

Conneaut School District
Athletic Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 21, 2015

The Conneaut School District Athletic Ad Hoc Committee meeting was called order by Chairman David Schaef at 4 p.m. The meeting was held at the Conneaut Area Senior High School library, with Committee members in attendance -John Acklin, Jarrin Sperry, Dorothy Luckock, Don Ellis, David Schaef, Joel Wentling, Kevin Burns, John Hines, and David Maskrey.

Discussion Items-

Mr. Schaef stated the basic purpose of this meeting is to discuss whether or not to put into place a district rule or policy which will determine what teams, or he restated, what records for teams will allow them to move into the playoffs.

District X has extended playoff setups to an almost open tournament at the end of the season. Starting this fall, for example, football Class AAA held a setup of 4 teams taking part in the past. It has now been expanded to eight teams going into the playoffs. Understand, it is not a requirement to go into the playoffs but the question becomes should a team that has a 2 and 8 record really go into the playoffs? This same team with a 2 and 8 record would probably play a team that is 9 and 1 right off the bat. Do we want to set a standard as to who actually goes into the playoffs, or do we look at the coaches to determine this or set a policy of maybe a current .500 overall team record can go into the playoffs. In terms of looking at our sports setups, there are three programs that would not fall under the new setup and that is cross country, individual wrestling, and boys volleyball. There is a team wrestling setup that would apply.

John Acklin thought a couple scenarios could be considered, some going with a 50 percent rule or if you are in the top half of the teams which is a little different than the top 50 percent. Both scenarios could qualify.

Coaches thought it would be tough going into a playoff with a winless season. A few coaches felt that even with a losing season it is good to have the experience playing in the playoff scene. Some thought it should be left to the coach to decide.

Mr. Schaef reminded those attending that there is a deadline to let District X know if a team is taking part in the playoffs, often times a week or two before the end of a season. He was also concerned going into a playoff with a losing record, playing a tough team and the potential of injury to our players. Is it fair to play and lose 60 to 7, that doesn't seem fair to the program or the players, Mr. Ellis agreed. In wrestling opportunities have been turned down for the same injury reason. He is in favor of a minimum 500 record to go into the playoff season.

Mr. Acklin thought it a good idea as a district to decide up front so that all, including parents, are aware. He thought if a team is not in the top half the chances of success are pretty limited. If a team cannot finish 500 or above or 50 percent or higher, in the classification it will only cost the district money. Putting both scenarios in is a better way to determine if a team will be successful in the playoffs.

Mr. Sperry agreed, either above 500 or top half of the Region in District10, if we start sending players/teams that are not prepared or at the lower level then we are asking for humiliation and injury.

In reviewing the Class AAA football numbers, there are 9 teams and 8 qualify for playoffs. The bottom team will face the top team or in basketball if sixteen teams qualify then #16 plays #1 (as the brackets are already setup). Therefore, if #16 team pulls out then the opposing team will have a bye, as Mr. Schaef understands it. Mr. Acklin stated this eliminates having to restructure brackets if a team decides not to go into the playoffs.

Mr. Schaef reiterated the recommending the Committee is proposing for Conneaut School District teams is in order to qualify going into the playoffs teams have a .500 or above record. Mr. Sperry and Mr. Acklin thought it should also include being in the top 50 percent of the Region classification play. Mrs. Luckock agreed.

In conclusion, the committee felt playoff experience is nice but getting humiliated or injured is not what is best for players or teams. Qualifying one of two ways shows some flexibility using a minimum 50/50 record and/or top half of the same region classification. An odd number would move up, for example if a region has 5 teams, what is considered top half? 3 or 2, Committee felt odd number goes up. The district solicitor will be asked for wording the motion for the next board meeting.

It was asked if the 5th and 6th grade basketball coaches had anything to present. Mr. Schaef replied that at the last meeting he asked the coaches to come back with plans but nothing has been presented. We as a committee had thrown it out there to expand the program, involve and train more students so we are just waiting for the coaches input. Mr. Sperry thought there may have been some miscommunication but will have the building principals inquire.

Girls Golf- it was asked since there are enough girls playing golf that is covering them/which coach is going? Mr. Sperry replied that there are two co-assistant coaches; one of the co-assistants goes with the girls. The girls have jumped in with a league/group from Mercer Count or piggy backing with them. An inquiry with DX chairperson was made about how to go about qualifying for girls but this year we probably will not; there is 4 freshmen and 1 sophomore but the girls are in an open classification. We may be looking at a paid coach specific to girl's golf for next year.

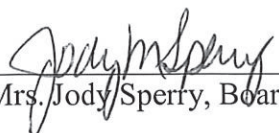
It is noted Mr. Sperry left at 4:34 pm for a meeting.

The Committee selected Friday, October 30, 2015 at CASH library for the next Athletic Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM



David Schaef, Chairman



Mrs. Jody Sperry, Board President



Greg Mayle, Board Secretary