

FOOTBALL
AIA SPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
December 7, 2011
AIA OFFICE

Call to order: 9:00 a.m.

Members in attendance:

Lee Haws/1A Adm.	Tim Slade/1A Coach
Nathan Slater/4A Adm.	Don Conrad/2A Coach
Mike Sivertson/5A Adm.	Jim Fairfield/3A Coach
	Nemer Hassey/4A Coach
	Dana Zupke/5A Coach (Committee Chair)

Members absent:

Rhett Stallworth/2A Adm.
Jason Lobik/3A Adm.

Review of August 31, 2011 AIA Advisory Committee minutes.

Discussion was centered on concern related to the AIA All Section and All Division Recognition program and process. Concerns included:

- Due to scheduling, not able to see all the players in a section
- Difficult to vote for players (either in section or division) that a coach hasn't seen
- Concern about voting online instead of at a coaches meeting
- Concern related to the number of recognized players (not enough for some divisions/too many for Div. VI)

Chuck Schmidt addressed many of the logistical concerns that coaches had expressed. He referenced the Proposed AIA Student and Coach Recognition Plan that was presented to the AIA Executive Board in February of 2011. The implementation of the recognition program did not include all aspects of the plan this fall due to a late start on the programming to allow selections to be completed online. In the future the following logistical aspects of the plan will be in effect.

- Coaches will select a chair from their respective sport within each section
- The section chair will communicate his/her selection to the appropriate AIA Tournament Coordinator by the end of the first week of the regular season play as determined by the NFHS Standardized Calendar
- The sport's section chair will identify a date/location for a meeting of the section coaches to review and discuss all section nominated players and coaches. The date/location for a meeting of the section coaches will be posted on AIA sport specific page by the end of the first week of the regular season play.
- The coaches meeting for all section player/coach discussion will be held after the close of nominations date for section recognition.
- Nominations for section recognition will be completed online. Each nomination should include appropriate statistics to support the nomination.
- Following this meeting, varsity head coaches will be able to log in online and submit their votes for section recognition within an announced voting time period
- Votes will be tallied electronically and the all section first and second team player selections as well as the section coach/player of the year will be posted on AIA365.com

- The three section chairs for the sport will select a division chair to oversee the division coaches discussion of eligible player/coach nominees for division recognition. The division coaches meeting for all division player/coach discussion will be held after the close of nominations date for division recognition.
- Players/coaches selected to section recognition will be eligible for division recognition
- All division meeting(s) will be established by the division chair. This meeting will be held no later than the week after the championship in that division is concluded.
- The coaches meeting for all division player/coach discussion will be held to allow head varsity coaches to hear about nominees they have not seen and discuss nominees with other coaches
- Following this meeting, varsity head coaches will be able to log in online and submit their votes for division recognition within an announced voting time period
- Votes will be tallied electronically and the all division first and second team player selections as well as the division coach/player of the year will be will be posted on AIA365.com

Concern was expressed by committee members that football coaches don't get adequate communication from their athletic directors related to football related decisions by the AIA Executive Board. Chuck and Harold Slemmer discussed how information is dispersed to member school and acknowledged that getting athletic directors fully knowledgeable about AIA member school pertinent information is an ongoing challenge for the AIA.

It was determined that there will be an additional special meeting of the AIA Football Advisory Committee on January 25, 2012 with the sole agenda being the AIA All Section/All Division Recognition process. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25th, 2012 at the AIA in the boardroom. Brian Bolitho will attend to provide and receive input for programming.

Scope and mission of the AIA Football Advisory Committee discussion.

Dr. Slemmer shared the history of the evolution of the sport advisory committees. The AIA Executive Board requested that the AIA staff change the structure of the sport competition model to create more efficiency and increase financial return to the member schools. Part of the change of structure was the change to division structured competition model instead of the previous conference structured model. The number of divisions for each sport was determined by the number schools competing in any specific sport. In addition, the Board directed the staff to create a system to computerize the scheduling process. The AIA specific sport advisory committees evolved to allow AIA staff and the AIA Executive Board direct communication by sport instead of having each conference committee having their own sport advisory group. The conference level advisory groups did not have uniform meeting expectations and did not have a direct voice of advisement to the AIA staff or Executive Board.

The scope and mission coincides with the scope and mission of the AzFCA.....To educate administrators, teachers and football coaches on the latest professional services in order to assist student athletes in reach their goals in the classroom, on the field and in life.

Dr. Slemmer discussed the process for a sport advisory committee to bring their sport specific recommendations to either the Executive Board or to the annual meeting of the AIA Legislative Assembly. The AIA Legislative Assembly agenda is posted publicly five weeks prior to the meeting (Legislative Assembly next meets on March 2, 2012).

AIA's relationship with the AzFCA:

Dr. Slemmer indicated that the AIA Executive Board has the responsibility to manage the organization and tournaments for the Association utilizing the Association's bylaws. Harold indicated that he openly is willing to meet either formally or informally with individuals or groups to discuss issues and concerns.

Chuck Schmidt addressed the ongoing effort to communicate with school administrators and coaches through the online posting of meeting minutes, sport specific information and tournament information online at both AIAonline.org and AIA365.com . Both Lee Brush (AzFCA Executive Director) and Dana Zupke indicated that all AzFCA information is distributed to all Arizona high school coaches whether they are members or not.

Agenda item # 8 and #9- Centralized tournament sites.

Lee Haws (Div. VI/1A) and Don Conrad (Div. V/2A) expressed desire to move their championship games to the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

Dr. Slemmer discussed the high quality of the stadium and the adjustments that the school makes to the fields (to accommodate the 8-man field dimensions) at Bradshaw Mountain relative to what is available in the Valley as well as its centralized location in the state for Division VI schools. The AIA staff and Executive Board can adjust the game times deal with the drop in temperature when the sun goes down in Prescott Valley, as they did this year with both the semi-finals and championship.

Dr. Slemmer reminded Don Conrad and the committee of the 2A administrators/coaches and fans who demanded that their championship game be held at one of the university stadiums to put their game at the same level of experience for schools/players and fans as the bigger school conferences. The AIA staff and Executive Board, as a result, worked with the university facility availability to meet that demand for the last five years. The AIA staff, following the financial expectations of the Executive Board, work with the universities and University of Phoenix Stadium to keep cost down and maximize stadium usage, which requires that, whenever a facility will allow it, multiple championship games are scheduled at a site, just as they were this year with Division III/ Division IV/ Division V. He reminded the committee that the AIA staff can't wait to see who is in a playoff or championship game to contract sites.....the staff works to secure sites a minimum of nine months to year prior to the event.

Discussion and determine recommendation for videotaping opponents/video exchange rule.

The committee members discussed issues that they were made aware of from this past season. Conclusions were that, as the conference practices from the past adapted to intermixing of conference level schools as the AIA went to divisions, there were a minimum of issues and those were, generally speaking, worked out between the opposing schools.

Dana Zupke indicated that possibly the AzFCA can create a position statement to promote the exchange of game films or allow future opponents to film one another as part of the scouting process.

Discuss and determine recommendation for future scheduling criteria related to a minimum number of games in the school's section/division.

Committee members shared that competition requires more play versus a school's section/division teams. Dr. Slemmer reminded the committee that recommendation from both the computerized scheduling committee and the superintendents committee brought the AIA Executive Board to direct reduction of travel as the main criteria in the initial programming for the computerized schedule of the current two year block. The parameters of the programming can be changed (at a cost) to make competition have a higher priority. In addition, he reminded the committee that no committees were in favor of reducing regular season games or the number of playoff qualifying teams to reduce travel.

He recommended that coaches discuss travel reduction and competition priorities for scheduling with their athletic directors, principals and superintendents so that all the concerned players in this issue understand each others concerns.

New business for future agenda/Information items:

*Desire to explore the basketball six quarter rule for football

*Helmet rule- this emergency legislation by the AIA Executive Board resulted in a drastic decrease in loss of helmets by players as the season progressed. The statistics from this past season are being shared with the NFHS football rules committee.

*Heat Index legislation is projected to come through the Arizona State Legislature. The AIA is acting proactively with state legislature to create a bill that member school will be able to work with. Concern is being expressed by medical community and general public that fall practices are still occurring when the temperature warnings have been issued. A proposal from football coaches that demonstrates proactive protection and acclimatization of players would be well received.

Consensus recommendations to the AIA Executive Board:

None

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 9:00 a.m.