

Conference Realignment Virtual Meeting #1

November 18, 2025

Quick recap

The Realignment Task Force meeting began with introductions and setup details, including confirmation of attendance. The meeting covered the evolution of the conference realignment process and introduced committee members, with a focus on implementing an All-Sport Conference by Fall 2027. The committee discussed new tools and processes for analyzing sport-specific realignment proposals, including deadlines and considerations for competitiveness, geography, and enrollment, while emphasizing the importance of maintaining confidentiality in feedback forms and decision-making.

Next steps

- All subcommittees: schedule a follow-up meeting between now and December 8th
- All subcommittees: invite Ron and Brian to their subcommittee meetings
- All subcommittees: create paraphrased notes of their subcommittee conversations for transparency purposes
- All committee members: review all conference realignment plans in the folder before the December 9th meeting, not just their assigned area
- All committee members: continue checking the feedback form regularly, as responses can be submitted until midnight before the December 9th meeting

Summary

Realignment Task Force Meeting Update

The Realignment Task Force meeting began with Ron Rasmussen and Melissa discussing the meeting setup and attendance. The meeting was about to start with 15 attendees, and Ron provided an introduction to the group's purpose and structure.

Conference Realignment Process Overview

Melissa provided an overview of the conference realignment process, explaining its evolution from being managed by one person to a more collaborative approach involving ADs, principals, superintendents, and commissioners. She highlighted the importance of competitiveness and success, which are subjective and vary among schools. Melissa also described her role as a liaison and resource for the committee, emphasizing that the committee makes all decisions. Ron introduced the meeting and requested participants to introduce themselves, their positions, and relevant details.

Committee Meeting: All-Sport Conference Planning

The meeting introduced committee members and discussed the upcoming in-person meeting in Stevens Point. Ron explained the use of AI to create summary minutes. The committee's focus includes implementing an All-Sport Conference by Fall 2027, aiming for 8-team conferences or larger when possible, while allowing flexibility for smaller conferences.

Conference Realignment Process Updates

The committee discussed the conference realignment process, including the new deadlines of October 1st for declarations and November 1st for final submissions. Ron explained that they will now consider competitiveness alongside geography and enrollment in the realignment process, with a focus on schools within an hour's driving distance. Melissa introduced a new conference database tool created by Mark Gutknecht, which will help the committee analyze sport-specific realignment proposals. The committee was reminded to keep feedback forms confidential and to focus on their own deliberations rather than sharing individual opinions outside the committee.

Conference Realignment Task Force Meeting

The meeting focused on the Conference Realignment Task Force's upcoming work. Melissa and Ron explained that committee members should review all submitted plans, particularly those outside their assigned geographic areas, and prepare for a two-hour meeting to discuss their assigned plans. They emphasized the importance of maintaining confidentiality in feedback forms and noted that the Board of Control has final authority on realignment decisions. Ron and Melissa also clarified that while Bryan has submitted a plan, all committee members have equal voting power, and the co-chairs will be the main points of contact for inquiries.