

WEST ALAMEDA COUNTY CONFERENCE
MINUTES – AD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023

Present: Alameda (Lee), Arroyo (Budge), Berkeley (Parker), Bishop O’Dowd (Reed, Kigar, Nishimoto), Castro Valley (Stacy), Encinal (Lyons), Hayward (Prasad), Mt. Eden (Duran, Hernandez), San Leandro (Thomas) San Lorenzo (Longaker), Tennyson (Sagapolu) (Commissioner (Kiesel)

Present through Zoom: Piedmont (Smet)

Absent: None

Guests: None

1. There was no public input.
2. There were no changes to the September 26, 2023 AD minutes.
3. There have been no changes to the 2023-24 WACC Meetings and Events Calendar since 9/26
4. Hilary Kigar has disseminated some scripts for use at our winter events and schools were strongly encouraged to use them. Most schools have received their DEI and sportsmanship banners and they were encouraged to get them hung in their gyms and soccer pitches.

The league commissioners also reviewed a request from the tennis coaches that our “Priority Numbers” be rotated from one year to the next, rather than drawing new numbers every year. AD’s directed the league commissioner to put this item on the January AD agenda.

5. The WACC Board directed the league’s AD’s to develop, after discussion, a document suggesting an appropriate compensation that would accrue to schools hosting league events. The league commissioner was directed to develop a survey, disseminate that survey to league AD’s, collate the survey, and present it to AD’s at the January AD meeting. League sponsored events include:

Cross-country championships	Golf championships
*Tennis championships	Water Polo championships
Novice wrestling tournament	League wrestling championships
Badminton championships	*Baseball championships
Lacrosse championships	Softball championships
Swimming championships	Track and Field Novice Invitational
Track and Field Novice Culminating Meet	Track and Field championships
*generally not hosted at a school	

6. Cross-Country

- Coaches made no alignment change proposals
- MSC (Longaker, Duran, 10-0-0) to approve the 24-25 Cross-Country Schedule, developed by coaches and posted on the website.
- Schools were encouraged to take appropriate actions ensuring that girls are comfortable participating in this sport.
- The league commissioner was asked to develop a timeline for schools to use when working with the EBRPD when using their facilities for our center meets

7. Flag Football

- MSC (Duran, Parker, 9-1-2) to divide the ten flag programs into two five-team leagues, roughly based on geography:

NORTH	SOUTH
Alameda	Arroyo
Berkeley	Castro Valley
Encinal	Hayward
Piedmont	Mt. Eden
San Leandro	Tennyson
- MSC (Duran, Sagapolu, 10-0-2) to adopt a 24-25 flag schedule beginning the league season with a jamboree on Saturday, September 14; then using the next 13 Tuesdays and Thursdays for league contests: taking a break on Thursday, October 31, and San Leandro hosting the league championships at Burrell on Saturday, November 2 - home and away against the other four teams in your league and one game against each of the five schools in the other league.
- AD's want further discussion with their coaches before working on the championship event structure on 11/2/24
- AD's need to make sure that flag teams have home and away jerseys and that uniform tops comply with the CIF requirements. AD's reached agreement on which type of flag to purchase and use; the CIF-approved flag
- AD's, by consensus, recommend helmets for flag players. The revised Flag Football Special Rules will be reviewed at our January meeting and we'll formalize that language
- All-League teams should include an "O" POTY and a "D" POTY.

8. A. Football - ALIGNMENT

NOTE: there is no way these notes can accurately capture 90 minutes of very complicated and intense discussion about how best to realign 19 football programs.

- The league commissioner reviewed three communications he's had with the Redwood Christian Principal. Redwood Christian has not made a decision about whether to apply for supplemental league status in the WACC; no decision IS a decision and AD's did not include Redwood Christian in any discussion.
- AD's reviewed the realignment recommendations from coaches; both the list of seven possibilities reviewed by the coaches, and the sets of recommendations based on those original proposals
- All AD's had the opportunity to present information about their own program and what alignments might work best for their programs.
- There was consensus that five-team leagues are unfair and do not work; not enough league games and extreme difficulty filling that hole in weeks 6-10.
- AD's then looked at various ways to combine all 19 schools into leagues that make sense.
- MSC (Stacy, Longaker, 7-5-0) to support the below alignment:

FOOTHILL	MISSION	SHORELINE
Berkeley	Castro Valley	Alameda
Logan	Hayward	American
Moreau	Kennedy	Arroyo
O'Dowd	Newark	Encinal
San Leandro	Piedmont	Irvington
Tennyson	Washington	Mt. Eden
		San Lorenzo

The concern about the above proposal seemed to be where Castro Valley and Hayward are placed. AD's then continued the discussion, trying to find a proposal that would garner more support.

- MSC (Smet, Parker, 6-6-0 – motion fails) to support the following alignment, again based on a model supported by 13 of the 19 coaches at the postseason meeting:

FOOTHILL	MISSION	SHORELINE
Berkeley	Alameda	American
Castro Valley	Arroyo	Encinal
Hayward	Kennedy	Irvington
Logan	Newark	Mt. Eden
Moreau	Piedmont	San Lorenzo
O'Dowd	Washington	
San Leandro		
Tennyson		

The two-fold concern about the above proposal seemed to be Shoreline becoming a five-team league, AND, the difficulty for FOOTHILL schools to schedule non-league, competitively equitable, NCS-division appropriate opponents in their few remaining non-league games.

NOTE: these minutes do not include any comments about the diversity, equity, and inclusion of the NCS playoff structure.

- AD's continued the discussion, speculating about whether this proposal could get more support if:
 - Redwood Christian did apply for supplemental league status, making Shoreline a six-team league.
 - The eight Foothill schools divided into two four-team groupings, playing everyone in their own grouping and two of the four schools in the other grouping; thus allowing for five non-league contests. This also involved discussion of creative ways to crown a Foothill League champion, necessitated by NCS rules.

8. B. Football – Other

The league commissioner reviewed comments made by various coaches about the differences between the two officiating associations. AD's expressed concern that WACC AD's have no contract with, and no contact with, the MVAL officials AND MVAL AD's have no contract with, and no contact with WACC officials. After some discussion, MSC (Prasad, Longaker, 12-0-0) to base continuing scheduling with MVAL schools contingent on having ONE officiating association. The league commissioner was instructed to work with the MCAL Commissioner on this issue as soon as possible as it involves scheduling for next year.

9. Fall Tennis

- AD's reviewed the proposed schedules posted on the website by decided to wait until January before formal approval. They include non-mandatory cross-over games; only one school in the pairing needs to opt out.
- Neither coaches nor AD's made recommendations for alignment changes after a brief review of the San Leandro program.

10. Fall Volleyball

- San Leandro is on the bubble between Foothill and Shoreline. San Leandro has evaluated their program direction and would like to be moved to Shoreline: AD's agreed by consensus to place San Leandro in Shoreline. This would result in a 6-6 alignment with no necessity for back-to-back games. A proposed schedule will be available a week or so after football decisions are made.

11. Water Polo

MSC (Reed, Parker, 8-0-4) to approve the Water Polo Schedule: 2024-25 Season posted on the website.

AD's want further discussion about whether we should continue playing out to all eight places in our end-of-season tournament.

Moving the girls' water polo season to the winter would need NCS approval, would come with "winter weather" issues, and AD's are not ready to consider that proposed move.

AD's are comfortable with awarding both a league champion pennant and a tournament champion pennant as we do in other sports with end-of-season tournaments. The league commissioner was asked to revise the special rules.

Some coaches are concerned that the Encinal pool does not meet with recommendations and AD's are looking forward to using a new Piedmont Recreation pool, whenever that happens.

12. NCS

- AD's reviewed the December SAC agenda and directed our delegates:
 - Support the NCS staff model for restructuring the playoffs
 - Oppose the "CCS model" for restructuring the playoffs
 - Vote their conscience on the MCAL's proposal to change qualifying language for football teams
 - Find out more info on the wrestling proposal to add an extra NCS qualifying event to the postseason schedule

13. Basketball

- Tennyson will replace Hayward in the JV girls' basketball schedule but both schools involved in each set of changes will need to confirm that change.

NOTE: the activity scheduler/calendar has been changed

14. Soccer

- There continue to be major communication issues with the NBSRA. Their website is still not fully operational and, again as last year, many games are going uncovered
- The league commissioner reminded schools to send in their Soccer Substitute Coach List.
- Arroyo will be working with some of you to move some games.

15. Wrestling

- MSC (Longaker, Thoma, 9-0-3) to approve the Novice Wrestling Fact Sheet disseminated by San Leandro.

16. All AD's reiterated their desire to keep vendors away from AD meetings. There appear to be many private vendors that have tools that help athletic programs raise money; AD to AD discussion seems to work best when discovering which vendors are most effective.

17. Baseball

- The league commissioner reviewed our MOU with the CCAA. We have an 11/15 deadline to get them names of potential umpires; their deadline to accept or reject serving the WACC is December 1

18. Golf

- Berkeley will host the boys' spring championships at Tilden Park.

19. Lacrosse

- Berkeley will host the spring championships

20. Softball

- MSC (Thomas, Parker, 11-0-0) to approve the Shoreline softball championship format posted on the website.
- O'Dowd will host the spring championships

21. Swimming and Diving

- MSC (Sagapolu, Budge, 9-0-2) to approve the swimming and diving schedule, dated "revised proposal 11/15/23" and distributed at the meeting. NOTE: There was discussion about a schedule proposal presented by some coaches but that schedule had several schools without a meet for three weeks before the championship meet.
- AD's will work with their coaches between now and our next meeting to determine whether Swim Cloud would be something all league schools are interested in.

22. Tennis

- Hayward and Encinal will have boys' tennis programs this spring. We will be two five-team leagues:

FOOTHILL	SHORELINE
Alameda	Arroyo
Berkeley	Encinal
Castro Valley	Hayward
O'Dowd	Mt. Eden
Piedmont	San Leandro

The league commissioner was directed to develop schedules with home and away against all four other teams in your league and one cross-league match which would not count in the league standings. These games shall be scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays,

23. Volleyball

- The spring volleyball schedule has been approved. AD's looked at that schedule and decided, by consensus, that cross-over matches between North and South could be cancelled by mutual agreement of both schools and would therefore not count in the league standings.

24. The league commissioner encouraged those schools that are not listed on the NCS website as having approved voting representatives to contact the NCS and clear that listing up. AD's who are not receiving calendar changes should contact rSchoolToday and get listed.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dave Kiesel, WACC Commissioner