

Soccer Advisory Committee  
General Meeting and Seeding Meeting

2-13-10

Agenda and **Minutes**

1. Call To Order
2. Roll-Sign In Sheet/Coaches or guests

LEAGUE REPS: Susan Romero (NAL), Jesse Barajas (BVL), Jesse Barajas (BVL), Mike Owen (SVL), Renea Garcia (SVL)

GUESTS: Suzanne Muellie (West Valley High), Ross (Orland), Kevin Connors (GSSRA Officials)

Section Commissioner Liz Kyle and Committee Chair Troy Wellington

3. Public Input-None
4. Committee Chair-Introductions/Purpose of Meetings-

Passed out and reviewed section seeding guidelines for placing teams into the play-off brackets for section championships.

Passed out a copy of the latest rankings (using the play-off points) for each division and league reps reviewed the win loss records for each of the teams to make sure win/loss records were for each team were accurate. Several errors were found. Using the groups collective memory and the power of deduction a number of errors were corrected and reported to Kevin Askeland by phone. He re-ran the formula and found no change in the rankings. The committee was not able to reason out several other errors so Liz Kyle called Kevin Askeland and had him run two versions of the power points to accommodate two different W/L scenarios between teams. Again, although the power points changed slightly, the rankings of the teams in each division did not change.

The Committee Noted: Central Valley will not send either the boys or girls teams to the play-offs, Liberty Christian will not send their team to the play-offs, Piece will not send their girls team to the play-offs, and Winters will not send their girls team to the play-offs.

A letter that was e-mailed to Troy from Dan Kiely (Colusa Boys Coach) was also read to the committee. The letter was in regards to the MVL having only 4 teams and one team dropping out before even playing one game. The other three teams automatically received forfeit wins due to this situation. The fairness of this is questioned because this league also had a team drop

out half through the season last year. This situation was noted by the committee and since there is nothing in the section constitution or section guidelines at this point, it was agreed to put this item on the information/discussion part of the agenda.

The committee reviewed seeding procedure and then seeded the teams in each division:

Key points that arose during seeding:

- Initially seed by ranking on the section web site using the power points
- Examine the rankings making adjustments for any situation that does not adhere to section guidelines.
- League Champions automatically qualify for the play-offs
- Teams will not be seeded out of their league finish; therefore, if two teams are tied in league then the league tiebreaker will be used to seed the teams accordingly.
- Consideration should be given to placing teams from the same league in opposite brackets or at least avoid playing each other in the first round.

Division I and III Boys were seeded in order of power points, no adjustments necessary

Division II Boys, initially seeded in order and then Live Oak was flipped with Pierce since they finished #1 and #2 in league and guidelines stipulate that the top two teams in any one league should not face each other in the first round.

Division II and III girls were seeded in order of power points, no adjustments necessary

Division I girls were initially seeded in order of power points and then Lassen and West Valley were flipped due to league finish. West Valley and Lassen finished tied for first in league. Since teams cannot be seeded outside of league finish the league tie breaker had to be utilized. The first tie break rule for the NAL is "Overall League record including the results from the kicks from the penalty mark" This first tie break rule gave Lassen the #1 seed over West Valley since they won on PK's from the one tie they had in common.

When seeding was completed, it was then verified and approved by Liz Kyle and Faxed to the section office to be posted on the Section web site. Please see web site for seeding results and play-off brackets.

##### 5. Additional Items-

Added the letter from Dan Kiely from Colusa in order to discuss the fact Biggs High School has struggled to put a team on the field the last two years and this has resulted in forfeits in a four school league. The question is does this skew the power points and is this fair?

## 6. Informational Items/Discussion items

- a. 600 Rule Change at state level-Committee was informed that deleting the exception to Rule 600 for fall and spring teams was going before the state CIF board for a vote in may. It would only affect the teams that play in the fall and in the spring. It would not affect the winter teams.
- b. Update on play-offs for the fall and spring seasons-Committee was informed that the motion to make fall and spring eligible for section championships has been presented to the Play-off Committee, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Managers (first read). In addition the proposal was also presented at the NSADA in November as an information item. So far the only issue that may be a sticking point is the cost of adding section championships for the fall and the spring teams. However, it was noted that if the Fall and Spring teams are approved for Section Championships then they would need to follow the same criteria in the Section Soccer Guidelines as the winter teams. This includes a play-off entry fee and charging a gate during all the phases of the play-offs. During the last several years the winter teams have been in the black bringing in approximately \$3000 per season. In order to increase the dollar amount for the section a number of suggestions include:
  - Raising the tournament entry fee to totally cover the cost of awards and officials fees
  - Even in if a gate is charged, if the gate is less than the cost of the officials, then the school must pay the difference in the cost of the officials.

A copy of the language crafted for the for the guideline changes regarding the proposal to make fall and spring soccer section play-off eligible was provided to the committee member.

- c. Review Leagues and Schools in Seasons of Sport-Committee reviewed the 2008-2010 Soccer Leagues and seasons in which they play. The committee discussed any possible changes to the leagues and the seasons due to the new realignment that begins in the fall of 2010. The changes noted are listed below:
  - Delta is not a member any longer and will be drop from the SVL
  - Rio Vista Leaves the Section this year and will be drop from the SVL
  - U-Prep petition for the boys soccer team in the fall to leave the EL and join the EAL. The EL granted release of the U-Prep team and the EAL granted acceptance of the U-Prep team.
- d. The fields have holes were the sprinklers are located. If it's raining it's hard to see the holes because the mud is covering or erasing the paint. When the field is dry Cones cover the sprinkler heads making footing or tracking dangerous.-

Jesse Barajas reported that this concern was brought to him by Orland, Las Plumas, and Gridley. The schools are concerned that the sprinkler heads and the holes around them pose a hazard. In reality, this issue needs to be discussed by the AD's at a league meeting and an agreement needs to be reached. The officials are to inspect the field before the game starts and the holes should be filled in before play starts. By all accounts, the assigned officials are not requiring the holes to be filled in and are allowing games to be played. The officials may not realize that they are then assuming responsibility for injuries to players on an unsafe field as well as the home school. Troy will put together a memo to be e-mailed to the AD's and the officials association. The committee also discussed adding field safety requirements to the guidelines if a school expects to host a home game. The committee will review language to this affect at the next meeting and make it an action item so it may go before the board of managers.

- e. The two official system: We may not be able to do much do to financial issues. However, it is an issue when calls are missed and the Winters team plays the game tugging at jerseys and pulling on players because they are aware that certain angles hide this type of play.

This was also brought to the committee as a concern by Las Plumas, Orland, and Gridley. This is also a league issue. The NFHS rules allow for a 2 official system and many schools utilize this system either due to lack of available officials or as a cost saving measure to the schools. It is the recommended that the AD's of the league discuss this issue and decide if they wish to mandate the three official system. For the play-offs, three officials need to be used. A memo reminding assigners of this issue needs to be sent.

- f. Division points awarded

This is related to and ties into item j below (Dan Kiely letter). The concern is that Division points in the power point formula may carry too much weight and skew the team team rankings. Some of the DII teams are playing up and defeating weaker DI teams and hence getting a small boost in the rankings since the formula awards more points for playing up a division. Other schools, which cannot play up (simply because they cannot afford transportation or officials for non-league games) are not getting the same boost in the rankings. Many scenarios were discussed by the group as to how this could remedied. The one suggestion that might help is to put more weight on the category that takes into account the opponents W/L record. The committee did agree that before making any changes it would be a good idea to run several scenarios through the formula to see how any changes to the formula affect the team rankings.

Regarding the points in Dan Kielys' letter: The committee did not believe that forfeit wins in themselves skew the rankings since the overall point total is divided by the number of schools they played thus giving you an average. However, the committee did agree, that when you have a small league and play each other 4 times then there may be some type of skewing of the results. But once again, several scenarios need to be run through the formula in order to determine if this is the case. The committee also agreed that it will be interesting to see the results of the Division III boys, play-offs. Regarding the Biggs High School issue and dropping out of league, the committee recommended that language be added to the guidelines that enforces exactly when a league is dissolve and schools then become independent. In other words, if one school in a four school league

drops out when does that league cease becoming a league. Is it when the school drops out or is it retro-active to the beginning of the season. Troy will research this in the section constitution and seek the advice of the board of managers.

g. Adding games after season has started

Mike Owen expressed his concern regarding teams adding games to their schedule during the season in order to boost their power points. Basically, there is nothing in the guidelines or section constitution that prohibits the adding of games to your schedule once the season starts. The committee will need to craft language to add to the guidelines which would prohibit the addition of teams to a schedule for the sole purpose of boosting power points once the season starts. Language needs to be crafted/and discussed at the next meeting and placed on the agenda as an action item.

h. Scheduled games that are not played due to weather

Same as part g. However, rather than scheduling games, teams are choosing not to make up no league games due to the weather. Should these then become forfeits by the teams that choose not to make up the games and the game still count in the seeding formula. This would have the effect of lowering your power points since this would count as a loss and it would be averaged into the power point formula.

i. Teams that choose not to make up games due to transportation costs

Same as part g and h. This is related to the weather cancellation issues and the cost of making up non-league games. Some research needs to be done here. Are there section constitutional requirements to make up non-league games, do leagues require it, how do other sports in the section treat this issue.

j. Dan Kiely letter and concerns

See part f., second paragraph

## 7. Action Items

The following proposal was made discussed:

For all play-off games: In order to provide a safe and fair venue in which to have a play-off game and allow the officials to focus on refereeing the contest the host school is responsible for guaranteeing the following conditions exist:

- The participating teams must be on one side of the field separated by 10 yards. Players and coaches are to remain in the team box unless a player is being substituted into the game. The player(s) being substituted into the game need to be standing at the center flag.

- All spectators need to be on the opposite side of the field. No spectators will be allowed on the team side or behind the goals. Only event staff (ball boys/girls), administrators or administrator appointees may be allowed on the team side of the field or behind the goals.
- If the game is played in a stadium complete with permanent host school and visiting school bleachers that are separated from the field of play then the two teams can be on opposite sides of the field. However, all spectators must remain in the bleachers or spectator areas such as the snack bar or bathrooms. Spectators are not permitted on the field at any time during the game or in the team areas.
- The crowd, event staff, administrators, administrators, administrator appointees, coaches and team members (not in the game) must be 10 feet (3 1/3 yards) back behind the touch line at all times the game is being played.
- There needs to be one administrator (or appointee) need to be on duty during the entire event. This includes from the beginning of team warm-up until team departure. The administrator is required to introduce themselves to the officials upon their arrival. If there is no administrator at the play-off game then the officials may choose to delay the game until an administrator arrives. If an administrator does not arrive within a reasonable amount of time, then the host school may be required to forfeit the game.
- The host school coach may not be the administrative appointee.

The motion for this proposal was made by Jesse Barajas and second by Mike Owen. The vote was 5-0 in favor. Motion passed

This proposal will be brought before the board of managers in May and asked to be treated as a first read and approved if possible for next year.

The Rational: It is critical, especially for play-off games that are played in venues which provide no spectator seating that the crowd be kept separate from the teams. It is a distraction for players and coaches to have spectators in and about the team areas. It is also virtually impossible for officials to determine whom is responsible for sideline interference when spectators are on the same sideline as the teams or in or about the team area. It is unfair to ask the coaches to control the crowd on their sideline when they are also coaching a game.

Note: These same issues arise during league games. It is not the responsibility of this committee to address league issues. Each league should consider a similar resolution to their league guidelines or the section at large should consider making it a section by-law in the constitution for the sport of soccer if it is so needed.

## 8. Adjourn Meeting