

SC Meeting - 2025_01_26 18_53 CST

Attendees: Commissioner Golemon, Steve Yocham, Jason Osuna, Michael Harris

Summary:

The meeting began with a prayer led by Commissioner Golemon. The discussion included a review of winter sports, highlighting an increase in men's soccer teams and positive trends in women's basketball participation. Adjustments were made to junior high and JV basketball teams, with plans to expand the tournament structure and introduce eSports initiatives.

Commissioner Golemon provided updates on sports participation, focusing on softball and track and field. He raised concerns about declining participation in softball and the absence of select teams this year, which may impact the number of teams. The track and field event is tentatively scheduled for a new facility, pending confirmation. Golemon emphasized the importance of avoiding scheduling conflicts among sports to accommodate participants and coaches, and he plans to share proposed rule changes for further discussion.

Commissioner Golemon proposed several rule changes aimed at enhancing the integrity of sports for homeschoolers and private school athletes. Key proposals included requiring homeschoolers to be fully enrolled in a private school to participate, clarifying the play-up rule for middle school athletes, and formalizing mileage reimbursement and lodging rates. Additionally, a rule regarding super seniors was discussed, allowing their participation during the season but not in tournaments, to maintain fairness. The conversation also touched on limiting the number of qualified coaches per team to ensure balanced coaching structures.

Financial updates were shared, indicating a positive cash flow despite pending invoices. Commissioner Golemon emphasized the need for membership approval for proposed changes and discussed cost-saving strategies, including repurposing medals and investing in durable equipment. The meeting also addressed eligibility violations concerning a player's participation in varsity basketball, leading to discussions on consequences and the implementation of an audit process for verifying birth certificates.

A motion regarding Weatherford was approved, along with a fee for Tyler Heat to maintain postseason eligibility. The meeting concluded with a prayer and expressions of gratitude.

Chapters & Topics:

Meeting Recap and Opening Prayer

Commissioner Golemon called the meeting to order and began with a prayer, asking for guidance in their efforts with Teo. They noted that the previous meeting had no actions or votes taken, and they expressed optimism about the current state of winter sports, especially basketball.

Winter Sports Review and eSports Update

Commissioner Golemon highlighted the growth in men's soccer teams, doubling from four to eight, while women's teams stayed the same at three. For basketball, there is a notable increase in women's participation, and junior highs have been split between north and south divisions to accommodate the teams. The JV structure will only have a presence in the south division, with middle school divisions remaining smaller and without subdivisions.

Sports Participation and Event Planning Updates

Coach Golemon outlined the current status of various sports, highlighting concerns about softball participation and the absence of select teams this year. He confirmed that the track and field event will likely take place at a new facility in Abbott, although this is not yet finalized. Additionally, he mentioned the scheduling challenges due to overlapping sports commitments.

* Proposed rule changes for the organization

Proposed Rule Changes for Homeschool and Private School Sports

Commissioner Golemon proposed changes to eligibility rules for homeschoolers in private schools, requiring full enrollment to avoid manipulation of the system. The play-up rule was clarified, allowing middle school athletes to temporarily join varsity teams during games if needed, without losing their junior high eligibility. Commissioner Golemon also mentioned the need to formalize mileage reimbursement and lodging rates in the rules.

Discussion on Super Senior Eligibility Rules

Commissioner Golemon explained the current situation regarding super seniors in homeschool sports, using Texas Storm as an example. The proposed rule would permit teams to have super seniors throughout the season, provided they do not participate in the tournament. This rule would apply to all sports except football, where the season's performance is crucial for seeding.

Discussion on Coaching Qualifications and Team Structure

Michael Harris suggested that only two coaches should be allowed to qualify for a team, raising concerns about the implications if those coaches have multiple children participating. Commissioner Golemon agreed, noting that having only two coaches could be inadequate, especially if they have several kids involved.

Discussion on Postseason Forfeits and Team Participation

Commissioner Golemon discussed issues surrounding postseason forfeits, citing a specific football team that opted out of the playoffs due to a lack of players. They emphasized the unfairness of this decision, which allowed other teams to benefit from byes. To address this, Commissioner Golemon suggested implementing a rule that would prevent teams from participating in future playoffs if they choose not to play.

Financial Updates and Proposals for Improvement

Commissioner Golemon provided an update on the organization's financial status, noting a positive cash flow of five to ten thousand dollars. They mentioned the need for membership approval on proposed changes and outlined cost-saving initiatives, such as repurposing track medals and acquiring a new trailer and industrial-grade tent. Additionally, Commissioner Golemon plans to run Facebook ads to increase awareness of the league.

Discussion on Membership and Future Challenges in Sports Leagues

Commissioner Golemon highlighted the successful ticket sales from the fall and anticipated strong attendance for spring sports, particularly basketball and track. They also mentioned the application for NFHS membership and the challenges posed by upcoming school choice legislation, which could complicate relationships with public schools. The Golemon proposed incentivizing football programs to join the Texas Six-Man Coaches Association to strengthen these relationships.

Discussion on Eligibility Violations and Consequences

The conversation centered on eligibility violations involving a player who may have played an additional year of varsity basketball due to age misrepresentation. The Weatherford representative stated that the parents allegedly provided false information, but questions arose about his decision to permit the player to compete. The group considered potential consequences, including a public reprimand and probation for the organization, while emphasizing the need for stricter verification of birth certificates moving forward.

Decisions on Weatherford and Tyler Heat Fees

Brent initiated a motion concerning Weatherford, which received a second from Coach Yocham and was unanimously approved. He also proposed that Tyler Heat pay a \$350 fee to avoid losing good standing and eligibility for postseason play, which was seconded by Yocham and passed.

Action Items:

- * Commissioner Golemon will finalize the location for the track and field event and communicate it to all participants.
- * Commissioner Golemon will ensure names are on the proposed rules and send them to the relevant individuals for review.
- * Commissioner Golemon will ensure the proposed rule changes are sent to all members for review and approval.
- * Commissioner Golemon will run Facebook ads for the league to increase visibility and attract new participants.
- * Commissioner Golemon will implement an audit process for Weatherford to ensure compliance with eligibility rules.
- * Commissioner Golemon will propose a two-year probation for Weatherford, including a public reprimand and an audit of birth certificates.
- * Send out the details for the annual meeting, confirming the time and location in Waco.