

Combined Tournament Committee
April 11, 2012
Carrington, North Dakota

The Tournament Committee met on April 11, 2012 in Carrington, Steve Swiontek, Chairperson presiding. Members present were Ed Lockwood, Fargo; Curt Jones, West Fargo; Jim Roaldson, Jamestown; Todd Olson, Grand Forks; Jeff Fastnacht, Ellendale; Lorell Jungling, Mandan, Pat McNally, Minot, Jim Haussler, Bismarck; David Looyen, Minot and Clarke Ranum, Des Lacs-Burlington. Also present were NDHSAA Executive Secretary, Sherm Sylling and staff members, Matthew Fetsch, Brenda Schell and Sheryl Solberg. Guests present for the meeting were Jeremy Linstad and Cheryl Swanson from Grand Forks Alerus, Rob Sobolik from the FargoDome and Charlie Jeske from the Bismarck Civic Center.

The committee reviewed meeting notes from the previous meeting. The Executive Secretary reported on the results of the action items from the previous meeting recommendations.

A State XC update indicated plans were in order for Dickinson to host.

Discussion of scheduling of the semi-final round of the State Class A Boys' & Girls' was held. Does the committee want to consider putting a schedule into Board regulation? Haussler indicated the girl-girl-boy-boy is the best draw for fans. Jones suggested keeping the same format for all three days. Haussler stated the late game is easy to walk out. West Region does not play the girls championship last. Exec Sec indicated email received indicating the desire to have the girls play first followed by the boys. Lockwood – a couple of years ago he had female fans that wished to have gender back to back. Roaldson stated boys' semifinals in afternoon and girls in evening altering. Haussler recommend for two years hold the girls semis in afternoon and boys in the evening. Saturday would be alternating girl-boy for consolation, girl-boy for 3rd place and girls-boy for championship. Roaldson asked if there is a future possibility of holding the tournament in three different sites. Haussler indicated staggering starts eliminates watching warm-ups but not missing all but the very beginning of a game. Sobolik shared there were a few complaints of the price. Consensus from the committee was unanimous.

Lockwood informed the committee of video streaming of all games. Thursday there was over 50,000 hits with 15,000 visitors that stayed on to watch the games. Friday saw 9,300 visitors and Saturday 6,700 visitors. There needs to be consideration for pay per view which may catch many of those that are now visiting for free. The Executive Secretary stated regular season games that are being broadcasted with no fee are starting to see a decline in attendance. Haussler – difficult to ask Midcontinent for a broadcasting fee when the college does not charge but benefits from exposure. Jones said people will come for the good games. Jungling asked if any schools have a media policy. If they are charged, would you also have to charge the radio. Roadson – there is an untapped market with all the snowbirds. The Executive Secretary shared the association is at a point where there needs to be steps to maximize revenue Hall – have to experiment on this and may take a hit but needs to be looked into. Olson we have an untapped area that people would like to watch such as a region wrestling tournament. Haussler - with streaming the first round it may be more palatable for Class B to have a combined tournament. Lockwood – things have changed with television with so many additional channels. Lockwood – with video streaming, the television people realize there are more players in televising contests. Hall – should the Board be looking at a consultant position to assist in dealing with the media. Sobolik – venues need to work together with the equipment that is already on site. FargoDome is happy to allow onsite equipment to be available for media purposes. There is a way for the venues to work together to make available the signal that is already in place. The association is

leaving a lot of money on the table by not taking advantage of selling events that are currently being streaming by the media without or a minimal charge. A television contract needs to include a list of the games they will be televising and any other games are controlled by the NDHSAA. Lockwood – we in the metro would be willing to provide hard data on the expenses of video streaming. Would be a good idea to visit with the NDSU sports media department. Could be done via a student working on a media project. Could outsource this type of project.

McNally – secured 421 rooms – pricing @ Grand International \$100 per night – Kelly Inn \$99.99 to \$129.00 No requirement to stay Saturday night. The CVB has been very helpful with finding rooms for fans that are having difficulty. Jen Giddinger – 535 new rooms by 2012. Concerned about construction around the Dome. Going to reopen the street in front of the Dome. Has been told that will all be done by the November state tournament. Hall asked about restaurants.

Ticket prices. The committee studied the existing prices – issue brought up by Exec Sec Jungling indicated many schools are going to \$6 and \$4 ticket prices, some with already there. Around the table there were some that are \$6 and \$4 and some \$5 and \$3. Asked if \$4 is too low. Hall – shared a number of schools in his area are raising to \$6 and \$4. Is the region tournament ticket price too low? Ticket price changes were discussed with the following to be recommended:

- State Boys' & Girls' Basketball – Adult unreserved from \$6 to \$7 and Adult Reserved from \$9 to \$10.
- B Boys' & Girls' Region Basketball – Adult from \$6 to \$7
- State Cross Country Adult from \$6 to \$7
- Football Pre-Quarter, Quarter & Semi-Final Games from \$6 to \$7
- Hockey Regionals 2-Game Session from \$6 to \$7
- Hockey Regionals 3-Game Session from \$7 to \$8
- Track Regionals Adult daily from \$6 to \$7
- Volleyball Regionals Adult Tournament Ticket from \$16 to \$18
- Volleyball Regionals Adult Daily Ticket from \$6 to \$7
- Wrestling Regionals Adult Daily from \$6 to \$7

The committee was informed of a communiqué from Dickinson requesting consideration to host State Gymnastics for 2017. The committee recommends they host the 2016-2017 year as per their request.

Wahpeton HS request. Consensus it can be addressed by the conference and report back to the Tournament Committee for formal action.

Fetsch reported on name badge process at wrestling has been a problem. Asking for any ideas to make the tournament pass. Lockwood shared the name tag is given to a school for a cheerleader but is eventually worn by an adult. A need for integrity. Media access is a security concern. Tournament officials are also handing off their passes to other people. Lockwood – issue of the large entourage – a team brings all coaching staff, etc. Possibly limit the number of chairs for courtside at a basketball tournament. Jones – tournament managers should see the list of players, coaches, stats and cheerleaders and should be reviewed prior to sending to the tournament manager. Consider starting a limit at the state tournament.

Lockwood shared from Sanford Health medical care at the tournament wants dialogue with the association asking if there is a standard of care wanted from the medical community. The also want some dialogue concerning release of care – how it is followed and how is it circumvented. There have

been instances where the release of care involved a concussion student. They would like some guidance as to how to handle a transfer of care.

Discussion concerning the transfer of care and how it relates to a concussion situation brought out discussion.

The 2012-2013 meetings are scheduled for December 5, 2012 and April 10, 2013

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheryl Solberg
Asst. to the Exec. Sec.