

**Cross Country
AIA Sports Advisory Committee
Wednesday
November 22, 2011**

Call to order: Dave Shapiro 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present:
 Dean Visser AIA
 Eric Fogle/3A Coach - Blue Ridge*
 Laura Sample/5A Coach-Mesquite (minute taker)
 Elmer Yazzie/2A Coach-Pusch Ridge Christian
 Bruce Wilkison/1A - Coach-Gilbert Christian
 Dave Shapiro/5A Adm. - Chandler
 Scott Giddings/4A Coach – Greenway
 Rick Baker/2A Coach – Hopi
 Jodie Brase/4A Adm. – Catalina FH*
 Mike Elder/1A Adm. - Northland Prep*
 Leonard Quimby/2A Adm. - Canyon State*
 *Conference call Phone in

 Guests:
 Joe Hajek/5A Adm. – Marana*
 Dan Reynolds- State Meet Starter
 Dennis Hansen – State Meet Referee

 Absent:
 Jodie Dean/Adm. - Gilbert Classic
 Bill White/4A Adm. – Prescott
 Dan Nero/5A Adm. - Corona del Sol
 Ivan Brown/3A Adm. - River Valley
 Bobby Armenta/3A Adm. – Globe
 Trina Painter/4A Coach – Flagstaff
 Doug Clementz/3A Coach – Wickenburg
 Chris Hanson/5A Coach – Desert Vista

 Presiding:
 Dave Shapiro

Minutes of August 17, 2011 meeting review: committee approved

3:33pm meeting was called to order

- Review of minutes from last meeting (available online) there was no discussion.
- Dave Shapiro noted the changes in committee members with Mike Elder (Northland Prep) and Chris Hanson (Desert Vista) replacing departing members of the committee
- Scott Giddings (Greenway) made motion to approve minutes, Laura Sample (Mesquite) second. Minutes were approved from last meeting.

Meet Schedules

- Scott Giddings posed a question: What are the rules for teams not showing up for meets (in regards to Wednesday meets mostly)? Dave Shapiro cited that this is an AIA violation and reportable.
- Discussion occurred about the reasons that teams would do this: not fielding a team (or full team), or just not wanting to run, etc.
- Joe Hajak commented (via phone) that there are occurrences of this in his area, but it is not so much of an issue.

- Laura Sample brought up the issue of Campo Verde who does field a full team and found itself being canceled on often because they are currently scheduled with the smaller schools.
- Mr. Visser brought up the issue of having a cross-division schedule currently and is it working? Committee members felt that for the most part the schedule did work, but we could ask the coaches/athletic directors to see if there are any adjustments that need to be made for next season.
- A question was posed by Dennis Hansen to Joe Hajak about fall break schedules for Tucson-Jodie and Joe both commented that this was not really in issue for them as they work around the schedule if necessary.
- Mr. Visser decided that we will have the “scheduling group” made up of Laura Sample, Dave Shapiro, Scott Giddings, Bruce Wilkison and John Prather. Finalize the schedules for next year for the various conferences in the Phoenix area only.
- We finished the first year of a 2-year block, so for the most part; the schedules should remain the same, with just a rotation in sites. Because of the changing fall break schedules there are possible changes in whether schools have full teams; it was decided to check with ADs/XC coaches to see if any changes need to be made. We decided to email after the Thanksgiving holiday with a deadline for responses by the 2nd week of January.
- It was noted by Mr. Visser that the maximum number of teams that can be included at a Wednesday meet is 4, otherwise the meet must be Sanctioned with the AIA as an invitational with the appropriate paperwork on file (Dan Reynolds and Dennis Hansen both supported this statement)

Sectional Meets

- Discussion ensued on sectionals as a whole and the qualifying process. Most sectionals ran smoothly without many issues. Mr. Shapiro noted that the complaints were less on the qualifying issue because we were clearer on the process of qualification.
- Scott Giddings commented that it would be nice if coaches/teams knew in advance how many full teams were going to actually compete BEFORE the races start so that coaches would have a better idea of where they needed to finish in order to qualify for the State Meet. Coaches agreed that this seems logical, and that it is more of a meet management issue. The meet director at the site should (in theory) have that information available at the coaches meeting (Scott mentioned that they actually did not have a coaches meeting at their sectional site... committee members voiced that this may be the problem.
- There was discussion about the possibility of having a set number of teams qualify for state instead of using the 50% of scoring teams rule for sectionals. Mr. Visser pointed out that it should be considered that the percent rule was created to make the State Meet more competitive and avoid having to use all the Certified Athletic Trainers out on the course as opposed to being near the finish line. If we take a set number, what is the correct number and what do you do with those schools who say they have a cross country team but never have a full scoring team? Do you require a team to have a full team at the sectional meet?
- Scott Giddings brought up a compromise that if a school has not fielded a team all year, then they should not be counted, but if a kid goes down in the meet and that causes them to not field a complete team, they should still count in the standings. This brought up past occurrences of teams bringing runners that on purpose do not finish so the committee agreed that this may not be the best option.
- An issue was brought to our attention from an East Valley coach (not on the committee) about the sectional alignment and if that could either be altered for “fairness” or if possibly a new system could be created for qualification for state. Discussion happened on this topic and it was agreed that while it was worth “considering” changes to the sectionals and qualification process will not be made.

- Overall for the section meets, Mr. Visser says that they went well. So, we will for now keep these sections and meets the same with a few “tweaks”. The sectional at Skunk Creek may have had too many races for the size and scope of the area. Scott Giddings asked about the problem of not having access to the course at all during the season except for one invitational that is run there but not everyone can go. Scott commented that other coaches had the same complaint. There was also an issue of not having a time schedule made available for the coaches in advance for the meet. Again, this was agreed that it was a meet management issue that will be looked into.

State Meet

- With the adjustments that needed to be made on the day of the meet, it was discussed whether the “new” course was something we wanted to consider. It was agreed on by the members present that a compromise for the course be created. Coaches want the big hill brought back in (weather permitting) but have the course loop back the way that it did this year. Coaches liked this because it was “spectator friendly” and we were still able to keep the course competitive and safe for the athletes. Mr. Visser and Mr. Shapiro both stated that this could be accomplished and that we would work on the new course and use it for next year’s state meet.
- There was discussion on the time schedules for state. Again Mr. Visser explained that we have a rotation of times and divisions each year and that next season we will swap Division III to the early session and move Division IV to the afternoon session in order to keep the rotation going.
- Jodie Brase brought up the point that if there is some set rotation, that perhaps we could just set the schedule up for the upcoming years (she suggested 10) so that coaches know what the rotation is for divisions and time schedule (and gender rotation).
- Dennis Hansen wanted to discuss meet management and the issue of “missing kids” in the results process. It was discussed that there were many issues that contributed to the “problems” this season. Some were coach-related, but some were just program/system related. Mr. Visser agreed that this was something to talk about with the meet management people and a better solution would be created to address this issue.
- Mr. Hansen also suggested having different colored bibs to note boys/girls in races. This was something that seemed favorable to all of the committee members...there was no agreement on color, although Mr. Visser did ask the opinion of the Mesquite Coach, and although she had no opinion at the time, she is considering it.
- Eric Fogle brought up the issue of having results made available to coaches before the awards so that coaches could double-check to make sure their kids were all listed as finishers in order to avoid any problems in results BEFORE the awards were presented. It was noted that results are posted now, but with the chaos that ensues after races, it is sometimes difficult to make them available as far in advance as coaches would like.
- Elmer Yazzie suggested making these results available in 3 different spots at the state meet to eliminate problems with coaches not being able to find them and see them. Mr. Visser did not want to commit to 3, and instead said he could do “2 for sure”.
- There was a question/issue on getting sectional meet directors to report their results in a more timely fashion (ASAP is what is wanted). Most sections did a good job of this, but Mr. Visser wanted meet directors to do a better job about this...again, this is a meet management issue that needs to be addressed with the section that did not make this happen.
- The issue of medals was not discussed (Mr. Visser said we have discussed this at length at the last meeting)
- Results NEED to be put in the AIA website first, that should be the priority so that they are all in one place.

Athletic.net and other random issues:

- Mr. Shapiro brought up the issue that coaches still do not know how to use athletic.net.; there were coaches who registered teams of more than 7 online (this is an obvious), but communicating this with coaches probably needs to happen.
- Laura Sample; the coach from Mesquite noted that having the state officials at the section meets to check athletes in using the same process for the state meet was a very successful and effective idea. It really helped the teams be in tune with what to expect at the state meet and helped them be prepared for the process. Hopefully this is something that can happen for all of the section meets for next year. Dennis Hansen and Dan Reynolds both noted that this is a process that should probably be used at other meets during the year as well.
- Mr. Hansen also pointed out that the information sheet that was to be given at the section meet should be made available to coaches on the website so that everyone sees it in advance and will help with issues that may arise at the state meet.
- There was discussion of a BIG MAP being made available at the state meet for coaches and spectators to see the layout of the course. Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Visser stated that we have done that in the past, but because of the weather and the course change, this was not really a possibility at this year's meet. Mr. Visser is making it his own special project to get one made of the new course for next year's meet and to use at all future state meets (as long as the course remains the same).

Meeting time/day for next meeting was not discussed. Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.