

VPA SPORTS MEDICINE COMMITTEE
Thursday, January 16, 2014
Orthopaedic Specialty Center, South Burlington, VT

Members Present: Todd Powers, Joanna Graves, Pat Merriam, David Lisle, Sarah Johnstone, Denise Alosa, Mahlon Bradley, Bob Johnson

Minutes:

- introduction of Dr. Mahlon Bradley, as newest member of the committee. Dr. Bradley moved to Vermont 4 months ago and is affiliated with the Central Vermont Hospital as an orthopaedic surgeon. Dr. Bradley had served on the MA Sports Medicine Committee before coming to VT.
- motion by Pat, second by Dave, to approve minutes of 8/7/13. Vote – approved unanimously.
- discussion on issue in NH where the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) is telling the NHIAA that athletic trainers with schools must have signed HIPPA statements. Question is whether this is necessary. Consensus, that FERPA should cover school personnel/records. However, are school records and health records seen in the same light? Denise has not seen anything with NATA on this issue. Trainers work for schools even if it is on a contracted basis. Bob has requested more information from NH and will keep the committee updated on this. No further action.
- Bob presented the committee a letter he had written to wrestling officials in Vermont, waiving the 45 minute rest rule under certain conditions. NFHS rule is that there must be a 45 minute rest period even if the match went a minimal amount of time. Coaches requested that the VPA Wrestling Committee consider waiving this requirement so that meets would not go on for extended periods of time. The Wrestling Committee felt this was an appropriate request. Bob wrote the letter to the wrestling officials in December. No concerns were noted by the sports medicine committee.
- discussion on concussion report submitted to the legislature in December. Report discusses the need for action plans by schools. Plan also discusses return to play protocols that all schools need to have. When the report was being written there was much discussion about the physicians training requirement (5 years). How are schools suppose to enforce this? Report also recommends that basketball and soccer be added to the list of “collision sports” that are mentioned in the bill and will be required to have appropriate medical personnel at all games. Other issues were noted in the report. We have no idea if the legislature will act on the recommendations or not.

Question as to whether we should write a response to the report. Should we identify what's working and what's not? No action taken.

- Bob J. discussed the VPA Leadership Conference and the possibility of developing a strand that would look at three practical areas for new administrators. One part of the strand would focus on emergency action plans (actually have them develop one). A second part would be a medical issues overview on issues that schools need to deal with. A third part would be a legal overview of issues schools need to deal with in sports and activities. Bob Davis (former attorney, now Asst. Principal at North Country) would do the legal issue. Hoping that Denise (or Sarah) might do the emergency action plan part and Dave Lisle/Matt Gammons would do the medical part (Dave not available, Bob will check with Matt, if he is unable to do it Mahlon indicated he would). Each part would be approx.. 3 hours long and scheduled over a two day period of time. Bob will follow up with people on this.
- brief discussion on law review presented at NIAAA conference in December (Bob attended). A number of the cases cited involved medical issues with concussions and a schools responsibility. NFHS was recently notified that they are being sued by the same group of attorneys who went after the NFL and NCAA on the issue of concussions. Bob will follow this.
- Denise reported that South Burlington HS is participating in the NATA Safe Sports Schools program. They are the only school in Vermont to be in the program. SBHS will be responsible for providing periodic data to NATA that will be part of a report on safe schools nation-wide. No further action.
- adjourned. Next meeting TBD