

TUHSD Athletic Council

NOTES

Thursday, September 22, 2015

Present: Christina Amoroso, Lars Christensen, Denise Helstrom, Chris Kearney (Tam), Brian Lynch, Valerie Madison, Chris McCune, Nancy Nemecek (Redwood), Jessica Peisch, Nate Severin, Sue Chelini

1. **Introductions** were made.
2. **District Staff Development Day:** On Monday, October 19, the ADs will take advantage of the staff development day by holding a workshop in the morning and then traveling to Freedom High School in Oakley to hear about their unified sports program.
3. **Athletic Trainers Update** Congratulations to all for the new UCSF/District contract. This year, the District will pay 50% of the cost of the trainers. Each school's booster club will be billed four times/year for their contribution of: 15-16: \$28,592; 16-17: \$14,296 17-18: \$0 There was unresolved discussion about how to pay for overtime associated with away games not covered in the contract. Christina related a recent situation with several girls' golf participants affected by excessive heat at a match in Mill Valley. She and the coach were able to reach Aubrey, the athletic trainer, for advice on how to handle the situation. One of the girls was hospitalized. Aubrey would not have been on duty on a Tuesday last year when Tam only had Aubrey 3 days/week.
4. **MCAL: Winter Soccer:** There have been some adjustments of early release time due to time before darkness. There is a Thanksgiving club soccer tournament. Any athletes playing in this tournament may practice, but not scrimmage or compete in a pre-season MCAL game. Lars is concerned that we may not have the infrastructure to make this work. With the predicted El Niño, there may be a lot of rainy days this year. Some coaches disappointed that they won't be able to see their JV teams play since varsity teams are playing one day; JV the other. Varsity games should be the main attraction. Practices will definitely change and practices may be needed on Saturdays. The ADs will be doing creative planning for field use. Tam is renting light towers to make it work with only one turf field.
5. **Game sportsmanship:** Examples of poor sportsmanship: inappropriate cheering, backs turned, newspapers, taunting the opposing team or players by name/number, etc. The suggested Battle of Fans had negative response from MCAL Board of Managers. All schools are having lots of disciplinary issues with basketball in particular. Drake communicates with opposing administration before every game. The AC was reminded that admin can stop games at any time if inappropriate behavior occurs. Admin should not have to be on edge the whole game. Supervision is becoming a difficult endeavor. Denise: Can student leadership take some ownership? If the kids don't buy into it, it won't work. We can comport ourselves well, regardless of what is happening across the court. All agreed that the vibe at games has changed over the last 2-3 years. There seems to be a lack of personal honor and integrity. This is a huge teachable moment. Christina is developing a list of admin responsibilities at games for consideration by the MCAL ADs and Board of Managers. How can we be proactive in engaging the groups BEFORE an assembly or game? It shouldn't have to come to admin shutting it down. The Marin County Office of Education brings together ASB presidents regularly. Maybe this is a place to begin. At the NCSADA meeting next week, we should ask other ADs what they do about sportsmanship at games.
6. **Handbook Questions:**
 - a. PARTICIPATION LIMITATIONS, CHANGING SPORTS, LEAVING THE TEAM:
 - i. *An athlete may **not** drop one sport to go out for another after tryouts are complete and team selections have been made.* AC Discussion: If there is a hard rule, every kid is in a different situation. If they made a team, they are taking a spot from someone. It should have an expectation that you don't drop a sport, but not a rule. We don't want to see rules in place we can't enforce. At Tam, they need to fulfill obligation to current team before getting a fair tryout for new team when your season is complete. We should

encourage a belief in perseverance/loyalty and other life lessons. Consensus: Do not add this rule except in keeping with CIF/NCS/MCAL rules. Lars doesn't think athletes should abandon their teammates to go to the other sports. Some sports go into playoffs for quite some time.

- ii. AC suggested this statement be in the Parent-Student Handbook: ***'An athlete is expected to honor their commitment to their team and not go out for another sport before their previous season is complete. Extenuating circumstances may be considered at the principal/s discretion.'***
 - b. **POLICY ON VIOLATION OF TRAINING RULES:** Jessica suggested that we follow District rules so they are enforceable. Currently there are no consistent training rules. Christina advised there would be a 'big can of worms' if we try to develop district-wide training rules. We don't want to paint ourselves into a corner. Judicious use of playing time by the coach usually takes care of team problems. The AC consensus was not to create any team training rules. Do ADs see the training rules for each team? ADs usually ask for a copy so they know ahead of time if there is an issue. If a coach doesn't have training rules, they revert back to the handbook.
 - c. **CONSISTENT RULES FOR LETTERING:** It was agreed that each AD should go back to their sites to discuss this issue with admin and the booster clubs.
7. **Coaches on Athletic Council?** How can we get the coaches' voice in athletic policy? Lars thinks the AD is the conduit. The AC meetings are always open to all, including coaches. Jessica would want to screen coaches first since many have their own agendas. ADs should forward agendas to coaches and ask for input. All coaches know about the MCAL sport specific meetings. Schools are fined if the varsity coach fails to attend the MCAL sport specific meetings.
8. **Captains' Council?** Drake is going to do it, but hasn't started yet. Coaches put athletes into leadership positions, but they don't have the support and training for what to do. Chad related that it is awesome to listen to the kids about what they think about their experiences. Nate's goal is to have at least one Captain's Council meeting by end of fall season. It will be season by season right now. He needs to figure out the intricacies of how it works and will report back.
9. **Unified Teams/PAASS:** Unified teams are where disabled athletes participate on competitive teams with regular athletes with modified rules. A parent has contacted Jessica about an outside program for special needs students. Her student plays baseball and basketball now. Last year, Tam had a baseball game. Jessica's 'grand idea' is having it as an elective class 7th period. We would need to get kids to sign up for it, organize and establish practice time. It is hard during their season of sport since not much time available on venues. ADs hope to visit Freedom High School to find info about how to establish unified teams. They could be a unified sports club on campus. NCS supports the concept since it is a club endeavor, not an athletic one. CIF/NCS rules don't apply since it is a club sport. MV soccer has a similar program.
10. **Five Year Plan Tasks for 2015-16:** With the change in District administration, Board approval of the Five Year Plan for Athletics was postponed. It will be brought to the Superintendent's Council in October. In the meanwhile, the ADs have already accomplished many of the tasks identified for 15-16.
11. **Additional items that may come up:**
1. Chris Kearny: To the extent teams do their own fundraising, how much oversight is given by Boosters club and ADs about how those team funds are spent. All funds raised by teams should be going through team ASB accounts. Tam isn't under the foundation, so Boosters have individual team accounts as well as ASB. It was suggested that the Tam administration and Booster Club bring accounts into alignment with required ASB accounting policies. ADs try to know what is going on with team fund-raising, but not micromanage it.
 2. Christina Amoroso: Dogs: Parents want bring dog to events at Albert's Field against their policy. If a person has a dog at your facility, what can we do or not do to address the situation? Chad said it is a losing battle, so Drake only enforces it at games where we take a gate. Service dog are always allowed. We can't ask what service they provide or for paperwork

proving it is a service dog. We can ask for a 'handler' card if it is registered. Make sure it is clear that any dog must be under the control of the owner **and leashed**.

3. Chad congratulated Tam HS for winning the MCAL sportsmanship award for 2014-15.

Confirm future meeting dates:

Athletic Council: Tuesdays, 2:30-4:00, Carlisle Creekside

November 17, 2015

March 29, 2016

May 24, 2016

Athletic Directors Only, Thursdays, 11:00 a.m., Creekside

January 28, 2016

April 21, 2016

Superintendent/Athletic Directors, Superintendent's Office, TBD

Marin Athletic Foundation

Golf Tournament: Monday, April 25, 2016, Indian Valley Golf Club

Outstanding Student Athlete Dinner: Monday, May 9, 2016, Embassy Suites

NCS Athletic Directors' Association (NCSADA)

Monday, September 26, 2016

California State Athletic Directors' Association (CSADA)

San Diego, April 13-17, 2016

National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA)

Orlando, Florida, December 12-16, 2015