

Conneaut School District Athletic Committee

June 3, 2019

The meeting of the Athletic Committee was called to order at 5:30 pm on June 3, 2019 as advertised in the CASH library. Present for the meeting were Directors Don Ellis and Dorothy Luckock; Superintendent Jarrin Sperry; and Athletic Director John Acklin. Also present were Assistant Athletic Director Brian McCall as well as various coaches and interested persons from the public.

These topics were presented and discussed:


- Guidelines for postseason play – a follow up from this item tabled at the last meeting for further thought:
 - Input was received from all present – most were Varsity Head Coaches regarding the current guidelines as stated in our policy and the athletic handbook. This is generally called the .500 rule, but there are variances if in a difficult region of play.
 - A reminder was given that D10 has moved the Opt-Out deadline to one week before the end of the season. This creates additional complications for a team that is “close” to the .500 benchmark.
 - Scott Shannon (Girls Lacrosse) supports the existing rule and has used it as a motivator. You have to earn the rewards. Life doesn’t just hand it to you.
 - Ranetta Cyphert (Girls soccer) noted the nature of competition and in favor of retaining current.
 - Derek Thomas, new head boy’s basketball continues to oppose the current system and wants determination made by coach and athletic director
 - Brian McCall – Assistant AD at CV and JH football coach – “We did it right”. Sure doesn’t want to see a team with very few wins in the play-offs.
 - Rich Jones (Girl’s BB) was concerned about extenuating circumstances – and later noted those already covered in our updated policy.
 - Christine K – Asst in Girls BB and New Head Girls VB – In favor of current rule. Do need to look at body of work of all season. If it was up to coaches – when do you decide where the “cut off” is? More problems occur if there is not a measuring stick. Need to teach the kids that in the next steps in life – have to perform to get rewards. Must have a clear measuring stick.
 - Mr. Cyphert (girls soccer) It destroys morale if coaches decide rather than a clear rule set by the school. Failure is a part of life.
 - Ben Sperry (past Boys BB) – Opposed to current system. Feels that D10 selects who gets in play-offs (note that D10 opened up play-offs to all a few years ago). Any school still has an option to “opt out” any time any year.
 - A question was asked – how many instances has it been so close down to the wire?
 - Dave Maskrey, CASH principal was absent due to a family commitment but relayed his opinion as to retain current policy.
 - Dot Luckock commented that we are talking Varsity sports – the nature of athletics at this level there is a winner and a loser. Unlike elementary where participation for all is considered. We are to prepare our students for life after high school. Also confirmed

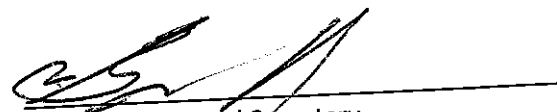
- that all coaches knew the guidelines (and their players and parents) prior to the season starting.
- Don Ellis – no change. Only concern was with D10 now moving opt-out date a week earlier before season is completed.
 - Mr. Acklin proposed the following change to the existing policy “Finally, if the number of regular season game(s) remaining on the schedule when the “opt-out” date occurs, with wins would permit the team to reach .500 then that team would be permitted to enter the play-offs.
 - John Acklin – Inconsistency is a killer. He does not want to be put in the position to make a determination every time. There are those that would accuse favoritism.
 - A follow up by Derek Thomas was a concern if an option to host a play-off game in the first round. Mr. Acklin confirmed that does not occur very often. It was noted that would be reviewed if circumstances arise.
 - The committee was unanimous that there would be no change to the policy as it stands concerning Post-Season play; with the exception of “tweaking” the sentence noted above to consider the week-earlier opt out scenario.
- Middle School Cross Country Coach
 - Currently they are bused to the High School and waiting a long time before their practice can begin. Head Coach Cornell was present for this discussion.
 - They need shorter practices and run 3-4 miles versus varsity at 7-8 miles.
 - Various discussion and scenarios covered as to practice at MS versus at CASH.
 - Their season is done mid-October
 - Determined by the committee that in the best interest of the program to do the following:
 - Assign a specific coach to the middle school (or junior high) cross country team
 - Practice immediately after school if coach can be found (discussion of one person being available already)
 - Practice will be on the course/trails at CASH
 - They will be wrapping up their practice to have some interaction with varsity prior to matches.
 - Soccer Field Status Review – At the last meeting, Head Coach boys’ soccer Corey Lohr asked about the possibility of using the football field at CVMS for Home games.
 - CVMS football field conditions are typically no better than CASH.
 - The CASH all sports boosters is willing to purchase and donate a sound system for the soccer concession stand to permit announcer, etc. at soccer game field.
 - Practices using the practice field and keeping the game field with minimal use has helped.
 - Field has been rolled, seeded in April, will be seeded again in fall, drainage in the corner and weather was more favorable last year for the grass. Head Coach Cyphert noted that in front of the goals will always be a challenge due to usage.
 - Determination of the committee was to retain all soccer at CASH location.
 - Basketball – boys and girls at middle school level, etc.

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- John Acklin, Rich Jones and Brian McCall reported on progress made by Rich Jones and Renee Morini to create a 5th & 6th grade feeder program.
- Erie County has a "league" that plays games after the 7th & 8th grade games. Ex: 6:15 or 7:15 pm
- Parents at CV and CL would be responsible for all transportation.
- Minimal costs for tee shirts and John Acklin reported should already have plenty of basketballs on hand. Organizers felt that these costs can be provided by parents.
- Coaches – working on volunteers yet want to ensure that they are learning the correct skills – to be coordinated by Varsity Head Coach. Because of that, practices may need to be in the evening instead of after school. Mentioned to have the right coach versus the mandatory immediately after school timeslot.
- Derek Thomas reported that Bob Slevin may be available for CL.
- The committee was in favor of proceeding – being treated as a "club" type of program.
- Scott Shannon, Girls Lacrosse Head Coach – want to remind everyone of the importance of the middle school programs as feeder programs for the high school. Could something be considered in the future for especially soccer and lacrosse?
 - Those trying to do "club" type of teams working with Erie County have had costs such as own insurance and referees for soccer.
- John Acklin reported that Jarrin was reminded that current requirements for all coaches and volunteers with 10 hours or more per week need to have TB testing. The CASH nurse is able to "read" the results, but not administer the test. John has reached out to Mike from Meadville Sports Medicine with no luck yet. Dot was to give contact information for someone with Meadville Medical Center Rural Health Centers.
 - It was noted that past practice was for volunteers (unpaid) that the district would consider paying the cost of the one-time test, if not covered by individual health insurance.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm, and all thanked for attendance and input.


Dorothy Luckock, Board President


Greg Mayle, Board Secretary

Dorothy Luckock, Committee Chair