

WISCONSIN CROSS COUNTRY COACHES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Meeting minutes – January 6th, 2017

Stephanie Hauser, assistant director of the WIAA, spoke first.

While no changes to rules were recommended from coaches advisory, Stephanie discussed some items that came out of the coaches advisory meeting.

- 1) There are two big ideas for a sectional change - 4 divisions v. changing the breakdown of 3 divisions. Where do we go from here? Stephanie advised that we keep the discussions going and come-up with proposals.
- 2) Double sectionals - multiple sectionals at the same course on the same day – Coaches advisory put forth no change in rules, specific to scheduling such events, although this is being worked-through and discussed.
- 3) State meet site – some concern about the golf course being sold, but there is no plan to move the meet.

BUSINESS MEETING

-Introduction of district reps.

- 1) Jeff Martin-Chetek/Weyerhauser (new rep)
 - 2) Kevin Hopp – Stevens Point
 - 3) Craig Olson – Menomonie
 - 4) Michael Jameson-Bayport
 - 5) Chris Smith – DeForest
 - 6) Steve Lewis – Kettle Moraine
 - 7) Glenn Gardner – Tosa East (new rep)
- Secretary is Jack Lo Presti from Tosa West
Bob Rymer is treasure and clinic director

NOTE: Les Paul is retiring as WCCCA Vice President. Michahel Rajsich (East Troy) will take-over

WCCCA Items

WEBSITE: Ron is willing to hand-over the website if someone is willing to take it. Or Ron wants to hear from people with ideas for improvement. If interested, contact Matt.

DISTRICT COACH AND RUNNER OF THE YEAR: To be recognized as a District coach of the year you must be a member. The process for determining district coach of the year might change to the district reps asking for a justification for a nomination.

HALL OF FAME NOMINATION PROCESS: If you would like to nominate an individual, please contact Matt.

WCCCA PRESENCE AT THE STATE MEET: The WCCCA would like to have more of a presence at the state cross country meet – having individuals serve as course marshals similar to the WISTCA coaches at the state track meet.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY: There is discussion about a recommendation of moving middle school cross country races to 2 miles. This would be a recommendation from the WCCCA and would not be binding.

MOTION - that the WCCCA recommends a 2 mile distance for cross country runners

DISCUSSION

-A mile and a half is a more appropriate distance. Some 5th and 6th graders can't handle the distance right away.

-Perhaps the max distance could be two miles, similar to how the max distance in high school cross is 5k.

-Some schools haven't even practiced early in the season, and a 2 mile race might be too far. Heat may be a problem early in the season. The longer distance may not keep kids engaged.

Q. Why shouldn't it be up to the meet manager? Why is this coming up?

A. Some teams are concerned about variable distances.

-3k distance is typical of national distances for kids at the USATF/Junior Olympics level.

-The goal is to keep middle school kids interested. We don't want to turn kids off or over-train them due to the increased distance. The goal should not be a distance, but to keep kids interested.

-It doesn't matter what we decide, kids will do what they want.

-We have 6th to 8th graders running a 3200m distance, it isn't a problem.

-Middle school is development. It should be for fun. There should be no delegation or regulation of distance.

-The consistency of a distance is nice. It's nice to know that there will be a typical distance. Even though it might not be followed, it's nice to have a standard distance.

VOTE – Recommend distance of 3200m for Middle School races

VOTE FAILS – No recommendation is made

MIDDLE SCHOOL SHOWCASE MEET: A large showcase “state meet” middle school event in the Wisconsin Dells is potentially upcoming. This would be an open meet for middle school kids. Stay tuned for the date (most likely it would be the Saturday before Sectionals, the day of most HS conference meets, or the week before).

LIFETIME WCCCA MEMBERSHIP: This is an idea that is floating around, but not determined yet.

RANKINGS: we need rankers. Take rankings with a grain of salt. But if you haven't ranked before, please consider doing it.

COACHES ADVISORY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE / ENROLMENTS

A couple of years ago a new proposal of shifting teams from sectional to sectional was proposed. It did not have enough support to move. An at large proposal were made two years ago. 4 Division proposals have been made recently. Where should we go now?

DIVISIONAL STRUCTURE / ENROLMENTS DISCUSSION

Q. How are divisions decided?

A. The biggest 120 in D1, next biggest 122 schools are in D2, the rest in D3

-Smaller schools in D3 (with 20 or 30 schools, like a charter school) are bumping teams up into D2 that should be in D3.

-The number for D3 schools is deceptively high because there are many incomplete teams.

-If you think about changing divisions, how many people really care? Most schools won't change, so the percentage of schools that vote shouldn't be an issue.

-Look at what's best for the sport, not what is going to affect individuals or teams.

-If the WIAA wants to do something they will do it anyway.

Q. How does the WIAA decide the cutoff for D1, D2 and D3?

A. We know how the D1 cut-off works – top 120 teams. The D2 number is set at 122 arbitrarily.

-Most other sports have more divisions.

Q. Is this all about qualifying for state?

A. It's absolutely a state meet issue.

-It's a moot point for D3 because you are always in D3.

-It's not a moot point for D3 because much of D3 could be on the bubble for D2.

-How many people want a change? (show of hands, it's about even)

STATE MEET

The state meet isn't going to move locations anytime soon, but the WIAA has to look at other potential options. One WIAA member said that it would be difficult to move the state meet out of central Wisconsin. Not that it can't change. It's easy to consider moving to Madison, but they might not want much to do with the state meet.

-The course has changed due to high water, and the change is permanent.

Q. Matt asks if less people stayed over night in hotels due to the later start? A few people indicate that they didn't have to stay over night due to the time change. A few people raise their hands.

PRACTICING ON THE SECTIONAL SITE

The present rule is that you cannot practice on your sectional course unless it's a place where you normally practice.

Idea from District Reps is as follows – Allow teams to practice on the sectional site one time, with permission from the host school, but have that practice count as a meet on the calendar.

PRACTICING ON SECTIONAL SITE DISCUSSION

Q. What's the problem?

A. People like to preview the course if they can.

Q. Don't you have to host an invite to host sectionals?

A. No

-I like it the way it is. It's cross country.

-UW Parkside trails are beautiful, and we should be able to run on these awesome areas. Schools that host meets there are able to run on those trails, but other schools can't.

-Enter the invite held by the school if you want a preview.

-How many courses do we have that are CC courses only? Will a person who is hosting a sectional be obliged to line the course?

Q. The rule about not practicing on a sectional site in a public place at a public park isn't enforceable. Who's monitoring this?

A. That's why this issue is coming-up.

-Kids can go over the summer without penalty. That's enough.

-Distance to travel to a course might be long. Allowing teams to practice might be unfair.

-Host schools SHOULD have an advantage. But how do we tell people they can't go on public property on their own time? It should be up to the coach.

FRIDAY SECTIONALS

Is it worthwhile to examine the rule about allowing teams to host Sectionals on Friday OR Saturday? The rule as is says the WIAA requires Saturday sectionals unless a team has a very good reason for a Friday sectional. There isn't enough support to change this right now.

NO DISCUSSION on this issue.

SECTIONAL SITES

Are there awesome sites for sectionals that could be used that aren't used? Are there great courses with poor meet management? We are looking at being proactive about getting info to meet management about proper hosting procedures.

Sectional hosts are going to be required to get information out on time.

SECTIONAL SITES DISCUSSION

Q. Does the WIAA have a 2-year cycle with sectional sites?

A. There used to be a 2-year cycle but that isn't a rule. In most parts of the state, though, if you get it one year you will get it the next.

-Some teams get overlooked by being on the outer edge of the sectional.

-Sectional double-header is the host school's determination for a time schedule, but that's not fair to schools that have a routine.

-Coaches advisory looked at this but decided that every site is different and each school should do what works for them. But if it is a double-header sectional, get the information out as early as possible.

-Marty Comment: We need clarification of our sports rules from the WIAA! Practice on sectional sites in the summer? The WIAA needs to clarify.

-The off-season training rules are confusing.

ADJOURN