

Washington State Cross Country Coaches Association  
October 29, 2006  
WIAA offices

Attending:

Joe Clark - President  
Phil English - Vice President  
Mike Colbrese - WIAA  
Bruce McDowell - treasurer  
Patty Ley - secretary

1:34pm - Meeting called to order by Joe Clark

#### 1. State meet access for spectators:

Joe expressed the frustration of much of the membership about limited spectator and coach access. After polling the districts following most recent announcement of limiting access, Advisory board members reported extensive response to question about greater access. Virtually all responses indicated frustration. Several recurring questions arose 1) At what point will Sun Willows no longer be a viable site for the state meet 2) Are there currently other viable sites 3) Why does this type of issue keep cropping up at the end of the season when there is greatest potential disruption, but least possible response?

Mike responded by pointing out that cross country coaches have unprecedented access to the tournament manager. No other sport allows as much input. One of the primary issues is who should be delivering these messages to John Crawford and his team. Communication would be most effective by membership communicating with board who should communicate with Mike and the WIAA who will bring concerns to John.

Current commitment agreements are primarily with the Red Lion / Doubletree. There will be a change in oversight within a year from Mike to Teresa \_\_\_\_\_, so this may be an appropriate time to look closely at the state meet not necessarily with the intent to move but as part of reevaluating a situation.

Joe suggested the creation of an advisory document similar to standard operation procedures adopted by several districts for the consideration of state meet sites. Such a document would consider student, coach, spectator, and management issues. Mike agreed such a document would be helpful. A meeting will be scheduled to include coaches and WIAA staff. Board will begin soliciting input and similar documents to begin this process.

Phil spoke to the advantages of the Tri-Cities or Yakima area because of weather conditions in early November. He also spoke to the emotional atmosphere that could be created by emphasizing spectator access that could rival that of other sports.

A discussion ensued about how this might be best achieved. A two loop course on the Sun Willows course would appear to be a strong solution. It would allow central spectator access as well simplify course set up and would move the course away from the housing development limiting its influence on the meet.

Mike will contact Le Burns about these suggestions in the post season. He also will consider issues with the current awards schedule and possibly adjusting the awards area so that the bottleneck of spectators might be limited in the next few days.

#### 2. Length of season proposal:

Joe asked Mike to comment on the issues and strength of a length of season proposal which would reestablish and additional week at the end of the season. A new proposal will also address the inequality between high school and middle/junior high school seasons.

Mike indicated he personally supported an effort to reintroduce this proposal as long as support was indicated by the coaches in the state. Two issues which helped to kill the proposal previously were a perception of nonagreement amongst the coaches and a strong statement against the change by meet management.

Mike also indicated he would pass along minutes from last WIAA Executive Board meeting when the proposal was discussed and voted down on the third vote when it had looked fairly strong. Best time for implementation would be Fall of 2008. In order to do this, the Association would need to bring the proposal to the Executive Board by early spring.

Board discussed the elements of the proposal - equality with junior high season length (10 + 2) versus high school length of (9 + 2) - need for making the proposal available as broadly as possible and to seek as much response as possible. All members of the board will seek a vote at individual league meetings. Advisory board members will be asked to contact each coach with in his/her district for response on the issue. This input will be very important in convincing the Executive Board of broad support by the cross country coaches in the state.

### 3. Career recognition criteria:

State Coaches Association seeks to recognize coaches for career achievements in each sport. They have asked the WSCCCA for criteria for this recognition. Football has a two tier recognition with the first tier being reached at 100 wins. Because of league differences, dual meet wins are probably not the best criteria. Discussion led to the suggestion that recognition be based up team or individuals who competed at state with a minimum experience requirement. Discussion led to the following criteria:

12 years experience

Tier 1 8 years of team at state or 10 individuals on podium

Tier 2 8 years of team placing in the top 8 at state

Feed back will be sought on this proposal.

### 4. Paperwork to Jerry Koester

Joe reminded Bruce about turning appropriate paperwork into Jerry Koester in order to receive moneys from the State Coaches Association.

### 5. State meet membership meeting agenda

Joe solicited advice about agenda items. All agreed this should be kept as short as possible so coaches can get back to their athletes. Board agreed on topics. Joe will set order for meeting.

Coach of the year awards

Presidential recognition awards (Mark Cullen - recipient)

Recognition of officers and advisory board members

All star race news

Amendment to coaches constitution vote

Membership drive

Coaches' poll - Team / Runner of the week proposal

Length of season - no discussion

Joe also requested reimbursement for hotel room for he and Phil for the meeting. Approved

### 6. All Star Race

Short discussion - Joe indicated Brooks continued support but communication has been rougher with transition in liason position. Insurance will be provided by WSCCA contingent upon presence of a doctor on site during the competition. Joe also expressed hope that John Hill would be willing to take on meet manager role again this year, but that board must consider other possibilities as well.

### 7. State meet course requirements

Tabled until future date - idea of advisory document approved by Mike Colbrese earlier in discussion

### 8. Official position papers

Out of state coaching - discussion by board about prevalence of problem. Position paper could be slippery slope leading to issues for in-state coaches. Board decided a mention should be made at State meet coaches' meeting indicating there is a Colorado prep school actively recruiting talented kids from the state. This school is unaccredited in Colorado and does not compete in state association meets. This is a cautionary note to coaches.

### 9. Pictures of executive and advisory board members.

Joe suggested this would be a nice touch on the website. Initial feelings were to avoid placing pictures in a public

forum, but after discussion the advantages of photographs are strong. Primarily they would be valuable for coaches to recognize representatives and board members for communication purposes. Bruce will bring his camera and take pictures. Patty will grudgingly make herself available.

Meeting was adjourned 3:30pm (just in time for the pass to close so Phil can't go home)

Respectfully submitted  
11/2/2006