

4A Conference Committee
Minutes
Sept. 18, 2017 @ 9am AIA Office

Region Rep Attendees:

Matt Belden, Chair, Jeannine Brandel, AIA Board Rep, Ron Safcik, Skyline, Brian Galbreath, Black Canyon, Barry Cromer, Kino, Bill Wright, Southwest, Eddie Lopez, West Valley, Missy Townsend, Grand Canyon, Eric Zimmerman, 4A AIAAA Rep, Tess Dellisanti, 4A Admin Asst.

Absent: Shelley Arredondo, Desert Sky, Eric Freas Grand Canyon

Guests: None

Call to Order: 9:00a

AIA Staff: None

Meeting Notes for all Conferences:

AIA Executive Board Report Update: Ms. Brandel

- Hardship Appeals have been the focus from the last meeting. For the most part, AIA has been supportive of the Conferences in their decisions. Additional information provided has been the only reason a decision may have been overturned.
- Enrollment numbers due date coming up Oct. 1st – this information is important for conference placement as we get ready to start the new two-year block.
- Gary Whelchel spoke at the last Executive Board meeting regarding game endings verbiage for baseball/softball. The verbiage has been adjusted in the rules and procedures to ensure clarification for coaches. Officials are not AIA employees, but rather, independent contractors, therefore they do not provide interpretation of bylaws.

Region Reports:

Skyline –
Black Canyon –
Gila –
Southwest-
Desert Sky –
Kino –
Grand Canyon –
West Valley – Mr. Lopez asked about having a region playoff this year for boys/girls basketball. It was suggested that the request for an additional tournament be placed on the next Executive Board Agenda.

AIAAA Report Update:

- The AIAAA State Conference was successful with a large number of attendees. Eric asked for feedback on anything that can be improved for next year.
- Hotel issues were discussed. The labor shortage in Prescott played a role in the quality of service provided.
- There was a good turnout of ADs willing to volunteer for the National Conference to be held in Phoenix in December.

AIA Report: None

Meeting notes for 4A Conference:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Play-In Games – Region Feedback

Questions regarding play-in games were presented during a discussion at AIAAA -

- Could a team choose to not take that opportunity without penalty?
- Is it possible to have each school pay a determined dollar amount to participate to help cover costs of games?

Mr. Belden indicated the group having this discussion seemed split on having the play-in tournament (outlying schools concern was based on travel and budget). Mr. Belden asked for Region Reps decision based on their school's input:

Gila - yes.

Kino – yes

Southwest - yes

Grand Canyon – region hasn't met yet – wait until next year

West Valley region hasn't meet – wait until next year

Skyline - yes

Black Canyon - yes

Desert Sky - region rep was not present.

1. **Play-In Games** – Region Feedback

Based on this discussion, the 4A Conference will be moving in the direction of a 24 team play-in tournament for the next 2-year block based on a majority decision. Some regions indicated their schools want to have the play-in games this year. Baseball double elimination was approved for this year, but the play-in games have not been brought forward to Executive Board. Mr. Belden will work with Mr. Paddock, Mr. Halbach, and Mr. Visser to see when 5A has play-in games and what impact this may have. This could possibly mean that volleyball games would need to be moved within the next month to accommodate the play-in game and the Bracket Show. Ms. Brandel indicated that play-in games are being announced on The Bracket Show so the play-in games can be played after The Bracket Show. They have the whole listing of top sixteen (16), then they have the third eight (8) that will play the top sixteen (16).

Another topic that has been discussed in the past is, with the play-in games, does the region champ automatically get one of the eight (8) seeds or does the region champ have to play through the play-in games. One issue that needs to be resolved is the region champ not in the top sixteen (16) taking one of those playoff spots from a team that is in the top sixteen (16). Ms. Brandel expressed concern about disqualifying a region champ from the first sixteen (16) because that is the State Tournament. The play-in games are not considered part of the State Championship. The good part about the play-in game is that the region champ, as well as the team that got bumped, has an extra opportunity to make it into the State tournament. Mr. Wright agreed with that, sighting an example from his region. Mr. Belden restated for clarification that if the region champ is ranked 21st (example) and they are the only region champ outside the top 16, they would go in as the 16th seed, and bump everybody back a spot to the 21st seed. Expressing the flip side of that scenario, Mr. Wright agrees with the power point system in that a team that earns a top sixteen (16) ranking by season performance should not lose that slot and if a team is not in the top twenty-four (24), but earns the region title, they should come into the play-in game as the 24th seed. A region champ ranked outside the 24th spot should not come in and bump a team in the 16th. Officials should be assigned as normal and schools would schedule just like regular season game. The high seed would incur the cost of the game (excluding travel). We will move forward with this with volleyball, basketball, soccer, baseball, and softball for the next block. Trying to get this done for this year may be difficult, but if that is the wish of the regions, we will try to get this done. All regions present were in favor of having play-in games for the next 2-year block, beginning with the 18-19 school year.

Update Post Meeting:

Mr. Belden asked region reps (via email dated 9/19/17 @ 12:35p) for a vote on play-in games for this year and how the region champion will be placed. The vote went as follows:

Five (5) votes to start the play-in games this year and five (5) votes for Option 2. Option 2 being to have the region champ seated no lower than 16 for the play-in games.

2. **8 Region Conference** – Region Feedback

The question put forward was whether to stay with eight (8) regions or move to seven (7) regions? Mr. Belden asked the committee if they feel they have enough information to move forward with this discussion or do we need to wait and see where the conference breakups are, then make that decision based on where those teams are at. Enrollment numbers were discussed. Low number will remain 1K but then they are split into thirds. All indications are that conferences will still be within the 45-47 schools per conference range. Mr. Safcik reiterated his understanding for the 8th region being that it gives those schools an opportunity to compete for a region title. Mr. Belden added that 4A agreed, when the

decision was made to go back to regions and conferences, to try to give all schools a competitive schedule and that every school would have a chance to compete for a championship. Play-in games resolve some of the concern. Mr. Soto asked for clarification on play-in games, if a team wins their region at 18, they will remain at 18. That would mean that region champ is bumping the 24th seed. Mr. Wright would like to stay with 8 regions (and what about new school Agua Fria), Mr. Cromer would like to stay with 8, Mr. Soto wants to wait until we see what the conferences look like. This item will be carried over for discussion once the conferences are placed.

3. **Legislative Council** – 7 Region Votes

Each conference is allowed 7 region votes for Legislative Council. Last year the West Valley Region sat out on the vote due to the Region Rep not being able to attend. Rob Roberson from the Southwest Region gathered input from both regions so his vote would represent both at Legislative Council. 4A Conference needs to select a region that will not vote this year at the March meeting. The easiest way to track which region would sit out of the vote would be to select alphabetically. Working under that premise, Black Canyon Region will be this year's region to sit out. Mr. Lopez will gather input from both West Valley and Black Canyon regions for his vote.

Motion: Mr. Soto moved that one region be omitted each year alphabetically for the purpose of voting for Legislative Council.

Second: Mr. Safcik seconded the motion

Vote: 7-0 in favor – Desert Sky Region Rep not in attendance

4. **Transfer Bylaw** – Brandel

Ms. Brandel feels the transfer bylaw is working for the most part. Her concern stems from a rural perspective (student moving a great distance) that we seem to be allowing those students eligibility, which is ok. But it feels like we are getting caught up in an inordinate amount of paperwork for transfers by having to fill out the complete hardship appeal for that sort of a move. Ms. Brandel asked the committee for their perspective on this issue. Mr. Belden indicated that this concern was brought up at the AIAAA Conference by 1A and 2A conferences during a round table with the AIA staff. Students are moving 200-300 miles and filling out the entire hardship packet to fill out the fast track to have it checked/approved. They indicated that this seemed like a lot of work for what appears to be a logical move. Mr. Safcik reminded the committee that the domicile rule no longer exists, so change of domicile is no longer an automatic qualification for hardship. Legislative Council couldn't agree on what the radius should be, causing that item to fail. Mr. Belden acknowledged the amount of paperwork required, but expressed concern that the school receiving that transfer student may be put in jeopardy of violating some other bylaw, ie, recruiting, prior contact, etc. if the paperwork is reduced. Through the process of filling out the entire hardship appeal, some other issues may come to light that may otherwise be missed. Mr. Belden suggested Ms. Brandel's concern about the disparity in the hardship appeal process be submitted to the 520/530 committee for a discussion of possible solutions.

5. **All-Region & All-Conference Teams**

For this fall, we need volleyball and football all-region teams' submission dates. Volleyball regular season ends Oct. 26 and football regular season ends Oct. 27. Mr. Belden asked the region reps for a date that athletes name submissions could be completed. Some regions have the region champs host the coaches meeting for name selections for football. The State Football Tournament will be held on Nov. 3rd, the State Volleyball Tournament will be held on Oct. 31st. Volleyball coaches prefer to submit names before tournament, typically via email. Volleyball and football name submissions need to be input on the dashboard by Nov. 3rd for All-Region teams so the 4A All-Conference survey can be compiled. Please make sure coaches select the correct number of athletes for each category for the survey. The better coaches can do in choosing against ties will make it more fair for athletes for All-Conference selections. An athlete selected for All-Region POY should be given first team honors as well. If athlete is only listed as All-Region POY and not listed on 1st team, the only category they will be on the ballot for, for All-Conference, is 4A POY, leaving them out of first team All-Conference honors. Mr. Belden will email the google sheet to the region rep or coach (4A advisory). He will also email the All-Conference survey link to either the coach or AD on Sports Advisory so they may email that link to all coaches for voting. AIA will provide the certificates, but schools will be responsible for printing their own certificates.

6. **AIA Sports Advisory Admin** (Football)

Mark Ernster, AD at Sunrise Mountain HS was submitted by Ms. Brandel for the AIA Sports Advisory Committee AD Football Rep as a candidate for this position. Brandon Larson, AD at Coronado HS was also submitted as a candidate.

Motion – Ms. Townsend moved to select Mark Ernster as the AIA Sports Advisory Rep for Football.

Seconded – Bill Wright

Motion passed 7-0 (Desert Sky not in attendance)

Mr. Belden asked Mr. Lopez to reach out to Mr. Ernster to relay this information. Bill Wright volunteered to be the AD Rep for Swim/Dive. 4A still needs reps for Wrestling, Tennis, and Track

7. **School Requests for Games** – New Block

Mr. Belden asked the group when they want the requests for new games packets for the next block sent out. 6A uses a google doc that shows a time stamp and originator which makes conversion to an Excel spreadsheet easier for scheduling purposes. The request packets for individual sports is critical due to the amount of information needed for scheduling. The AIA meeting for 4A, 5A, and 6A conferences to set the placements will be held on Oct. 17th at 8:00 AM. The initial placements will be posted on 10/18, placement appeals are due 10/24, conference committees meet to review the appeals on 10/25 and 10/31. Updated placements will be posted on 10/31. Appeals are due to the Executive Board by Nov. 7th. Scheduling will begin 11/16. Packets will be sent out in October. Mr. Belden will create the request form for each sport and email out for feedback.

ADD ON ITEMS:

1. **Gila Ridge Change in Team Match-Ups** – Safcik

Mr. Safcik presented the request, on behalf of the AD at Gila Ridge, for a change to Girls Basketball as follows:

Cancellations:

- 11/21 Gila Ridge vs Metro Tech
- 12/7 Marcos de Niza vs Shadow Mountain

New Contests

- Date TBD Gila Ridge vs Shadow Mountain @ Shadow
- Date TBD Marcos de Niza vs Metro Tech @ Metro

Rationale: To allow for matchups with greater parity for all teams. ADs and coaches from the four (4) schools are in agreement.

These are contracted games, therefore, a change in schedules (not just dates) would require conference approval. Mr. Belden asked for discussion regarding the pros/cons of approving this request. Mr. Lopez asked if this would affect other schools' power rankings that play Metro Tech or Marcos or one of the other schools effected by change. There is a possibility that this could affect other schools' power rankings. Last year, both Metro Tech and Marcos were defeated significantly by Gila Ridge and Shadow Mountain.

These changes can be made on the website at this time due to schedules not being locked out yet and these are not region games.

Motion: Mr. Wright moved to approve the request which serves in the best interest of all four schools.

Second: Brian Galbreath

Request Approved: 7-0 (Desert Sky not in attendance)

Mr. Safcik and Mr. Wright will coordinate with the four schools, make sure the change is made to the website, and select dates for the new contests.

2. **4A Conference Sport Advisory** (handout)

Because sport bylaws have changed to rules and procedures and are determined by each sport, it's important to have a sports advisory for each sport in the 4A Conference. This gives those sports an avenue to submit proposals to this committee. Region reps were asked to provide names for these sports.

Future Items:

8 Region Conference (carry over)

Request for Games Packets (carry over)

10 games vs 6 Quarters for Football – Zimmerman
4A Conference Sports Advisory Reps (carry over)

Good of the order:

Brandel – does anyone have a girls' soccer tournament they are hosting that they may have openings. Brian Fitzgerald at Independence HS may have openings.

Cromer - Soccer Tournament Jan. 3-6th

Wright – the NAU Swim facility is incredible – worth seeing if you are in the area.

Adjourned: 10:44a