



SUMMER ACTIVITY PANEL

REPORT

June 20, 2005

Present:

Panel Chair: Jim Evans, Waterville HS, WIAA Executive Board

Panel Facilitator: Terry Cavender, WIAA Assistant Executive Director

WIAA Staff: **Cindy Hettinger (Asst), WIAA Assistant Executive Director**

Jeananne Tescar-Burcham, Administrative Assistant

Dave Lutes, AD, Kent SD

Mark Venn, Superintendent, Sedro Woolley SD

Jay Weber, Coach, North Central HS

Jennifer Kubista, AD, Tacoma SD

Marty Fortin, Director of Cispus

Dick Langum, Canfield and Associates

Mary Sue Linville, Puget Sound Risk Management Pool

Jerry Koester, Washington State Coaches Association

Jerry Parrish, Washington State Coaches Association

Jerry Penney, Bellevue Coaches Association

John Peterson, AD, Willapa Valley HS

Attendees:

George Crawford, Superintendent, Napavine SD

Rick DuBois, Federal Way SD

Bob France, AD, Federal Way HS

Gil James, AD, Newport HS

Review of the Mission Statement:

To review what is occurring during summer athletic activities for middle school through high school-aged athletes, in order to determine the impact of such activities on the athletes, coaches, other member school personnel and member school resources and to develop any necessary recommendations for WIAA rules and regulations and/or policy changes.

Process:

The process for input, discussion, and preparing of recommendations to the WIAA Executive Board will be determined by the panel with the possibility of receiving testimony from coaches, students, parents, school administrators, of reviewing other state association rules and regulations, and of gathering any other information necessary for the panel's complete review of the issue.

Mr. Cavender reviewed the following current articles that are included in the WIAA Handbook - 17.6.0 Out-Of-Season – Definition, 17.6.2.A Promotion – Definition, 17.7.0 Specialized Sport Camps, Philosophy Of Summer Activities, 17.8.0 Summer Activities, 17.8.1, and 17.8.2.

AREAS OF DISCUSSION:

The panel and guests discussed the handbook and addressed the following topics:

What is the present expectation regarding summer commitment by coaches?

Information was exchanged by those present that pressure is put on the coaches by numerous groups – parents, booster clubs and the schools, all with the goal of having a competitive program. "Everyone else is practicing all summer – we better do it too."

Discussion followed that many times coaches feel the pull of outside activities and coaches – school coaches want their athletes to drill and train according to the school team expectations. By offering summer programs/activities they keep the athletes focused on training and drills, as the school coach prefers.

If the expectation is there, should coaches be paid for summer activity? This was a side topic of discussion that those present felt it important to discuss.

The Bellevue School District is presently negotiating with the Bellevue Coaches Association regarding payment for services provided by coaches during the summer.

There are booster clubs, though no specifics were given, that are providing payment to facilitate summer camps and/or pay coaches for the time spent "coaching" during the summer.

Marty Fortin took this time to outline the booster club role. Mr. Fortin explained that for a booster club to be viable and not a direct arm of the school, it must be viewed as a business with fiscal responsibilities. Booster clubs that are paying coaches must meet all of the fair labor guidelines. These clubs, if sponsoring camps, also need to have liability insurance in the club's name, not the school's. They can be their own 501c3 if they apply to the state.

The suggestion was made during discussion that Mr. Fortin be a part of the Fall WIAA Workshops, outlining what coaches and schools can and cannot do with regard to the utilization of booster clubs. Mr. Parrish and Mr. Koester offered to provide Mr. Fortin the opportunity to publish, in the Washington Coaches Association Magazine, information regarding booster clubs.

What are the risk management issues?

Dick Langum, Canfield and Associates, and Mary Sue Linville, Puget Sound Risk Management Pool, both provided documents that need to be completed by schools/school districts before providing summer activities. The following areas are addressed in the documents –

Use of district owned athletic equipment, parent permission form and inherent risk statements, advertising, supervision and instruction, use of district facilities, Worker's Compensation Coverage (Employees and Volunteers), transportation, liability insurance for the school district, and liability insurance for teachers, coaches and volunteers.

The above areas are outlined in the documents for camps operated by the district's employees at the school districts facilities, school co-sponsored activities operated by and at another district or university, other outside organizations using the school district facilities, and non school sponsored activities not on school property.

Quoted from Washington School Risk Management Pool information, "When a district sponsors a summer camp, ensure that it does not constitute undue liability exposure. Coaches who are district employees may run camps but are not acting in their capacity as district employees because the district is not paying them for these activities. They become independent operators and their camps are not covered by district insurance. They should be treated as outside entities using district facilities. They should sign a facility use agreement with a hold harmless and indemnification clause, and provide a certificate of insurance naming the district as an additional insured by endorsement. Review all flyers and advertisement to make sure that the district name, logo or mascot do not appear on them, and that there is no language that would give readers an impression that it is a district-sponsored activity. Do not allow use of district office equipment or supplies to advertise the camp. Charge a fee for use of district athletic equipment and use the fees for reconditioning and inspection of the equipment."

Quoted from documents provided by Canfield and Associates: "Many negligence suits have been successful, due to inadequate supervision of students, improper use of equipment, inappropriate activities allowed to occur and lack of building security.

The following guidelines are designed to assist you in formulating minimal liability exposure summer programs.

- a. Supervision should only be performed by school district personnel who possess mature behavior and are trained and knowledgeable in student discipline/control, building security, safety procedures and skill development (appropriate to the activity).*
- b. Supervision must be in person where the students' activities are visible and controllable.*
- c. School keys should only be issued to staff members who have responsibility for the key and building security. The key cannot be loaned to others.*
- d. The program should occur at a school district facility, when possible. If travel between sites is necessary, it should be provided via school district vehicles and drivers.*
- e. The collection of user fees must follow proper district procedure for receipting, security of the funds, and depositing into an ASB/district account. The collection of fees should neither be for profit making individuals nor organizations.*

As summer activities are presently conducted there are several areas that are not being addressed in the fullest: Equipment depreciation, facility safety, supervision (at the site, not just in the building), and sport/gender equity. Final discussion culminated with the belief that if Risk Management organizations took a stronger role – requesting that summer activity programs be limited – school districts would likely limit summer activity.

How do Coaches feel about summer activity?

Jerry Parrish and Jerry Koester, from the Washington Coaches Association, shared that they believe coaches would like more guidance. Years ago it was much simpler – there was no sanctioned summer activity – coaches and student athletes were given time off. This could be one of the contributors to the significant increase in coach turnover. Mr. Parrish and Mr. Koester agreed it is time to give the summer back to families – coaches' families and athlete's families.

What role will WASL play in future summer activities?

OSPI Director of Assessment, Joe Willhoff was unable to attend the meeting, but Mr. Cavender provided an email from Mr. Willhoff – "What we do know at this point, and that we'd be happy for you to share, is that we will start having summer administrations of the WASL beginning in August of 2006. We do not yet know specific dates or venues. Certainly high schools will be included as testing sites, we simply don't know to what extent that will be required, or if it will be strictly on a sign-up basis. We also know that the testing will take place across a number of days (most likely four days). We want to have testing completed before football turnout.

Please impress upon folks that these points represent the status of our current thinking. New plans are always in flux; they may require adjustment as we become aware of substantial conflicts and /or obstacles."

Members of the group, particularly superintendents, shared that summers now have the potential to be a time of remedial classes for those students preparing to take the WASL. This summer academic time will have to take precedent over summer activity programs.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

When discussing potential recommendations to the Executive Board these questions were considered: What is in the best interest of the athlete? What is in the best interest of the coach?

Recommendation to propose the following amendment for the 2006 Representative Assembly: ***17.6.8 – In the sport coached, a school coach may not sponsor, coach or direct activities which resemble out-of-season practices or contests to any of their squad members or future squad members (high school and feeder schools in the school district – grades 7-12) until after the final spring WIAA tournament is completed (high school) or until after the completion of the final spring sports season (middle level.) - add “and ending on July 1st”.***

Mr. Evans thanked the group for their time and efforts, wishing them a safe trip home.