

## MSTCA Cross Country Committee Meeting

11/23/19

### Minutes

PRESENT: James Fletcher, Fred Doyle, Todd Deely, Bill Babcock, Alex Evans, Mike Budd, Rebecca Gauvin, John Laverty, Mike Merrill, Jayson Sylvain, Jeremy Nute, Phil Maia, Joe Grant, Aaron Ladd

Chair thanked the committee for a good year

#### Item #1 Review of MSTCA EVENTS

- Duck Races (Mike Budd)
  - 6 races of various levels
  - This event is intended to be a developmental event
    - 3.0 for Varsity and 2.14 for JV and Frosh
  - Mike is looking to expand the event and add schools
  - Kids had fun and the medals and trophies were excellent
  - Next year meet will be held on 9/12
  
- Frank Kelley
  - Format worked well. 3k races are a favorite. Approx. 3400 entries
  - Despite weather most schools showed (only 2 did not)
  - Could we run a “coaches race” or “Wrentham challenge” open event next year?
  - Parking is starting to be an issue, we may be out growing Wrentham
  - Next year meet will be on 9/26
  
- Baystate Invitational (Fletch)
  - The goal moving forward is to keep this meet an All-State preview
  - This year the 3 x mile made sense given the issues with Gardner
  - We should keep the relay format but look to an alternate site (Attleboro?) (9/19?)
    - We anticipate more teams next year in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the relay format
  - Baystate will revert to the previous format in 2020
  - Discussion of date
  - James Fletcher motion to run the Baystate Invite on 10/3
    - Second: Rebecca Gauvin
    - Approved 14-0

#### Twilight Meet

- Discussion of how to determine D1 vs D2. Jim had expressed concerns about the method
- Determined that all of our meets should have the same rules re: division to decrease confusion
  - Large: D 1, 2, 3 + Central/West D1
  - Small: D 4, 5, 6 + Central/West D2
- Next year's date
  - 10/16 Small Schools
  - 10/17 Large Schools
- Can we do boxes?
  - Very difficult to do (they get erased fast)
- Christmas lights were a hit
- Discussion of starting the race later to have more kids run under the lights

#### State Coaches Meet

- Freshman races will stay 3k
- JV Championships
  - Is there a way to make this a JV Championship?
  - Could we negotiate with the MIAA? What leverage do we have?>
- Motion made to support the possibility of making this meet a JV Championship.
  - Supported 14-0

Discussion about the "open date" on October 24<sup>th</sup>

- Do we want to have a meet every weekend?
- What weekend would work best for relays?
- We need to keep in mind that the calendar will be different next year
- We could utilize new courses on the 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Marshfield, Woburn
- We should be open to populating all available weekends

### **Item #2 Helpers/Rules/Services**

- Did we have adequate help on the course this year?
- Should we put names on the list for free admittance (will call)
- Coaches coming without their team and bring spouses/children was an issue at Twilight
- Can we do better results boards at Wrentham (like Ocean State)

### **Item #3 MIAA Meets**

- Preview of the All-State meet course was not adequately communicated to coaches
- Discussion of leaving Gardner? Is there a better site in Central MA? We need to be pro-active in finding a site
- Boxes at the EMass meets were small
- Walk-up line was not properly officiated and some teams took advantage of that

### **Item #4 Poll**

- Was done differently this year but there were still some issues with the poll (Milton girls not ranked?)
- Should we have more collaboration?
- Are there other ways to do the poll?
- Some coaches take the poll far too seriously and this has created an issue with inappropriate communication with board members
- Establish firm dates for the poll. Should we involve the entire membership?
- We will look to refine the process next year

### **Item #5 New England's (Alex)**

- Subcommittee compared MA to the rest of New England
  - The other states are roughly 2 weeks ahead of us
- If MA rejoined the NE Meet it would allow for a true New England Champion
- How do we do this?

- Schedule Changes (move everything up a week)
  - This would affect the MIAA as well as many invitational
- There was an analysis of the Frank Money Meet.
  - 30% of the runners at Mooney race Divisional Meets and only 6% ran at All-States
  - Could we redefine Frank Mooney?
- Nike has expressed a desire to increase NE representation at their event.
  - Franklin Park?
  - Chance to work together?
- Do we have a state-wide interest in trying to re-join the NE Meet?
  - We have not been in since the 70's so we would need to gauge the interest of the coaches and AD's
- How would we determine what teams go? Merge Divisions?
- How would this affect the length of the season?

#### Item #6 Athlete and Coach of the Year

- We as a committee pick the finalists
- Issues constantly arise of coaches not being MSTCA members
- Coaches should include information with the nominations
- We should establish a specific criteria for the awards
  
- Coach of the year.
  - Should we change the rules for COY
  - Should we be allowed to vote for coaches out of our region?

- The following athletes were submitted as finalists

AOY Boys

Bobby Carew

Mike Griffin

Seak Kay

AOY Girls

Emily Boutin

Cermel Fitzgibbons

Lucy Jenks

The following Coaches were voted as Coaches of the Year

COY WEST:

G: Amy Walsh (Ludlow)

B: Jason Weber (Chicopee Comp)

COY CENTRAL

G: Nicole Fossas (Shepherd Hill)

B: Caitlin Forgit (Blackstone Valley Tech)

COY EAST

G: Dennis Sheppard (Marshfield)

B: John Boyle (SJP)