

Soccer Sports Specific Committee

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

Minutes

The Soccer Sports Specific Committee met on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at the NMAA. Those present were as follows: Jeff Engbers, Rehoboth Athletic Director; Larry Waters, La Cueva Athletic Director; Klaus Weber, Bosque High School; Ed Velie, St. Michael's High School; Bob Linebaugh, Official; with Robert Zayas, NMAA Assistant Director. Misty Long, Carlsbad High School; Heath Weihe, Del Norte High School were absent.

Introductions

Mr. Zayas started off by letting the committee members know there were some vacant positions on the committee and if anyone had any suggestions as to who should fill those positions to please let him know.

Mr. Zayas also announced that he made arrangements for the committee members to take a tour to the APS Soccer complex following the meeting. This will allow the committee members to see the location of the 2009 State Soccer Championships.

I. 2008 State Championships Overview.

Mr. Zayas stated there were 1,500 participants at the 2008 Soccer State Championships. This year there will be a different format for the State Soccer Championships, which will reduce the amount of participants playing in the tournament, in Albuquerque. Soccer is not the only sport that has had to change their tournament schedule. Volleyball, softball, baseball, and tennis have all had to make adjustments to their championship schedules as well. Pool play has been eliminated from the State Soccer Championships so the new tournament schedule is as follows:

Quarterfinals: Thursday, November 5, 2009

Semifinals: Friday, November 6, 2009

Finals: Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. Zayas went on to talk about the financial status of the 2009 State Soccer Championships. He stated the tournament overall would be saving money by switching to a different venue. By having the State Soccer Championships at the APS Complex there would be a savings of around \$20,000 on the facility alone. Also, with the elimination of the pool play format, the tournament could save around \$13,000 on officials. There would also be a savings of about \$4,000 on event personnel due to the fact that the tournament will only be three days long instead of five days.

Mr. Waters stated the games could not be played at the APS complex. He said there are no warm-up fields, we won't be able to finish all the games in one day on four fields, and some of the teams have never played on turf.

Mr. Zayas stated the real issues will occur the first day when scheduling all of the quarterfinal games. He stated he didn't see any other way to get these games in without giving them two hours and fifteen minutes for each game. The games will have to start around 8:00 a.m

Mr. Waters stated there would be no warm-up time for the athletes. Mr. Zayas assured the committee that teams would be provide ample warm-up time

Mr. Velie asked if it was possible to have some teams play at Volcano Vista High School.

Mr. Linebaugh stated we could add another day to the tournament and start on Wednesday.

Mr. Zayas stated he did not think that would work because that was the whole reason for eliminating pool play (reducing the number of days). The committee would have to agree on it, and then it would have to go to the commission and then be passed by the board of directors.

Mr. Zayas told the committee that he was confident the 2009 State Soccer Championships would be a success at the APS Soccer complex. He told the committee that he would examine some possibilities for the scheduling of the tournament.

II. 2009 Regular Season

Mr. Zayas stated the rules clinic is online again. It had been easier for coaches to access the clinic online instead of having to attend a class.

Mr. Zayas brought up the issues surrounding the Misconduct Progression Rule. He asked the committee if they felt the rule needed to be lessened or changed.

Mr. Waters stated, when you talk about putting soccer players on a smaller field there is going to be a higher incidence of fouls. I feel that the number of cards will go up when playing on a smaller field. I feel that the way the game is going it has become more physical. On an international level, on the biggest fields, it is not unusual for there to be five yellow cards given out during a game.

Mr. Velie stated it is easier for a player to get a yellow card on a smaller field.

Mr. Zayas stated the challenge with this Misconduct progression Rule is that it couldn't be changed until next year. Maybe we can look at the data we collect after this season and see what the cards are when playing on a smaller soccer field, Mr. Zayas said.

Mr. Waters stated that when he shows the NMAA Pre-Season video to his athletes and their parents, one of the three goals of the NMAA is to provide quality state championships. He thinks the APS Soccer Complex definitely changes the quality of the championships.

Mr. Linebaugh stated it is not an ideal situation but the referees have to go out there and call the games.

III. 2009 State Soccer Championships

Mr. Zayas stated the seeding and selection criterion has stayed the same. He reminded the committee members that there will not be pool play at state.

Mr. Waters asked why the committee did not have a choice to go to a 16-team format instead of a 12-team format. He felt it should be consistent across the board for all sports.

Mr. Zayas stated he did not even know if A-3A girls would even have 16 teams to fill the tournament.

Mr. Weber stated he was definitely for quality over quantity of teams at the state tournament.

Mr. Waters stated Colorado takes all teams that have a winning record to state.

Mr. Zayas stated ticket prices would remain at \$6.00 for the soccer championships. Seeding and selection will occur on October 24, 2009. The official ball of the tournament is Wilson. This year we will continue the use of the bag tags. The coaches packets will be distributed at the NMAA on Wednesday, November 4, 2009.

He stated that every year the program features a former New Mexico athlete and he needs some ideas for the program this year.

Mr. Waters mentioned Richard Fair.

Mr. Zayas stated one of his goals for the 2009 State Championships was to increase attendance.

IV. Seeding Committee Representative

Mr. Zayas stated that Don Clark would be the A-AAA boys seeding and selection representative. He asked if anyone had any questions regarding seeding and selection.

V. Future Soccer Bylaws

Mr. Zayas stated the Misconduct Progression Rule is something we will bring up at the December Sports Specific Committee Meeting. He reminded the committee that any rule changes would have to be agreed on by the committee, then by the commission, and lastly approved by the NMAA Board of Directors.

Mr. Waters stated the selection criteria for seeding is the biggest problem. The seeding committee is made up of Athletic Directors and most of them have experience in basketball, football, baseball, and softball. Most of the people on the committee don't

understand the game of soccer and they tend to seed based on records. In general, some people do not understand how people can manipulate outcomes.

Mr. Zayas stated one proposal has been to have the NMAA staff seed the state championships. He continued that we as staff members can do a better getting the seeding and selection committee members better prepared.

Mr. Waters stated he did a matrix with all the Albuquerque teams and who each team played and was able to seed the metro schools through the use of his system.

Mr. Zayas mentioned that strength of schedule does not determine a team's seeding for the state tournament.

Mr. Webber thought the criteria for seeding needed to be made clear. District performance, strength of schedule, games against other teams in different classifications, and game performances should be used for seeding and selection.

Mr. Zayas stated section seven of the NMAA handbook has the criteria for seeding and selection and it does not include strength of schedule.

Mr. Waters had some ideas for seeding and selection criteria. They included the teams district schedule, the teams schedule within their class, teams record against all district #1 and #2 teams, record against schools outside their class, and lastly the teams record against the teams that are definitely qualifying for state.

Mr. Webber stated it is sort of strength of schedule. You will also need to make an effort to play these teams from around the state.

Mr. Waters stated the aspect of playing different teams lets you find out what certain things you need to work on with your own team.

VI. Discussion

Mr. Zayas stated that we might need to rent some more bleachers for the State Soccer Tournament. He also mentioned that he would be looking into different options for the parking situation.

Mr. Linebaugh mentioned that the technical areas will need to be marked.

VII. Next Meeting

December, 8, 2009 at the NMAA.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.