

**Youth Athletic Task Force
Rome Corners, Yellow Instructional Room
February 16, 2004**

Purpose: The meeting was called to order by Cal Callaway, Task Force facilitator, at 6:20 p.m. Cal welcomed the Task Force and responded to some opening questions. He requested that questions about the purpose and goals of the Task Force be held until after the "charge" from the Board of Education was reviewed. He did address the question as to "why" the Task Force was being convened at this time. He said that the desire of the Board of Education to create a supportive connection to the various youth sports organizations in the district has been envisioned for the past couple of years. When Ryan Mangan was hired as the Sports Administrator for the district, part of his job description was to work toward connecting the district in a supportive manner with the youth sports organizations in the district. The Board of Education has had a tradition of taking a supportive role in community efforts to recognize and develop assets that youth possess. Much has been done by community volunteers to provide athletics experiences for children in the district prior to middle school involvement. In the process of determining how the district could be more supportive of community youth sports activities, the Board of Education believed some study of the research based on the impact youth sports programs had over time on the physical, emotional, and social development of children was warranted. The Task Force was formed to review the research and provide information to the Board of Education as requested in the Oregon School District Project: Youth Athletics Philosophy document.

Ryan Mangan, Sports Administrator for the Oregon School District, welcomed the group and stressed the importance of the work and of the value their recommendations will be to the Board of Education and district. It was explained that Ryan will be a resource to the Task Force but would not participate in any decision making of the Task Force.

1. As part of the check-in process, members provided information about their past sports experiences. (see attached table)
2. Reviewed the agenda for adoption or modifications. Agenda was approved as proposed.
3. Review the "Charge" from the Oregon Board of Education:
 - ✓ No questions on page 1 - paragraphs I, II and III
 - ✓ Pertaining to paragraph III, a member wanted a clarification on how this committee would be making decisions. Cal responded that the consensus process will be explained later in the meeting.
 - ✓ In review of paragraph VI, product expected, Cal pointed out that it was important the members clearly understood what the Board of Education was expecting for the Task Force to complete its missions. Each item was reviewed.

It was emphasized in paragraph IV that Ryan Mangan, Sports Administrator, will act as the liaison between the Task Force and the Board of Education.

As an example of possible resources (paragraph VII), Cal suggested that a member from B.O.A.T (Anne Staton) come and speak to this group to create a broader understanding of asset development. However, towards the end of the meeting it was discussed that most were familiar with B.O.A.T and at this time they decided not to pursue. (B.O.A.T. is an acronym for Building Our Assets Together)

4. Guidelines for conduct of meetings:
 - ✓ Reviewed climate desired for open communications (handout)
 - ✓ Explained the process (consensus) the Task Force would be using to arrive at decisions. (handout provided)

5. Group Activities

Characteristics of a model youth athletics program (our thoughts) were charted

- Opportunities for ALL (male/female)
- Start at an early age – pre 3rd grade
 - age to learn skills
- Emphasis on fun (not win/lose OR include recreation/participation)
- Policies based on input from all shareholders
- Coaches are positive role models
- Clearly understand objectives
- Wide variety of citizen involvement– family involvement/interest
- Learning of appropriate skill
- Safe, maintained facilities/equipment
- Sportsmanship and fair play stressed
- Support from contracted MS/HS school coaches
- Stressing of fundamentals and sequential skills development that build on each other
- Trained coaches
- Background checks on coaches, chaperones, etc.

Best qualities of the existing youth sports program in Oregon were charted (see attached table)

Issues/challenges encountered in the existing youth sports program in Oregon were charted (see attached table)

(Agenda item VI, converting issues into questions, was postponed until the next meeting because of insufficient time)

ISSUES / CHALLENGES of Oregon Youth Sports Programs

Main Focus	Participation (win at all cost	Over-emphasis on win/loss	Coaches too focused on winning	To much emphasis on winning or high school development			
Support	Lack of support from school coaches	No line or (slight) between HS/youth programs					
Skills	Separating athletes by skill too early	Creating elite teams to compete					
Increasing Population	Challenge of growing community						
Impact of Club Sports	School vs. club sports						
Coaching	Many different objectives	Coaches have different levels of understanding	Approaches can be quite variable between coaches	Consistency in coaching			
Pressure	Pressure to specialize in one sport	Pushing athletes towards one sports	"out-of-season" sports/pressure to specialize				
Facilities	Availability of facilities	Finding the place for sports	Lack of facilities maintenance-same people doing the work				
Parents	Negative parent involvement	Inherent parental misconceptions (my child vs. their child)	Poor sports (kids & spectators)	Parent coaches (negative)	Unhappy parents/team selections-lack of coach support	Unhappy parents(find reason to fault coach/program/ etc.	Parents who use the youth sports as a babysitting service
Sports	Overlapping sports	Stressing 1 sport all year long	Year round commitment				
Meaningful Participation	Adequate playing time for each player						
Costs							
Sportsmanship	Loss of philosophical vision at "crunch-time"	Focus on good sportsmanship					
Volunteers	Volunteers "over-used"--contributes to burn out						
Fundamentals	Teaching & learning fundamentals	Teaching right skills @ appropriate age	Fundamental knowledge of sport				
Selection/ Preparation of Coaches	Provide training/guidelines for coaches	Recruit more trained coached	Knowledgeable coaches (training)	Qualifications of coaches questionable	Lack of qualified coaches	Finding the people who want to coach	

TASK FORCE MEMBERS EXPERIENCE

S-School P-Parent C-Coach	John Breidenbach (P)	Todd Bresser (S)	John Dellemenn (C)	Tom Fischer (P)	Jim Hagstrom (C)	Dan Kisling (S)	Marcia McDermid (S)	Sue Nelson (C)	Rita Olson (P)	Tracey Rosemeyer (S)	Mike Statz (P)	Bruce Tway (C)
Parent of child in Youth Sports Program A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Participated in Youth Sports Program B	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	
Participated in MS/HS athletics C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Participated in college athletics D	X					X	X			X	X	
Coached in Youth Sports Program E	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	
Coached in MS/HS/College Sports Program F	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	
Coached male athletes G	X		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	
Coached female athletes H	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	
Served on governing council for sports program I	X		X		X		X	X				
Director responsible for sports program J	X	X	X	X			X	X				
Training/physical impact K	X			X		X	X	X				
Training/psychological impact L	X					X	X					
Training/coaching techniques M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		
Recruiting	X			X		X			X		X	

**POSITIVE QUALITIES OF
OREGON YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS**

Cost of involvement	Reasonable cost						
Access to Facilities	No fee facilities	Many facilities available for events	Quality facilities	Good facilities available	Facilities	Facilities	
Scope of Program	Year around offerings	Variety of activities	Variety of opportunities available	Broad range of sports offered	Variety of sports to choose from	Multiple sports	Wide variety of sports offered/many and varied opportunities
Program Oversight	Governing bodies for many of our youth sports (OSA, youth football, etc.)						
Coaches	Willing coaches	Positive coaches	Dedicated volunteers	People working together for same purpose	Teach fundamental skills		
Nature of Program	Emphasis is on fun	Emphasis is on fun, not win/loss	Athletes are having fun				
Availability of Program	Opportunity to participate	Opportunities for everyone	Age appropriate opportunities	Get children (boys & girls) involved at a young age	Plenty of opportunities, good for all	All are provided the opportunity to participate	Opportunity for all
Parental Support	Parental support and involvement (fairly good)	Involved with your children's sports					