

Youth Athletic Task Force Meeting
Rome Corners Int. School, Yellow Instructional Room
May 3, 2004

(6:15)

1. Cal Callaway called meeting to order and members approved agenda as published.
2. Check-in. Ryan Mangin shared that the author (Bob Bigelow) of the book, Just Let the Kids Play contacted him. Mr. Bigelow spoke to Ryan about the task force and would be available to come speak to our group or community at a later date. Ryan will follow-up with an Observer interviewer to do a follow up article.
3. Open communication (from community) – 1 person present. Attending to observe only, no comments. (Scott Kelbel-Oregon Youth Basketball)
4. The minutes from the 4/12 meeting were approved as published.
5. Revisit issues/questions from 3/15 meeting. Concern was “how” does the Task Force put it into action, get community on board, etc. Cal confirmed, at this point, the committee is accumulating the information to guide those decisions. The Task Force is to concentrate on the "what" as found in research. The "how" will be the responsibility of the Board of Education and related entities.
6. A report from sub-committee of Marcia McDermid, Sue Nelson, and Tom Fischer (research from Chapter 6) was presented by Sue. A handout summarized the main points of the report. The recommendations cited by the committee for possible inclusion in belief statements were:
 - Renew traditions, giving children the power to "call their own shots", crate ownership in the activities
 - Place less emphasis on winning, more on participation
 - Modifications to accommodate the age/size of participants should be made regarding rules, length of playing time, size of teams, play area, etc.

The group felt the chapter repeated itself and was very analytical. Applied toward younger kids (the beginning stages). Didn't feel information was research based. More detailed comments can be found in the report they submitted, Chapter 6-"Managing Games: Rules to Play By."

Chapter 7 was recommended reading for all.

7. A report from sub-committee of Bruce Tway, Tracey Rosemeyer, and Tom Fischer (research from Chapter 8) was presented by Bruce. A handout summarized the main points of the report. The recommendations cited by the committee for possible inclusion in belief statements were:
 - Discourage "elite" teams (try-outs and paid coach) at least through 6th grade
 - Parent/participant choice to play at lower level should be granted

The report cited three case studies with arguments for and against certain practices. Some of the issues included were: a) elite teams; b) individual choice; and c) trouble with trophies.

The report also made the point that change is not easy. The Internet was identified as a source for helpful information. The source www.MomsTeam.com was provided as an example.

8. A report from sub-committee of John Dellemann, Tracey Rosemeyer, and John Breidenbach (research from Chapter 9) was presented by John B. A handout summarized the main points of the report. The recommendations cited by the committee for possible inclusion in belief statements were:
- Coaches at all levels should meet with the youth participant and both parents prior to the seasons. Expectations, behavior, roles, questions, comments should all be addressed. Consequences if these requirements are not met should be laid out clearly.
 - Suggested 10 ideas to inspire you. Didn't get a good feeling with this chapter. Reconnect w/family (was liked by committee). Felt it was a redundant chapter. Felt this report was better than chapter.

More detailed comments can be found in the report they submitted, Chapter 9-"Success Stories: Ten Ideas to Inspire You."

Here are the items recommended be discussed at organizational meetings (all have to agree on them).

- Oregon inner sports(?)
 - The type of coaches you have at each level-there has to be a different type of coach (knowledge, handle players/parents, expect more)
 - Quality of coach has to go up with grade levels.
 - Same person coaching all the way through is not beneficial.
 - Has to happen with coaches and at the early levels.
 - Common set of expectations but implementation may be different from coach to coach and personalities
 - Bottom line....will not tolerate certain things. Governing group should dictate how often practices are held per week/amount of time. Set standards and have coaches agree with them.
 - Strict guidelines. Guidelines only as good as the enforcement behind them. Coach is the one that drives home the points.
9. A report from sub-committee of Bruce Tway, Todd Bresser, and Mike Statz (research from Chapter 10) was presented by Todd B. A handout summarized the main points of the report. Information chapter and didn't have recommendations.

Comments on chapter: Big emphasis in chapter that fun is being taken out of youth sports. More detailed comments can be found in the report they submitted, Chapter 10-"Going the Distance: Beyond Youth Sports."

10. Approach to form belief statements.
HS/MS mission, belief statements, commitments, etc. could serve as a structural model for Task Force. Mission statement too broad so it is translated into belief statements. Consensus was for using belief statements only believed to be. One criterion to group approved was the resulting belief statements should be stated in a positive format.

We believe:

1. Our athletic programs will serve the best interests of ALL participants physically, socially and emotionally.

2. Standards and training will be established for coaches in each sport.
3. Developmentally appropriate skills and procedures will be established for each age level. (serial skill development, practice schedule, etc.)
4. (Participation/coaching-skills development, parental development)

Commitments:

1. Well trained coaches

As the Task Force continued to discuss the belief statements, a question was raised as to what "elite" meant for this group. It was discovered that there seems to be many views among the group. A long discussion followed and we voted on having the meeting go an extra 10 minutes to try and wrap things up. This is a discussion that will definitely need some more attention from this group and will be continued at the following meetings.

Jim Hagstrom stated that the process may work better if the Task Force first agreed on the core issues the belief statements should address. The chapter recommendations could be the start for identifying the core issues. Cal Callaway offered to meet with Jim before the next meeting to develop a list of core issues the Task Force could adopt, add to, or modify as they saw fit.

11. Schedule for remaining meetings

Meeting time will remain at 6:15 p.m.

Meetings were set for the following dates: June 7, July 12, and August 9

A motion was made to insert another meeting after June 7th if the group feels it is needed.

Adjourned 8:25 p.m.

To: Members of Youth Athletic Task Force
From: Cal Callaway
Date: May 21, 2004
Re: Efficient use of meeting time

Rationale: The Task Force is at a critical point in fulfilling the charge from the Board of Education. That is developing belief statements and stakeholder commitments from the relevant research studied and reported.

In order to make optimal use of meeting times, I request that at our June meeting, you review and approve the processes outlined below. I believe you will see the processes encourage everyone to get involved, multiple perspectives will be considered, and meeting time will not be spent "word-smithing" that statements. Yet, final approval of the full Task Force will occur for each statement and/or document.

To develop the set of belief statements:

1. The Task Force compiles a list of core topics/issues the belief statements should address (Jim Hagstrom has a start on this).
2. The Task Force will divide into four sub-groups; three people per group (1 youth coach, 1 parent/community, and 1 district coach).
3. Each sub-group will compose at least one belief statement per core topic/issues. (Some topics may require more than one statement).
4. A flip chart sheet will be entitled with a core topic/issue. A representative of each sub-group will record their belief statements on the corresponding chart sheet. (Each core topic/issue should-will have at least four statement recorded).
5. The belief statements recorded on each sheet will be condensed into one (or more) statements. (I suggest this be accomplished by a volunteer sub-committee. The resulting statements would be presented to entire Task Force for analysis and approval).

For the stakeholder (youth coaches, players, parents, and district decision-makers) statements of commitment, I request a similar process be adopted except:

1. The sub-groups be made up of the like representatives, (1 youth coach group, 1 parent/community group, and 1 district group).
2. Each sub-group generate commitment statements for the sector represented.
3. Each sub-group generate commitments they would expect from the other stakeholders. (Example: youth coaches would generate a set of commitment statements for youth coaches, in addition, youth coaches would generate expected commitments; 1) players, 2) parents, and 3) the school district.

Please come to the June 7th meeting having thought this approach through and ready to approve or propose a more efficient and inclusive process to adopt.