**Creek Board Meeting Notes**

**Date**: May 07, 2025

**Time**: 6:30PM

**Attendees**:

*Brandi Cowan, Felisha Wade, Nancy Treadway, Owen Gill, Ellen Thigpen, Debbie Butler, Marc Elmore, Dabrina Moore, and Kerri Thieben*

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**Key Discussion Points:**

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:**

1. **Program Moving from Spring to Winter** 
   1. Proposal from Bartram AD (2024): Suggested switching to a Winter program to reduce scheduling conflicts.
   2. Winter Program Benefits:
      1. Only soccer is active until mid-February.
      2. Soccer playoffs are all hosted at Bartram and scheduled in advance.
   3. Spring Sports Challenges:
      1. Lacrosse, flag football, and track have unpredictable playoff sites and dates.
      2. Added games in March and April create scheduling issues.
   4. Regular Events Remain Stable:
      1. JV track and flag meets in February stay on a regular, predictable schedule.
   5. Future Flag Football Growth:
      1. Flag is expected to expand in 2026 due to success in 2025, leading to increased conflicts.
2. **Winter Program Proposal**
   1. Season Duration:
      1. Proposed start: December 1st
      2. Proposed end: February 22nd or March 1st
      3. End date depends on facility availability (Mondays/Wednesdays)
      4. Target: 10–11 active weeks, consistent with usual season length
   2. Winter Break:
      1. No practices over Winter Break
   3. First Week of December:
      1. Reserved for baseline testing, uniform try-ons, and questions about team rotations
      2. Not considered an “active” practice week
   4. Coach Meeting:
      1. To be held the week before Thanksgiving
   5. Alternative Schedule Option:
      1. Do baseline testing the week before Thanksgiving
      2. Begin active practices the week of December 1st
3. **Practice Days and Costs**
   1. Practices: Mondays & most Wednesdays only, plus Sunday meets. Makeup only if >2 cancellations. No random extra days.
   2. Packages: $195 (10 practices) or $220 (unlimited). 15–16 scheduled; good value even if 13–14 held. No refunds for weather.
   3. Value: Longer season, more meets, $150 cheaper than others, uniform reuse allowed.
   4. Meets: $15 meet fee included in registration. JAC charges $40 per meet—we charge $15 for 4–5 meets.
4. **Mini Program Eliminated** 
   1. Lost Tuesday practice space (taken by BTHS Winterguard).
   2. Ages 4–7 can’t be combined with older group—require too much supervision.
   3. Parents treat it like babysitting, then complain if injuries occur.
   4. Most 4–6 year olds not able to focus or follow instructions.
   5. 7-year-olds can be placed in the Monday/Wednesday program.
5. **Move to Age Brackets (USATF-aligned)**
   1. Grade-based registration causes issues (birth dates, school start state, homeschooling, grade changes).
   2. Proposed: 8U bracket, cutoff = age 7 by Dec 31 (no one under 7 allowed).
   3. Allows inclusion of older 1st graders without separate “mini” program.
   4. Consider disclaimer for 7-year-olds: must show focus & independence.
   5. Avoid creating a separate 7-year-old program—would add work and distract coaches.
   6. Competition brackets: 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, etc.
   7. May combine older brackets (e.g., 11–12, 13–14) to increase competition and prepare for HS meets.
6. **Registration and Uniforms** 
   1. Registration
      1. Opens after soccer schedule (likely mid-August).
      2. Will advertise Spring → Winter program change immediately.
      3. Registration stays open until after winter break to catch late sign-ups.
   2. Uniforms
      1. All orders delivered to track for pickup—no outside pickup option.
      2. $5 delivery fee rolled into singlet cost (most already pay it).
      3. Costs remain low compared to other programs (no 50–100% markup).
      4. Eliminates confusion from parents trying to pick up at manufacturing facility.
   3. Winter Addition
      1. Optional long-sleeved logo shirt available for purchase (not mandatory).
7. **Coaches and Volunteers** 
   1. Volunteer Fingerprinting
      1. Florida now requires fingerprinting for all volunteers.
      2. Cost: $80+ per adult ($100 if coach t-shirt included). Valid for ~4 years.
      3. Program covers cost, but only for reliable volunteers who show up.
   2. Past Issues
      1. 10–12 parents background checked & given shirts last spring; many rarely or never helped.
      2. Example: one parent wore a coach shirt to the final meet without ever volunteering.
   3. Policy Change
      1. Remove “Would you like to volunteer?” from registration.
      2. Only invite back proven coaches.
      3. Future help requests posted on BAND, with clear notice about fingerprinting requirement & program expense.
8. **Spring/Hurdle camp**
   1. No Fall 2025 camp (December start).
   2. Possible Spring 2026 camp: 4–5 weeks, Mondays, after spring break, end before April playoffs.
   3. Limit: 75 kids, ages 8+.
   4. No meets, but may add optional one at Bishop Snyder or St. Augustine HS.
   5. Field events only if coaches available; limited spots.
9. **Coach development** 
   1. USATF Coach Training
      1. Developmental Coach Training: 5–6 hrs online, $130 → for all (coaches, parents, admin). Suggested for leads + Debbie.
      2. Bridge to Level 1: 19 hrs online, $185 → lead coaches only.
      3. Level 1: 22 hrs online + in-person, $250 → event-specific; Bolles (via JAC) is a possible location/resource.

Next meeting date Aug 25th at 630pm

**Meeting adjourned**