

**Youth Athletic Task Force, 2nd Meeting
Rome Corners Int. School, Yellow Instructional Room
March 15, 2004**

MINUTES:

(6:15) 1. Check-in

All members present. Each member gave his/her view or reaction to the book being reviewed, *Just Let the Kids Play*. All agreed it was a good book to use as a basic reference because of the completeness of coverage and the research references provided. Several members commented it would have been valuable to read early in their coaching careers.

2. Approve/modify agenda:

Agenda was approved (by consensus) with no changes.

3. Approve/modify minutes from Feb. 16th meeting:

Felt the minutes covered all information thoroughly and with a few grammatical corrections, the minutes were approved. (Minutes available to community on website www.oregon.k12.wi.us)

4. Open communication from community:

It was agreed that if community members attended the Task Force meetings, they would be able to address the Task Force at the beginning of the meeting but not during the business portion of the meeting. It was agreed to have "open communication" as an item on future agendas.

Tom Fischer brought along some "Building Our Assets Together" materials for review if needed. The three members who had not heard a B.O.A.T. presentation were provided material for review.

Ryan Mangan clarified that the intention of the Board and this Task Force was to include young athletes through age 14. Information provided could be of value at all sports levels, not just at the middle school level.

5. The opportunity was provided to add items to charts developed at last meeting:

No items were added to the charts.

6. Convert issues/challenges (identified at previous meeting) into relevant questions:

The Task Force was split into 4 sub-groups and the issues/challenges were split between them. Each had four areas to discuss and to pose relevant questions regarding the issues. The following were the questions posed to guide the collection of information:

Main Focus-What should be the main goal(s) for youth athletic programs designed for children under age fifteen? Should the goals change as the athletes age and develop necessary skills?

Support-Should school coaches be expected to be readily available to youth programs? How can school coaches act as a resource for the youth program? (Background)

Skills-At what age do you begin separating athletes by skill level?

Increasing Population-How will increasing populations affect our youth sports programs (facilities, fee structure, general organization, and communication)?

Impact of Club Sports-How can a community effectively provide for both club and school sports?

Coaching-How is a coaching philosophy created that is consistent with the community expectations and task force recommendations?

Pressure/Sports-How does a youth sports program avoid the pressure to push kids to specialize in one sport at too early an age?

Facilities-How do we fairly divide the use of facilities between school needs and youth sports needs? How will maintenance of facilities be handled fairly? (equitably/fairly)

Parents-How can valuable information regarding youth sports programs and the development of young athletes be provided to parents so they understand/support the findings of the Task Force?

Meaningful Participation-Is meaningful playing time the same as equal playing time (guidelines for participation)?

Sportsmanship-How do we achieve a positive reflection of community/schools, coaches/parents/athletes through the image portrayed by our various sports programs?

Volunteers-How do we recruit volunteers and keep them involved?

Fundamentals-What is defined as appropriate skills and at what age? (differentiate) Where/how do coaches receive training in coaching young athletes?

Selection/Prep of Coaches-What level of experience should coaches have? Should background checks be included?

7. Report from Chapter 2 sub-committee:

The sub-committee of John Delleman, Dan Kissling, and John Breidenbach presented a written report. Following related discussion, the following items were recommended for consideration when belief statements are developed:

- No one before grade 7 should be on an elite team
- Grade 5/6 teams play exclusively within the community, with the possibility of a few exploratory tournaments after the season.
- Grade 7/8 teams play within their league in season; post-season play in tourneys inside or outside the community.
- Impartial teams/selection of players to achieve balanced competition (assign child to teams, then assign coach)
- Problems with yearlong sports (specializing in one sport, injuries, burnout)
- Teach more fundamentals, stress value of practice times, and less emphasis on games and tournaments at early ages
- Restrict number of tournaments outside of season prior to 7th grade

8. Report from Chapter 3 sub-committee (was postponed until the April 12th meeting):

9. Major agenda items for the April 12th meeting:

- Research from Chapter 3 report: Jim Hagstrom, Rita Olson, Dan Kissling
 - Research from Chapter 4 report: Marcia McDermid, Rita Olson, Sue Nelson
 - Research from Chapter 5 report: Jim Hagstrom, Todd Bresser, Mike Statz
- *Each sub-committee is to present an oral summary of the body of research they read. Oral summaries should be accompanied by a printed summary as well. Each sub-committee should present items they recommend for Task Force consideration for inclusion in "Belief Statements" document.

10. Feedback on conduct of the meetings and/or follow-up: No suggestions for altering the conduct of the meetings were received.

(8:15) 11. Adjournment and meeting date set for May - 5/3/04

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