

**VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE  
1642 STATE FARM BOULEVARD  
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22911**

**MARCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**TIME: Tuesday, March 6, 2007  
7:30 p.m. Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee**

**Wednesday, March 7, 2007  
8:00 a.m. Full Executive Committee**

**PLACE:** Holiday Inn Select  
Koger South Conference Center  
1021 Koger Center Boulevard  
Richmond, Virginia 23235

I. **Roll Call:** John Hall, Billy Haun, Jeff Noe, Don Bock, Rob Arnold, Mike Lane, Nelson Simpkins, Bill Owen, Bill Clendaniel, Mike Evans, Pete Koste, Jim Stemple, Charles "Mike" Harris, Clint Stables, Randy Thomas, John Walker, Bob Grimesey, Oliver McBride, Gwen Edwards, Wes Saxon, Pat Ferguson, Connie Minnick, Art Lawrence, Denise Bowman-Scott, and Ken Tilley.

Members absent: Dave Stuckwisch, Russ Potts and Bob Tata.

Also attending were VHSL Staff Jim Garman, Tom Zimorski, Joyce Sisson, Lisa Giles, Tom Dolan, Hannah Catherine Munro and Lora Bickley; as well as Stephanie Parker, VHSL Intern; Bruce Phelps, Virginia Beach City Schools; Wayne Martin, Chesapeake City Schools; William Gouldthorpe, Amherst County High School; Les Cummings, Loudoun County Schools; Todd Hill, Handley High School; Ken Wright, Loudoun County High School; Dave Hembach, Stone Bridge High School; Jim Kacur and Terry Brown, Chantilly High School; Kirk Litton, Christiansburg High School; Gary Silvey, Newport News City Schools and Donna King, Coaches Ed Coordinator.

II. **Agenda Approval:** Denise Bowman-Scott moved, Wes Saxon seconded and the committee voted 24-1 (Walker voting no) to approve the agenda as presented.

III. **Minutes:** Wes Saxon moved, Bill Owen seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

IV. **Announcements and Call for New Business:** League Chairman Hall reviewed the committee schedule, payment of expenses for the March meetings and lunch arrangements.

V. **Concerns from the Public:** None.

VI. **Committee Reports:**

A. **Finance:** Chairman Pete Koste reported on the following from his committee:

1. Reviewed the VHSL Balance Sheet and Income Report and Foundation Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Reports through January 31, 2007.
2. Reviewed the FY2008 Proposed Budget. A joint meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committees needs to be held prior to the May meeting.
3. Recommended 5-2 not to waive Chantilly's portion of the expenses for additional bleachers for the Division 6 Football Championships. The Executive Committee voted 22-3 (Haun, Minnick, Clendaniel voting no) to uphold the recommendation of the Finance Committee.
4. Recommended 7-0 not to reimburse Chantilly High School for field damage repairs after the Division 6 Football Championship game. The Executive Committee voted 25-0 to uphold the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

5. Recommended 7-0 to enter into a three-year contract with Farm Bureau Insurance as a platinum corporate sponsor. The Executive Committee voted 24-1 (Saxon voting no) to uphold the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
6. Tournament Workers: Finance Director Jim Garman reviewed the payment of tournament workers procedures and informed the committee that the LLC was up and running. The committee recommended that the Northern Region cover the Northern Region's cost associated with the LLC account.
7. Released Sinclair Broadcasting from a three-year contract to broadcast the VHSL basketball finals.

**B. Personnel:** Chairman Nelson Simpkins reported on the findings from his committee:

1. The preliminary evaluation of the executive director indicated he is making satisfactory progress on his goals for the 2006-07 school year. Members of the executive committee were invited to share any comments or concerns with Personnel Committee Chairman Simpkins.
2. Recommended the Personnel Committee meet the evening prior to the May meeting.
3. Reviewed the Strategic Plan process without any action required by the Executive Committee until the May meeting.

**C. Policy:** Chairman Mike Lane reported on the findings from his committee:

1. Eligibility Rules: Recommended to strike words (are not considered) in Paragraph 3 of the fall practice policy legislation and replace with: may not be included.
2. Enhance state playoff: State playoffs need to be upgraded. Look at feasibility of using marketing firm to pursue sponsorships in regards to advertising at state events.
3. Division play: Group A will likely explore expanded division playoffs in boys and girls basketball beginning with the 2007-08 school year. At this time Group AA is not committed and Group AAA is opposed to the expanded playoffs beyond football.
4. New sports/activities: There is no real issue at this time to add new sports/activities; the defined criteria is in place for the adoption of new sports should the need arise.
5. Sportsmanship: The Policy Committee commended the League on their sportsmanship efforts. More emphasis has been placed on the local level to handle these issues. Individual schools need to promote the Sportsmanship Creed. The Sportsmanship Committee should meet on a regular basis.

Mike Evans commented on the sportsmanship expectations by school administrators at the basketball games at the Siegel Center. Concern was expressed about the timing schools were made aware of these expectations, felt it was an issued directive, the directions were not clear on how to implement the expectations and questioned the liability issue.

6. Supports the Sports Medicine issues; however, did not make a recommendation on the field hockey eyewear.
7. The bid process is in place for schools or venues to host state events.
8. Legislation will be presented to add criteria for appeal waivers in regard to administrative errors.
9. Strategic Plan:
  - a. Good document.
  - b. Great job of utilizing professionals from across entire state.
  - c. Call for immediate feedback and make improved or needed revisions.

- D. **Technology and Communications:** Wes Saxon commented on the changes to the Strategic Plan document that this committee reviewed. Copies of these comments and his personal comments were accepted for review by the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee.

Randy Thomas moved, John Walker seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to pursue the BoardDocs program beginning with the September 2007 Executive Committee meeting.

- E. **Ad Hoc Strategic Planning:** League Chairman Hall reported that his committee had produced an update on the Strategic Planning meeting held at the four region locations throughout the state. Any suggestions to this document should be sent to the VHSL by March 12.
- F. **Sportsmanship Committee:** The Sportsmanship Committee will begin meeting on a regular basis to address concerns.
- G. **Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC):** Wes Saxon moved, Bill Haun seconded and the committee voted 24-0 to approve the following:

Modifications related to weight management:

That the "Physician Release for Wrestler to Participate with Skin Lesion" be modified with the existing line reading "Earliest Date may return to participate" be changed to read "Earliest day can return to participation if below treatment guidelines are met."

Modifications to Pre-Participation Form:

Title of Part II changed to "Medical History of Student and Family"; first line of the history section be changed to, "This form must be completed and signed prior to the physical examination, for review by the examining physician; questions 7 and 8 will be modified to one question regarding passing out related to exercise and passing out not related to exercise. Under Physical Examination: delete "grade" and insert "birth date."

Wes Saxon moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 17-7 (Minnick, Simpkins, Clendaniel, Evans, Lawrence, Thomas, Stemple voting no) to table vote on the field hockey eyewear until the May meeting.

- H. **Coaches Education:** The ASEP Program will continue to be used for the 2007-08 school year.
- I. **Division Playoff:** Group A will likely explore expanded division playoffs in boys and girls basketball beginning with the 2007-08 school year.
- J. **Calendar for 2009-10 and 2010-11:** These calendars will be voted on at the May Executive Committee meeting.

- VII. **Consent Agenda:** Jim Stemple moved, Randy Thomas seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to move the Out-of-Season legislation from the Consent Agenda to VIII. Legislation.

Wes Saxon moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the remaining items under the Consent Agenda.

Refer to VIII Legislation for the second-vote and editorial change legislative items. The other approved items included:

- A. Assigned Warhill High School in Williamsburg to Bay Rivers District, Region I, Group AA.
- B. Approved requests by E. C. Glass and Patrick Henry (Roanoke) High Schools to play "outside" teams in boys and girls lacrosse.

C. Amended the Policy Manual to read as follows (which remove limits for the number of schools allowed to participate in approved postseason invitations for individual sports): "Approval for these events will be considered for an event that (a) includes a maximum of eight VHSL high schools in team sports and an unlimited number of schools in individual sports, ..."

VIII. **Legislation:** Items in red reflect amendment language or new amendment.

**Second-Vote Items**

<b>27-8-1</b>	<b>Out-of-Season Practice Rule</b> Allows greater flexibility in the out-of-season practice rule	<b>Not Adopted 0-24-1</b> (Noe abstaining) Motion to adopt by Pete Koste; seconded by Bob Grimesey
<b>28-2-2 (4)</b>  &	<b>Grade Rule Exceptions</b> Limit sub-varsity sports eligibility to one year prior to first entering ninth grade	
<b>28-4-2 (2)</b>	<b>Scholarship Rule Exceptions</b> Remove note that allowed repeat eighth grade eligibility	<b>Adopted 25-0</b> Motion to adopt by Wes Saxon; seconded by Denise Bowman-Scott
<b>68-8-5</b>	<b>Football -- Regional Championships</b> Give regions the option to determine format (seeding) of region football playoffs	<b>Adopted 25-0</b> Motion to adopt by Wes Saxon; seconded by Denise Bowman-Scott

**First-Vote Items**

<b>58-8-1</b>	<b>Contest Limitations (Wrestling)</b> Limit number of duals matches, but count them as only one contest date	<b>Not rec. 0-25</b> Motion to recommend by Wes Saxon; seconded by Pat Ferguson
<b>54-2-3</b>	<b>Fall Practice Policy</b> To address safety issues involving early practices in fall sports	<b>Rec. 25-0 as amended</b> Motion to recommend as amended Wes Saxon; seconded by Denise Bowman-Scott
	Italicized text is amendment	Motion to amend by Mike Lane; seconded by Denise Bowman Scott; <b>Motion passed 24-0-1</b> (Haun abstaining)

54-2-3 Fall Practice Policy - In the sports of Competitive Cheer, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football and Volleyball, all athletes must adhere to the following regulations:

- (1) During their first six days of tryouts:
  - (a) No practice session, full or walk-thru, may exceed three hours.
  - (b) Total practice time per day is limited to five hours.
  - (c) Only one full practice session will be permitted per day; it may be broken into two sessions.
  - (d) One walk-thru session is permitted on the day of a full practice.
  - (e) Two walk-thru practices may be substituted for a full and a walk thru session(s).
  - (f) A one-hour minimum recovery period is required between sessions.
- (2) For weeks two and three the following regulations exist in addition to (a) through (f) above:
  - (a) Two full practices are permissible per day provided they do not exceed five total hours, or three hours in a single session
  - (b) No more that three full practices may be conducted in two consecutive calendar days

- (3) For the purpose of the regulations above, a full practice is defined as a session allowing the use of any available equipment, involving all levels of activity permitted in the specific sport and includes necessary conditioning and weight training. A walk-thru session is a limited exertion session that includes skill-based, educational technique and oriented activities using sports appropriate equipment. Conditioning and weight training are not considered may not be included as part of a walk-thru session. Recovery period is defined as a session in which the athlete is not involved in physical activity.

Note: The following restrictions are in place for football only: Day 1-3 helmets only; Day 4-5 helmets and shoulder pads; Day 6 + full pads.

**Editorial Change to**

<b>Section 111:</b>	<b>Forensics</b> delete references to spelling in forensics	<b>Adopted 25-0</b> Motion to adopt by Wes Saxon; seconded by Denise Bowman-Scott
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- IX. **Legal Report:** Ken Tilley and Craig Wood will give a presentation on the payment of tournament workers at the NFHS Legal Meeting on April 20-21 in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- X. **Unfinished Business:**
  - A. **State Event Bid Procedures:** The sites for 2007-08 will be approved at the May meeting.
- XI. **Discussion and Information:**
  - A. **Group AAA Swim site change:** By an email vote of 16-0, the Executive Committee approved changing the Group AAA Swim site from Freedom Center in Manassas to the Bayside Recreation Center in Virginia Beach. The Executive Committee thanked Virginia Beach City Schools for hosting the state event on such short notice.
  - B. **Group AAA Gymnastics site change:** By an email vote of 15-0, the Executive Committee approved Ocean Lakes High School as the site of the 2007 VHSL State Gymnastics Meet.
  - C. **State Forensics site change:** By an email vote of 17-0, the Executive Committee approved changing the 2007 State Forensics site from Culpeper High School to Harrisonburg High School.
  - D. **State Basketball Telecast cancelled:** Because of production challenges, Sinclair Broadcasting requested that we postpone the three-year agreement for VHSL Basketball State Championship Broadcast beginning in 2007. It was decided that it would be in the League's best interest to open up the process and release Sinclair from the agreement. Other parties have indicated interest, and staff expects to receive 2008 broadcast proposals prior to the May meeting.
  - E. **Appeals:** The list of appeals heard to date was shared with the committee.
  - F. **NFHS News Spotlights Virginia Forensics Program:** Dean Garner, forensics coach at Warwick High School in Newport News, authored a feature story that was included in the February issue of NFHS News. Over the past three years Garner has revived the forensics program at Warwick, and his teams "have given many students the opportunity to express themselves through poetry, literature and public speaking, serving as a base for personal improvement and school representation. Participants don't have inhibitions or regrets--only confidence that comes forth when these students dig deep and bring to the surface the intellectual and creative gifts that are so much a part of who they are."
  - G. **NFHS Student Leaders Conference:** The 2007 National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) National Student Leadership Conference will be held July 20-22, 2007, at the Hilton Hotel Indianapolis, IN (July 19 will be a travel day for those going to the conference). The conference will provide a forum for high school students and adult leaders to discuss contemporary issues and promote leadership skills

learned through participation in education-based activities. Student leaders, through large and small interactive group discussions and activities taught by college student facilitators, will learn to promote respect, perspective, sportsmanship, positive values and teamwork as well as develop and maintain healthy lifestyles. The conference will also include everyone's participation in a local community service project.

The NFHS is targeting 300 rising sophomores and juniors as student delegates for this year's conference to be accompanied by adult delegates. Thanks to a corporate partnership with T-Mobile, the NFHS will pay student delegate travel expenses for six (6) students from Virginia. We anticipate receiving application forms and registration information from the NFHS by the end of February. The VHSL had earlier committed to paying the costs for two adults to accompany our six student delegates. The fee for adults will be \$350 (which includes housing, meals, registration materials and all local activity transportation and fees) plus their travel expense to and from the conference.

Since seven schools (Bland, Charles City, James River--Chesterfield, Kempsville, Nelson County, Riverbend and West Potomac) have indicated an interest in sending one or more students, the VHSL will cover the costs of one student to attend.

- H. **VHSL Student Leaders Conference:** As of February 17, more than 500 student and adult delegates had registered for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual VHSL Student Leaders Conference at Matoaca High School on April 27-28. Staff asks all Executive Committee members to consider sending delegates and encourage other region schools to do the same.
- I. **Jostens Partnership:** The information that will be shared with member schools concerning this partnership was shared with the Executive Committee.
- J. **NFHS Winter Conference:** Ken Tilley attended this annual event, which included valuable presentations and discussion of branding, media interviews and messages, sports medicine and marketing topics.
- K. **NFHS Technology Conference:** Lisa Giles represented the League at this event, which is proving helpful in future planning relative to technology.

XII. **Review of March meetings:** Ken Tilley and Lora Bickley met with the 12 group board officers to go over the procedures for the March Group Boards and Membership meetings.

XIII. **2007-08 Meeting Dates:** The committee was provided with the below dates for the 2007-08 meetings. The staff will look into the possibility of moving the March Executive Committee meeting to February in order for regions to be able to discuss action by the Executive Committee in a timely fashion prior to the Group Boards and Membership meetings.

<b>2006-07</b>	<b>Proposed 2007-08 dates</b>
September 21	September 20 or 21
October 18 (Group Board and Membership)	October 10 Group Board and Membership)
December 6	December 5
March 7	March 13
March 8 (Group Board)	March 14 (Groups Board and Membership)
March 9 (Membership)	
May 2	May 7

XIV. **New Business:** Bob Grimesey recommended that the R&R Calendar and process be presented at the May meeting and subsequently share this information with membership in view of the upcoming R&R process for the 2009-10 and 2010-11.

XV. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.