

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, St. Patrick-St. Vincent (spring 2021 only)

Minutes

DAL ZOOM LEAGUE MEETING

Monday, Feb. 22 2021

12:15pm - Via Zoom

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://auhsdschools.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iWJQG1X6R5WwhLuusfdKeA After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

DAL LEAGUE MEETING NORMS

1. THE MEETING WILL START AT 8:00AM (regular meetings only); 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 12:00pm: Personnel Update
Has been moved.

2. Introduction and Roll Call

Acalanes both (AD and principal), Alhambra both, Benicia, Berean Christian both, Campo AD, CVC both, College Park, Concord both, Las Lomas both, Miramonte both, Mt. Diablo AD, Northgate both, St. Patrick's AD, Ygnacio Valley both.

3. Public Comment

Abigail Buckley. Thank you for updating the posting of agenda and notes. Follow up on need for Campolindo track & field to hold in-person meets.

Submitted comment in writing, I want to thank you for the update to the DAL website. It was good to see the scheduled meetings, agendas and meeting minutes. I recognize it was a lot of work to update but it is a great step towards better transparency and public disclosure in the decision-making process for the return to sport at the DAL level. We were finally able to review the meeting agenda and minutes from the 1/28 and 1/15 minutes for clarity as to the reasoning and decision-making process behind why Track & Field was determined as "unsafe" to return to competition and why coaches felt it was necessary to wait until the season started to finalize a dual meet schedule. The 1/28 minutes lacked any clear rationale other than "hesitance and difference by schools" and "Coaches want to wait until we are in the season to finalize." There was no clear indication of why our Track and Field coaches (and their affiliated schools) were unable to proceed with competition scenarios within the current approved COVID guidelines when swimming was more than willing to explore all possible options for competition. Campolindo swimming, in particular, has very similar numbers of participating athletes as our Track & Field team and even greater challenges when it comes to implementing COVID guidelines for a safe return to competition. We see no rational argument, discussion or statement of fact as to why the return to competition for these two sports are being treated differently.

Dan Wheeler. Would like to know how football will begin within the CDPH guidelines. He is willing to help in the start-up

Jean Follmer, Campolindo parent. Use least restrictive guidelines for athletics.

Art Thoms. Use the least restrictive guidelines. The football players have worked hard and their wellness is compromised. No transmissions on the field in the NFL. Extend the football season through May 1. Samar Koopah. She is a health care provider. She encourages least restrictive guidelines for athletics. Water polo players are travelling out of state for competition.

4. Discussion

a. Updated CDPH guidance for athletics:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/outdoor-indoor-recreational-sports.aspx#>

- i. Received guidance on 2/19/21, guidelines for safety and how sports should be conducted (including testing for football and waterpolo) but not guidelines on schedule
- ii. CDPH will pay for testing, requirement is weekly with results available 24 hours of a match/contest
- iii. Questions about logistics the CDPH mandates have not been clarified for us yet

b. Commissioner's update/clarifications on guidance

- i. ADs met Sunday 2/21/21 to plan for this meeting

5. Action Items

a. Context

- i. 8 week seasons
- ii. Concerns of dual sport athletes
- iii. New sports eligible to open 2/26/21: football, soccer (B/G), baseball, softball, water polo, lacrosse (B/G)
- iv. Wanted to be considerate of teams that had been told they were starting (G. Lacrosse) v. Raised issues of end of the year schedule conflicting with finals, discussed strategy to move games with schools impacted to the beginning of the season
- vi. Discussion of softball season changing from 9 to 8 weeks
- vii. Discussion about sideline cheer schedule, but this will be an informal agreement as it is not a league sport.

b. Review Red tier sports schedule

- i. Examined a graphic representation of the purple, red and orange tier sports to see areas of overlap, primarily April 5-24.
- ii. Facilities issues were raised, with a difficult balance to lengthen seasons for play, decrease conflicts for multiple sport athletes. Looked at areas of overlap for teams.
- iii. Valued having the largest number of students participate, but concerned that smaller schools would be at a disadvantage.
- iv. Discussed an ongoing challenge of having equity for length of seasons. Looking at the already started purple tier sports there was variation based on individual needs.
- v. Large amount of overlap can cause conflicts for students, and also conflicts with facility use and safety for overall people on campus and supervision.
- vi. Opinion that softball and baseball could be split as long as the length of season are the same.
- vii. Soccer start dates were discussed with relation to club play.
- viii. Discussed moving seasons to end in June to minimize facilities overlap. Concern about club overlap in June. There is administrative staffing, but may not be coaching and community support. Discussed that yellow tier sports may already be pushed to the June time.
- ix. Opinion shared that we want to consider club seasons, but will not be able to accommodate all concerns.
- x. Proposal to shift boys soccer to start two weeks later, but for teams with heavy overlap between boys soccer and boys lacrosse could hurt dual sport athletes.
- xi. Question regarding students being in two sports, CDPH recommends playing one. Each

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- xii. We could minimize facilities overlaps by moving boys lacrosse, girls soccer and baseball to end of the first week in June. Concern was raised that many schools may be out of school or may not have field access due to graduation ceremonies that are held on campus fields.
- xiii. Valley and Foothill divisions for boys
- xiv. 18 hour of practice for athletes is still in effect.
- c. Tennis boys schedule update due to the Concord and Mt. Diablo combined teams.
 - i. AHS motions to approve the boys tennis Alhambra seconds
Votes of Yes: Acalanes, Alhambra, Benicia, Berean Christian, Campolindo, Clayton Valley Charter, College Park, Concord, Las Lomas, Miramonte, Mt. Diablo, Northgate, St. Patrick's, Ygnacio Valley. **Passes unanimously.**
- d. Concord motions to approve red season structure as proposed;
 - i. Concerns that boys soccer may not be ready to start next week with little warning.
 - ii. Campolindo shared that the facilities conflict is detrimental to current teams.
 - iii. Softball would be ready, as would girls lacrosse according to ADs.
 - iv. Conflicts will be primarily in practice.
- e. Concord amends the motion to approve red tier seasons (football, girls and boys lacrosse, boys and girls water polo, baseball, softball and boys and girls soccer) with an adjustment of the boys soccer season starting on March 8 and all other sports as stated.
Vote of yes: Acalanes, Alhambra, Benicia, Berean Christian, Campolindo, Clayton Valley, College Park, Concord, Las Lomas, Miramonte, Mt. Diablo, Northgate, St. Patrick's, Ygnacio Valley. **Passes unanimously.**
 - i. Discussion on how spring break impacts the practice schedules. Some felt that scheduling during finals was more challenging than scheduling in spring break. School breaks allow for facilities usage throughout the day.
 - ii. Field use for the last week of school will be impacted by school events, such as graduation. Discussed creative approaches to practices. Our goal is not playoffs, it is getting students out playing. We may need to limit practices.
 - iii. From a teacher perspective, matches during finals are more challenging than practice/games during spring break.
 - iv. Facilities crunch was raised again.
 - v. Discussion shifted to how play would impact final exams. It was shared that the finals were not as stressful in hybrid as in years past. Benicia shared that their finals are later, so that isn't as acute an issue, but there are other academic concerns, such as APs that will need to be accommodated. Berean Christian shared that they have been in person all year and supports a flexible calendar with the soccer move.
 - vi. Moving boys soccer is primarily to allow them to get better
 - vii. CIF had given sections the freedom to expand the football schedule, health guidance was not changed. League commissioners voted (except EBAL) to keep football end date at April 17.
- f. Logistical alignment, including spectators on campus for match
 - i. Guidance to allow families/households of athletes, but this will be challenging to monitor
 - ii. In other states they give tickets to athlete's families (4 tickets per family) for each game/match.
 - iii. Concerns about supervision. Any rule (no spectators or limited families) would need staffing to enforce these rules. This is exacerbated by many sports happening at the same time.
 - iv. Transportation needs for athletes will mean that more families will be coming to games and we don't want to turn people away.
 - v. College sports in counties are not allowing spectators; suggestion to have the spectators linked to county Covid data instead of season start date.
 - vi. It was suggested that we can monitor social distancing more when they are in the stadiums/fields.
 - vii. Parents who are driving their kids need to have an option for them.

- viii. County spectator guidance is under “gatherings”. In the red tier, capacity should be 25% or 100 people per space (whichever is less).
- ix. Suggestion of livestreaming was raised.
- x. Returned to the guidance of households only for spectators, but no limits on numbers.

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- xi. Discussed having 2 tickets per athlete as a starting point that could be increased with decreased Covid numbers. Discussed limiting in purple to drivers (2 per student).
 - xii. Logistical concerns about how to separate between jv/varsity.
 - xiii. Funding concerns for supervision raised.
 - xiv. 50 tickets per team (home/away), resulting in 100 spectators before matches congregating. xv. Will table this discussion to the next meeting for final decision and will continue purple tier guidance (no spectators) until the next meeting when we can gather information from surrounding league and district leadership.
- g. Football schedule
- i. With the addition of SPSV the division split would be challenging for game scheduling.
 - ii. Alhambra moves to accept the schedule as proposed; Berean Christian seconds
 - 1. **Yes vote** Acalanes, Alhambra, Benicia, Berean Christian, Campolindo, Clayton Valley Charter, College Park, Concord, Las Lomas, Miramonte, Mt. Diablo, Northgate, St. Patrick’s, Ygnacio Valley. **Passes unanimously.**

6. Discussion

- a. Orange tier sports -- tabled for March 4 meeting.
- b. Special Meeting schedule – March 4, 8am – 10 am

7. Future Agenda items

- a. Logistics for CDPH guidelines, including testing
- b. Spectators for matches/games
- c. Orange tier sports seasons of play

8. Announcements

- a. Gratitude was expressed to R. Takahashi and J. Parks for their preparation and facilitation during the meeting.

9. Next meeting regular meeting: April 15 at 8:00am; Special Meeting schedule – March 4, 8am – 10 am

