

DIABLO ATHLETIC LEAGUE

PAT LICKISS, COMMISSIONER

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Acalanes, Alhambra, Benicia, Berean Christian, Campolindo, Clayton Valley Charter, College Park, Concord, Las Lomas, Miramonte, Mt. Diablo, Northgate, Ygnacio Valley

Minutes

DAL ZOOM LEAGUE MEETING

Thursday, February 18, 2021

8:00AM - Via Zoom

Join Meeting

<https://auhsdschools.zoom.us/j/89233945722?pwd=THBIRHFiTDBVQkRCWGJ5SGhPNXd2QT09>

Meeting ID: 892 3394 5722

Passcode: 747222

DAL LEAGUE MEETING NORMS

1. THE MEETING WILL START AT 8:00AM; 2. MINIMIZE SIDE BARS; 3. ONLY ONE PERSON SPEAKS AT A TIME; 4. THERE WILL BE TIME LIMITS ON THE AGENDA; 5. A VOTE ON A MOTION STOPS DISCUSSION ON THAT ITEM; 6. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER WILL BE FOLLOWED.

1. Closed Session at 7:45am: Personnel

2. Introduction and Roll Call (attendees signed in via google form)

Tiffany Benson	Las Lomas High
Brianna Kleinschmidt	Benicia High
Randy Takahashi	Acalanes HS
Tim Kruger	Las Lomas
Travis Bell	AHS
James Lathrop	Miramonte
Matt Chamberlain	Alhambra High School
Matt Harrod	Concord High School (left at 8:55, Megan Cottingham proxy)
Bob Ralston	Clayton Valley
Craig Holden	Benicia
Maria Plowman	YVHS
Mark Tran	Ygnacio Valley
Raymond Meadows	Campolindo
Nicholas Harris	Berean Christian High School
Megan Coddington	Concord

Ben Ballard	Northgate
Supicha Castro	Campolindo HS
Clyde Byrd	Mount Diablo High School
John Walker	Campolindo HS
Gary Jensen	College Park

Pat Ertola	Alhambra Proxy After 9:00 if needed
Julie Parks	Miramonte
Abigail Buckley	Member of the Public
Alison Zamanian	Member of the Public

3. Public Comment (submitted via email)

- a. **Abigail Buckley:** We believe the DAL League Meetings on 1/15/21 and 1/28/21 were conducted in violation of the Brown Act; whereas there was no public posting of meeting dates, meeting agendas and no public comment was available. The current DAL League website does not contain current meeting dates, agendas or minutes with the last update is for 2019/20 school year. We understand that meetings included a vote in favor of “no in person” dual Cross Country or Track & Field competitions, only virtual intra-squad time trials. We are unable to properly verify this as there is no clear public record of a released formal DAL meeting (or teleconference) schedule, no public record of published agendas/minutes or finding of fact made by the league or principals council that urgent action was necessary for these meetings. Votes cast in meetings conducted in violation of Brown Act should be invalidated. The lack of public accesses at these meetings eliminated any possibility of community input and opportunity for outside perspectives in equity, diversity and measurement for Title IX.

High School Cross Country and Track & Field are typically the most accessible no cut sport for DAL & CA student athletes. It is the least expensive sport with the greatest participation if you include both male and female participation numbers. Track and Field is the No. 1 sport for participation overall in high school. [Over 1 million high school boys and girls](#) participate in Track and Field each year and all you need to be successful are running shoes, a place to run, talent, willpower, and some guidance. You don’t need expensive equipment, private coaching or a world class facility to participate. Track & Field provides opportunity to more students than any other sport, not only socio-economically, but also in terms of race. It is the No. 1 NCAA Div. I sport for black female opportunity and the No. 2 for men. This is a sport, like no other, has fully integrated both genders into everything they do and provides access to sport and higher education for 1000’s of students of color every year.

The DAL vote to eliminate in person dual meet competitions for Cross Country and Track & Field eliminated critical competitive opportunities for the largest and most diverse sport in the country and our league and disproportionately **affects females** and students of color. It is especially concerning that dual meets were eliminated for “purple tier approved” Track and Field, with the highest participation numbers for students of color, while still preserving dual meet competitive opportunities in sports comprised of primarily affluent white athletes such as swimming, tennis and golf (all currently approved by DAL to hold in-person dual meet competitions). In voting to do so, the DAL League has failed to consider the bigger picture lens of Diversity and Inclusion and measurements for Title IX.

I acknowledge that COVID restrictions for CIF & DAL sports competitions have proven to be a huge challenge this year, but considerations for Diversity & Inclusion and measurements for Title IX must always remain intact. If in-person DAL dual meets are conducted for “approved safe purple tier sports” such as swimming, tennis and golf, they must also be approved and conducted for Cross Country and Track & Field. Given the diversity and population of the student athlete population of Cross Country and Track & Field, every feasible effort should be made to provide the best competitive opportunities, and all decisions made by DAL affecting our sports in such an **unprecedented** way must be transparent to our families, student athletes and our community.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes from 1/15/21 and 1/28/21 meetings
 - i. Acalanes moves to approve the 1/15/21 minutes as submitted; Benicia seconds. Approved (11-0 in favor)
 - ii. Alhambra moves to approve the 1/28/21 minutes as submitted; Concord seconds. Approved (11-0 in favor)

5. Informational Items:

- a. Board of Managers Meeting updates (J. Parks, K. Cooper, R. Takahashi)
 - i. NCS calendar was approved (43-3)
 - ii. Championships at home sites
 - iii. Sit out period was taken to CIF (denied), but now interpreted as allowed to play half of the games from a regular season (ie. 12 of a 24 regular season games)

2

C:\Users\plick\Desktop\DAL\League Meeting Agendas\June 3, 2020 AD Agenda.docx

- iv. Probationary periods can be for an additional quarter due to Covid impacts
- v. Approved seniors playing in all star games after graduation
- vi. 600 Series is waived, students may participate in school and out of school teams at the same time, except for football. Football rule is for safety of multiple games per week.
- vii. Financial hardship rule extended, with proof of Covid impact.
- viii. Scrimmages are considered practices not contests
- ix. New school basis passed
- b. Executive Committee representative nominees (J. Parks vacancy at the end of this year), application to DAL Board of Managers due March 1
 - i. J Parks shared the responsibilities of the position
 - ii. Pat Ertola interested and will seek additional information after meeting
 - iii. Other ADs or admin interested in applying should reach out to Benson or Takahashi for details on the application process

6. Action Items

- a. St. Patrick –St. Vincent High School proposal to join DAL as a supplemental school placement for the 2020-21 school year.
 - i. Alhambra motions, Benicia seconds, approved (12-0 in favor)
 - ii. Discussion included the fact that ADs support the inclusion.
- b. Sports Advisory Committee information – ADs supported all proposals (Committee voted to add this action item. Concord motioned to approve the addition of SAC items to the action items; Benicia seconded the motion. Passed (12-0 in favor)
- c. Concord motioned to approve all SAC proposals and the submitted divisions as submitted. Alhambra seconds. (Pass 14 -0 in favor)
 - i. Request an exception of BL 504M to include competition at National High School Competitive Cheer event
 - ii. Proposal to amend NCS 520H criteria for determining which geographical area games are assigned.
 - 1. For this year only, allow home sites instead of neutral sites as a way to cut costs
 - 2. ADs support
 - iii. Amend NCS 700 H reimbursement policy
 - 1. Not to provide reimbursement for travel, lodging, per diem.
 - 2. Cost savings of ca. \$100k for the NCS, but could hurt small schools
 - iv. School divisions, by school size (enrollment)
 - 1. Can petition to change
 - v. Proposal K – eliminate points for this year in competitive equity base sports for 2020-21, for future season alignment
 - vi. Proposal L –keep the number of games for baseball at 24
 - vii. Propose a regional qualifier for wrestling

1. AD support strongly
- d. Discussion using MaxPrep ratings for division placements moving forward
 - i. ADs are not in favor
 1. Looked at girls volleyball as an example, showed some advantages
 2. Discussed that MaxPrep ratings may address the issues caused by averages (for example a strong team graduates their “best” athletes and are not longer as competitive); MaxPrep does take into account strength of components in the win/loss record. Questions were raised about how much this will change outcomes and placement. Motivation is to create a “truer” competitive equity.
 3. Agreed to add this to future agenda items.
- e. Proposal to combine Concord and Mt. Diablo boys’ tennis team for this season
 - i. Concord motions to combine the teams for this year, Mt. Diablo HS seconds. (pass 14 in favor)
 1. Question regarding the schedule; ADs will collaborate on this and bring revision to the group

3

C:\Users\plick\Desktop\DAL\League Meeting Agendas\June 3, 2020 AD Agenda.docx

2. Teams have 5 and 6 players respectfully, wanted to allow students to play if possible
3. AHS favors this and the ingenuity/creativity in problem solving to increase students who are able to play
- f. Red tier seasons of play (baseball, softball, girls’ lacrosse). ADs will present red tier seasons of play which will be starting dates no sooner than March 1st.
 - i. Started with a discussion of league championships
 1. Softball coaches were concerned that a league tournament would conflict with club teams and concern that they wouldn’t be able to field the team; it would be lessened if the tournament was earlier in May.
 - a. Softball could go either way
 2. Baseball coaches want a league tournament strongly
 3. Issues of Title IX compliance, both baseball and softball should have parity
 4. Concern raised that the tournament costs a week of play for all teams; CIF has eliminated tournaments this year for just this reason.
 5. Softball could have a double elimination tournament, but baseball would need a single elimination.
 - ii. Maximum number of games
 1. Recommended number is 18; it is a recommendation not a mandate. 24 is the maximum. NCS would request a rationale for going against the recommended number.
 2. Concerns about logistics for 3 games per week, transportation, etc.
 3. Concerns about equity of different schools in the league having different numbers of games.
 4. Benicia shared that there are some transportation issues for the schools on the “other side of the bridge” and that the emphasis is on getting kids playing; tournaments are less important than getting kids playing
 5. AHS shared that the value is getting the most number of kids to play
 6. ADs shared in chat that smaller schools can support fewer games, larger schools with larger rosters want more games; also shared that Lacrosse is not having a tournament
 7. Benicia shared that this season will coincide with reopening, AP testing, end of the year activities; how does this fit into the larger picture.
 8. Northgate wants to play as much as possible, but not as concern with the tournament
- g. Red tier, start date March 1-May 1; NCS max approved game, 9 week season, no playoffs i. Discussed if we can practice before red tier data, but that would be a change from earlier conversations

- ii. EBAL has March 1, pending red tier data as their plan for red tier sports
- iii. MHS motions to approve seasons for softball and baseball as submitted without tournaments to begin at red tier data, not to end prior to May 1st. Benicia seconds.
 - 1. Discussion SPSV asks how do we handle two different tiers of data in different counties? Discussed that we may need to handle this when it happens.
 - 2. Discussed having a different end date because March 1 start date looks unlikely and later date could offer play for multiple sport athletes
- iv. MHS amends motion before vote. Moves to accept softball and baseball season as submitted without tournaments to end no later than May 15th and begin at the start of red tier data with NCS approved max number of games. Benicia seconds. Passes (12-0 in favor)
 - 1. Concord AD will send revised schedules
- v. Girls Lacrosse
 - 1. Northgate motions to approve the schedule as submitted; Clayton Valley seconds. Passes (12 in favor, 0 against, Berean Christian abstains)
 - 2. Divided into two divisions for double, round robin play.
 - 3. No tournament, parity with other red tier sports

4

C:\Users\plick\Desktop\DAL\League Meeting Agendas\June 3, 2020 AD Agenda.docx

7. Discussion (Tabled for further discussion)

- a. Playing matches/games with teams outside of the league - tabled for future meeting
- b. Orange tier sports seasons of play - tabled for future meeting due to time constraints
- c. Spectators in red tier sports
 - i. Discussed a need to have alignment
 - ii. Moved to future agenda items for further discussion and action
- d. Logistical considerations for purple, red and orange tiers
 - i. Discussed a need for alignment
 - ii. Moved to future agenda items for further discussion
- e. Supplemental Meeting scheduling procedures
 - i. Surveys will be sent by the president when possible to gather input on special meetings

8. Future Agenda items

- a. MaxPrep scores used for placement
- b. Directions for the ADs:
 - i. Begin discussions for orange tier sport (not for disc. On March 4)
 - ii. Spectators in red tier guidance
 - iii. Football, pending announcement from the state. Special meeting will be scheduled as needed. And ADs agree to address immediately when announcement is released.

9. Announcements

- a. Reach out to Takahashi or Benson if interested in Executive Committee nomination
- b. SPSV expressed gratitude to the group for allowing them to join the league

10. Next meeting regular meeting: April 15 at 8:00am