lead to a possibility of more injuries (concussions).

Discussion – NFHS does have illegal contact as a Point of Emphasis. Referees are also having to deal with the culture of lacrosse (contact sport, fast paced). How do you change the culture? Referees and coaches are responsible for creating a culture within their own team and sport. Referees need to make sure they are enforcing the Points of Emphasis and also need to educate the coaches on this. There also is an issue with the referees expectations of how a game should go and coaches expectations. Regardless, referees are responsible for implementing the rules once a game begins.

Matt will get a hold of the VLOA and is willing to attend their next training session and focus on Points of Emphasis, illegal contact and concussions.

One other issue identified. Lack of certified AT's at schools also contributes to this situation, as AT's would focus on prevention of injuries if they were at practices or games. No further action.

- discussion on update to concussion law language. The Brain Injury Association of Vermont has established a sub-committee to look at the issue of concussions in Vermont schools. Matt attended 1st meeting. Primary focus of the group is unknown at this time. Matt will write a concussion law update

and submit it to Bob. Bob will then put it on VPA letterhead and get it to the membership and post it on the SMAC site.

- discussion on football recommendations approved at last SMAC meeting (7 practices before first scrimmage, 10 before first game). Sarah has gotten some push back from her coach in terms of the definition of “contact” during the first three days of practice (no contact days). Consensus that these first three days should be helmets only (no pads). Sarah will write a specific statement with further definition. This will be presented at the next SMAC meeting and then the Football Committee.
- Discussion on NFHS position statement on a Heat Acclimatization Policy. Vermont does not have a acclimatization policy, but we do have a heat illness policy. Denise will work on drafting a acclimatization policy.
- Discussion on the issue of boys playing a girl’s sport. VPA was contacted by a Student from Brattleboro HS who wanted to play on the girl’s field hockey team. The VPA has designated this as a female sport. This is more of a philosophical issue than a medical issue. One issue is by letting boys play of a girls team, would we be reducing the opportunities available to females (Title IX issue?). MA allows boys to participate on field hockey teams, but it is very controversial and some schools have refused to play schools who do have boys on their teams. No further action.
- Discussion on new NFHS form for reporting skin lesions in wrestling. Motion By Matt, second by David, to approve the use of this form with Vermont wrestling schools. Vote – approved unanimously (6-0)
- Other – Bob has heard from several dentist who have expressed concerns that the VPA SMAC moved the use of mouth guards in soccer from the “required” to “recommended” category. No further action.
- adjourned – Bob will contact committee about setting the next date.