

WESTERN SKY & BLACK CANYON REGIONS

Wednesday, December 8, 2010, 9:00 am

Shadow Mountain High School

Members Present:

Ed Barnes... .. Apollo	Rick McCutcheon...Paradise Valley
Brian Duguid....Cactus	Bill White Prescott
Sheri Anderson.. Cortez	Ron Safcik.....Shadow Mountain
Julie Patton ...Glendale	Eric Zimmerman ... Sunnyslope
Jeff Feldman...Greenway	Jason Latham Thunderbird
Mike Siwek ... Independence	Brian Fitzgerald Washington
Eddie Lopez ...Moon Valley	Robbin Schroeder....GUHSD
Jim Threadgill ...GUHSD	

1. Discuss 4A Conference Meeting of November 22, 2010

Jim had emailed the Minutes to the group. He went over the changes to the power rankings system. If anyone is having problems with the NWCA web site for wrestling, they need to contact Dean Visser or Bryan Smith at Moon Valley. Art Wagner was asked to bring to the AIA Executive Board a concern that ticket prices for state games are too expensive and schools that have to travel a certain distance should get mileage reimbursement. They are also asking for equal representation on the AIA Board, there are mostly 1A-3A reps on the Board and 4A and 5A only have one each. It has been determined that in soccer, the first two rounds will be played at an assigned AIA venue, rather than at the top seeds. If the games are in Phoenix, they will be at Reach 11 Park. Bill White expressed concern about these venues as it will cause more travel for the schools in the outlying areas. This is an example of why AIA is considering mileage reimbursement. Jim urged the non-GUHSD schools to check with their districts on their indemnification clauses to work with the AIA. You can also go to aiaonline to order athletic certificates. An amendment is being proposed to add naturopathic doctors to the list for athletic physicals. Input on this should be sent to Robbin by December 16. Jim asked about moving up the swim season one week to accommodate the pools that are not heated. Two members are needed from the 4A Conference to be part of the AIAAA strategic plan meeting at Dobson Ranch on June 11 and 12; if interested, contact Joe Paddock at Amphitheater District Office.

2. Discuss AIA Executive Board Minutes

The meeting of November 15 was discussed. Black Canyon and Western Sky Region agendas were approved. Dr. Slemmer discussed strategies for promoting diversity on the Executive Board and all committees, both in ethnic groups and male/female representation. This is the meeting where the power rankings formula was modified to increase the victory point weight from .45 to .50 and decrease the opponent victory point weight from .50 to .45. The opponent opponents' victory point weight remains unchanged at .05. Frank Mirizio, Principal of Marcos De Niza addressed the Board regarding concerns with the reduction of divisions, student enrollment numbers and schools who support a compromise and a proposed compromise. Tom Hernandez, Principal and Ben White, AD and Mike Warren, Acting District AD of Tolleson addressed the Board regarding their ability to appeal down their placement in football. No action was taken by the Board in both presentations. Ed Barnes was approved for the sports medicine committee.

3. Sports Advisory Information

Mike Siwek reported on the Badminton sports advisory committee. This year's state tournament went well with 128 participants as long as both gyms were used. Luckily, the beginning of the tournament with the most participants was during fall break. The tournament was completed at the end of October and almost everyone is paid for working it now. There is an advisory committee meeting next Wednesday, December 15.

3. Sports Advisory Information (continued)

Bill White attended the Cross Country meeting. The cross country advisory committee recommended that all section tournaments be held on the same day. They discussed the formats of the sectionals must be consistent and they were not. Also some sectionals charged admission and others did not. Loss of school time and availability of parks was discussed. The coaches do not like Skunk Creek. There is supposed to be some work done on the Skunk Creek facility. Selection of all region teams within the sections was discussed and the recommendation was to have the first seven finishers be the first team, the second seven finishers be the second team and the third seven finishers be honorable mention. It was approved to continue with the top 50% of the teams and increase from 20 to 25 individuals for the division tournaments. It is assumed that Scott Giddings will continue to put together the schedules, but Jim will ask the AIA how schedules will be done for the individual sports, i. e. Cross Country, Track, Swim, Golf, Wrestling and Tennis. The track meeting is on Monday, December 13. They will have to meet the qualifying standards through invitational tournaments. At least there are numerous qualifying track meets, so schools should not have to scramble to get into qualifying meets as they did with Swim. State Track is May 11 for Divisions I & II, May 13 for Divisions III and IV with finals for all divisions on Saturday, May 14 at Mesa C. C.

Brian Duguid reported that the first volleyball meeting was just instructions as to how the committee will work. The next meeting is on Thursday, December 16.

Brian Fitzgerald stated that the next soccer advisory committee meeting is on Tuesday, December 14. The first meeting was in October and they outlined the scope of the committee and discussed petitioning up in divisions. At the last 4A meeting, they were told that the first and second rounds of state soccer will not be at the highest seeds – that they will have multiple games at three different sites depending on who is playing – one in Phoenix, one in Tucson and one in Yuma. The northern schools who are traditionally highly ranked in soccer would have to travel to Phoenix and will lose their home advantage. Brian stated that this was never discussed at the sports advisory committee meeting.

Jeff Feldman stated the committee is working on getting information from the coaches on tiebreaking procedures and if they want single or double elimination in the state tournaments. The next baseball committee meeting is on Thursday, December 16.

Jim Threadgill distributed information on Wrestling. The requirement of the NWCA web site is a very important piece of this information. Make sure this is done because you don't want any of your wrestlers denied if they are not entered correctly. There is not state team tournament this year. Team champions will be determined by individual scores. The sectionals will be held on February 4 and 5 and the division tournaments will be held at Tim's Toyota Center in Prescott Valley with Divisions I and II on February 10 and 11 and Divisions III and IV on February 11 and 12. Jim also included a draft of what the state tournament will look like. Be sure to make your hotel reservations soon as rooms are booking up. They will wrestle for 5th and 6th places, but medals will only be awarded to 1st through 4th places in each weight class. The section placements posted on December 6 are for the next two year block. The wrestling sections in Jim's packet are for this year. It was stated that no one has paid the \$199 fee for the NWCA, but they are using it. Jim will check with the AIA on this.

3. Sports Advisory Information (continued)

Eric distributed the Minutes from the Swim advisory committee meeting. The committee would like to go from 24 to 32 in each event. They would also like to have a championship meet the week before the state tournament to make sure everyone has an opportunity to qualify for State. They are looking at a more consistent way to score diving. They are also looking at moving State Swim to Skyline High School as they are building a new facility with a lot of seating. In order to qualify as an invitational, there must be five teams. They are also looking at putting together swim invitationals in April for the following year so schools do not have to scramble to get meets to give swimmers the opportunity to qualify. Another issue is acquiring more certified swim officials.

4. Tournament Information: Basketball, Soccer and Wrestling

The group was advised to keep checking the AIA web site for winter sports tournament information. It has not been posted yet.

5. Deadline for Last Basketball and Soccer Games

The deadline for the last basketball games to be completed is Thursday, February 10 as the state tournament should start on Saturday, February 12. The deadline for soccer games to be complete is Thursday, January 27. It is highly recommended that games be completed before these dates, especially region games. These deadlines are also the deadlines to report the top 3 from Western Sky and the top 2 from Black Canyon must be turned in and if the game played on the final day makes the determination of placement, it is cutting it close.

6. All Region Selections for Winter Sports

This year's sports advisory reps. for Basketball are Dan Mannix, Sunnyslope, Sue Wilson, Moon Valley, Howard Mueller, Greenway and Ty Bauer, Washington so Jim asked who will be running the all region selection meetings. Jeff Feldman has been running both regions, boys and girls, together for the last few years and is willing to continue to do this. Jeff will determine the date, usually a Saturday, and send out the information. Ed Barnes has hosted both regions, boys and girls, soccer meetings at Apollo and will continue to do so. The soccer reps. are Dan Benford, Apollo, Michelle Monaghan, Independence, Adam Roberts, Washington and Wyck Chew, Paradise Valley. Ed will schedule it for Saturday, January 29 at 9:00 a.m. and send the information out. Brian Duguid made the recommendation that an administrator be in attendance at each all region selection meeting – boys and girls, each region. Those athletic directors whose coaches are the region representatives should be in attendance at these meetings to assist in the process. Jim stated that the criteria for selection must be determined PRIOR to the meeting and sent to all of the coaches with the meeting date information. Robbin will send the certificates for basketball to Jeff and soccer to Ed.

7. Region Excellence Awards

Normally after every season, Robbin compiles a list of state champions, runner ups, third and fourth place as well as region champions and region runner ups for points toward the region athletic excellence awards that also determined a conference excellence award. This has been discontinued.

8. Swimming Invitationals – Set Date in January to Meet With Swim Coaches

Issues with Swim invitationals were discussed earlier. The GUHSD swim coaches had requested a meeting to discuss concerns in January. That meeting is set for after school on Monday, January 10 at 3:00 p.m. at Apollo. Be sure to notify your coaches.

9. Items for AIA Legislative Council

A deadline has not been published, so if anyone has proposed AIA bylaw changes through Legislative Council, it is recommended they submit the paperwork to Lorie Tranter by January 14 to make sure it is sent before the deadline.

10. Spring Sports Hardship Appeals

Spring sports hardship appeals are due to AIA by January 18 to be heard on January 24 and 25. Glen Treadaway will be back to help with the appeals.

11. Verify Winter/Spring Sports Schedules

The group split up to confirm and make changes to winter and spring sports schedules. It was stated that the AIA will be computer scheduling 80% of games and schools will have to pick up the other 20%. It was asked what procedures will be to do this. It was asked if individual sports are going to be computer scheduled as well. Jim will email the AIA with these questions and has also requested that Badminton/Volleyball not be scheduled at the same site on the same day as well as Boys and Girls Basketball/Wrestling as some schools do not have two gyms. They also need to look at schools field situations when they are scheduling all levels of Baseball and Softball games. Also the AIA is only scheduling varsity games, Jim will email them as to how the lower level schedules will be done.

12. Blackout Dates for Computer Scheduling

Jim had sent an email to the AIA with GUHSD district wide events requesting no games be scheduled on those days. If individual schools have events going on that they want to black out dates, they need to submit them on their own to Brian Bolitho. Jim also included the request stated above for schools that cannot host multiple sports at the same time.

13. Nominations for Athletic Director of the Year for Each Region

Jim had contacted the AIAAA to see if they are continuing to give athletic director of the year awards for each Conference and was told that they are. Therefore, please send the nominations for athletic director of the year for each region to Robbin before Christmas Break and we will vote at our next meeting in March. However, we are no longer allowed to give a plaque to the Athletic Director of the Year from each region. It is assumed that the 4A Conference will vote for the Conference Athletic Director of the Year from the nominees from each region. That person will be honored at the AIAAA Conference in September.

14. Good of the Order

Everyone thanked Ron Safcik for hosting the meeting today.

Jason Latham was congratulated on Thunderbird winning the 4A Division II State Football Championship.

Jim Threadgill stated that he will continue to email the group as he gets information from the AIA. Our next official meeting is March 9 at Independence. Jim discussed what he understands about the appeal process for each school's section assignment. The sections were devised using geo-mapping and they were told that the goal is no school would have to travel more than a 90 minute bus ride. Jim distributed a summary of the GUHSD section and division assignments.

Continued

14. Good of the Order (continued)

It was asked if how many teams automatically qualify from the sectionals to State for next year. AZ CENTRAL TODAY RELEASED THE SECTIONALS AND IT IS STATED THAT IN FOOTBALL THE TOP 3 TEAMS FROM EACH SECTIONAL WILL QUALIFY AND THE NEXT 9 HIGHEST POWER RANKING WILL BE THE AT LARGE QUALIFIERS.

An athletic trainer is needed for December 18 for Soccer at Glendale. The hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Apollo Cool Nights Softball tournament is March 2-5 with all evening games and all day Saturday. Ed had submitted the paperwork to AIA to sanction it, but it is still not on the AIA calendar. He will follow up with AIA. For invitational tournaments, schools must contact the AIA to request officials and they are to be paid out of Account #8, not through Ref Pay.

Brian Duguid requested that it be put in the Minutes that he is frustrated that the region leadership doesn't have the answers to the questions regarding AIA issues. Coaches and the community are expressing major concerns about the direction we are going and athletic directors cannot answer questions because they don't know what is going on. There is a lack of direction and no one knows what is going on. No one knows where decisions are coming from and what the rationale for these decisions is. There is also frustration about the length of time, over a month, it is taking for tournament workers to get paid from the AIA. Brian also stated that his football coach is initiating a petition about concerns with the AIA with the Football Coaches' Association.

Eric Zimmerman stated that we need to understand why things are being done. Decisions are made at the AIA Executive Board level that were not even discussed with the member schools and without any input from anyone. It is very difficult to explain to people how decisions are made because it is unknown. Everyone is willing to change if it is in the best interest of the athletes. It is difficult to have people on your side in making this work when they are frustrated. Coaches are very angry and the image of the AIA is very low.

Eddie Lopez voiced his concerns with all the decisions being made by the AIA. Sports advisory committees should have a voice in these decisions and were told that they were the ones making the decisions and they don't know what is going on.

Brian Fitzgerald reiterated what Eric said. We need to be able to explain what is going on. He has concerns about the image of the AIA and believes they should be working on some public relations. They need to communicate with the schools.

Mike Siwek stated we are being left out of many decisions that are directly impacting our economy. The decisions regarding sectionals and divisions are costing schools more money. He also reiterated that taking over a month for people to get paid for working tournaments is unacceptable. People are being paid less money and AIA is taking in more money.

Sheri Anderson stated that the whole idea of the sports advisory committee taking the information to AIA and AIA not using it, it may be a waste of time to even have these committees meet. The AIA is alienating all of the athletic directors across the state. Coaches are asking for rationale and athletic directors do not have the answers.

14. Good of the Order (continued)

Jason Latham as a new athletic director stated that there is no support from the AIA in helping new athletic directors. The leadership is not very helpful. He has received numerous complaints about the length of time it is taking for workers at the State Cross Country meet to get paid.

Bill White expressed his frustration with the leadership of the AIA. We cannot get questions answered on specific things. For many years, it was so easy to get questions answered from Jim and Robbin. They both still try to help when they can, but especially Robbin is out of the loop. When the AIA is called, they tell people to check the web site rather than just giving the answer. The coaches' advisory committee makes recommendations and the AIA Executive Board changes things completely without discussing it with the sports advisory committee.

Jeff Feldman's biggest concern is the lack of communication. Things are happening and we do not know why. Why decisions are being made, who is making the decisions and what the rationale is for those decisions is unknown.

Julie Patton agreed the biggest concern is the image of the AIA with coaches and athletic directors across the state. We need to come together as a body and work together. What a disservice this is to our athletes. It is supposed to be about athletes. We are not working for what is best for the student athletes. What types of examples are we setting for not being able to work together.

Ron Safcik agrees about the lack of communication. The schools have no power in what the AIA is doing. We need to be able to communicate accurate information to our coaches.

Rick McCutcheon questions if they are doing what is in the best interest our students or it is all about money. It used to be that the leadership would try to make decisions based on the best interest of the students. This is not the case anymore. We are doing away with recognition for athletes and opportunities to participate. We need to know what the reasons are for what they are doing so we can explain it to parents and coaches. Rick would like to know what the procedure is going to be for us to schedule the other 20% of games as well as lower level games. People are making phone calls and if there is no reason to do this, we need to know. We need to know what we should do to start working on this. It is very frustrating.

Ed Barnes would like to get respect for the athletic directors and go back to what is best for student athletes. There is no communication.

Brian Duguid stated that we need to rally the troops. AIA is just doing what they want and not getting input from the people involved. They are taking away from the athletes.

Everyone supports a recommendation that prior to any AIA Executive Board action that the advisory committee has prior knowledge of their rationale for any items being considered for approval. If this had happened, at least everyone on the soccer committee would have known that they were looking at taking away the high seed host advantage. They would like to know what is going on before the Executive Board makes the decision. If the sports advisory committee has no input on what is being proposed, there is no reason for these committees to exist. It is a waste of their time for school administrators who have a lot more going on than athletics. We cannot gain credibility if we are just puppets. They need to have buy in from people.

14. Good of the Order (continued)

Bill White mentioned a volleyball game where he was told he could only hire two people. The AIA provided these two people as a libero tracker and a scorer who had never done this before. Prescott had people who do this all the time, but were told they were cutting the people who are paid as well as what they are paid.

Also discussed issues with Kukulski when a school patron tried to bring in shakers to be given to fans at a football game. He was told it had to be cleared with Kukulskis and they would not allow these items to be given away.

Jeff went over the items he needs for "Hoopin' It Up At The Arena" on Saturday, January 8. He shared a mock up of the program that he is putting together. Those who have not sent the rosters, pictures and/or names of three point shootout contestants must send them ASAP. Jeff distributed a sheet with additional information that everyone needs to have.

The meeting was adjourned.

The group will get together on January 12, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at Moon Valley High School to confirm athletic schedules. The next Region meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at Independence High School.