

To: Duane Morgan, Chair
From: Tod Thatcher, AD San Benito High School
Re: Realignment Proposal
Cc: Tim McCarthy, Commissioner
TCAL, MBL, MTAL AD's

February 2, 2007

Proposal

On behalf of San Benito High School (Hollister), I would like to propose that the current members of the Tri-County Athletic League (TCAL), Monterey Bay League (MBL), and Mission Trail Athletic League (MTAL) combine to form an "Equity/Power" league structure as a result of the upcoming realignment cycle. The Southern Conference entertained this idea during the last realignment cycle and many positive factors were discussed that pertained to the "Equity/Power" league structure. As a result of the last realignment process, the Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League (SCCAL) was strongly opposed to the "Equity/Power" league structure. Accordingly, the SCCAL will remain intact as it currently stands. The new "Equity/Power" league would need a new name (Central Coast Athletic League) and the three new divisions would be: Tri-County, Monterey Bay, and Mission Trail.

Rationale

The "Equity/Power" league structure allows each school to compete in a division tailored to the strength of each sport it competes in. The Southern Conference currently offers several "Supplemental" leagues and each of these leagues remain organized and highly competitive regardless of crossing over "traditional" league lines. In essence, the "Equity/Power" league structure will turn each of our sports into supplemental leagues based on strength of program.

Geographical and traditional rivalries have been discussed as arguments against the "Equity/Power" league structure. The Southern Conference has lost its' two northernmost schools which has significantly reduced travel in our conference. Additionally, many of us continue to schedule the southernmost schools in non-league contests and travel does not seem to be as important an issue in these cases. Traditional rivalries can most often be worked into the non-league schedules of schools if the rivalry truly has merit. Another argument against the "Equity/Power" league structure is school enrollment. Many people feel strongly that the higher the enrollment a school has that this equates to Athletic dominance. We all know that it is not how many students that attend your school; it is what type of students attend your school. Enrollment cannot be a deciding factor as to which league or division we compete in.

Current Supplemental Leagues in Southern Conference*

Girl's Golf – TCAL

Girl's Water Polo – TCAL

Boy's Water Polo – TCAL

Field Hockey – MTAL
Boy’s Golf – TCAL
Boy’s Tennis – TCAL
Boy’s Volleyball – TCAL

*No Realignment Necessary

Sports to Realign to “Equity/Power” League Structure

Cross Country Programs
Girl’s Volleyball
Football

Boy’s Basketball
Girl’s Basketball
Boy’s Soccer
Girl’s Soccer
Wrestling

Baseball
Softball
Track & Field Programs
Swimming Programs

Who Determines Which Division?

Our current leagues offer an Athletic Director representative for each sport we participate in. The Athletic Director representative from each league (TCAL, MBL, MTAL) of each sport would meet and determine the initial make-up of the three new divisions. The initial placement would be based on as much objective data that is available such as league championships, CCS championships, CCS playoff appearances, CCS Index points, CIF Championships, CIF playoff appearances, and current strength of program. Wherever possible, the three new divisions would include an even number of teams in order to eliminate league byes. The final divisions would require final approval from Board of Managers.

By-laws need to be drafted to clearly state the process for movement between divisions on an annual basis. There are several models currently used in the CCS that could aid in the decision making process.

Playoff Ramifications

As the leagues are changed to divisions based on strength of program, the best programs and athletes will be competing against one another in divisional play. As a result, the automatic berths into the CCS tournament must be redistributed to match the strength of the divisions. Theoretically, if the berths are not redistributed, the champion of the lowest division may not be as strong as a third or fourth place finisher in the higher

divisions. As a league, the Board of Managers can distribute CCS automatic berths as they see fit.

Current CCS Automatic Berths

Proposed CCS Automatic Berths

<u>Sport</u>	<u>TCAL</u>	<u>MBL</u>	<u>MTAL</u>	<u>Sport</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Med</u>	<u>Low</u>
Cross Country	3	3	3	Cross Country*	Top 9 – League Finals		
Girls Volleyball	2	2	2	Girls Volleyball	3	2	1
Football	2	2	2	Football	3	2	1
Basketball	2	2	2	Basketball	3	2	1
Soccer	2	2	2	Soccer	3	2	1
Wrestling	4	2	2	Wrestling*	Top 8 – League Finals		
Baseball	2	2	2	Baseball	3	2	1
Softball	2	2	2	Softball	3	2	1
Track & Field	2	2	2	Track & Field*	Top 6 – League Finals		
Swimming	Based on Time			Swimming	Based on Time		

As with initial determination of divisional placement, the redistribution of CCS playoff automatic berths must be analyzed by the Athletic Director representatives of each sport and a final recommendation must be made to the Board of Managers.

*Cross Country, Wrestling, and Track & Field would be determined by league tournament results. Another factor to consider during analysis is the number of teams in a division to the number of automatic CCS playoff berths ratio.

Sample Divisions

Wrestling

Divisional placement based on program total CCS Individual Champions and current strength of program.

Football*

Divisional placement based on five year average of League Classification Index (LCI) as provided by CCS. (2006 results not currently available)

*When 2006 results become available, a new five year average will be re-calculated and teams redistributed if necessary.