WEST ALAMEDA COUNTY CONFERENCE

MINUTES – AD MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2024

Present: Alameda (Nakamura), Arroyo (Budge), Berkeley (Parker), Bishop O’Dowd (Reed, 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: Tyler Tomei, Swim Coach, Mt. Eden High School

1. There was no public input.

2. There were no changes to the March 12, 2024 AD minutes.

3. AD’s were reminded of the new NCS/CIF requirements that go into effect in August.

4. There is an open spot on the NCS Executive Committee from Region One which encompasses the DAL, the MVAL, and our league. The NCS Commissioner has asked each of the three leagues for the name of a prospective member from their league. MSC (Duran, Thomas, 12-0-0) to recommend Kristy Prasad, Hayward High, to the WACC Board as our nominee for that open position.

5. The WACC will get three automatic representatives to the NCS playoffs in boys’ and girls’ volleyball, boys’ and girls’ basketball, girls’ soccer, baseball, and softball.

* There was consensus that in both volleyballs, both basketballs, and girls’ soccer that the three representatives should be the Foothill League champion, the Shoreline League champion, and the Foothill league runner-up.
* There was also consensus that for baseball and softball, the three representatives should be the winner of the Foothill League end-of-season tournament, the winner of the Shoreline League end-of-season tournament, and the Foothill League regular season champion.
* If the Foothill League end-of-season tournament winner and the Foothill League regular season champion are the same school, then the 3rd NCS automatic entry shall be the end-of-season tournament runner-up.

The league commissioner was asked to revise the special rules in the above sports to reflect AD action and present those revised special rules to the WACC Board.

NOTE: the third entry in football and boys’ soccer has already been determined.

6. There was a quick DEI discussion. AD’s asked the league commissioner to budget for two smaller DEI and sportsmanship banners per WACC school.

7. MSC (Smet, Longaker, 12-0-0) to approve the proposed basketball alignment and schedules posted on the website. A reminder that two schools can change the date, site, or time of league-approved contests.

8. The league commissioner reviewed WACC Board action on the alignment of boys’ soccer. MSC (Duran, Parker, 12-0-0) to approve the proposed girls’ alignment and schedule posted on the website. AD’s directed the league commissioner to revise Shoreline tie breaker language for boys’ soccer. AD’s confirmed sites and times for soccer games.

9. Wrestling

* MSC (Longaker, Prasad, 9-0-3) to approve the proposed wrestling schedules posted on the website.
* The league commissioner reviewed decisions made the NCS Wrestling Management Committee.

10. Badminton

* MSC (Longaker, Duran, 11-0-1) to move San Lorenzo to the Foothill League, making our badminton alignment 6 (Foothill) - 5 (Shoreline).
* Mt. Eden again volunteered to host our 2025 championships and San Leandro will host in 2026.

11. Baseball

* MSC (Thomas, Gorham, 11-1-0) to move Encinal to the Foothill League and Arroyo to the Shoreline League.
* M (Smet, motion dies for the lack of a second) to place all six teams in the end-of-season tournament.
* AD’s reviewed the effect that AP tests might have on playoff participation and will make this a topic of discussion when planning baseball and softball tournaments next year.
* The league has tie-breaker language that needs to be rewritten to emphasize the importance of league games over non-league ones. The league commissioner was asked to develop revised special rule language.
* While there are still problems with securing umpires for JV games, the CCAA was commended for working well with AD’s to increase umpire coverage.

12. The AD’s approved the proposed lacrosse schedules by consensus.

13. Softball

* AD’s reviewed the concerns of some coaches that we are not using a “neutral” site for our softball championships but took no action.
* O’Dowd volunteered to host our softball championships next year.
* MSC (Budge, Longaker, 8-4-0) to align softball in the following manner for the 2024-25 and 2-25-26 seasons:

Foothill – Alameda, Castro Valley, Encinal, and O’Dowd

Shoreline A – Arroyo, Berkeley, Mt. Eden, and San Leandro

Shoreline B – Hayward, Piedmont, San Lorenzo, and Tennyson

* The league commissioner was asked to develop a schedule where schools play a home and away series against the other three teams in their division. In addition, Shoreline A schools will play one game against each of the other eight schools; totaling 14 Shoreline A games and ten games for Foothill and Shoreline B schools.
* M (Parker, motion dies for the lack of a second) to keep the same number of allowed nominees per school based on league standings, resulting in a smaller second team)
* MSC (Longaker Budge, 12-0-0) reduce the number of players of 1st and second teams to 9 from the present 12. The league commissioner was asked to revise the Softball Special Rules to reflect this change.

NOTE: the league commissioner will ask for clarity at our August meeting on whether the Shoreline team will be one combined list or two separate lists.

* The league commissioner reviewed some disturbing issues with the SCUA.

14. Swimming and Diving

* Tyler Tomei gave a presentation, representing the WACC swim coaches.
* MSC (Duran, Parker, 10-0-2) to align WACC swim programs into two five-team units.
* MSC Duran, Smet, 10-0-2) to align in the following manner
  + Foothill – Alameda, Berkeley, Castro Valley, O’Dowd, and Piedmont
  + Shoreline – Arroyo, Encinal, Hayward, Mt. Eden, and San Leandro
  + To direct the league commissioner to develop a five-dual meet schedule for each of the ten schools; including a meet against each of the other four schools in their unit and one cross-over meet.
* MSC (Parker, Duran 8-0-4) to not score dual meets
* The championship tournament continues to grow and the league must assign responsibilities by school. The league commissioner will work with Mt. Eden, our host school, to codify those responsibilities.

15. Tennis

* The proposed tennis schedules for next Spring were approved by consensus.
* AD’s discussed, but took no action on, developing participation requirements for student-athletes to qualify for the NCS tournament.

16. Volleyball

* AD’s placed Arroyo in the Shoreline League and Berkeley in the Foothill League by consensus.
* The league commissioner was directed to schedule volleyball next Spring without cross-over games.

17. Track and Field

* Both Hayward programs were moved to the Shoreline League
* AD’s reviewed the successful Non-Varsity Culminating Meet this year and asked Tennyson to host again next year (with Mt. Eden as a back-up). The large meet needs to start earlier in the day and the early Wednesday release time for many WACC schools argues for a Wednesday date next year rather than Friday.
* The league commissioner was asked to keep the large programs in mind when developing proposed schedules for next year.

18. We’re on track for securing EBRPD sites for next Fall’s cross-country center meets.

19. Football

* AD’s reviewed the results of our meeting with some of the MVAL AD’s to coordinate special rule language between the two leagues. AD’s were comfortable with most of the proposed changes but need clarification on how studnt-athletes are selected for honorable mention. The league commissioner was asked to develop a formal revision of our football special rules
* MSC Duran, Parker, 12-0-0) to recommend approval of the EBFOA contract tender to the WACC Board.

20. Encinal will not have a girls’ golf program next Fall and the league commissioner was asked to develop a seven-team schedule.

21. After discussion, AD’s believe that “League Champ” patches shall be available only to league champions, not to end-of-season tournament winners.

22. AD’s were reminded to update their fall coaches’ contact information

23. AD’s reviewed the WACC’s admission fees. MSC (Gorham, Stacy, 10-0-0) to recommend to the WACC Board a standard game admission fee of $8/$5 in all sports where a school wants to charge admission. Schools may continue to charge a reduced fee if they wish.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dave Kiesel, WACC Commissioner

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 8; Noon; Site TBA