



GREATER EASTSIDE JUNIOR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (GEJFA)
Council Meeting Minutes
December 4th, 2007

Call to order: 7:05 p.m.

Members in attendance: John Veentjer (President), Becky Ranstrom (VP & Inglemoor), Joe Morgan (VP & Woodinville), Tami Steckler (Secretary & Redmond), Billie Hartline (Scheduler, Webmaster, Inglemoor), Shawn O'Brien (Scheduler and Seniors), Greg Richardson (Bears), Tom Louis, Susanna Chang (Newport), Greg Pardee (Wolverines), Greg Brink, Brad Brigham (Bainbridge), Ron Walker (Bothell), Robert Reeves (Five Star), Marlow Green (Issaquah), Craig Peterson (Lake Washington), Sean Marshall (Mercer Island), Bob Van Liew (Mount Si), Jim Sypher (Skyline), Charlie Carter (Woodinville).

Systems not represented: Eastlake, Cedarcrest

Minutes of last meeting were approved by consensus.

Review Championship Game Day:

- Scores on website
- Great job by Bellevue (field admin and concessions)
- Great job by the announcers (Wolverines and Newport at Senior level)
- Special recognition of officials - Bill Ford Memorial to Mark Bryam for his many years of service to GEJFA officiating program. Ironman award to Justin Hughes for officiating 71 games this season.
- Video recording by Final Take

Sportsmanship-

- Recent news story re: lack of Officials
- Coach selection
- Parent orientation

Review Financial Records:

- Referee, admin and field use fees
- Distribution of KJR Radio fundraiser money - will be base on Outreach Membership fees at the beginning of the season – distributions will be made around the first of the new year.
- Distribution of balance in Officials account – these returns will be made in January or at the February meeting.

2008 Season:

- What needs to be addressed for February meeting. A meeting in January may



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be necessary. Proposals need to be submitted prior to the February meeting.
Age/weight chart, schedule and players per team were discussed.

Coach Training:

- Clinics are posted - Glazier and USA Football Coaching School
- ASEP online course

Election of 2008 Officers

- Joe Morgan continues to serve in his second year as Vice President. All other positions open.
- Additional nominations - Greg Pardee was nominated for Vice President.
- Shawn O'Brien moved the nominations be closed - motion carried.
- Vote-
 - President - John Ventjeer was elected
 - Vice President - Greg Pardee was elected
 - Secretary - Tami Steckler was elected

Next meeting : February 5th, 7:00 p.m. @ Bellevue Boys and Girls Club

Meeting adjourned to the Pumphouse at 7:55 p.m.

October 16th, 2007

Call to order at 8:00pm

ATTENDANCE: John Veentjer; Beckey Ranstrom (VP); Billie Hartline (Scheduler and Inglemoor); Shawn O'Brien (Senior Coordinator); Chuck Nichols (At Large); Andy Main (Bellevue B&G Club); Jim Brenden (Knights); Ron Walker (Bothell); Billie Hartline (Inglemoor); Tom Olson and Craig; Sean Marshall (Mercer Island); Tami Steckler (Redmond); Jim Sypher (Skyline)

Systems not represented: Bears; Wolverines; Bainbridge Island; Cedarcrest; Five Star, Mount Si; Woodinville

Call to order

Minutes of the last meeting (October 2, 2007) were not available. They will be emailed before the next meeting.

The purpose of this Special Council meeting is to address some issues that just can't wait another week to be addressed. The complaints about officials, particularly the lack of officials (as demonstrated in the numbers that are available for many of the games) continue to be submitted without offers for solutions. There has been some on the field behavior that is inappropriate, reportedly out of control, and in at least one case were



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strong verbal altercation that could lead to something worse. There has also been some unacceptable behavior by players reported, which is to be detailed below.

Before getting into the issues, reminders:

- Administration – each System was provided a list of missing background checks. Because we note that some of these were turned in, there was concern expressed about where the forms could be. John V said he would follow up with instructions by email and provide lists to each System particularly since several Systems were not present.
- Game schedule – just reminder that changes continue to occur and everyone must refer to the web site schedule on Thursday or Friday prior to their game to ensure there has been no change.
- Game Reports – still not getting 100% by Sunday afternoon. Systems have to monitor and ensure their coaches submit their Game Reports as required.

Officials – We continue to need more officials and since the beginning of the season when it was made known that we would be short officials, very little help has come from the Systems in recruiting new officials. We have brought on a few new high school age officials and a few new high school officials, but we have lost more than we have gained and we have added 20 teams and 10 games to our program – more games with less officials. Systems need to recruit more adults or college age officials who are more likely to be available for more weekends and are more likely to always show up. High school age officials are usually high school players as well and have conflicts. It takes a good three years to train these officials. Bottomline, recruit, recruit.

Other Issues

- We had complaints this week that a player punched another player during the handshake. This is being investigated. We also have a report that some players spit in their hand before the handshake. Coaches need to monitor the handshake and ensure it is what it is supposed to be – a show of sportsmanship.
- Coaches -- We have general complaints and Game Report comments that some coaches do far too much shouting. Also their language, while not dirty, is sometime inappropriate for the young people for whom the coaches should be setting an example. Reminder that arguing with officials will get you no where and is not the behavior that GEJFA wants modeled.



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- We've had several reports of fan out of control. We have a situation involving cheerleaders that will be addressed System to System. However, this brings up the importance of proper consideration for all. We are working with and developing impressionable youth; think before you act and ensure that what you say or do does not embarrass others, particular the kids.
- All are reminded that we must follow the direction of Field Managers and school district employees. We can not afford to lose fields because someone didn't follow school district rules or talked back to the school district employee. Why does this continue to be a problem – be sure to communicate this to your coaches and then from them to the parents.

A Grievance Committee meeting was held on a coach who was ejected on Saturday for making inappropriate comments. The Committee decided that a one game suspension was sufficient.

Other Business

- The question has been posed about interest in arena football. GEJFA is the Boys and Girls Club and has no plans to have a spring season football program. As explained, there does not currently seem to be a problem in relationship to GEJFA. As long as it is totally independent of GEJFA and serves as an alternative to other spring sports, we don't see any conflict at this time with our GEJFA rules.

Adjourn

Next meeting: October 16th, 8:00 pm @ Bellevue Boys and Girls Club

October 2nd, 2007

Call to order at 8:00pm

ATTENDANCE: John Veentjer; Joe Morgan (VP); Billie Hartline (Scheduler and Inglemoor); Shawn O'Brien (Senior Coordinator); Andy Main (Bellevue B&G Club); Greg Richardson (Bears); Jim Brenden (Knights); Greg Pardee (Wolverines); Wayne Houston (Bainbridge); Jeff Prachar (Bothell); Jerrod Norris (Cedarcrest); Robert Reeves (Five Star); Billie Hartline (Inglemoor); Tom Olson, Craig Peterson and Tom Michajla (Kirkland); Sean Marshall (Mercer Island); Tami Steckler (Redmond); Michael Burrus (Woodinville)



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Systems not represented: Eastlake; Issaquah; Mount Si; Skyline

Call to order.

Minutes of the last meeting (September 18, 2007) are not completed yet and will be made available either by email or at the next meeting on October 16.

Administration

- The Club had some problems recently with the new background check company, so they are shifting to WSP checks. Expect a list of missing background checks (Coaching Applications) at the next meeting.
- Referee and Admin fees are all paid with exception of one System (to be handled one on one).
- Emphasized importance of good communications using the chain of communication – complaints from parents to coaches then to Systems then to President/Vice Presidents and ultimately Grievance Committee and/or Council. Always attempt to resolve issues at lowest possible level.

Game schedule

- Continue to experience changes in the schedule, so it is always important to check the schedule on Thursday or Friday before game.
- Some exchange games have been arranged at the Senior, Varsity and eventually maybe at the Cub level. All are reminded that our teams ALWAYS ALWAYS play by our rules. Varsity will be exchanging with a team from Wenatchee. Seniors have added some games in Spokane and in Kitsap County. We may be able to schedule some games for our bye Cubs with a team from Enumclaw during week #8 and #9.
- Reminder that ALL teams have a Game 9.

Game Reports

- We are doing very well on timely submission of Game Reports; however, we need to achieve 100% by Sunday at 6:00PM. We are counting on Systems to dog their coaches to get the Reports in on time. These reports only take a few minutes to complete and submit.

Players

- Kirkland request consideration for a player who is playing at Senior level because Kirkland did not have a Varsity team. Player has now lost enough weight to



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qualify for JV – can he move down. After some discussion, including concern for precedent setting policy (could other players move down if they eventually lose weight), Kirkland made motion, Mercer Island seconded – the vote was 12 to 3 (Kirkland had two votes, a Club Athletic Director and System Rep, along with vote from Mercer Island, one vote only). Motion failed.

- Although Mount Si was not present, they had asked about signing up a player at this point in the season. John V present their request as he understood it from emails received that day. To achieve approval, a motion was necessary but none was made. No new players at this point.

Substitution Rule

- We have yet to have a protest, but we have had numerous complaints usually written in Game Reports as an FYI. Failure to follow the substitution rule is cheating players of their fair playing time. This should be a bigger issue within the System, but eventually a protest will be made particularly when the team is leading in the game. Make sure all your coaches know the rule, know how to apply the substitution rule, and are doing so.

Sportsmanship

- For dominant teams, start managing the score early in the game. Don't wait until the lead is so high that you don't have room for another score.
- We are short officials and unfortunately we struggle to get three officials at every game. Consequently, coaches can expect that not all fouls will be observed. Still the communications to and from the officials must be respectful. Don't argue with or ride the officials; it will usually work against you (just human nature) and it will never change the call.
- Everyone needs to show good sportsmanship, on/off the field, coaches, players, parents. Everyone must take direction from Field Managers and school district employees without any negative feedback.

Issues

- We have received some complaints that electronic communications are being used. We will observe teams on which this has been reported. We want to see what others are seeing before notifying teams.
- We had a complaint about ball size. The rules provide a specification that must be met. The brand and model name do not always compare manufacturer to manufacturer. Thus, issues with balls should be addressed to the specification in the rules. There is a range on length and circumference.



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Officials

- We know officials don't see everything, but that is not reason to get disrespectful during the game. Occasionally coaches will offer video to show what they consider to be mistakes. We will not review video except when it is provided as evidence in a properly filed protest. Can't protest the official's calls. Game is decided on the field.
- Continue to need more officials.

Other Business

Adjourn

Next meeting: October 16th, 8:00 pm @ Bellevue Boys and Girls Club

September 4th, 2007

Call to order at 8:05pm

ATTENDANCE: John Veentjer; Billie Hartline (Scheduler and Inglemoor); Shawn O'Brien (Senior Coordinator); Bob Goldberg (Officials Coordinator); Andy Main (Bellevue B&G Club); TAL for Greg Richardson (Bears); Jim Brenden (Knights); Chris Larkin (Bainbridge); Jerrod Norris (Cedarcrest); Bob Woods (Eastlake); Billie Hartline (Inglemoor); Dave Ciszewski and Marlow Green (Issaquah); Tom Olson and Tom Michajla (Kirkland); Cheryl Rawlings (Mercer Island); Randy Swain (Mt Si); Tami Steckler (Redmond); Jim Sypher (Skyline)

Systems not represented: Bothell; Five Star; Wolverines; Woodinville

Call to order

Minutes of the last meeting (August 21, 2007) were emailed before the meeting, comments to be sent to John; otherwise these minutes will be posted to the web site by end of the week.

Reviewed the following:

Coaching Applications/Background Checks/Code of Conducts are now overdue. We will be checking soon to ensure we have background check on every coach. Missing background checks will result in coach suspension pending completion of the background check.



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Boys and Girls Club outreach membership fees are past due; a special note will be sent to those Systems that still have outstanding membership fees.

Referee/field use fees are due tonight. Any missing fees need to be brought to the next meeting.

Master Volunteer Roster need to be turned in ASAP.

Officials – Bob addressed this early in the meeting because he couldn't stay. The number of officials is down from last year; more left than there are replacements. To compound the shortage, we now have 20 more teams and 10 additional games each Saturday. This amounts to a need for at least two additional officiating crews. Game #1 will see crews of three officials only. Until we get more officials, three officials will be the norm; two for lower levels is likely.

Asked for any issues regarding the Jamborees – none were raised.

Roster review

Need to make corrections, provide missing B/Cs; split policies

Final Master Roster is due on or before September 14th; get stamped at Club

Still looking for a list of transfers from several Systems

Cheerleaders -- If you want them covered under GEJFA and the Boys and Girls Club, then we must have a roster, coaches background checks, and membership fees.

Game Schedule

Can not over emphasize the importance of communications!!!! The schedule is always subject to changes in school activities use of the fields and we can be bumped as late as Friday before a game. Everyone has to check the schedule on Friday evening to ensure their game has not be impacted by some change. The schedulers will attempt to contact the impacted coaches and Systems on late breaking changes, but need the System web sites to have contact information to make this efficient and effective.

Field Locations (all posted on the Web Site) – great job by Billie. Make sure your parents know that this feature exists.

Emphasized that all teams have nine games.



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Game 10 match ups to be arranged between teams that provide field – teams must arrange with opponents; don't expect the scheduler to help you with this, however, the scheduler may put you at one of the playoff fields if there is room due to assignment of officials concerns.

Need to know field availability for weeks 8 and 9.

Bye teams may have inter-league games if opponents can be found, otherwise these teams may practice.

Semi-final games are slated to fields as follows. Systems need to make sure the fields are reserved for our use on November 10.

Eastlake – Varsity and Seniors

Pop Keeney – JV and Sophomores

Liberty – Cubs and Rookies

Game Reports

Game reports are mandatory!!!! Team to submit Game Report ASAP, by Sunday at 6:00PM. Game scores are reported by Game Report. GEJFA president and vice presidents will review Game Reports on which there are issues.

System should review and amend reports as deemed appropriate.

Major issues (ejections, protests) need to be reported to GEJFA President on Sunday followed by details by Tuesday.

Equipment

No exceptions this year to high school rules regarding colored mouth guards, clear helmet shields. Also, although high school now allows detachable cleats and so does WIAA subject to school district policy, we will not allow them in youth football because we do not have a consistent application of the rule by school districts and because safety still seems to be a concern; we can review this again next year. As already written and to be enforced -- no jewelry and wristbands. Also, we don't allow hard surface casts; if such a cast is needed, then the player should not be playing YOUTH football.

Participation/Substitution Rules – Reminder given regarding these rules. Also mentioned rules regarding disciplining players by having them sit part of the game – see



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rules; ensure this is System policy and System leadership is aware of and monitors application within their System. Remember coaches must manage player weight – players who miss weight two consecutive games must move up.

Scouting -- All are reminded that only games may be scouted; practices may not be scouted. No video scouting is allowed; may also not watch tapes of games that do not involve your team. Each System needs to develop and enforce video pass for parents to video their own team.

Sportsmanship -- ZERO TOLERANCE!!! Just a reminder to warn coaches that our policy is zero tolerance so don't be surprised when they get flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct for what they think was a minor comment; any disrespectful challenge is beyond zero.

Championship video -- We agreed to championship videos at last meeting. This year's proposal from Final Take is the same as last year except that \$1 is added to individual orders due to postal increases. Alternatively, the DVDs can all be presented to GEJFA for distribution – no way. All other costs are the same. Format is also the same since it appears that last year's format was better received than those of previous years.

Other Business

We had a corrections officer who is an assistant coach wear his weapon onto the practice field. In discussion Council concluded that this is inappropriate. If corrections officer doesn't have an alternative to wearing weapon, then he shouldn't be coaching.

Next meeting: September 18th, 8:00 pm @ Bellevue Boys and Girls Club

August 21st, 2007

Call to order at 7:00pm

ATTENDANCE: John Veentjer; Joe Morgan (VP); Billie Hartline (Scheduler and Inglemoor); Shawn O'Brien (Senior Coordinator); Andy Main (Bellevue B&G Club); Greg Richardson (Bears); Jim Brenden (Knights); Greg Pardee (Wolverines); Wayne Houston (Bainbridge); Louis Lee (Cedarcrest); Bob Woods (Eastlake); Billie Hartline and Duane Ranstrom (Inglemoor); Robert Reeves (Five Star); Marlow Green (Issaquah); Craig Peterson and Tom Michajla (Kirkland); Sean Marshall (Mercer Island); Randy Swain (Mt Si); Tami Steckler (Redmond); Jim Sypher (Skyline)



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Systems not represented: Bothell; Woodinville; (Issaquah was very late)

Call to order

Minutes of the last meeting (August 7, 2007) were emailed before the meeting, comments to be sent to John; otherwise these minutes will be posted to the web site by end of the week.

The Calendar was reviewed for upcoming important deadline and events.

- Due tonight -- Boys and Girls Club fees (\$13)
- Tuesday, August 28, 7:00pm -- Roster review meeting -- For those Systems that missed the preliminary roster review on August 1.
- September 4 Council meeting -- Referee/field use and Admin fees due
- September 8 Game #1

We still have not received all the player transfer forms. Each System needs to send John a list of the transfers they have taken in.

Regarding coaches:

- There was no specific feedback regarding the Coaches Meeting.
- Systems were reminded that all background checks are due before coaches step on the field. It is apparent that some are missing. Thus, a check will be made of background check against the rosters and any coach for whom a background check has not been completed will be suspended pending completion of the process.
- Systems are reminded that each team needs a first aid person on the sideline; this person should be on the roster whether or not they are a coach.
- System are reminded that they are to provide a description of the training in which their coaches participated this year.

Systems are required to provide a Master Volunteer Roster. Even though coaches are listed on the team rosters, they should be included on the Master Volunteer Roster along with all the other adult volunteers who have some routine contact with the players. All volunteers must have a background check and all must be rostered if they are to be covered by the Boys and Girls Club insurance.

It appears that we have the following jamborees planned:

- August 25 – Bellevue Wolverine, Woodinville, Mount Si, Five Star
- September 1 – Redmond, Eastlake, Seniors
- September 3 – Bothell



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We will encourage officials to put in some time at the jamborees but all this is volunteer time. Some need to appear at a jamboree for training and to qualify for an additional \$2 per game during the season. Others are there to train the new officials.

We believe there will be a Qwest Field Jamboree, but the person in charge has yet to return Shawn's calls. John will check with the Seahawks.

Game schedule

- Emphasized that changes are very likely and that no one should print the schedule for the year and distribute, because it will likely lead to confusion when someone mistakenly refers to an older version. The schedule on the web site should be checked weekly as late as Friday to ensure game is as previously scheduled. Every attempt will be made to notify Systems and team coaches whenever their games are affected by a change.
- Because we have byes at several levels, some games will be non-counting to equalize the opportunity for points. These are marked on the schedule.
- Seniors – The 8th Grade teams have some inter-league games. Unfortunately, we don't have any other league willing to play our 9th Grade teams, however, Shawn still has some feelers out to other leagues.
- Field Managers have an important role. A Job Description, very general in nature and not totally applicable to all fields, is available on the web site. It is a good guideline.
- Council decided which of the Conferences in the 24 or more team levels will play each other in the playoffs leading to the Championship. The letters A, B, C and D were put on pieces of paper and put into a hat and then drawn. Conference A will play Conference C and Conference B will play Conference D.

Game Reports -- Billie has made some improvements to the Game Reporting System. However, the System very few coaches assisted in the testing of the System, so there may be some bugs that won't get discovered until Game #1 reports start flooding in. Scores get reported to the scoreboard data base automatically from the Game Reports. Game Reports are very simple and takes only a few minutes. System must participate in the enforcement. There is now additional space for comments; automatic separate email if necessary.

Huskies/Seahawks Pregames

- Huskies – Woodinville and Bellevue Wolverines the same Saturday as the GEJFA Championships.
- Seahawks -- 8th Grade Seniors Redmond & Bainbridge on August 30



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9th Grade Seniors Inglemoor & Eastlake on September

The Seahawks provided us with some tickets to the August 25 and August 30 preseason games. Distribution of the tickets was based on record of attendance and compliance with deadlines for rosters, coaches applications, etc. Any System missing this meeting got no tickets.

Next meeting: September 4th, 8:00 pm @ Bellevue Boys and Girls Club

August 7th, 2007

Call to order at 7:00pm

ATTENDANCE: John Veentjer; Joe Morgan (VP); Billie Hartline (Scheduler and Inglemoor); Shawn O'Brien (Senior Coordinator); Andy Main (Bellevue B&G Club); Rick Schroeder (Bears); Tom Louis (Knights); Greg Pardee (Wolverines); Brad Brigham (Bainbridge); Ron Walker (Bothell); Bob Woods (Eastlake); Billie Hartline and Duane Ranstrom (Inglemoor); Robert Reeves (Five Star); Dave Ciszewski (Issaquah); Stephanie Davis and Craig Peterson (Kirkland); Cheryl Rawlings and Sean Marshall (Mercer Island); Bob VanLiew (Mt Si); AH???? (Skyline); Michael Burrus (Woodinville)

Systems not represented: Cedarcrest; Redmond

Call to order -- Introductions

Minutes of the last meeting (May 29, 2007) – *email distribution and in handout*

Quick reminders about keeping web site current. Billie has done more good work on the game schedule and game reporting features of the web site. Still have issues at the beginning of the season regarding team count and we have to try to hold earlier registration – need to educate community regarding need to register early.

Emphasized importance of good communications through 100% Council attendance, passing the word on to others in the System who might have responsibilities for which the communication is intended. Systems have a responsibility for enforcement of GEJFA administration and need to be able to correctly answer questions from their coaches, players and parents.

Calendar Review

- All Coaches Meeting on August 13 at Bellevue Community College
- First Practice on August 14
- Master rosters and birth certificates due at August 21 Council Meeting; considering an alternative roster review date since the preliminary roster review was poorly attended
- Each System needs to send split policies to John V



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- Each System needs to send coach training verification to John V
- Boys and Girls Club outreach membership fees due at or before August 21 Council Meeting
- Admin and referee fees due at meeting at or before September 4 meeting

Scheduling matters:

Double checked final team count/home fields; still need confirmation on some fields.

We have a Huskies pre-game on our championship day which will include Woodinville and the Bellevue Wolverines. John will work on Seahawk pre-games directly with the Seahawks (post meeting note – we have two dates, August 30 and September 9 which will include Seniors from Redmond & Bainbridge on August 30 and Seniors from Inglemoor & Eastlake On September 9).

We have four 9th grade Senior teams and five 8th grade Senior teams; 8th graders have match-ups with outside programs. However, no other program has 9th grade level willing to interleague with our 9th graders, consequently, the 9th graders will play each other in round robin, likely three times. If someone can find outside 9th grade opponents, let us know.

Jamborees

Who, when -- August 25: Woodinville, Bellevue Wolverines, Mount Si, Five Star
September 1: Redmond, Eastlake, Seniors
September 3: Bothell

Note: For purposes of counting practice per week, consider that the Bothell jamboree is on Saturday, so if a practice must be forfeited because this would be a team's second jamboree, then that must occur in the previous week.

Officials: We will try to get officials to the jamborees, however, they are all there without pay. Some are there because it is part of requirement to get extra \$2 per game during season. Others are there to train officials. The primary reason for officials to be at jamborees is training for officials. Jamborees are practices and for the most part correction of player problems is the coach's responsibility and not the officials' responsibility – don't be surprised if not all fouls are called or penalties assessed. Officials may briefly break away from the immediate play to do training.

Rules

- Revisions necessary after discussion at the last Council meeting were emailed. Having received no comment, the revised rules were posted to the web site.



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- Shawn proposed that for the levels with 24 or more team that we change the format to include four conferences, no divisions, and that the top four teams in each conference will advance to the playoffs. The Council will decide which two conferences will meet and playoff to a conference pairing winner; then the two conference pairing winners play in the GEJFA Championship. Bellevue Wolverines moved that we adopt this proposal, Eastlake seconded and the vote of Council was 14 to 0 (passed). The rules will be reworded to address this change.
- After some discussion regarding Player weight management, a proposal was made to require that a player who misses weight in two consecutive weigh-ins move up to the next level. Bellevue Wolverines moved, Inglemoor seconded and Council vote was 12 to 2 (passed). Discussion also indicated that the any attempt to beat the rule by holding a player out for a game following a missed weight must be addressed by the rule; essentially in such a case, a player will be considered to have missed weight unless a good excuse is provided for having missed the game. The rules will be changed to cover this matter. Further discussion emphasized the importance of player weight management – no player should ever miss weight; if they do, why weren't they at the higher level in the first place.
- Rule reminders: no scouting practice; no video for scouting; no video taping games other than own; no video tape sharing; no electronic communication; substitution rule; 32 point rule; weigh-ins; no removal cleats.

Coaches

- Reminder regarding importance of good coach selection. Coach selection is a System responsibility subject to background check by the Club.
- There are various coach training opportunities; clinics such as USA Football Coaching School, Glazier Clinic, NYSCA and ASEP Online Courses, etc). Training of coaches is important for the benefit of the players.
- Because we could not reach consensus and receive no formal proposal at the last Council meeting, coach training was not made mandatory by GEJFA. However, the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club is requiring coach training for the three Systems directly under their auspices. Inglemoor is also requiring coach training. However, as a result of Council discussion at the last meeting, all Systems are required to provide a written description/verification of whatever coach training their coaches may have received.
- Noted that all Coaching Application forms (for background check purposes) should have already been turned in.
- The Coaching Application form also can serve to meet the requirement for each coach to sign a Code of Conduct.



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- Briefly discussed the All Coaches Meeting based on provide draft agenda. Need experienced coaches to lead/assist with the Breakouts: Kusulos – Seniors; Brendel – Varsity; JV and Sophomore; Nichols -- Cubs; open (later filled by Barnett) -- Rookies

Officials

- Officials meet for the first time on – August 13 at Bellevue Community College.
- We still need each System to recruit new officials.
- Need to emphasize “Zero Tolerance” for poor sportsmanship and improper conduct
- Also encourage each System to hold parent meetings at System or team level and require Parent Code of Conduct be signed.

Other business

- Received consensus that we want to continue with filming Championship games.
- Also mentioned that I was meeting with KJR Radio regarding GEJFA participation in a fund raising opportunity that might net GEJFA as much as \$25K. Money will have to be donated to the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club, earmarked for the football program and will likely be distributed based on number of players per System. Donations is considered to cover scholarships.

Adjourn

NEXT MEETING AUGUST 21, 8:00pm, B&G Club

May 29th, 2007

Call to order at 7:00pm

ATTENDANCE: John Veentjer; Beckey Ranstrom (VP); Billie Hartline (Scheduler and Inglemoor); Shawn O'Brien (Senior Coordinator); Bob Goldberg (Officials Coordinator); Andy Main (Bellevue B&G Club); Greg Richardson and Rick Schroeder (Bears); Greg Pardee (Wolverines); Ron Walker (Bothell); Louis Lee (Cedarcrest); Billie Hartline and Duane Ranstrom (Inglemoor); Robert Reeves (Five Star); Dave Ciszewski (Issaquah); Doug Wozeniak, Craig Peterson, Tom Michajla (Kirkland); Donna Eken (Mercer Island); Michael Murphy (Mt Si); Tami Steckler (Redmond); Michael Burrus (Woodinville)

Systems not represented: Bainbridge Island, Eastlake; Knights; Shoreline/Univac; Skyline

Call to order



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Introductions – reminder to update regarding System Presidents and System Reps – also ensure web site are updated.

Minutes of the last meeting – if there are any comments send them to John; otherwise they will be posted as is.

Calendar review ... June 23 – Seahawks/USA Football Coaching School ... July 1 – Team Count, home game dates and times due ... August 1 – Preliminary Master Roster for review due ... August 7 – Council Meeting ... August 13 – All Coaches Meeting at BCC ... August 14 – First practice.

System Fees – Handed out the fee estimate sheet. There are essentially no changes. Fee due dates as indicated on the estimate sheet.

Quick review of each Systems registration status. Most Systems report numbers are up. Took preliminary team counts.

Reminders that the Age/Weight Chart, Player Transfer Form, Waiver Form, and Sample Roster forms are all available on the web site.

Brief discussion regarding System coordinated camps or other local camps – need to be in a proper format so that they don't constitute a practice. Generally the camps should be open to all youth and structured in some way other than to bring together GEJFA teams. The best approach is to work with local high school coach to get a camp run by the HS with the HS players as the trainers.

Scheduling – reminder to get team counts to Billie by July 1. Reformatting the schedule for the levels with 24 or more teams – 7 game season with 16 teams entering the tournament bracket and the other teams entering a consolation bracket. All will still play 9 games. Winners in the tournament bracket proceed per the tournament schedule. Losers in game 8 will be matched against another loser for game 9. In the consolation bracket, teams will be matched with other teams of like record for game 8 and then again for game 9.

Huskies pre-game – Woodinville has lead on arranging. Seahawks – John V will work with the Seahawks to arrange a pre-game.

The revised rules were emailed to everyone so they would have the rule revisions highlighted in color. The majority of changes were made to clarify the rules where questions/issues have previous been raised. Major change addressed the 7 game regular season and associated tournament brackets. Several questions were raised – (1) Rule 1.C.(2) currently requires GEJFA Council approval for players to play at a higher level per the rule. This has been changed to require System approval and no GEJFA Council approval per the other conditions of the rule. Moved by Bellevue,



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seconded by Issaquah and passed unanimously. (2) Rule 1.C.(3) allows a player to be assigned by age points only to a level higher than the lowest level for which he/she is eligible by age-weight. This has previously only been covered on the Age/Weight Chart and has been added now to the rules. This provision is subject to the discretion of the System. The proposed language was altered to eliminate reference to the preceding paragraph which would have suggested that this option was available only to players who were within 5 points of the next higher level. (3) Question raised regarding proposed language under Grievance Committee as to what constituted perceived conflict. This could involve a Grievance Committee member who is also a coach, who might have no real conflict, but because he coaches at the same level as the coach before Grievance, particularly if that coaches team was on that Grievance Committee member's schedule, could be perceived to have some bias. The propose language was accepted. (4) Rule 6.K.(4) requires all players, even those who are being disciplined, to play at least 12 plays in the game. Although this was questioned because this may mean the player really doesn't then get disciplined, no change was proposed.

Reminder regarding the proper selection of coaches – this rest with the System. Coaching Application form should be used – this serves three purposes, giving football or coaching experience to be considered; providing information and approval for a background check; and verification that the coach has read and understands the Code of Conduct. Coach training opportunities exist – Seahawk/USA Football Coaching School (strongly endorsed), online course with ASEP which can be arranged with Bellevue Boys and Girls Club. All Systems are required to provide a written description of the form of training provided to their coaches and the degree of coverage. Coaches Meeting will be same format as last year. No guest speaker yet identified. Seeking coordinators for each level who would also serve to cover the break-out sessions. Question was asked – do we want to try to focus more on the positive by having some form of coach recognition at the GEJFA level that might also be passed to National recognition programs such as NYSCA, or should we just encourage System level recognition. There was no strong feelings on this idea and no significant interest in pursuing this at the GEJFA level.

We need better accounting of volunteers beyond just the coaches. Please use the master volunteer roster (sample available) and submit with team rosters and update as needed. Background checks will be performed on all coaches and should also be performed on any other volunteer who has significant contact with the players. Failure to roster these volunteers and submit a background check form (can use the coaching application) would likely mean that these volunteers are not covered under the Boys and Girls Club insurance.

Please continue to recruit officials. We would like to have each System identify at least two new officials. We will try to get more PNFOA officials as well. Although the high school students are always welcome, more adults are preferred.



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New meeting will be Tuesday, August 7, at 7:00PM at the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club and there is no Council meeting immediately preceding the All Coaches Meeting on August 13.

Adjourn

April 10th, 2007

Call to order at 7:00pm

ATTENDANCE: John Veentjer; Beckey Ranstrom (VP); Joe Morgan (VP); Billie Hartline (Scheduler and Inglemoor); Randy Wilkens (Bellevue B&G Club); Greg Richardson (Bears); Tom Louis (Knights); Hugh Gladner (Wolverines); Ron Walker (Bothell); Greg Brink (Bainbridge Island); Billie Hartline and Duane Ranstrom (Inglemoor); Marlow Green (Issaquah); Donna Eken (Mercer Island); Michael Murphy (Mt Si); Tami Steckler (Redmond); John Nelson (Shoreline/Univac); Jim Sypher (Skyline); Michael Burrus (Woodinville)

Systems not represented: Cedarcrest; Eastlake; Five Star; Kirkland

Call to order

Introductions – reminder to update regarding System Presidents and System Reps – also ensure web site are updated.

Minutes of the last meeting (attached) – if there are any comments send them to John.

Calendar review ... June 5 – Next Council meeting ... July 1 – Team Count, home game dates and times due ... August 1 – Preliminary Master Roster for review due ... August 7 – Council Meeting ... August 13 – All Coaches Meeting at BCC ... August 14 – First practice

Background checks – Boys and Girls Club will continue to do the checks, however, we need the Systems to prescreen the background check information for completeness ... ensure Coaching Application has System on it (top right corner) ... We need to do background checks on each and every coach and any other volunteer who has contact with the players ... To be covered by the Club insurance, all coaches and other volunteers must be rostered ... Systems must ensure that when they turn in the background check forms (hopefully everyone is now using the GEJFA Coach Application); this will streamline the handling of problems that the Club encounters ... these forms need to be turned in not later than August 1 with the Preliminary Rosters ...



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forms for coaches added later are to be turned in promptly to the Club. A review of the background checks against rosters will be done much earlier this year.

Coach Training ... USA Football Coach School – June 23 at Qwest Field ... other coach training available such as Glazier Clinic, ASEP On-line, NYSCA On-line, other alternatives

Grievance Committee procedures ... will ensure that the Grievance Committee membership is comprised only of System representatives which can include System designated individuals ... asked for interest in forming a committee to address equity of punishment.

Officials ... Each System needs to recruitment two new officials; young officials are welcome, but need more adults.

Rule Review

- Held brief discussion of Age/Weight Chart. Although there had been comments indicating a desire to make some changes, none have been introduced. The Age/Weight Chart stands as is.
- Council membership is appropriate stated in the current rules and no changes are needed. There are 17 System votes and 3 Athletic Director votes. However, a quorum is based only on the 17 Systems and not Athletic Director needs be present. The elected officials have no vote unless also serving as a System Representative. The GEJFA President has a vote only to break ties.
- Game schedule – A motion was made (Woodinville) and seconded (Skyline) to have a 7 game regular season for those levels that have 24 or more teams. All teams will still have 9 games. The top 16 teams will move into a playoff bracket and all other teams will form a separate bracket to play matchup games for two weeks. Teams in the playoff bracket that lose in the first round will play a matchup game against other losing teams in the playoff bracket. There will still be two conferences and two divisions within each of those conferences. The vote was in favor – 8 to 5.
- Boundary enforcement – A motion was made (Inglemoor) and seconded (Woodinville) that transfers from outside the boundaries of a System will not be accepted until players living within the boundaries of that System have been accommodated up to some System established date (e.g., usually after open registrations have been completed). In discussion, some System indicated that



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would be June 1, others indicated it might be as early as May 1. The importance of boundary enforcement was emphasized, however, this was not part of the motion nor something on which we voted. The vote on this motion was in favor – 12 to 1. Also, Systems are reminded that they cannot turn players away or wait list them until their teams are full with at least 26 players.

- 32 point rule – A motion was made (Bears) and seconded (Bothell) that this rule would be changed/clarified to require that no team shall lead by more than 32 points over another team at anytime during the game. Vote in favor – 13 to 0. Discussion also included establishing break points at half and requirements that not should starting offenses on a dominate team be rearranged in a big lead, but also should the starting defense. These are items for which Systems need time to consider and could if appropriate be raised at the next Council meeting.
- Detachable cleats – no motion to change the rule. Detachable cleats are still not permitted in our program. At the February Council meeting we asked that Systems check with their home HS regarding the acceptance of detachable cleats. The NFHS Rules allow detachable cleats to specification and the WIAA Guidelines allow subject to the HS policy. Since some high schools still do not allow detachable cleats on their artificial turf, a clear and uniform standard in our program is necessary. Thus, **NO REMOVABLE CLEATS**. Warn your players/parents early.

Next meeting: June 5th (Tuesday) 7:00pm @ Bellevue Boys and Girls Club

Adjourn

February 13th, 2007

Call to order at 7:00pm

ATTENDANCE: John Veentjer; Beckey Ranstrom (VP); Shawn O'Brien (Senior Coordinator); Billie Hartline (Scheduler and Inglemoor); Bob Goldberg (Officials); Andy Main (Bellevue B&G Club); Greg Richardson (Bears); Tom Louis (Knights); Greg Pardee (wolverines); Ron Walker (Bothell); Greg Brink (Bainbridge Island); Bob Woods and Larry Ferro (Eastlake); Robert Reeves (Five Star); Billie Hartline and Duane Ranstrom (Inglemoor); Marlow Green (Issaquah); Gary Barnett and Dan Bean (Mercer Island); Michael Murphy and Matt Deichman (Mt Si); Tami Steckler and John Ridenour (Redmond); Jim Sypher (Skyline)

Not present: Joe Morgan (VP)

Systems not represented: Cedarcrest; Kirkland; Mt Si; Shoreline-Univac; Woodinville



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Call to order

Due to new faces in the group, did introductions around the room. Reminded everyone to update System Presidents and System Reps information for the web site and distribution lists. Also need to update System web sites.

Minutes of the last meetings, December 5, 2007, were presented, but not discussed. Comments are to be sent to John within a week; otherwise these minutes will be posted as they are.

Championship Game Video – having heard of no problems, will assume that the video met with everyone's approval.

Review

- Calendar (essentially same as last year/dates adjusted)
 - Ø April 10 -- Next Council meeting
 - Ø June 5 – Council meeting
 - Ø July 1 -- Team Count, home game dates and times due
 - Ø August 1 -- Preliminary Master Roster for review due
 - Ø August 7 -- Council Meeting
 - Ø August 13 – All Coaches Meeting at BCC
 - Ø August 14 -- First practice
- Committee Assignments
 - Ø Grievance – three Council members
 - Ø Roster review – need rep from each System
 - Ø Husky Pregame – Greg Pardee is working on this
 - Ø Seahawks – John V is working on this

Age/Weight Schedule -- posted on the web site

- Simple age advance; other mods open for discussion (pending vote)



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- Senior outline based on grade level – 8th grade and under and 9th grade and under

See attached sheet for Rules matter that need review and potentially change.

Frequently Asked Questions are posted on the web site and will be modified as necessary to address any new FAQs.

Coaches – Use of the GEJFA Coaching Application is encourage. This application serves to provide (1) a brief coaching resuming on the individual; (2) a vehicle for obtaining information for the background check; and (3) verification of having read and understood the code of conduct. Also mentioned the importance of some form of coaching evaluation so that we might rid our program of problem coaches. We need to talk more about coach training options toward many some form of training mandatory. Club agreed to continue the background checks provided we clean up the background forms and ensure that all the required information is included, as well as clear identification of the System.

Cheerleaders -- As organizations affiliated but separate from Systems – may sign-up as outreach members of the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club. If these groups are going to use the Club insurance, a roster must be submitted, fees must be played, coaches must submit information for background check, and the season is limited to August 13 to November 17. Activities are limited to practice, GEJFA games, and special competitions for which GEJFA approval has been requested and given.

Reminder of first aid requirement – System to ensure each team has a certified first aid person. If we require coach training which includes some first aid, maybe we should consider dropping the first aid certification requirement?

Officials – we still need officials. There is always some turnover. Each System should recruit 2 new officials. We can use more adults, college students; however, the high school officials are always welcome. Continue to pursue partnership with PNFOA and seek PNFOA training.

Next meeting: April 10th (Tuesday) 7:00pm @ Bellevue Boys and Girls Club

Adjourn

POTENTIAL RULE CHANGES OR POLICY CONSIDERATIONS



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The following items were discussed at the February 13, 2007, meeting and unless otherwise indicated are to be voted on at the next meeting.

- Streamlined administration – we need for the Systems to do a better job screening rosters for accuracy before turning in preliminary rosters for review. We also need the Systems to ensure all the background check forms (GEJFA Coaching Application) are complete, legible, and submitted in timely manner. This year we will attempt to identify earlier those coaches who do not have a background check on file and they will be suspended from coaching until the background check information is submitted.
- Review the Age/Weight Chart – Although there were indications that some wanted to change the Age/Weight Chart, there was no motion made. Because registrations are soon, any change other than the usual age advancement needed to be proposed at the February 13 meeting.
- Council membership -- Currently 17 Systems and 3 Athletic Directors have vote; President has tie breaking vote. Since the other elected officials are representatives from a System and there System already has a vote, the other elected officials should not have voting privileges. Nor should members at large have a vote. The question of who can serve on the Grievance Committee is still open.
- Game schedule – A proposal has been made to have 7 game season and one extra week of playoffs for the levels that have more than 26 teams; top 16 teams go into one bracket and play minimum two games in single elimination; all other teams in a bracket of their own in pods of 4 teams to play two games within pod. This will be voted at the next meeting.
- Boundary enforcement -- Proposal that no transfer-in player may be accepted until all in-boundary players have been accommodated. Need to consider application and cutoff date at next meeting.
- Roster review – just need better enforcement of transfer procedures and better enforcement of background checks.
- Game report deadline. Currently Monday, but propose Sunday by 7:00pm except earlier during playoffs.
- Clarify GEJFA players may not participate in ANY other football program (currently states junior high, but should also include middle school and ANY other program).



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- Should we monitor teams/Systems regarding the termination of players? players quitting?
- Game jerseys – home and away – current policy allows two tone?
- Authority for President to temporarily reinstate a coach following automatic suspension when Grievance Committee is not able to hear the matter in timely matter? This was approved.
- Clarification that GEJFA Rules are deviations from NFHS Rules – otherwise all other NFHS rules apply – no further action needed other than to emphasize in the Rules.
- Detachable cleats allowed per NFHS Rules and WIAA Field Guidelines. Systems need to check with their high school regarding cleat policy.
- Application of 32 point rule – at any point in game or only in the final result? Need vote.
- Clarify non-application of 32 point rule to Seniors – just need to include in Rules. It is covered in the Senior outline already.
- Clarify the shootout tiebreaker involving three teams – just need to ensure the Rules are clear on this – no further Council action is necessary.
- Grievance Committee procedures – Do we have some representatives interested in meeting to discuss equity of punishment.
- Coaches training program – we need a coach training program and coaches need to be trained. We can accept a number of different courses to satisfy this requirement (Coaching Academy; Glazier Clinics; ASEP; online course). How do we enforce?