



VATA
Executive Council
Conference Call
Thursday, October 2, 2014
7:50 am –8:50 am EST
Jay Sedory, MEd, ATC, EMT-T, Presiding

Welcome

Jay experiencing phone troubles, warned everyone that he may lose connection and that Beth will carry on with the agenda in his absence if he drops the call.

Roll Call

Attendees

Jay Sedory (President) P
Beth Funkhouser (Secretary) P
Ian Rogol (Treasurer)
Amanda Caswell (Past President) P
Vacant (President Elect)
Rob Hammill (C & B) P

Daniel Carroll (Region 1) P
Jason Doctor (Region 2) P
Scott Powers (Region 3) P
Mitch Callis (Region 4) P
Jorena Simpkins (Region 5)
DC Cobler (Region 6) P

Guests

Mike P (GAC member) P
Becky Bowers (Liaison)

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve August Minutes
Scott Powers; Second DC Cobler
Unanimous approval

Announcements-

- GAC- Mike Puglia- Concussion Stakeholders report (attached)
 - Addition of 2 bills H410 and SB 472- Added into concussion guidelines that private orgs using public school facilities have to adopt concussion protocols.
 - School systems don't have to monitor if the orgs are using the policies
 - Accurate definition of Appropriate provider- AT, MD, DO, NP, PA
 - PT was brought up, don't anticipate change
 - HB1096- Return to Learn protocols
 - DOE is realizing it was way more complicated than RTP. Each stage has to be individualized to each kid.
- When will a final draft be ready?
 - November- Around Thanksgiving break
 - July- each school would have to have their policies
- What does the VATA need to do?
- Once the final guidelines are rolled out, it will be important for the ATs to have these guidelines in hand. The sooner we can have them out to the membership, the sooner they can get to working with their divisions on getting the guidelines in place.
 - It is extremely complicated. School personnel in some areas are panicking a bit.
 - Future stakeholders meeting? What will the future hold?
 - Required baseline testing
 - Not all school divisions have the resources for it.
 - May be addressed again in the future
 - What is the difference between student-athlete and student?
 - Becky says language change unnecessary. Individual district can create policies for all students.
 - Mike- this only applies to student-athletes, may include a clause that youth sport organizations, all students with brain injuries should use these policies as well.

- Formal doc for all students would be better, but the wording will probably state that we highly encourage all students to be covered by this policy.

AT Board added the following members:

- Mike Puglia (secondary ed, Bon Secours)
- Sara Whiteside (secondary ed, Chancellor HS, Fredericksburg)
- Deborah Corbato (non-academic environment)

NATA

- Registration for the 2015 Athletic Training Educators' Conference and iLEAD Athletic Training Student Leadership Conference is now open.
- The events will take place Feb. 27–March 1
- Ask Ian for money to match- for iLead representation
- Renewal for membership starts in October

MAATA

- Awards
- D3 Senator Applications are due

VATA

- VATA awards are open- Scott has a report
- GAC grant has been submitted, decision past Oct 2014
- We have completed the paper work required by the Virginia School Boards Association in for concussion presentation November 20th. The presenters: Shane Caswell, Gil Trennum of the Prince Wm School Board, and Dr. Greg O'Shanity.
- All of us had a brief conference call last 2 weeks ago.

Virginia Academy

- Looking for AT coverage- looking to get a fulltime athletic trainer- if you know someone looking for a PT gig

Loudon County-

- Concussion Sensors- parents stormed the field. School officials at war with parents
- Sensors reliability, does it void the warranty?
- Yes it voids the warranty, hits below 80 Gs- hit counter
- Taking care of membership interest- Paul Peterson
-

College and University AT Aide statement-

- Revisions with that committee on the statement. We will have comment, AT aides are not working beyond the scope.
- Educating members on it, make recommendations.
- Committee will present something to us, we will discuss if the statement makes sense and we can support. Be on the lookout for that

Change of Command- letter of appreciation

- Thanked Rose as GAC chair – we had a small meeting

Old Business:

Amendments to Constitution & Bylaws- Rob Hammill

- Barely made quorum, was it apathy or poor advertising?- but we did get the amendments passed
- Working on confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement for people who will be representing the VATA at other organizations.
- Voting Rights- Past summer we made some proposals on changing the C & BL to agree on who has privilege to vote. So, finalizing that and will be going to vote soon.

- Wanted to test the online voting system first and it seemed to go smoothly.

Student Programming- Dan Carroll

- Waiting on finalized program from the AMPC.
- Students will be encouraged to attend the opening session. Saturday will have own keynote. Mix of youth sport and key professional topics. Will do lunch with members and do some skill labs with student presentations. May integrate some of the regular meeting on Saturday.
- Entertaining using a new category- research in progress- trying to get a few more presentations.
 - For those who have started to see some trends in their data collection, but haven't finished the entire project.
- Quiz Bowl?
 - Make contact with Jamie and Kim on that.

New Business

Upcoming Elections

- Secretary, President-Elect, 3 Region Reps, Gov't Affairs
- Look into your own networks and gauge interest. Sow more young leaders that will reap into the future.
- Nominations will be moving forward and start advertising soon.
 - More frequent ebcasts- be in the face of the membership
- As for President-Elect remaining vacant- Jay has sent personal emails, contacted leadership interested members. Not getting a lot of response. It is a 6 year commitment.

Closed Session Discussion.

- Closed session minutes available for EC members online

Region Reports:

- **Region 1: Dan Carroll-**
 - Video from NATA on CNN, youth sports safety with John Reynolds, Nice plug for it. NATA posted it off of their Facebook page. Good piece on creating your own sports medicine team for your child.
- **Region 2: Jason Doctor-**
 - Annual Meeting- Keynote speaker- Dr. Cutter- he will be speaking Friday and Saturday. Proposals extended to 10/24. Looking for vendors. Registration is opening soon. Question about student rate levels.
 - Member in his region had a question regarding treatment of athlete to different states. Put her in contact with CUAT chair.
- **Region 3: Scott Powers-**
 - Honors & Awards- 3 nominations for educator of the year, No hall of fame nominations have come in. Should we reconsider the same pool from last year?
 - If they were worthy last year, they should be worthy again.
 - Ask Grace to make contact with people who nominated people last year and get updates to their nomination.
 - Annual meeting- Contacted 11 vendors. Positive responses from 2 and Declined by 2. Declined because of law changes.
 - Specifically ATs may not be legally able to fit orthotics or braces.
 - Suggestion of reaching out to helmet sensor companies.
- **Region 4: Mitch Callis**
 - No Update
- **Region 6: DC Coblert-**
 - **PR-** Logo review needed to make small changes to meet the NATA trademark requirements.
 - **Membership-** Emily is having difficulty getting membership list and moving forward with the state membership option.

- How will we reach out to non-NATA members to advertise state membership?
Since the distribution lists come from the NATA?
 - Emily has some contacts already.

Final Comments

Jay asked that the EC provide him with some feedback on the organization and his turn as president. Would like 2 positives, 2 negatives and 2 suggestions from each. Very humble need the feedback to make changes.

Motion to Adjourn

DC; Second Jason Doctor & Danny Carroll
Motion Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned 9:00am

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Funkhouser, Secretary

Reports and Support Items following

Report to VATA executive committee on stakeholders meeting to update the” Virginia Department of Educations Proposed Guidelines For Policies on Concussions in Student-Athletes Report to VATA executive committee on stakeholders meeting to update the” Virginia Department of Educations Proposed Guidelines For Policies on Concussions in Student-Athletes Senate Bill 652, the 2010 General Assembly Code of Virginia 22.1-271.5

This meeting was called to address recent laws requiring public schools to update its concussion policies to include a “Return to Learn” protocol and policy addressing non-interscholastic youth sports programs utilizing public school facilities.

Addition: House Bill 410 & Senate Bill 172, the 2014 General Assembly Code of VA 22.1 – 271.5

- Law requires any non-interscholastic youth sports program utilizing public school property to
 - **Establish policies and procedures regarding the identification and handling of suspected concussions in student-athletes.**
 - **Policies may developed by the organization but must be in compliance with the DOE’s guidelines or local school divisions policies developed in compliance with DOE’s guidelines or**
 - **Follow the local school divisions policy**
 - **Local school divisions are not required to enforce compliance with the organizations policies.**

Notes: Added under Guideline section titled Community Involvement. There were no suggestions made for this section or any objections from the group on the proposed language written by the DOE.

Addition: House Bill 1096, the 2014 General Assembly Code of VA 22.1-271.6

- Law requires addition of protocols for “return to learn” in student-athletes who have sustained a concussion.
 - **The proposed guidelines support a gradual increase in academic activities through 3 “stages”**
 - **Home/Total Rest**
 - **School: Part-Time**
 - **School: Full Time**
 - **Each “stage” would have a series of “steps” that can be used to “progress” the student-athlete as well as provide guidance or suggestions on what a student-athlete can and should not be doing.**

Notes: The bulk of discussion and suggestions here included changing language to make the protocol seem less like a step by step progression that a student-athlete needs to pass each stage symptom free to move on much like a “return to play” progression and more like a group of Phases with suggestions on how to manage a student-athletes signs and symptoms based on their individual needs. It was suggested that the term academic accommodations be changed to academic supports or Instructional

Strategies because the term academic accommodations is used when referring to special education needs in (IEP) programs. The titles for each step are

1. *Total cognitive and physical rest*
2. *Light sustained cognitive mental activity*
3. *Maximum academic support*
4. *Moderate academic support*
5. *Minimal academic support*
6. *Attend all classes, full academic load/homework, and no academic support*

- **Original language proposes a progression to each “stage” based on how much time a student athlete can handle cognitive exertion without exacerbating or causing a reemergence of signs and symptoms. The proposed times were in 30 minute increments.**

Notes: It was proposed by the group that this requirement for progression be taken out of the document due to a lack of supportive research and the ability for the institutions to monitor this. We are confident this language will not be in the DOE’s final guidelines.

- **Original language states each phase progression will be governed by the presence or resolution of the student-athletes signs and symptoms.**

Notes: Suggestions were made to break this section down into four distinct categories or concussion signs and symptoms instead of writing out each individual sign and symptom the student may be experiencing. It is suggested they use these categories with a small list of example signs and symptoms behind each.

1. *Cognitive*
2. *Environmental*
3. *Emotional/Behavioral*
4. *Physical*

- **Original language states guidelines on how to gradually increase a student’s cognitive demands.**

1. **Increase time in school, increase in the nature and amount of work performed and a decrease in the amount of academic support.**
2. **If symptoms or symptom severity do not increase demands may be gradually increased**
3. **If symptoms worsen, activity should be discontinued for 20 minutes**
4. **3-4 weeks is considered a prolonged recovery and more in-school support may be required such as a 504 meeting.**

Notes: A lot of time was spent on this section talking about the length of time one should wait in a student-athletes recovery before other resources and plans are used to help with recovery such as a 504

meeting. The proposal in the document is 3-4 weeks. Much of the discussion was on if 3-4 weeks is too long of a wait if an athlete is not progressing time frame of 10 days to 2 weeks were suggested but after debate what is considered "abnormal" or a protracted recovery that needs intervention is around the 3-4 week time frame. Other suggestions and discussion on these bullet points included. Another point of discussion was on if a student has an issue with a return of symptoms or increase in severity during an activity discontinuing that activity for 20 minutes and then re attempting it if s/s go away. The group collectively agreed just retrying an activity doesn't make sense. What makes more sense is assessing what exactly is triggering the students reoccurrence of symptoms and either eliminating the trigger or adding an academic support to help the student overcome the trigger then attempting the activity. It was reiterated during this discussion that each student needs to be assessed and reassessed to find the right path of recovery that simply sending a child home for the day or just reattempting activities that cause symptoms to increase is not acceptable. Everyone seemed to agree with this but there is no indication on what exactly the language will be.

- **Original language encourages the progression of each phase should be made in a collaborative effort by.**
 1. **The student**
 2. **Parent/guardian**
 3. **Appropriate licensed health care provider**
 4. **School staff (as determined by each school division)**

Notes: No discussion was had regarding any change to the term appropriate licensed health care provider. School divisions will determine who will be the appropriate person from each school will be in this team approach. It was suggested the DOE add that one person be considered the "case manager" of each student but it seems unlikely that this will make it into the document. The simple answer to why was each school division can decide that for themselves.

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Notes: Discussion here was that some research supports performing later stages of academic return to learn protocols in conjunction with early stages of return to play. For obvious reasons this requirement will likely stay as is.

Final Guidelines are expected to be finished and available for school systems after Thanksgiving break

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Logo Revisions:

