

# LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

"A California Distinguished School"

Wynne Satterwhite, Principal

Assistant Principals:

Ralph Cave

Cristy Dawson

Seth Leslie

February 5, 2010

Dear Mr. Ed Sesek,

The SCVAL wanted to acknowledge your presence and presentation at our recent SCVAL Board of Managers meeting on January 21, 2010 and thank you for your concerns about the cross country student-athletes participating in our school programs. In case you are not aware, the SCVAL Board of Managers consists of Principals and Administrators from each school in our league. Obviously the Principal of each school has the responsibility and the authority for their own athletic programs at their individual school. In addition, schools are members of a league structure, where policies are determined that will govern all schools under the league authority. These decisions are made in a democratic fashion with every school provided an opportunity to cast their vote for such league policies; majority rules. The league Board of Managers must be concerned with overall consistency in policy whenever possible and also consistency from sport to sport and school to school. This is necessary to provide for smooth and equitable competition experiences for all our member schools and the student-athletes participating.

After listening to your presentation, the SCVAL Board had a lengthy discussion about the issues that arose immediately prior to and during the 2009 SCVAL Cross Country league Championships. Following that discussion, the board continued to discuss options placed before us addressing how all sports teams and cross country specifically should be structured. The results of that discussion and response to your presentation are as follows:

1. The formation of a separate committee for cross country as you suggested is redundant to our structure already in existence. As in all sports the SCVAL has a standing cross country committee comprised of the coaches from each of our schools. They make recommendations for the structure of cross country in the league, in compliance with more broad based SCVAL bylaws and policies previously established for all sports. Their recommendations go the AD's committee, which is comprised of AD's from every school and then finally the school administrators from each school serving as the SCVAL Board of Managers, makes the final determination.
2. We are confirming the structure of other leagues and sections in the CIF to review models for cross country or other sports competitions. Each league, however, has the autonomy and authority in the CCS to structure their competitions in the best interest of all their student-athletes and the SCVAL is not bound to be consistent with other entities. Of course, we will consider all options and ultimately determine what we believe best serves the student-athletes in the SCVAL.

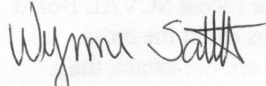
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*We at Los Altos High School value a learning environment in which students and staff work together in a spirit of unity and mutual respect. We are committed to the process of continuous learning and the application of knowledge. We value the diversity of our paths while promoting a community in which members have an equal opportunity to excel as people and learners.*

Thank you, again, for the obvious time and effort you and your group have put into this issue. As Administrators, we are authorized to determine how our competitive programs will be structured, for those student-athletes who have the privilege of participation. The SCVAL coaches, Athletic Directors and Board of Managers are committed to providing opportunities for students to participate in our athletic programs during the season. In addition, we are also committed to providing League Championships to students who earn the privilege for participation through competitive qualification settings.

Sincerely,



Wynne Satterwhite  
Board of Managers