

**Post Falls Junior Tackle Pop Warner
Board Meeting Minutes**

Date/Time: November 11, 2014 - 7 pm

Location: PFHS – Library

In Attendance: Jason Hildreth, Sara and Greg Rodriguez, Shannon Stone, Amanda Pecor, Jeff Hinz, Colin Anderson, Lia Saless

Visitors: Numerous parents and coaches

The meeting was called to order by Jason Hildreth at 7:05 pm.

Meeting would start with open forum for those who signed up as they came in. 5 minutes each to state whatever they wanted to share about the season and moving forward.

Visitor 1:

- At the beginning of season, was unhappy with Pop Warner, but now supports the model.
- There are a lot of junior high / middle school options for the older kids.
- Transition items need work
- Opinion is not to go back to CDA Jr Tackle.
- SYSA Grid Kids is an option for 8th grade
- Need to contact junior highs before April to schedule games.

Visitor 2:

- Thought this year was an awful experience.
- Thought Pop Warner was meant for areas with junior high programs.
- Doesn't see how Pop Warner supports building for the high school.
- A lot more change than she thought there was supposed to be.
- Doesn't think it is meant for small towns.
- Spokane teams were beating our teams up. "Elite showmanship"

Visitor 3:

- Person from Rathdrum.
- Didn't understand why he had to go to Spokane for tiny mite
- Would like to start tiny mite football in north Idaho.
- Would like to build north Idaho football
- By 7-8th grade we should have good teams
- Mandatory play rule is tough when you have kids that don't go to practice and they still get to play
- Happy with Pop Warner
- What can he do to get tiny mite football?
- Doesn't know why Post Falls and CDA have separate programs.
- Would like to see north Idaho Pop Warner

Visitor 4:

- Coached at high school for 6 years.
- Make decisions based on the kids. Focus on the kids.
- Structure to feed into the high school.
- Need coaches clinics with high school coaches
- Like to see kids come up to the high school with knowledge of football

Post Falls Junior Tackle Pop Warner Board Meeting Minutes

- More kids will help build the high school program
- Need to keep kids in the program.

Visitor 5:

- Team of fourteen 4th grade and six 5th grade boys.
- Age/weight matrix was off
- Bottom line is that it all comes down to pros and cons.
- Cons –
 - 7th grade program
 - 8th grade program
 - CDA isn't going to budge for next season
 - Building teams
 - Travel to E. Wenatchee and Cheney
- Pros –
 - Need tiny mite
 - Insurance
 - Fundraising at the team level
 - Learned what we need to do to build teams.

Visitor 6:

- Had some really dedicated people (Jason and Sara)
- Need to build parent involvement
- North Idaho can add teams to start building the unlimited division down the road.
- Group/Town/County effort need improvement

Visitor 7:

- Board was sold a pretty picture
- There are good pros to Pop Warner
- Transition was harder than anticipated
- We had to turn kids away
- One team, left Pop Warner and won the SYSA championship
- Needs to be about building Post Falls football
- Coaches board should be involved with team building
- Pop Warner is not an answer to 8th grade

Visitor 8:

- Safety is biggest concern.
- 5th graders going up against 7th graders
- Being able to start at the mity mite level would be good.
- Kids aren't going to stay if they are getting hurt – we would lose a lot of talent.

Visitor 9:

- Coached Post Falls Jr Tackle 6 years and 1 year at mity mite.
- Confused as to why we left junior tackle.
- We get the same competition with CDA and Lakeland.
- Travel:
 - Parents turn away at the work of traveling to Spokane.
 - Parents can't get kids to the games

- Lose a lot of kids due to travel.
- Great competition in Spokane, but is it worth it? It isn't making us better.
- As long as we are keeping up with CDA, we would be fine.
- Need the same terminology across the teams – need to be on the same page
- Doesn't want to stay with Pop Warner
- Fitz League in CDA is an option for 3-4th grade teams
- Need a local program for kids.

Visitor 10:

- Only in the program for the kids
- It is more about the character, sense of team, developing young men.
- There will always be pros and cons.
- There is a big learning curve.
- What is the purpose of the program?
 - Need to understand what the high school needs.
- What is the right tool? Pop Warner or Junior Tackle?
- Need to figure out how to prepare our teams.
- Junior tackle – keep same team over the years.
- Pop Warner – sounds like teams will change each year.

Visitor 11:

- Coaching for 15 years (football, baseball, basketball)
- Kids are first – it is all about the kids.
- Determine what works best
- Are the kids believing in what they are doing?
- What are we doing this for?
- Need to affect the kids in a positive way.
- CDA board is of the mind that we are all in or all out of their program.

Coach Hinz Input:

- The main question he has been asked is “Why did you support the change?”
 - Gives stability – rules and guidelines
 - Insurance
 - Grade checks and focus on academics
 - USA football training for the coaches
- We were mislead
 - Told there were going to be tiers of teams based on skills
 - Told there would be games for 7-8th grade teams
- Major concern is 7-8th grade football
- We need football top to bottom
- We need to include everyone – we can't be turning kids away.

Board Positions

- We need more volunteers to participate on the board to run the program. We have consistently only had 5-6 people participate.
- The President (Jason), Vice President (Colin), and Secretary (Sara) met and developed a new structure to the Post Falls board to bring in more participation. We have lined out 15 positions.

- At this time, consider every position available.
- Sign-up sheets were provided for people to sign up if they are interested.

President Comments:

- CDA Jr Tackle numbers are down. Moving forward this could be an issue. There are also a number of teams that will be moving to Pop Warner – either with us or Spokane Valley.
- SYSA is an option. 4th grade had “odd” rules, but the older grades are similar. There has been some talk of Pop Warner working with SYSA.
- Junior high games could work for a couple of years. It might not be the long term answer.
- We need to fill our board positions to help get things done. Please sign up if interested.
- There is a 7 on 7 passing league we can look into during the summer with CDA.
- The Wenatchee game scheduling is already being dealt with.

To-do's:

- President (Jason) – Contact Kellogg, Lakeland, and CDA Boards. Get a timeline from them.
- Secretary (Sara) – Send out a league wide email with the following:
 - Invite feedback (positive and constructive) from everyone. All feedback to be sent to the President (Jason).
 - Ask for volunteers to join the board. Include a list of the positions and their roles. All interested parties to contact the Secretary (Sara)

Objectives for the Winter:

- December meeting will review all feedback and interested parties for the board. Assign research tasks to different folks to have ready for the January meeting.
- January meeting – Hopefully we will have enough information to make a decision on next season and start planning for the season and future seasons.

Next Meeting:

- Tues, December 12, 2014, 7pm at the HS Library

The meeting was closed at 9 pm.