

CYM Football Post-season Meeting

 Meeting summary - Tuesday Nov 18, 17:53-19:06  Template: General template

Quick recap

The meeting began with congratulations to championship-winning teams and a discussion about the use of additional officials in JV games. The group then addressed facility-related concerns, including field availability, warm-up space, and scheduling challenges at various locations, while also discussing cost considerations and potential solutions for different facilities. The conversation ended with discussions about youth football registration processes, weight management policies, and scheduling updates, including plans for parent workshops and early registration initiatives.

Next steps

-  [Donald: Bring feedback on officials \(especially regarding the extra JV official\) to the office for consideration in future planning.](#)
-  [Donald: Bring facility feedback \(pros/cons of Abessinio, St. Mark's, and other options, including warm-up times and scheduling\) to the office and relevant facility contacts for future scheduling and possible adjustments \(e.g., moving soccer start times, exploring University of Delaware facilities\).](#)
-  [Donald: Investigate with facility contacts \(e.g., Abessinio\) the possibility of moving soccer games later to allow more gap/warm-up time for football, and report back on feasibility.](#)
-  [Donald: Continue internal project to update and clarify parish/program](#)

boundaries and communicate finalized boundaries to coaches when available.

-  Donald: Plan and announce a parent workshop in December to demonstrate how parents can sign up for text/email updates and streamline registration.
-  Coaches/Administrators: Communicate with parents about the importance of timely registration and commitment to the football program, especially regarding summer schedules and avoiding late arrivals.
-  Donald: Post meeting minutes on the CYM website for coaches' reference.
-  Donald: Bring any additional rules or policy recommendations from coaches to the office for inclusion in the upcoming comprehensive policy update (due July).
-  Donald: Train new office staff members on CYM football program administration and policies.
-  Coaches: Send any ideas for non-conference games or expanding the league to Donald for further exploration.
-  Donald: Monitor and update the tentative fall schedule on the CYM website, especially regarding the early Labor Day and potential pre-Labor Day games, and notify coaches of any changes.
-  Donald: Bring the topic of second weigh-in and current weigh-in policies to the AAC for review, including consideration of new studies or updated recommendations.

Summary

Season Success and Official Feedback

The meeting began with a prayer and congratulations to St. Johns for winning the Varsity championship, St. Mary Magdalen for winning the JV championship, and Holy Angels for their strong performance. Donald led a discussion about the season's success and sought feedback on the use of additional officials in JV games to determine if this model should continue. Participants were encouraged to

share their thoughts on officials and the season.

JV Team Officials and Facilities

The group discussed officials and facilities for the St. Mary Magdalen JV team. Donald noted that adding an official for JV games helped with logistics, and the championship game had an unusually high number of officials with seven, and worked out well. The group including highly experience officials from the high school and college level. They also discussed the continuation of championships at St. Mark's, which remained as usual, despite relationship with Abessinio. The group was asked for feedback on facilities, including potential adjustments to timing and the possibility of splitting events between St. Mark's and Abessinio. Donald emphasized that using Catholic facilities is a priority, and the group was encouraged to provide input on how to enhance the experience at limited neutral site locations in this model.

Warm-up Space Challenges at Obscenio

The group discussed challenges with field availability and warm-up space at Abessinio, particularly early in the season when games often started late and teams had limited space to warm up. Devon noted that while the timing improved by the end of the season, the lack of warm-up area remained an issue, with the grassy area being opened only occasionally. The group explored potential solutions, including requesting 20-30 minutes between games for warm-ups or agreeing to share the grassy area, though Pat expressed concern about adding too much time between games. Donald mentioned that the incoming soccer group at facility could potentially be adjusted if committed to early, to provide more time between games. Matt noted that Tower Hill and other facilities also face similar warm-up space challenges in previous years when used.

Youth Football Facility Solutions

The group discussed facility costs and scheduling for youth football teams, with

Donald explaining that while Abessinio and St. Mark's facilities were relatively at higher cost, they were working on alternatives to reduce costs within budget perimeters. Donald mentioned that the University of Delaware had offered facility time across their arenas for the first time this November, potentially as a future championship location site if looking to add to overall experience. Devon raised concerns about field space for older players with varsity, noting that while the facilities were generally good at Abessinio, they needed more room than younger teams, noting Newark Charter as option.

Abessinio Field CYM Football Scheduling

The group discussed the use of the Abessinio field for all CYM football games, considering factors such as location, relationship, facility policies, and scheduling conflicts (ie. weather). Donald explained that games can start at 12 o'clock on Sundays per diocesan policies, which could pose a challenge for some teams if we were to look at dedicated masses for football for an earlier start. Pat mentioned Salesianum representatives positive experience with using the field, and suggested potential support could come for the soccer scheduling adjustments. The group acknowledged the pros and cons of using two different facilities in Abessinio and St. Mark's, but discussed the need to balance costs, safety, and officials' availability. Donald offered to bring up these considerations with the relevant authorities for further discussions to find a common ground. There was positive support in the experience of locations this season in the sport.

Youth Football Registration Policy Updates

The meeting shifted focus on scheduling and registration issues in youth football. Matt explained that JV and varsity teams typically play at the same location, except during playoffs. Donald announced that the office is updating policies, with a comprehensive plan expected to be finalized in July. He encouraged football coaches to provide feedback on rules and policies. Marty expressed a concern about parents misunderstanding the registration process between CYO and parish-level registration. There was some confusion among coaches as each institution has a different start time for beginning registrations.

Youth Sports Boundary Clarification

Devon raised concerns about unclear boundaries for youth sports teams, which makes it difficult to recruit players and manage registrations. Marty suggested streamlining the process by directing potential players to the CYM website first and alternative map. Tim mentioned that St. John's has implemented new policies to clarify team assignments for their specific institution. Donald confirmed that boundary updates are an ongoing internal project to review for just CYM-participating programs, and Devon agreed that travel baseball is becoming an increasing issue. Donald emphasized the office's stance regarding outside CYM programs.

Team Scheduling System Improvements

Donald discussed improvements to the team scheduling system, including a planned parent workshop in December to streamline registration and communication processes. He noted that administrators have been successful in meeting football schedule deadlines earlier in the year, and basketball schedules will be released before Thanksgiving for the first time. Many in football group saw increase in visual availability of updated schedule, standings, and scores. The group discussed exploring the possibility of adding non-conference games to address scheduling challenges, though this would require further logistical planning with a in-state Delaware or PA CYO team, to eliminate two bye weeks in season and bring down to one.

Youth Football Registration Strategy Discussion/Youth Football Weight Management Discussion

The group discussed early registration for youth football leagues, with Marty sharing that St. Mary Magdalen opens registration in June and uses yard signs and parish bulletins to attract players. Devon suggested opening registration earlier for all programs, to compete with travel ball and other football leagues, noting that many families have already invested thousands in travel ball. The discussion also

covered weigh-ins, with Donald explaining that they cannot eliminate weigh-ins as it conflicts with their mission and CYM study findings on healthy lifestyle choices, though Matt mentioned a specific case where a player lost significant weight during the season.

Addition focus continued on discussing weight management in youth football, with Matt explaining that while some weight loss is natural through practice, intentional weight cutting is not encouraged due to health concerns. Donald emphasized that parents have choices when enrolling their children in sports, and highlighted that the CYM program is currently at 4,500 kids, though down in parishes, with a tentative fall schedule posted on the website that may include games before Labor Day weekend. The group also discussed the first week without pads being primarily a safety measure, and Donald encouraged administrators to communicate with parents about the importance of consistent participation in the program with CYM, and choosing their program over club participation.