

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2007  
Collette Building

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by DIAA Vice Chairperson Ted Williams.

B. Roll Call

The following DIAA Board members were present: Ted Williams, Gerald Allen, Kathleen Wilbur, Joan Samonisky, Michael Wagner, Robert Reed, Woody Long, Dr. Jeffrey Hawtof, Sister Ann Michele, John Oliver, Dianne Sole, Debbie Corrado, Dr. Michael Owens. Kevin Charles Executive Director, and Paula Fontello, Deputy Attorney General, were also in attendance. Phyllis Kohel, and Dr. Garrett Lyons, and Catherine Marvel were unable to attend.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Williams commented that Action Item III. C. Proposal to Move Girls' Soccer to the Fall will have to be moved from the agenda due to Regulation 1006.6.1.1. which states that proposed changes must be submitted by the Executive Director, Secretary of Education, the DIAA Board, or a DIAA Member School. Mr. Williams explained that since this proposal was being brought forth by a member of the public this Board could not take action on it and that it should be moved to public comment. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Long and carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of the April 12, 2007 Board of Directors' Meeting

Ms. Wilbur made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2007 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously.

E. DIAA Financial Report

Mr. Charles reviewed the income and stated that the income from the period of April 3 – May 3 came mostly from tournament fees, program ad sales, broadcasting income, and some basketball gate receipts. Mr. Charles explained that the expenses were largely from spring sports trophies, the facility rental charge for the basketball tournament that was held at the Bob Carpenter Center, salaries, basketball officials fees, and security expenses at the Bob Carpenter Center. Mr. Charles commented that we are still trying to schedule a meeting with someone from the Townsend Building regarding the interest. Mr. Charles also commented on some of the dues and entry fees that have not yet been paid. Some members of the Board stated that there should be some type of fine for schools that have not paid. Mr. Williams suggested that some type of penalty be assessed if fees are not paid by December 1 of that year and that this should go to the rules and regulation committee. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to

approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reed and carried unanimously.

## II. Public Comment

Fred Forte was in attendance to make public comment. Mr. Williams explained to Mr. Forte that because of DIAA Regulation 1006.6.1.1 he would have to make his presentation under public comment and that the Board could make a recommendation for this to go to our Rules and Regulations Committee to review and then brought back to this Board. Mr. Forte explained to the Board that he would like to change the girls' soccer season from the Spring to the Fall. Mr. Forte feels that playing girls' soccer in the spring places a burden on the players. Mr. Forte commented that there is a larger conflict with sports in the spring than there is in the fall. Mr. Williams recommended that Mr. Fortes request be referred to the Rules and Regulations Committee. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to move this request to the Rules and Regulations Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oliver and carried unanimously.

## III. Action Items

### A. Delaware Independent Schools Request for Associate Member Status

Mr. Charles explained that this was an annual request by the Delaware Independent Conference for Associate Member status. Mr. Charles commented that it contains a number of items which are exactly the same as were approved in the past. Mr. Charles then explained that because the Independent School students get their physical education requirement through interscholastic athletics and not a physical education class it is mandatory that they participate in athletics. Thus the Independent Schools are asking for associate member status because they cannot comply with the transfer rule and Years of Participation rule. In addition, St. Andrews is once again asking to be able to play girls' soccer in the fall. New in this year's request is to allow academically ineligible students to practice.

Ms. Samonisky commented that the reason they have asked for these exceptions is that their schools do not have traditional physical education classes and their students participate in athletics to fulfill that requirement. Ms. Samonisky explained that most other schools a student could be academically ineligible from participation in competitive athletics but still able to take their physical education class. DIAA regulations prevent the Independent School students who are academically ineligible, from taking their physical education class through participation in interscholastic athletics.

Ms. Samonisky further explained that this would not be for any competition in scrimmages or games it would just be the ability to practice and to maintain their fitness level. Ms. Samonisky stated that she feels this would provide for a safer return to competition when the student becomes academically eligible. Dr. Owens commented that he and the executive director did have a conversation with the

Secretary of Education and stated that the Department of Education is opposed to allowing ineligible athletes to participate. Dr. Owens commented that the Department of Education was opposed to granting this request because they felt that it creates an unfair advantage to offer one team the opportunity to have an ineligible student participate in sports and not offer all schools that opportunity.

Mr. Williams recommended that the schools should bring these types of requests to the board on an individual basis. Mr. Charles shared a study that he did on surrounding states that allow academically ineligible students to participate and stated that in many states the state athletic association allows the school district to make that decision.

Dr. Hawtof recommended allowing the students to practice while academically ineligible but will not be allowed to compete once they become eligible. Several Board members commented that they felt this rule should be the same for all schools. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to table this request so that Ms. Samonisky could go back to the other Independent school athletic directors to find out if they want to bring waiver requests back individually, participate in practice and no games, or can not participate in practice until academically eligible. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbur. The motion passed on a vote of 11 – yes (Williams, Allen, Wilbur, Corrado, Oliver, Sole, Wagner, Sister Ann Michele, Reed, Hawtof, Long) and 1 – abstention (Samonisky).

Dr. Hawtof made a motion to have the Sports Medicine Committee look into the amount of time that we are asking our students to practice prior to participation which is rule 1009.4.2.1 and 1009.4.2.4. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oliver and carried unanimously.

#### B. Sanction of Tournaments

Mr. Charles stated that there were three events that needed to be sanctioned and that they all meet his approval. Ms. Samonisky made a motion to approve the events. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner and carried unanimously.

#### D. Donation to Harry's Foundation

Mr. Charles commented that he was asking for the Board to consider approving a donation to Harry's Foundation. Mr. Charles reviewed with the Board Dr. Robert's involvement with DIAA and DSSAA over the past years. Mr. Charles explained that Harry's Foundation is a foundation that is doing research on ALS. Mr. Charles then reminded the Board of a donation made on behalf of Jim Blades. Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve a \$1,000.00 donation to the Harry Roberts Foundation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbur and carried unanimously. Dr. Sole then made a motion to rename the DIAA Senior Scholar Athlete Award to Harry Roberts Scholarship. The motion was seconded by Ms. Samonisky and carried unanimously.

#### E. Request by Coordinator of Officials to attend NASO Sports Officiating Summit

Mr. Charles explained that this was included in the budget and that we have sent a representative to this summit for the last four years. Mr. Charles stated that this is the top Sports Officiating Summit and that the theme for this year is Persuasive Officiating. Mr. Charles stated that the estimated cost is under \$1,400.00. Sister Ann Michele made a motion to send Mr. Neubauer to the NASO Sports Officiating Summit. The motion was seconded by Dr. Sole and carried unanimously.

#### IV. Executive Director Report

##### A. Update on Soccer YC Policy

Mr. Charles commented that the soccer committee has been very active on this and have presented it to the Blue Hen Conference athletic directors and the Henlopen Conference athletic directors both of whom supported the proposal. Mr. Charles stated that this has also been presented to the Delaware Soccer Coaches Association and the response to date has been very favorable. Mr. Charles commented that this would be presented to the Sportsmanship Committee in June and should be on the July Board agenda.

##### C. Update on Basketball Coaches Request to Restore Officials Vote

Mr. Charles reminded the Board of the letters he reviewed with them at the last meeting requesting the DIAA Board to revisit the decision to take the basketball coaches vote out of the officials selection. Mr. Charles stated that this was discussed at a joint meeting of the boys and girls basketball committees and they have decided to meet with DIBOA to discuss.

##### D. DSLOA Update

Mr. Charles explained that there is a shortage of officials in boys' lacrosse. Mr. Charles then explained that on April 26 there was a game between two member schools where the officials called at the last minute and told the athletic directors they would not be able to cover the game. Mr. Charles commented that under the circumstances he authorized them to obtain officials from Pennsylvania. Mr. Charles stated that the officials were paid at the gate. Mr. Charles commented since that time he has offered to meet with the Delaware lacrosse officials and has invited their Board to attend the DIAA State Lacrosse Committee meeting.

##### E. Update on Diamond State Conference

Mr. Charles stated that so far field hockey, boys' and girls' basketball have considered and approved a conditional automatic berth into their tournaments and that the probationary condition for the conference is that the champion has to have a .500 or better record and be in the top 50% of the power rankings in their sport. Mr.

Charles also stated that basketball placed an additional condition for all the schools in the conference at to finish the season with a full varsity schedule.

F. Sanford School Self-Report

Ms. Samonisky explained that it was brought to her attention that a student was inadvertently left off of an eligibility list.

G. Meeting with Kukulski Brothers

Mr. Neubauer reported on program sales which is not very good and stated that we have a good t-shirt arrangement but was looking to do better. Mr. Neubauer explained that he contacted Kukulski Brothers and met with them to discuss the sales of programs and t-shirts.

H. Miscellaneous Correspondence

Mr. Charles reviewed a letter that he received from a student who received one of the recipients of the Senior Scholar Athlete Awards.

Mr. Charles then reported that Mr. Neubauer successfully obtained the title of Certified Master Athletic Administrator.

B. Board Appointments

Mr. Charles explained that he recently had a conversation with the governors office summarizing where we are with filling vacant board positions. Mr. Charles commented that on May 16 it is anticipated that we will have confirmation of Dr. Stone, Michael Modica, Jerry Kobasa, Debbie Corrado, and Joan Samonisky. Ms. Wilbur made a motion to elect Mike Wagner as the vice chairperson so that he can chair next months meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Corrado and carried unanimously.

Mr. Charles recognized Mr. Holodick and Mr. Williams for their service on the DIAA Board of Directors.

VI. Other

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Allen made a motion to adjourn at 10:45 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner and carried unanimously.

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Tina Hurley