

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 14, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
John W. Collette Education Resource Center

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairperson Terre Taylor.

B. Roll Call

The following DIAA Board members were present: Terre Taylor, Curtis Bedford, Evelyn Edney, Edna Cale, Craig Eliassen, Dr. Bradley Layfield, Robert Cilento, Susan Coffing, Mike Hart, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Dr. Mark Holodick, Ron Eby, Karen Field-Rogers and Dr. Robert Walter. Kevin Charles, Executive Director, Kathleen Geiszler, Deputy Attorney General, and DIAA staff Tina Hurley was also in attendance. Susanne Williams, Laura Leone, Gary Cimaglia, and Leroy Mann were unable to attend.

C. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Taylor commented that Item III. B. was being removed from the agenda and added two addendum items III. K. and III. L. to the agenda. Mr. Eby made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of DIAA March 19, 2015 Board Meeting

Mr. Cilento made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2015 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried unanimously.

E. DIAA Financial Report

Mr. Charles reported that to date the revenue received for FY15 was \$625,290. Mr. Charles reported that the expenses to date were \$542,821. Mr. Charles reported that the financial report does not include all income and expenses from swimming and basketball. The carry over balance is currently \$1,011,752. Mr. Eby made a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Layfield and carried unanimously.

II. Public Comment

None

III. A. Approval of Tournament Sanctions

Mr. Charles reported that he received 24 requests for sanction 16 outdoor track and field, 2 softball, 1 volleyball, 2 cross country, 1 boys basketball, and 2 wrestling. Mr. Charles stated that to the best of his knowledge they were in compliance with DIAA and NFHS regulations. Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the 24 sanction events. The motion was seconded by Dr. Layfield and carried unanimously.

C. Request To Waive 1009.4.1.1 by Howard

John Wilson, president of DIFCA; Dan Ritter, athletic director at Howard High School; Mark DelPercio, from Middletown were in attendance to present this request.

Mr. Charles gave a brief explanation of this request explaining the safety issues in football and the importance of making the sport of football safer and the importance of educating the coaches.

Mr. Wilson explained that they are trying to make football as safe as possible. Mr. Wilson explained that he is proposing that schools be allowed to begin football practice on August 10 in order to prolong the acclimatization period and allow more time to teach the Heads Up Football safe tackling and blocking techniques. Mr. Wilson explained that their guidelines are consistent with the Korey Stringer Institute exertional heat illness guidelines and the NFHS recommendations for minimizing head impact exposure and concussion risk in football.

Mr. DelPercio commented on the Heads Up Coaches Certification Proposal and explained that this program will certify all Delaware High School football coaches. Mr. DelPercio explained that the first year program costs will be funded by the Philadelphia Eagles. Mr. DelPercio explained that the certification is not mandatory but is recommended.

Mr. Ritter commented on the contact restrictions and explained that if a school had a game on a Friday night the school would only be allowed two 30 minute sessions of full contact and if a Saturday game three 30 minute sessions of full contact per week. Mr. Charles commented that the SMAC was in support of this program.

A Board member commented that harsher penalties should exist if schools do have contact during the acclimatization period while another Board member asked if parent support was received.

Dr. Holodick made a motion to support the Heads Up Coaches Certification Proposal but that the earlier start date needs to be tabled and taken to the

school chiefs for review and comment. The motion was seconded by Dr. Walter and carried unanimously.

K. Appeal by Dover High School

Ms. Edney recused herself from this hearing so that she could provide testimony. Mr. Charles gave a brief explanation of the tennis rules and reported that Dover High School discovered that it used an ineligible player at 1st singles during their first 7 girls matches. Mr. Charles explained that the former athletic director at Dover High School had determined that the student was eligible and not till further investigation did the school realize that the student was in fact ineligible. Mr. Charles explained that the DIAA tennis regulations require that when a student permanently leaves the team all players below them in the ladder must move up. Dover failed to do this for matches 7 through fourteen. By rule the players must move up for the state tournament. The school was asking that the requirement to move up be waived so that tennis players will not be adversely affected by the coach's decision. After considerable discussion Dr. Walter made a motion to follow DIAA rules and deny the request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eby and carried unanimously.

D. Request to Waive 1009.4.1.1 by Cape Henlopen High School

Mr. Cilento recused himself from this hearing so that he could provide testimony. Mr. Cilento explained that he has only 13 games scheduled for boys soccer in the fall and was asking for the Boards permission to be able to participate in a two game tournament involving three Maryland High School teams on September 5, 2015. Mr. Cilento explained that he was asking the Board to waive the rule 1009.4.1.1 so that they can play two games in one day and also so that the team can hold it's first official contest before September 11. Mr. Cilento stated that the team would have 21 calendar days of preparation before the September 5 competition. Board members expressed their concern of playing two soccer games in one day and how it could affect the players. Mr. Cilento stated that there would be at least 4 hours of rest between games.

Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the request and allow Cape Henlopen to play two games in one day and for this year only and that the athletic director must convey to the tournament director to give as much time between the games as they can and to allow Cape Henlopen to start prior to the official start date for this year only. The motion was seconded by Dr. Holodick and carried by a vote of 7 – yes (Taylor, Bedford, Edney, Layfield, Hart, Fitzgerald, and Holodick) and 5 – no (Cale, Eliassen, Coffing, Eby, and Walter).

J. Consideration of DIAA Approved Policy Under 1009.5.1.4

Mr. Charles explained that he has met with the Department of Education to develop a policy for participation by a transgender student. Mr. Charles stated that he reviewed a policy that the state of New Jersey has in place and would like the Board to review. Mr. Charles explained the policy with the Board and stated that the DIAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has reviewed it and are in support of the policy. After considerable review Dr. Holodick made a motion to approve the policy for Delaware. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eliassen and carried unanimously.

E. Request by DISC Schools for Associate Membership

Mr. Charles explained that the Delaware Independent School Conference was asking for Associate Member status as they do each year. Mr. Charles explained that the only difference in this year's request is that they were asking for Associate Membership for The Independence School which is a middle school.

Mr. Eby made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried unanimously.

F. Amendments to Baseball and Softball DIAA Approved Policies and Procedures

Mr. Charles explained that coaches were asking that state tournament games suspended due to weather be completed. Mr. Charles stated that surrounding states allow for suspended games to be completed. Current DIAA policy states that suspended games don't have to be finished if the game is an official game. Mr. Charles stated that the baseball and softball committees are both in support of this policy change. Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve this request and that schools be allowed to complete suspended games. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cale and carried unanimously.

G. Self-Report by Smyrna High School

Mr. Charles explained that he was notified by the athletic director at Smyrna High School that an ineligible player was used in boys tennis from April 13 through April 20, 2015. Mr. Charles explained that the student falsified his report card and that the student is no longer on the team. Dr. Layfield made a motion to accept the self-report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento and carried unanimously.

H. Self-Report by Wilmington Christian School

Mr. Charles explained that he was notified by Joe Thomson at Wilmington

Christian school that an ineligible player was used in a boys lacrosse game against Christiana High School. Mr. Charles explained that the student had an unexcused absence from school and still participated in the game. Mr. Charles reported that the game was forfeited by Wilmington Christian. Mr. Hart made a motion to accept the self-report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eliassen and carried unanimously.

I. Request for Membership by Freire Charter School

Mr. Charles reported that Freire Charter School was requesting membership for the 2015-16 school year. Mr. Charles explained that this is a coed open admission school with grades 8 through 12. Mr. Charles stated that the school was planning to sponsor cross country, basketball, and track. Dr. Layfield made a motion to accept the request for membership. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eby and carried unanimously.

L. Request by Softball committee to Amend FAQ Concerning Maximum Weekly Game Limits

Ms. Taylor recused herself from this request. Mr. Charles explained that the Softball Committee has proposed to play four games in a week provided 2 of the games were part of a doubleheader played on a non-school day. Ms. Taylor added that the Committee is asking to allow softball to play four games per week in an effort to move the softball tournament away from the end of school activities in late May such as graduation and baccalaureate. After some discussion Mr. Eby made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Layfield and carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Director Report

A. Legal Report

Ms. Geiszler reported that on the recent appeal of a decision by the DIAA Board the State Board of Education did affirm the DIAA decision.

B. 1. Winter Tournament Update

Mr. Charles commented that winter sports tournaments went extremely well. The attendance was down from 2013-14 for winter sports but DIAA still finished above average financially.

2. SMAC Report

Mr. Charles reported that school nurses can now teach school employees

to administer glucagon and epinephrine to students in an emergency. This provision does not apply to licensed personnel, ex. Physicians or ATCs.

Mr. Charles reported that Dr. Michael Axe is doing research on the number of ACL and Tommy John surgeries as part of assessing the impact of proposed changes relating to safety in baseball and other sports.

3. DIAA Officials Committee Report

Mr. Charles provided an update on the Girls Lacrosse Officials group. He stated that delivery of service has improved dramatically this year.

4. Harry Roberts Scholarship Committee Report

Mr. Charles reported on the winners of the Harry Roberts Scholarships and said that three female and three male were awarded scholarships. The three female winners are: Kelsey Mendell from Sanford, Ann Marie White from St. Marks, Hannah Uebele from Milford. The three males are Kevin Sheahan from Caesar Rodney, Chase Rapine from Sanford School, and Andrew Kacmarcik from St. Marks.

5. DIAA Trophy and Medal Report

Mr. Charles shared samples of the new medals and trophies with the Board.

V. Other

VI. Public Comment

None.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Layfield made a motion to adjourn at 11:40 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bedford and carried unanimously.

Tina Hurley