

4A Conference Committee
Minutes
December 12, 2016 @ 9am AIA Office

Region Rep Attendees:

Matt Belden, Chair, Jeannine Brandel, AIA Board Rep, Ron Safcik, Skyline, Jim Denton, Black Canyon, Randy Walker, Gila, Rob Roberson, Southwest, Shelley Arredondo, Desert Sky, Tess Dellisanti, 4A Admin Asst.

Absent: Michael Fowler 4A AIAAA Rep, Mark Faust, Joe Paddock, Eric Freas

Call to Order: 9:00 A.M.

AIA Staff:

Meeting Notes for all Conferences:

AIA Executive Board Report Update: Ms. Brandel

- Dr. Battle stepped down due to apply for the Executive Director position.
- Notre Dame – Additional allegation unfounded. Final report will come out in January.
- Scorebird App – initial box is free and will always be free. Additional boxes can be purchased at school's expense for \$150.00 annually. This will be addressed in the bylaws. As long as scores are reported within two (2) hours of game completion, additional box is not required. Contact information will be provided by Scorebird for tech support.
- Appeals are down significantly from the past. Mr. Hines and Mr. Halbach indicated that they have seen consistency across all conferences.
- Bylaws: copies of the bylaw changes were distributed and reviewed for discussion.
 - Annual mandatory meeting for coaches per season and ADs once annually (April)– The logistics of where to have these mandatory meetings are an ongoing discussion. Mr. Belden discussed the 4A desire that the initial meetings be regionally held with Tucson (South), Phoenix (Central), and Flagstaff (North) or whatever they feel the middle ground is for those areas. Turnover of coaches and ADs is a concern regarding a new coach not being able to make the time commitment. These meetings will be held at the beginning of each season, and recur annually. 4A feels that the attendee shouldn't have to be head coach, but someone from the coaching staff. Time commitment for travel and meaningful content were concerns raised. With today's technology, would a meeting of this sort be as needed as it was 30 years ago? This is now an approved proposed amendment. If 4A wants to amend this proposal, the need to gather language to amend must start now. AIAAA is hosting an informational meeting on Jan. 13th, 2017 at Xavier for Athletic Directors which will provide an opportunity for that group to weigh in on bylaw changes.
 - Charter Schools bylaw - must submit verification that their staff meet State certification requirements.
- Scorebird bylaw – Athletic Admin/Asst. responsible for reporting regular season game results immediately using an electronic score reporting tool (AIA directed) in team sports, or if unavailable, report through www.admin.aiaonline.org within 2 hours from completion of contest. In tournament play, the host school will report results using electronic score reporting or same online address as above within 2 hours of conclusion of tournament.
 - The interpretation of levels (offenses) were discussed.
 - The striking of HOME TEAM responsibility in score reporting was discussed. 4A would like the discussion to continue regarding score reporting responsibility to remain with the home team and not allow visitor access to change scores.
 - The change to report within 2 hours was discussed. A suggestion was made to change the 2 hour reporting to scores reported by 10:00 A.M. the following morning.
- 6A Conference –Acknowledgement of Glen Treadaway with the Glen Treadaway Award for Outstanding Sportsmanship awarded annually to a school from each of the six conferences that have demonstrated overall great sportsmanship.
- Pitch Count tracking mechanism added to Legislative Council Agenda as Emergency Legislation. This will make the pitch count for grade level of pitcher more clear for coaches to follow.
- Sanitation of wrestling mats. Discussed on how enforcement will be carried out. Our coaches and trainers do a great job. Bylaw says single use towels must be used. Matt discussed bylaws not using this type of detail. 4A would like more discussion on this bylaw. Mr. Belden asked where the Sports Medicine and Wrestling Advisory Committee obtained the data to support this bylaw.

- New Article 19 renaming sport specific bylaws that should in actuality be called policies and procedures. Policies/Procedures would still carry violation potential.

Region Reports: NONE

AIAAA Report Update: Mr. Belden –

All Region Reps should be getting information out to their regions about the AIAAA meeting at Xavier for ADs on January 13th at 9am. in the cafeteria. Mike Sivertson will be sending information out. Sr. Lynn will provide food.

AIAAA State Conference next year will be purchasing watches for the 35th anniversary of the conference. Full blown state conference and then Arizona will host the national event in the summer as well. Still working on if a discount will be offered for the state conference.

AIA Report: NONE

Meeting notes for 4A Conference:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. 4A All Conference Voting – Belden

Mr. Belden explained how this was done for fall sports this year. The following came into question in running the survey and the committee decided to solve as follows:

- Ties – We will leave this process as is and see if the winter and spring surveys work out the same.
- POY – have to be on the first team region to be eligible for Conference POY. Region does not have to list a regional POY.
- Voting for own kids – in All Conference, Region Rep cannot vote for their own athlete. In football we may have one athlete on 5 different first teams. Committee agreed that this is ok.

2. Camps and Clinics – Paddock (Belden)

Items of discussion from meeting minutes:

- Bylaws state what equipment is allowed in out-of-season coaching. These are found in each specific sport article of the bylaws.
- Do the equipment bylaws apply to curricular classes? At this time, yes they do.
- Discussion between outside organizations (clubs) ability to work with students out-of-season versus our coaches that do not have club ties.
- Discussion on HS students paying club coaches to play or practice on club teams or to attend camps/clinics put on by HS coaches
- Discussion regarding conflict of interest between high school coaches with LLC'S and district policies.
- Discussion on insurance liability between AIA, Districts, LLC'S or Individuals.
- Discussion on the changing landscape of education, open enrollment, clubs, parent perceptions and the have vs the have nots.
- Discussion on the ability to open up the rules to allow coaches to work with kids out-of-season with district approval. If so, what equipment restrictions would need to be put in place?
- Discussion that if the out-of-season coaching was lifted, would there be a need to have time restriction for coaches.

Next Steps:

- Committee members will reach out to Conference leadership to share thoughts on the ability for high school coaches to work with their kids out-of-season.
- AIA staff will develop bylaw language to allow out-of-season coaching and share with Conference leadership.
- Committee will meet again to finalize possible language and equipment restrictions if needed for Legislative Council in March.

4A Conference input:

- Schools that can afford to offer practice year-round will and schools that can't afford to do this, won't, causing an even larger divide.
- The discussion above does not clarify what is called a camp and what is called a clinic but rather defining open gym/field.
- Ms. Arredondo discussed Tempe Union and the use of Community Ed for coaches to coach kids out-of-season during the school year, calling this a clinic. This is different due to this only being advertised to their students. If a school is going to hold a camp in the summer for high school students, can they advertise outside of their school?
- A decision would need to be made on each sport as to what equipment will be allowed. Only allow equipment that is needed to play the game. What defines school equipment and does booster club items purchased qualify as school equipment? If equipment has been donated to school, then it can be used.
- The 4A committee would like further discussion within our conference, on playing games out-of-season.
- These situations would be deemed non-competition exhibition games and eligibility would not be a factor.

Consensus Statement:

The 4A Conference would be in favor of lifting restrictions on out-of-season coaching. We would request input from ADs and coaches on what equipment should not be used in out-of-season. Our recommendation for school facilities and equipment be allowed with exceptions, ie, football helmets and shoulder pads.

3. Cancellations/Scheduling – Belden/Roberson

Minutes for cancellation meeting were discussed. The following notes were taken from that meeting:

- Statistically, cancellation of a program (sport) seems to be more of a 1A, 2A, 3A issue. The level of program cancellation at the 1A, 2A, 3A level is JV and Varsity.
- Individual game cancellations seem to be across all conferences.
- With the reality of AD personnel change of approximately 20% a year, Athletic Directors are not understanding that scheduled contests are contracts that are to be played. Invitationals and tournaments are extra and do not override regular season contests.
- A set number of participants required for teams to be given a schedule was discussed.
- Co-op teams (combining two schools) was discussed as an option for small schools to fill teams.
- Probationary status for new member schools joining the association was discussed to show they can sustain a team.
- The possibility of lowering the number of contests in a season was discussed.
- Add to the bylaws the option to have JV "B" teams which may include 9th and 10th graders.

Consensus Items:

- Education of Athletic Directors with the emphasis on the contractual obligation of a school that has been assigned contests. Education that invitationals and tournaments do not supersede regular season games. Coaches do not determine when they do or do not play.
- Develop language for Legislative Council to allow the option to play JV "B" contests.
- Committee will break into two (2) groups – 1) 1A, 2A, 3A 2) 4A, 5A, 6A to discuss the issues that are unique to that level at the next meeting on January 11, 2017.

4A Conference Input –

- ADs build schedules, not coaches. Coaches do not cancel games. This should come from ADs only. This would include scrimmages as well.
- 4A-6A issue of cancelling onsie/twosie games within the season.
- Concern regarding full membership being granted when that school does not have a field/facility to play or the site is deemed unsafe for play.
- Suggestion: If an existing school is scheduled in a 2-year block but cannot complete 90% of their scheduled games, that school would not be scheduled for the next 2-year block.
- Schedule lock going into effect 1 week after season to allow teams to get settled.
- Games being cancelled at the week of the game or cancelled due to lack of interest in traveling.
- Flexibility in scheduling – JV playing on Tuesday to allow athletes time to recover to play on Friday.
- Monetary penalty

- Probationary status of schools applying for membership must meet a participation percentage.
- All present were in favor of the JV “B” schedule. It was requested that there be a better way to list these games on the website. There may already be a JV “B” tab on the website.

4. Board Approved Bylaw Changes – Walker

See Executive Board Update

5. Sports Advisory – Minimum Percentage to Bring Item Forward - Walker

This “rule” was stated in the old conference handbook. The Sports Advisory Committee surveyed coaches to get a percentage number of buy-in on the item in question before it would be presented to the Conference committee for discussion/decision. **Example:** 80% response rate on survey with majority of coaches agreeing with the change.

Suggestion – Athletic Directors need to be copied on the email from 4A conference rep to coaches requesting response on change item to be presented to 4A Conference Committee. In the even the AD is, at that time, in between coaches, the AD needs to advise back to the conference rep. ADs will need to encourage their coaches to respond so percentages can reflect true measure of request for item change.

We can look at past region handbooks to get a reference for this item.

6. 4A Baseball/Softball State Tournament – Denton

John Scrogg and Jim Denton presented to the Executive Board about having 4A Baseball and Softball tournaments. Recognized concerns were travel (distance and cost) as well as cost of facility use and athletes missing class time. This does not seem to be an issue for 5A and 6A, but is a concern for 4A. Mr. Belden spoke to Mr. Hines about how to reduce travel time by finding neutral sites for loser brackets. Loser brackets are important for opportunity for schools. Mr. Denton has presented this to his region and they are willing to host as well. GUHSD will be willing to host as well. Mr. Walker voiced a concern about the 16-17 budget already being submitted and travel for tournaments will incur additional cost.

Brackets and dates were discussed regarding pitchers and pitch counts. Matt will bring more information back to the next conference meeting. This item was tabled by the Executive Board until further information is provided.

Additional Items: none

Future Items:

- *Baseball/Softball State Tournaments
- *Percentage for Bringing Item to 4A Committee
- *Consensus for Camps/Clinics

Good of the order:

Roberson – feels the new transfer rule, and sitting out 50%, has worked out well.

Denton – Saguaro, St. Mary’s, and Coronado have no track (construction) and want to join Black Canyon Region (Denton) or some of the other regions (East side) for joint meets.

Denton – Expressed concern about fan behavior at Basketball games. Several regions have had this problem with parents and students. Student sections can get very rowdy. Some gym configuration is conducive to conflict with opposing teams.

Arredondo – Expressed her concern on the All State selections for Football from the AFCA. Athlete did not make the top 25 (he was picked 26). Reason given was because school did not make first round of playoff games although athlete did make the All Arizona Team.

Brandel – Enjoy the holidays all!

Adjourned: 12:15p