



Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference
Athletic Trainers Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, February 19, 2008
Video Conferencing at
Kutztown, Lock Haven and Slippery Rock Universities

This meeting was originally scheduled for Tuesday Feb. 12, 2008.
Meeting Called to Order at 12:05pm

Introductions

All conference schools were represented. Of the three new associate member schools, only a representative from Mercyhurst was in attendance. The Commissioner and the Athletic Director from Kutztown, representing our conference liaison, Tom Goglio, were also in attendance. Allen Larsen, Jr., David Huber, Jamie Foster, Teresa Zepka, Marcie Fyock, Adam Annaccone, Colleen Shotwell, John Paolini, Gary Hanna, Rebecca Mokris, Frank Trenney, Jessica Baum, Rob Baron, Rennie Sacco, Jack Entriken, Martha Anderson, Brandon Nolt, Michael Porter, Jody Preische, Joshua Drouin, Laurie Zaprazinski, Brian Oakes, Hank Fijalkowski, Katie Fox, Joseph Theis, Scott Zema, Kim Keeley, Neil Curtis, Scott Heinrichs, MaryAnne Love, Steve Murray, Greg Bamberger.

Announcements:

1. Rennie Sacco welcomed the new associate member school athletic trainers Mercyhurst, Gannon and CW Post.
2. Please forward all new staff NATA-BOC member numbers to Yvette Ingram(LHU) for her records and so she can submit an accurate list.

Minutes:

The Minutes from the February 13, 2007 meeting were approved without objection with one change.

Old Business:

1. Cheerleading Coach/Advisor Safety Certification/ spring 2007 mtg update
Commissioner Murray gave an update on cheerleading. All coaches are to be certified. No cheerleading activity can take place, either home or away from their campus unless the coach is in attendance. The conference office is collecting the coaches certification information.
2. Off-Campus Championship Athletic Trainer Coverage: Ad Hoc Com report
The ad hoc committee presented a policy proposal for discussion. Initial discussion was to remove the word 'faculty' from the policy. Not all PSAC member institution athletic trainers are faculty. The Commissioner informed the group, beginning in 2009-10, the PSAC will be a non-profit organization and will not deal with issues relating to PASSHE. There was discussion on the past and current situation for Swimming being held at Cumberland Valley HS. The compensation was reduced from last year's amount because the conference office and sport committee felt they paid too much for the perceived service. It was discovered that the conference is paying the school district for service coverage, not an individual(s). Further discussion ensued about the value of athletic trainer coverage. Based on more discussion, several items of the policy were agreed to be revised, added or eliminated. A revised policy proposal will be emailed out to the group for a final vote of approval.
3. PSAC Clinical Instructor agreement: Ad Hoc Com report
Due to some confusion, the ad hoc committee did not officially meet since the last meeting. Neil Curtis (WCU) presented a PSAC Clinical instructor Letter of Understanding. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that any institution interested in pursuing this type agreement should contact Neil Curtis. Following implementation, a review of its effectiveness will be brought back to the group.

- 4 Proposal to require PSAC Coaches and staff (to include anyone who may be alone with a team during any approved team physical activities) to be certified in both First Aid & CPR.

Rennie Sacco presented this proposal for discussion. The document was not available for specifics. Cal Pa & WCU do not currently have a local institutional policy requiring coaches/staff to be certified in FA and CPR/AED. There was discussion about having Bloodborne Pathogens training instead of FA, mostly due to it is less time to train/certify. Discussion also turned to why this type policy failed at the NCAA level in the past. Taking this into consideration, it was felt that we would present a 'recommendation' instead of a 'policy' proposal. It was also felt that the recommendation be specific to state that at least one person, at the teams activity(ies), be certified in FA and CPR w/ AED. The proposed recommendation will be emailed to the group for review, followed by an email vote.

5. Soccer Scheduling- 2007 fall injury #'s

Rebecca Mokris (Edin) presented that a number of programs, who reported their injuries from this past year, did have higher injury totals. The concern revolves around the scheduling of conference games too close together (ie. 4 games in a 7/8 day period). The Commissioner stated the many factors that go into developing a schedule. We expressed our concern for higher injury rates during these periods and that his office considers the student-athlete health when developing the schedule. He stated that the 2008 schedule will have less mandated contest. Our group will continue to monitor injury rates for soccer during these periods.

New Business:

1. Physical Process (Colleen Shotwell-ESU)

Colleen requested information from each institution, prior to the meeting, pertaining to their physical process. She thanked everyone for submitting their information. Some discussion followed about the successfulness of their institutions physical process and the frequency of students physicals. Kutztown mentioned that they include a 'medical disclosure' document in their process, which puts responsibility on the student for reporting changes to their medical history throughout the year. KU agreed to share this document with all PSAC institutions athletic training programs.

2. PSAC Athletic Training Survey (Kim Keeley-SRU)

Kim reported that her survey revolve around understanding the method which athletic trainers are evaluated for their jobs. She will send the survey to those who have not yet completed it and then send the results out for those interested.

3. Away Contest coverage (Gary Hanna-Edin)

Gary Hanna stated that numerous conference schools have changed their philosophy from occasionally requesting the host institution cover their teams when they are unavailable to establishing the policy of not traveling at all and thereby assuming that the host institution will always be willing to cover. It is not necessarily an issue of prior contact. Edinboro has always been willing to help out their colleagues when they are in a bind, but it has gone beyond that. Even with contact before an event, their concerns are:

- A. Sometime they do not have the staff available to cover both teams. For some teams they have to schedule extra staff to get both teams taped and on the field/court. Why is that my expense and responsibility?
- B. If they have to leave their bench area to deal with a visiting team player, then they are not available for their team.
- C. If the host school is responsible for the visiting team and their return to play decisions, are their team physicians responsible? (they are by the law but are they aware that they are signing off on athletes that they don't know and is that included in the SOP)
- D. Schools have to be cognizant of the burden that they are placing on the host athletic training staff not only in terms of pre-game preparation but coverage during the game as well and to automatically assume that the host staff is willing to assume these additional duties, responsibilities and the liability is wrong. It is not in their job description to provide athletic training services to other teams.

While it has been our conferences practice expectation that the visiting AT staff contact the host AT staff in advance to alert them that their team will be traveling without an AT, it was also an expectation that the visiting AT staff would not burden the host staff with a high number of athletes needing pre-game service. It can no longer be an expectation that the host institutions athletic training staffs will be able to service or cover your team's athletic training needs. Please continue to contact the host institution for coverage availability.

4. Gatorade Coolers (Gary Hanna-Edin/Mallicone-Shipp)

Gary presented a request that visiting athletic trainers do one of the following regarding the use of Gatorade (the like) in coolers: either bring your own coolers or clean the host institutions coolers when the contest is over. The group was sympathetic to the request and agreed to honor the request.

5. Unattached Athlete (Hank Fijalkowski-MU)

Hank started discussion about those student-athletes who compete at other College/University events when not representing their own institution. Hank followed up with the NCAA on whether these students were eligible to receive catastrophic funding for injuries sustained when 'unattached'. Their response was no. It was recommended that all institutions remind student-athletes clearly that they are not a "covered athlete" when not officially representing their institution. Hank will forward the NCAA's response to all PSAC athletic trainers.

As May Arise

1. Online Submission of Medical Records (Kim Keeley-SRU)

Kim asked if any institution were having their medical history records submitted online. The response was no. SRU has attempted to do this but has had some technological difficulties. As they continue to pursue this process, they will keep the group informed.

2. Inclement Weather (Colleen Shotwell-ESU)

Colleen inquired whether other institutions have a policy for inclement weather. Specifically referring to what other schools do when their institution closes due to inclement weather. No institution indicated they had a written policy. Several athletic trainers did share what they do at their schools. Colleen did make this same inquiry to the athletic training list serve. A specific response to her inquiry was from Mr. Bertman, ATC, from the College of DuPage. Review of his email response indicated that individuals deciding to work, who are not specifically instructed to by the President, or their designee, could be found liable should any catastrophic injury result. (see attached email)

Adjourned at 2:30pm