

MONTICELLO EMPIRE LEAGUE

ATHLETIC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 14, 2026

Location: Will C. Wood High School

Time: 8:30 AM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 8:28 AM.

2. ROUTINE ITEMS

2.1 Roll Call / Introductions

Present:

- Pioneer – Megan Ussery
 - Rodriguez – Sarah McLaughlin
 - River City – Brittany Adame (departed at 10:30 AM)
 - Sacramento High – Destiny Isaac
 - Vanden – Eddie Wilson
 - Vacaville – Jori Herman
 - Will C. Wood – Andrea Daniels
 - FSUSD Representative – Brad Burzynski
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2.2 Announcements / Additions to Agenda

Added Item: Sport Reports

3. SPORT REPORTS

Golf

- Season reported as successful.
- Vacaville and Rodriguez tied heading into finals.
- Three individuals competing at Masters.

Track & Field

- Season concluded successfully.
- Division III meet held in Manteca.
- Postseason meeting hosted by Pioneer; two schools were not represented.
- Discussion focused on setting expectations for next year.
- Positive reception to the 4x800 relay competition between Will C. Wood and Vacaville.
- Discussion held regarding concerns about moving away from dual meets.
- Consideration of modified center meets while retaining dual meet formats.
- Some schools currently running double duals.

Swim

- League meet went well overall.
- Incident occurred involving a River City parent interrupting the host while coaching; handled by Sarah McLaughlin.
- Two Vacaville divers qualified for the State Meet.

Boys Volleyball

- Successful season overall.
- One school's coach was not represented at the postseason meeting.
- Discussion regarding expected growth of the sport.
- Currently, three schools field JV teams.
- Request made for assistance with preseason scheduling to improve league coordination.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence reported.

5. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

No public communications.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6.01 Financial Report

It was reported that the MEL can absorb the losses on the Water Polo and Track and Field tournaments. These normally are making a profit for the MEL. The new MEL financial form and process should help to control costs.

6.02 Committee Reports

No formal committee reports presented.

7. MEL LEAGUE BUSINESS

7.11 SJS Participation Census

Discussion held regarding participation census updates.

7.12 Sport Bylaw Revisions

Wrestling Bylaw Revision

Current and proposed language reviewed regarding determination of league championship points.

Key discussion points:

- Maximum points should reflect the number of participating schools.
- Example provided: seven participating schools would allow a maximum of six points.
- Update needed to reflect seven schools in bylaw language.

All-League Voting Process

- Coaches are required to vote.
- The group agreed current language is appropriate.

- Athletic Directors emphasized the importance of conversations regarding players.
- Confidentiality statement reviewed; consensus reached that it should be signed.

Tennis Bylaws

Discussion included:

1. Roster additions are placed at final ladder position until an updated ladder is created.
2. Tournament seeding: currently top four seeded with remaining players randomly drawn. Proposal to seed top eight to be revisited at August AD meeting prior to BOM meeting.
3. Scoring language clarification discussed.

Tie-Breaker Bylaw

- Discussion regarding adding additional steps before coin toss.
- Current bylaw reviewed and determined acceptable as written.

Scheduling Considerations

- ADs discussed the need for closer scrutiny of schedules to avoid conflicts, including Vanden home flag football impacting frosh football scheduling.

Baseball Extra Game Proposal

- Baseball coaches interested in additional game opportunities to settle league ties/championship positioning.
- Possible future proposal anticipated.

AD Professionalism and Preparation

- Vanden AD emphasized the importance of league-wide decision making.
- Members are encouraged to review section materials carefully and maintain both micro and macro perspectives.
- ADs reminded meetings occur only once monthly and attendance for full meetings is important.

AC Agenda Organization

- Sarah McLaughlin offered assistance in creating agenda summaries for state and section items.

7.13 Softball Forfeits

Discussion included:

- Official payment responsibility.
 - Timing and notification procedures for cancellations.
 - Existing bylaw reviewed.
 - Consensus reached that forfeiting school pays officials.
 - Statistics from forfeited contests do not count toward season totals.
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7.14 AD in Charge / Tournament Oversight

Discussion focused on tournament leadership and site management.

Consensus included:

- AD responsible for the sport should host the tournament.
 - Tournament locations should remain blank when schedules are initially created.
 - AD in charge should have greater authority regarding tournament operations.
 - ADs will vote on locations, while the sport AD oversees event operations or appoints assistance.
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7.15 All-League Meetings

Process Review

- Current template usage discussed.
- Coaches must vote in All-League selections.
- Subcommittee formed to review entire process and present recommendations at August 2026 meeting.

Subcommittee Members:

- Brad Burzynski
- Jori Herman
- Sean
- Megan Ussery

Additional Discussion Items

- Championship patches must be picked up in person.
- Confidentiality and release of information reviewed.

- Vote tallies will not be publicly posted.
- Only the Board of Managers may formally change bylaws.
- The AD group has created the templates for Pre-Season meetings and All League meetings. These should be followed as written. AD's can add other sport specific items but everything in the template should be covered.

Voting Process Clarification

- Existing All-League voting process document will serve as official MEL bylaw guidance.
- General process language will remain on league website.
- No modifications may occur without Board of Managers approval.

Coach Compliance Concerns

- Discussion held regarding coaches not following established All-League procedures.
- ADs running meetings should clearly explain procedures and enforce compliance.
- If coaches remain non-compliant, meetings may be paused and respective ADs contacted.
- ADs requested notification when coaches fail to cooperate so corrective action can occur.

Award Denials / Patch Orders

- Existing process for coach denial of awards should continue to be followed.
 - Discussion held regarding ordering additional patches; no changes recommended.
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7.16 MEL Tournaments

Tournament Expenses

- Discussion regarding timeline for submission of MEL financial forms for AC approval.
- Consensus recommendation: forms submitted at least three months in advance.
- Discussion whether bylaws or forms should contain this language.

Facility Rental / Event Staffing

- Discussion held regarding language for renting facilities. If a facility needs to be rented for a MEL Tournament then priority will be given to a facility that does not incur a charge to use. All facilities need to meet the needs of the tournament.
- Gate staffing reviewed; consensus that adults should work gates.
- Discussion included staffing duration expectations.

7.17 Badminton Update

- Nick's notes reviewed.
 - No changes proposed at this time.
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7.18 All-League Folder

- Additional review to be conducted by subcommittee referenced above.
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8. SECTION ITEMS

8.01 Sac-Joaquin Section Items

a. Proposed 2026-2027 Budget

- Budget distributed for review and discussion.

b. Continued Success Movement – Winter Sports

- Proposal reviewed regarding division movement recommendations.

c. GSL Expansion of Football Membership

- Proposal to add Davis Sr., Kennedy, and River Valley football programs to GSL reviewed.
- MEL vote: No.

d. Medium School Athletic Director Representative Nominations

- Information item reviewed due to upcoming vacancy.

e. Proposed NorCal Frontier League (NFL)

- Proposal reviewed establishing a new Division VII league.
- Moved to action item.

- Amendment proposed to remove Pine Hills until requirements are met.
- Second amendment proposed to postpone vote.

f. Amendment to SJS Bylaw 701.1 – Section Playoff Passes

- Proposal reviewed removing football and basketball finals from playoff pass usage.

g. Amendment to SJS Bylaws 503.3 / 503.4 – Classifications

- Proposal reviewed changing “Frosh-Soph” terminology to “Novice.”

h. Accounts Receivable Process / Policy

- Proposal reviewed establishing progressive accounts receivable procedures.
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9. STATE ITEMS

9.01 Bylaw 503.M – Spectators

- Proposal reviewed regarding statewide spectator responsibilities and restrictions for CIF contests.
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10. OTHER BUSINESS

No additional business reported.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting

August 20, 2026

Location: River City High School