

4A Conference Committee
Minutes
Sept. 24, 2018 @ 9am AIA Office

Region Rep Attendees:

Matt Belden, Chair, Jeannine Brandel, AIA Board Rep, Kraig Leuschner, Desert Sky, Ron Safcik/Shelley Arredondo, Skyline, Brian Galbreath, Black Canyon, Ty Cephers, Kino, Bill Wright, Southwest, Stacy Spencer, West Valley, Missy Townsend, Grand Canyon, Jonathan Chavez, Gila, Kraig Leuschner- 4A AIAAA Rep, Tess Dellisanti, 4A Admin Asst.

Absent: Scott Warner, West Valley

Guests: Armando Soto – Amphi District

Call to Order: 9:00a

AIA Staff:

David Hines – Executive Director

Dan Nero – Tournament Coordinator

Dean Visser – Sports Administrator

Meeting Notes for all Conferences:

AIA Executive Board Report Update: Ms. Brandel

*Hardship Appeals remain a football issue. One hundred eight (108) football hardships were presented to the conference committees. 75 to 80% of these appeals were denied at that level. Of the 36 appeals brought to the board, 29 were denied.

*Strategic Plan Committee – Mr. Hines shared that meetings for the Strategic Plan Committees will begin in October.

Region Reports:

Safcik, Skyline – none

Galbreath, Black Canyon – none

Chavez, Gila – none

Wright, Southwest- Asked about the possibility of Admin Assistants attending the March or April meeting for the purpose of networking, procedures, and training opportunities.

Leuschner, Desert Sky – none

Cephers, Kino – none

Townsend, Grand Canyon – none

Spencer, West Valley – none

AIAAA Report Update: Leuschner

The State Conference went very well and was well attended.

The LTI courses were enhanced and information shared was well received. Julie Patton does a great job with LTI.

There was discussion about changing the venue from Prescott. The contract for this venue goes through next year and may be reviewed at that time for a change in location.

Registration is now open for the National Conference.

AIA Report:

*Tournament time is coming within the next 3-4 weeks.

*Football Reclassification committee will meet tomorrow. Mr. Hines discussed Football Reclassification, committee goals, conference involvement, and plans moving forward to next October.

*There will be a Task Force meeting next week to discuss ideas for increasing tournament attendance.

*40% of our non-region games had a point differential of 14 points or less. Mr. Belden commended the group for their work on scheduling to achieve these results. Mr. Hines concurred and gave the 4A group kudos for their efforts on scheduling competitive contests.

Meeting notes for 4A Conference:

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**1. Golf Schedule – State Play-In Round – Brandel**

Ms. Brandel requested clarification on play-in rounds for the State Golf Tournament. Mr. Visser reviewed the decision process, cost, administration and timelines to change the number of teams/individuals for the tournament. The “play-in” concept will be an item on the November Golf Sports Advisory agenda. The Play-In concept may be an option in the future provided the schools would be willing to administer and pay for these tournaments. Ms. Townsend asked about golf scores being entered on the dashboard and not showing up on iWanamaker. One possibility could be that coaches are reporting practice rounds on the dashboard, which could be creating the problem. Mr. Visser will check on this and get back to Ms. Townsend.

2. Schedule Lock – Brandel

Changes to schedules can take place up to the date that is six weeks out from the time of the contest. Once six weeks out from date of contest has been reached, officials are assigned and contest is locked.

3. Additional State Tournament (Example: Swim) – Brandel

Rural schools are worried about the addition of a tournament when they are sharing athletes from fall to winter sports. Individual State Title for Swim will be held three (3) days after the State Meet, on Wednesday, Nov. 7th at 6:00 PM at Phoenix Country Day. This is for the top ten individual swimmers in the state. There will be one (1) heat per event. There will be a diving component to this meet as well. This is a qualifier for USA Nationals.

4. Meetings at Beginning of Season – Brandel

Mandatory coaches meetings remain a topic of concern, particularly for the outlying schools making a long drive to attend a two (2) hour meeting on a Saturday. Mr. Hines acknowledged this concern explaining the limitations to have online video that could include up to a six-group conversation. One suggestion made was the AIA component be incorporated into a mini-conference scenario with guest presenters pertinent to each particular sport. This would offer coaches more hands-on learning with greater take-away.

5. Requests for Additional Tournaments – Brandel

The Executive Board has dealt with several requests for additional tournaments within a sport’s season. The Board is staying with the current guidelines for games/tournaments within a season and not approving additional outside tournament requests.

6. St. Mary’s Boys and Girls Basketball Cancellations – Safcik

Discussion: Mr. Belden reiterated that cancellation requests are for the two-year block, not just for this year. Cancelling after schedules have been created so a team can play an out of state game or late invite will be denied. Mr. Safcik discussed the cancellation request from St. Mary’s vs Youngker and St. Mary’s vs Combs due to competitiveness. St. Mary’s would like to add Brophy and Desert Vista. Youngker and Combs are in agreement with this request.

Motion: To deny St. Mary’s request to cancel game versus Youngker and St. Mary’s versus Combs.

Second: none

Motion did not go to vote.

2nd Motion: To approve St. Mary’s request to cancel contests with Youngker and Combs.

Seconded

Aye: 4

Nay: 5

7. Hardship Paper Screens – Belden

Last year 4A discussed that paper screen appeals should be reviewed at our regularly scheduled meetings instead of being screened via email. Doing the paper screens at the conference meeting instead of email gives the conference an opportunity to discuss and hear varying opinions from all region reps.

It was asked why we hear appeals after the deadline has passed. Certain circumstances require allowing late hardships to be heard. Waiting on the other school to complete their portion causes delay and frustration. Moving a suspension from the beginning of the season to the end of the season will not be entertained at this time.

Motion: Move to align with other conferences to process paper screen appeals at regularly scheduled 4A Conference Region meetings beginning with Winter sports.

Seconded

Vote:

Aye: 8

Nay: 0

8. **Buckeye/Arcadia Boys Basketball Game Cancellation** – Wright

Discussion: Both teams are requesting to play an out of state opponent for the current year. Concern is that they may not be invited back for the second year, leaving their schedule one short for year two.

Motion: To deny cancellation request for the contest between Buckeye and Arcadia.

Seconded

Vote:

Aye: 7

Nay: 1

9. **Yuma/Gila Ridge Wrestling Cancellations** – Wright

Discussion: This request is based on the district's travel allotment restrictions. Varsity wrestling coaches have been adamant about the opportunity to wrestle all schools in their section before the sectional tournament. With this cancellation, that would not happen. 4A would request that they, at least, wrestle all in their section.

Decision: Request to cancel submitted by Gila Ridge to Executive Board for approval (bypassed 4A Conference approval). Mr. Belden asked Ms. Brandel to bring this item to Executive Board.

10. **Southwest Region +1 Games** – Wright

Canyon View HS has been added to Southwest Region. This is a new school so schedules need to be filled. Adding games for them will put several schools at plus one. Ms. Brandel asked that this request be submitted in writing for approval (contests individually listed) by the Executive Board.

11. **Request to Cancel Wrestling Contest** – Leuschner

Poston Butte requesting to cancel meet with Vista Grande/Tempe. Poston Butte is over allowed number of matches. Wrestling is allowed 12 opportunities, including 5 invitationals. Vista Grande and Tempe agreed with this cancellation. This would cancel this contest for the two-year block.

Motion: To approve the cancellation request for contest between Poston Butte/Vista Grande/Tempe.

Seconded

Vote:

Aye: 8

Nay: 0

ADD ON ITEMS:

Sports Advisory Nominees – Belden

Mr. Belden asked for input on the nominees listed on the sign-up sheets.

Decision: the following nominees were voted on and approved to serve on the AIA Sports Advisory Committees:

AD

Boys Volleyball – Stacy Spencers, Deer Valley

Football – Matt Mayo, Seton Catholic

Soccer – Julie Patton, Glendale HS

Track/Field – Yancey DeVore, Mingus Union
Baseball – Barry Comer, Walden Grove
Badminton – Todd Nelson, Washington
Beach Volleyball – Cher Fesenmaier, Arcadia
Tennis – Scott Hare, Mesquite
Wrestling – Armando Soto, Amphi District

Coach

Beach Volleyball – Patty Schoenbacher, Seton Catholic
Boys Volleyball – Josiah Ramirez, Prescott
Badminton – Bobbi Yoder, Prescott

Girls' Wrestling – Arredondo

Ms. Arredondo asked if Girls Wrestling is happening in the upcoming Winter Season. Mr. Hines explained that Girls Wrestling is an emerging sport, which is a 3-5 year process, however, we do have girls wrestling on the boys' schedule. Jamborees and Invitationals could be scheduled for girls, but would not appear on an official schedule. At the end of the season, an invitational would be scheduled to run in conjunction with the Boys State Tournament in Prescott. There are currently 250 girls that wrestle USA Wrestling. It is projected that there could be up to 500 girls wrestling this year. In the new program, there would be no more than 10 weight classes and they would wrestle freestyle (to be consistent with collegiate). A new sport is added to the membership when 50% of membership agrees to have it. Schools can opt to not participate in a new program. Girls would have to declare whether they will wrestle with boys or girls for the State Tournament, can't do both.

Future Items:

Good of the order:

Leuschner - 4A State Championship Football does not have a venue posted and is scheduled on a Friday, Nov. 30th, but no time indicated. Mr. Nero clarified this will be an evening game and working on venue now.

Cepher – Asked group about the hardship appeals process. In an effort to decrease the amount of appeals that goes to Conference, would having the decision start at the local district first (panel to include all district ADs) be feasible? Based on that vote would determine if appeal goes through to the Conference. Another option might be to have the appeal heard by the region before submission to the Conference. The region reps were receptive to the idea of reducing amount of appeals via district review.

Wright – Southwest region continues to have concerns about tennis schedule for Div II, ie, travel involved and loss of school time.

Galbreath – Concussion clearance protocol. We follow AIA guidelines, which aligns to State Statute, about returning to play after concussion.

Arredondo – Dashboard has girls' wrestling schedule. If this is an emerging sport, why is it on the dashboard?

Brandel – Everybody excited about Scorebird Round 2? Group is hesitant based on past experience.

Townsend – Boys Volleyball is currently only 5A. Does AIA still want an advisory rep (coach category) for Boys Volleyball 4A? Mr. Belden indicated yes, we still need a 4A rep.

Belden – Asked all to sign off on the Conflict of Interest Statement. Next meeting will be 10/22 – Mr. Belden will ask Tayler to schedule winter hardships for 4A on that day.

Adjourned: 11:52a