WEST ALAMEDA COUNTY CONFERENCE

MINUTES – AD MEETING – MARCH 12, 2024 – 8:00 AM

HAYWARD HIGH STEAM BUILDING

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

Absent: None  
  
Guests: None  
  
1. There was no public input.  
  
2. There were no changes to the February 13, 2024 AD minutes.  
  
3. There have been no changes to the 2023-24 WACC Meetings and Events Calendar since the last meeting

4. The body addressed several NCS issues:

* The league commissioner gave a report on the history of SJND being placed in the WACC for basketball
* MSC (Reed, Parker, 12-0-0) to recommend Elena DeSantis to the WACC Board as their choice for Female Representative on the NCS Executive Committee
* No action was taken on the Class A NCS Executive Committee position
* The league commissioner reviewed changes to the Flag Football NCS playoff structure. AD’s agreed that no changes need to be made to the already approved WACC flag football schedule.

5. Basketball

* After a full discussion, AD’s decided to keep basketball league alignments the same for the next two years. With the deletion of SJND, league alignments will look like this:

BOYS’ SCHEDULE (by consensus)

* + FOOTHILL SHORLINE

Alameda Arroyo

Berkeley Encinal

Castro Valley Hayward

O’Dowd Mt. Eden

Piedmont San Lorenzo

San Leandro Tennyson

GIRLS’ SCHEDULE (MSC - Prasad, Lyons, 10-2-2)

* + FOOTHILL SHORELINE

Alameda Arroyo

Castro Valley Berkeley

O’Dowd Encinal

Piedmont Hayward

San Leandro Mt. Eden

San Lorenzo

* Based on the alignment discussion, Mt. Eden was asked to schedule boys’ games against San Leandro and Castro Valley; Encinal was also encouraged to schedule games against San Leandro and Castro Valley for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons
* AD’s agree that using priority numbers to break a first place tie is not the best way to determine which of the tied teams should get the NCS automatic berth but also agree that there is not a better solution and no one wants to use margin of victory. It’s also extremely difficult to schedule a 3rd game before the NCS deadline
* Individual schools made decisions about whether to direct the league commissioner to schedule both varsity games at the same site when scheduled against the same opponent

5. Soccer

* AD’s discussed soccer officiating and potential options to the present officiating association. There was marked improvement in game coverage from last season and, after a very rocky start to the season cause by a switch in the platform used by the NBSRA for assigning. There was also better communication. We have one year left on our NBSRA contract and AD’s decided (consensus) to not exercise the option to abrogate that contract.
* The league commissioner reviewed his concerns that some soccer coaches’ groups were not following our protocol in selecting their all-league teams. AD’s made clear that coaches must follow all-league selection process rules and will work with their coaches next Winter to see that special rules are followed.
* After a brief discussion, AD’s decided (consensus) to leave the girls’ alignment as it is now. Each six-team league member will have ten league games
* After a long discussion, MSC (Longaker, Molina, 10-1-1) to realign the boys’ leagues in the following manner:
  + FOOTHILL SHORLINE

Alameda Arroyo

Berkeley Encinal

Castro Valley Mt. Eden

Hayward San Leandro

O’Dowd San Lorenzo

Piedmont Tennyson

We will continue the 16-game league schedule; home and away against teams in your league; one game, either home or away, against teams in the other league.

6. Wrestling

* After a full discussion, AD’s directed the league commissioner to continue scheduling the wrestling program as we did this year; in a 3 – 3 – 3 format, rotating the three schools that host twice.
* No action was taken on the league commissioner’s concern about creating more opportunities for female wrestlers.
* We’ll work to integrate an awards ceremony into our wrestling championships next year.

7. Hillary Kigar led a DEI discussion – league schools are working to ensure that all students are aware of, have the opportunity to participate in, and come out with a positive experience in, educational athletics.

8. Golf

* MSC (Longaker, Budge, 11-0-1) to approve the 2024 WACC Boys Golf Championship

Fact Sheet presented by San Leandro and posted on the website

* AD’s reviewed the financial impact of increased greens fees and decided to leave the WACC dues structure as it is now.

9. Lacrosse

* MSC (Smet, Parker, 6-0-6) to approve the 2024 WACC Lacrosse Tournament Championship Fact Sheet as presented by Berkeley and posted on the website
* AD’s reviewed the request by Washington High to act as host for our league tournament and rejected that request (consensus) as Washington seems to have trouble even being able to use their own field
* AD’s expressed serious concern about the refusal of the MVAL schools supplementalled into the WACC for lacrosse to honor the league schedule and the lopsided scores if the games actually do take place.
  + Newark Memorial dropped their boys’ program again on short notice and will not be in the league next year.
  + Moreau Catholic cancelled their game with O’Dowd on March 8 at the last minute
  + Washington cancelled a girls’ game against Piedmont with two days’ notice, after confirming the game a few days earlier.
  + The Washington boys’ program wanted to cancel a game against Berkeley because they had the opportunity to play against a team against which they are more competitively equitable.

There are no consequences, can be no consequences, as these schools are not league members. There is consensus among lacrosse AD’s that the NCS Alignment Committee that mandates these placements must develop standards for schools seeking supplemental league placement; standards that guarantee competitive equity and a commitment to meet commitments. The league commissioner was asked to share these concerns with the NCS.

10. Softball

* MSC (Reed, Thomas, 12-0-0) to approve the 2024 WACC Softball Championship Fact Sheet as presented by Bishop O’Dowd and posted on the website.

11. Swimming and Diving

* The fact sheet posted on the website contains much important information but is incomplete and will be amended. When those additions are made, AD’s will be notified and asked to approve the fact sheet in an email.
* The league commissioner reviewed the process of developing a league schedule for swimming. Coaches want some input in that development and they have already been given some key dates for Spring 2025 scheduling. The league commissioner will begin the scheduling process with coaches at their April 22 postseason meeting.
* AD’s would like to remind coaches that high school swimming programs are different from club swimming programs.

12. Tennis

* MSC (Duran, Parker, 11-0-1) to approve the 2024 WACC Men’s Tennis Tournament Fact Sheet as presented by Bishop O’Dowd and posted on the website.

13. Track and Field

* MSC (Longaker, Duran 12-0-0) to approve the WACC 2024 Track and Field Championship Fact Sheet as presented by Castro Valley and posted on the website.
* The Non-Varsity Culminating Meet fact sheet is not yet ready for approval. When it’s available, AD’s will be notified and asked to approve the fact sheet in an email.
* We have no timer for our 3/21 dual meet and involved schools are trying a work-around.

14. Cross-Country

* Permits have been filed with the EBRPD for the use of Oyster Bay and Point Pinole for our center meets. Hayward High has stepped up and will host the meet on Wednesday, October 2; time TBA

15. Football

* The subcommittee working with three MVAL AD’s to improve communication and sort out some differences in special rules is available at 8:30 am on most days and the league commissioner was asked to communicate this to the MVAL Commissioner.

16. Volleyball (Fall)

* Both Mt. Eden and Tennyson will be using Sunset gym for volleyball next fall. Both are schedule to host games on October 1, 8, and 23. The league commissioner was asked to look at the schedule and develop some workarounds.

17. Financial

* Spring dues invoices were distributed.
* Schools reminded the league commissioner that services need to be rendered before invoices from officiating associations can be paid.

18. There was no new business

Respectfully submitted: Dave Kiesel, WACC Commissioner

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 14; 8:00 am (unless an intermediate meeting becomes necessary)