NOTES
North Dakota High School Activities Association
Region Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting
March 20, 2015, Bismarck, ND

The Ad-Hoc committee held their meeting on March 20, 2015 in Bismarck. Board member Brad Rinas called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The NDHSAA Board of Directors directed formation of an Ad-Hoc committee to investigate the creation of super-regional tournaments with 2016-17 as a target date. This meeting is a follow up from the September meeting to report on the 2014-15 super-region tournaments.

Members present:

Brandt Dick-Underwood, Jeff Fastnacht-Ellendale, Jim Roaldson-Jamestown, Brad Rinas-Washburn, Steve Brannan-Garrison, Randy Johnson-Hazen, Jeff Manley-Cavalier, Scott Grochow-Rugby, Ben Schafer-Ray, Chris Swenson-Wyndmere, Patti Aanenson-Larimore, Scott Lindgren-Leeds

Executive Director Fetsch provided financial feedback from regions holding super-region tournaments.

- Region 7: The super-region format has increased competitiveness within their region. At the end of the season they had a 5-way tie for 2nd place in girls' basketball. Region 7 recommends regions implement a tie-break process before season starts. The region tournament is hosted at Dickinson Trinity and coaches would like to have it at different locations, however, it makes the most sense to have the tournament at Dickinson Trinity. First round games are played at the higher seed and that has turned out well. Region had apprehension going forward with a super-region plan but all apprehension is gone. Region 7 does not want to go back to region tournaments.
- Region 4: The super-region format worked out really well for volleyball. Revenue was up and they would like to continue the super-region format for volleyball. Districts in Region 4 are split on whether they want to go to the super-region format in basketball. This year they played 15 games to eliminate 5 teams.
- Region 2: The super-region format was a success. Athletic Directors and coaches were all in support of the super-region format. Region tie-break processes were set before proposal was presented to the NDHSAA Board. Region 2 had three different ties in seeding and had to continue to their 3rd tie-break criteria in order to seed their super-region tournament. Seeding was not determined until the last game in regular season. The issue with play-in games was assigning officials because the first night of the tournament was the same night as the first night of the Class A East Region Basketball Tournament. Play-ins felt similar to a district tournament atmosphere. Finances and crowds were good. Only issue is scheduling at the Betty Engelstad Arena in Grand Forks. Will keep the Betty and deal with this on a year-to-year basis. Did not hear anything negative from fans.

Rinas asked members if regions were comfortable with using different formats for district and region tournaments. Randy Johnson indicated that scheduling may be easier to do if all districts were using the same format. Johnson stated that it is important for all teams in the region to play each other. Fastnacht indicated their region would like to continue to have a district tournament format and would like districts realigned. Rinas indicated he is not concerned with having an even number of teams in each region.

Committee members did not see a problem having different formats for different districts and regions.

Revenue sharing was discussed. The trade off for districts not having a district tournament was extra games and extra gate and concessions from additional regular season games. From the superintendents perspective super-regions have created a more competitive atmosphere. Question: For towns that are far apart has there been any discussion on having a play day at a central site with the money pooled? Answer: Randy Johnson indicated their district has not done that, they schedule contests that are farther away on a Friday or Saturday to allow for travel.

The Ad-Hoc committee will meet next year after District Chairs in March 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Schell
NDHSAA Assistant Director