

**Minutes of STYSA Western District Special Meeting  
Doubletree Hotel, Austin, TX  
March 12, 2011**

**Approved By Governing Body – July 24, 2011**

The meeting was planned to start at 2:00, but actual start time was 2:10 p.m.

**MEETING PURPOSE**

A meeting was called requesting attendance by members from the Western District – including club administrators and Director of Coaches, individual team coaches and member association representatives to address the travel issues associated with the Western District.

**GOAL**

To inform, assess and pursue educated solutions, which aid in defining strategies for the effective engagement of STYSA sanctioned competitions for the Western District.

**ATTENDEES**

Don Bohnet (STYSA EVP) and Jesse Harrell (STYSA President) moderated the meeting. STYSA Executive Committee members in attendance also included Pam Kasperitis (STYSA Western District Vice-President) and David Buckler (STYSA Secretary).

Representatives generally were from Alamo Area YSA, Beeville YSA, Capital Area YSA, Coastal Bend YSA, Rio Valley YSA, Western District Division One Association, and Victoria YSA.

Attendees list maintained by District Vice-President

**BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW OF WESTERN DISTRICT STRUCTURES/PRACTICES PREVIOUSLY USED**

The Western District has various travel scenarios – from 1 to 3 playing groups – dependent on the competition and formats that provided a district playoff and/or district championships to determine whom would represent Western District at the respective State Tournament.

**OPEN DIALOG REGARDING OPTIONS FOR HOW BEST TO STRUCTURE WESTERN DISTRICT**

The meeting opened with a recap of activities stemming from the recent winter Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Galveston, TX in February 2011. Options were discussed as follows:

**OPTION 1**

**Splitting Western District** into a North District and a South District. This option would require a series of STYSA constitutional changes at the next STYSA AGM. Constitutional changes require a 2/3 successful vote by all members of STYSA in attendance. This proposal would create separate elected governance, provide for an additional district vice-president to facilitate the additional district. Furthermore, the proposal presumed that the current Western District allocations toward a respective state tournament would be equally split – thus promoting one team to advance from the North and South Districts respectfully. The feedback surrounding this option is seen is unlikely given that a significant portion of the Eastern District coupled with the entire Western District member associations would have to all vote in favor of this proposal.

**OPTION 2**

The creation of a **zone model** within the Western District composed of a North Zone and a South Zone. The general aspects of the territory associated with the North Zone would generally represent areas within the San Antonio and Austin Area – (effectively representing Alamo Area and Capital Area YSA's) plus a majority of the Western District Division One Association. The remaining member associations (excluding the greater El Paso area) would constitute the South Zone. The benefits associated with this proposal includes not requiring any constitutional changes – thereby allowing this model to be implemented effective fall 2011; reduce any travel

greater than within the respective zone until either a zone championship and/or a district championship were to be played over a single weekend versus multiple single game weekends – thereby eliminating significant travel time and expense by all teams participating in the qualifying league and limit the playoff travel only to those teams that advance throughout the respective competition.

The details discussed included the following:

- Each zone would qualify their teams that advance in accordance with the respective rules of the competition. As a general rule, the top two qualifying teams from each zone will compete in the district tournament.
- The playoff to determine who would represent all of Western District (excluding El Paso given their current automatic advancement to state) would be coordinated and scheduled by STYSA.
- Members from Victoria YSA and Beeville YSA asked if they could choose with zone their teams could opt to compete in.
  - After discussion, it was agreed that teams would be allowed to choose which zone they chose to compete in, however if they chose to compete outside their regularly defined zone (based on their geographic location), they would be required to compete for the seasonal year in the zone for which they chose.
  - Assuming a team chose to participate in the other zone effective in the fall, any exceptions to this policy would require a waiver request to the STYSA Executive Committee for consideration to change zones at the conclusion of the fall season.
- Regarding location of district playoffs – it was agreed that a rotation would occur between the North Zone and the South Zone as follows:
  - Playoff complex's will be determined prior to the start of the season. (If a challenge regarding the quality of a proposed complex is raised, the Executive Vice-President and the District Vice-President will review the proposed complex to assure quality consistent with the competition.)
  - The STYSA SYRA will be responsible for assigning referees for the District tournament.
  - In Even Seasonal Years, the Western District Championship tournament for Boys' Teams will be held in the North Zone and Girls Teams will be held in the South Zone;
  - In Odd Seasonal Years, the Western District Championship tournament for Girls Teams will be held in the North Zone and Boys Teams will be held in the South Zone
  - Here is how the district tournaments feed the respective STYSA State Tournaments:
  - 5.6.1. **Even Seasonal Years** (e.g. 2011-12)
    - a. Eastern District Hosts Boys' Teams
    - b. Western District Hosts Girls' Teams
  - 5.6.2. **Odd Seasonal Years** (e.g. 2012-13)
    - a. Eastern District Hosts Girls' Teams
    - b. Western District Hosts Boys' Teams

One of the attendees asked if anyone was opposed to this proposal. No one identified an issue with the proposal. After further discussion, the consensus to pursue this proposal was agreed to and all representatives were asked to review with their respective members. Representatives will be emailed the minutes of the meeting and asked to respond back to XXX@XXXX by End-of-Day Thursday, March 31, 2011, with their concurrence to proceed or recommended changes to the above proposal.

Once a review of the responses is reviewed by the STYSA Executive Committee, additional communication will be shared with all members associations and attendees stating what the majority of the responses reflected with a target to April 18, 2011. If appropriate, the guidance to pursue will be made known and any additional guidelines will be communicated. If necessary, the STYSA Executive Committee reserves the right to call a follow-up meeting.