

Post Falls Junior Tackle Pop Warner Board Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: December 9, 2014 - 7 pm

Location: PFHS – Library

In Attendance: Jason Hildreth, Sara and Greg Rodriguez, Colin Anderson

Visitors: Numerous parents and coaches, Dan Pearse, Laurie and Spencer Sessions, Courtney Meyers, Pete Tacconelli, Russell Lewis, Cliff Lickfold, Courtney and Scott Babowicz, Pat Estis (Spokane Grid Kids)

The meeting was called to order by Jason Hildreth at 7:03 pm.

Update from last week and this week. Jason received about 7 emails with a 50/50 response.

- Negatives: travel, concerned with maturity level for heavier kids, not having a schedule.
- Positives: organization, competition

Didn't get any response from Rathdrum. Moving forward, we need to contact the junior highs and see what it will take to get 8th grade on their schedule.

President's thoughts are: Both programs will work for us, we can make either one of them work if we can get the help to run it. We need volunteers. Continuing down the Pop Warner path is probably what we should do because of the infrastructure, but it will take a bunch of people to run it. The older kids are the elephant in the room. Junior tackle, we can get in on the Fitz League for 3-4th grade. It comes down to the man power needed to run this. We need passionate people to run it.

Have we thought about asking for a global vote for direction?

- Would it be a fair assessment? Parents may be voting on emotion and not educated.
- How about returning coaches voting?

8th grade numbers is an issue. Do we know why they fell?

2014 7th grade / 2015 8th grade – is our low quantity level.

Numbers are down everywhere. CDA is down, Midwest is down. Coaching issues. How do we get the best coaches? Draft/Select System – which one will keep kids in the program?

Spokane Grid Kids – Progressive rules, age appropriateness, focus on smaller teams with more play time would increase retention. A good coach has the same team return year after year. Has a fact sheet for Grid Kids for us to leave. Partners with SYSA. Full time staff that are responsible and accountable for putting teams together, coaches, communications, field reservations, scheduling officials, equipment. Committee led for establishing rules. They are grade based, 3-4, 5, 5-6, 6, 7, 8 grade leagues. Arena league is getting popular. Great relationships with coaches. USA football has done research on grade based vs weight based and that there is not a difference in injuries. They have some position restrictions for the heavier players. Pop Warner is a great league. Successful teams are full of older but lighter. Things they are focusing is team size – currently at 24 looking to change to 20. Recruiting by high school boundaries. The high schools support their program – lend equipment, and coaching training. 5th grade and up are played on high school fields. Plenty of teams at all age groups (3rd grade and up) – from Spokane, Reardon, Sandpoint, Medical Lake. There is a football trend that numbers are done. They are heads up certified. Team formation: coaches can recruit within high school boundaries. Practice limitations.

Post Falls Junior Tackle Pop Warner Board Meeting Minutes

If we go Pop Warner, do we have an option for 8th grade that has some heavier 7th grade? Answer: Not interested in interleague. We can sign up 7th and 8th grade teams in the Grid Kids program. Thinks it will be a disadvantage to not “grow” with the program.

Pop Warner Model: the minimum play requirements and documenting it during the game. Requiring they play starting the 4th quarter if they don't have the plays in. In the past, it was always on the parents to communicate low play time to coaches or the board. With parents that care and willing to track the plays helps. There is nothing saying we can't adopt the play count process if we go Junior Tackle.

A worry is getting stomped every game. We can put those teams together can compete. We can't do grade based to put the teams together.

It is not a talent issue in Post Falls. It was the way teams were put together. Need to implement it slowly. We have to build from the bottom.

How are we going to fix the issue of kids that don't want to come back because they got their butts kicked last season?

Coaches' awareness and looking rosters to build teams.

With Pop Warner, as an organization, we can set rules for when people can sign their kids up to get on a specific team.

Prior to going to Pop Warner, there were a couple good athletes that quit because they were only allowed to play one side of the ball. We need to make sure the kids get to play both sides of the ball. This isn't something to talk about tonight, but we need to get a policy in place for this issue.

Need to make kids know that offensive blocking is a fun thing. Need to make it all fun for the kids.

Teams were made the best we could. In the future, we need more people involved in team building.

CDA will only have us back if we are all in. They will play themselves and have added Rathdrum, Spirit Lake, and Silver Lake.

If we go the Pop Warner model, get parents to let go of the old way. They need to let the system put the kids on the “right” team.

Drafts can create unequal teams. Need to develop a strong coaches' board so we can build good coaches and teach the kids good football. Getting all the coaches educated and working together.

For years and years, Junior Tackle was all about each coaches 20 kids and not worrying about the entire grade. Trying to get the teams to work together to build a football community. Pop Warner looked like it would allow us to look at it as Post Falls' football and not individual teams. We can go back to the old ways, and we have produced good athletes.

Presidents' opinion is to try to stick with Pop Warner to create a football community.

Post Falls Junior Tackle Pop Warner Board Meeting Minutes

Creating organizations that practice on the same fields for position based practices across the age levels. Scrimmages need to be age based.

Moving forward, we need a decision by next month's meeting. President to send an email to all the coaches, team managers, and current board members to get their opinion on what direction.

- Concerned about opening up the decision to people that don't seem to care because they can't make it to our meetings.
- Proposal: Set up a meeting next week for an in-person vote for coaches, team managers, board members.
- Need to stop dragging out the decision.
- Email sent out this week for voting on future with responses needed by the end of next week.

Whichever way the vote goes, our equipment and money would go the way the vote goes. We can't force people to stay with whatever we decide.

- If we go Pop Warner, we would lose a few kids to CDA Junior Tackle.
- If we go Junior Tackle, we will most likely lose more kids to Pop Warner.

Pop Warner is not an answer to 8th grade football. We don't have Junior High Football.

There are merits to both programs.

When we send a note out, let them know we have options for 8th grade. That way we curb the "8th grade" got screwed.

Finance: Bank screwed up and put Seahawk

Next Meeting:

- Tues, January 13, 2014, 7pm at the HS Library

The meeting was closed at 8:20 pm.