Combined Tournament Committee
December 11, 2013
Carrington, North Dakota

The Tournament Committee met on December 11, 2013 in Carrington, Steve Hall, Chairperson presiding. Members present were Steve Hall, Kindred; Todd Olson, Fargo; Curt Jones, West Fargo; Jim Roaldson, Jamestown; Mark Rerick, Grand Forks; Lorell Jungling, Mandan; Mitch Lunde, Minot; Jim Haussler, Bismarck. Also present were NDHSAA Executive Secretary, Sherm Sylling and staff members, Matthew Fetsch, Justin Fletschock, Brian Bubach and Brenda Schell.

April meeting notes were reviewed with no corrections or additions.

The committee reviewed the 2013-14 tournament sites.

The committee reviewed the 2014-15 through 2019-20 approved sites and made the following recommendations to the NDHSAA Board of Directors.

1) Switch Class B boys' and Class B girls' tournament locations for 2014-15 through 2019-20 to accommodate the calendar change for boys' and girls' Class B basketball beginning in 2014-15.
2) Move boys' tennis to Grand Forks for next 3 years (2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17).
3) Move girls' tennis to Bismarck in 2015-16, 2016-17. Leave 2017-18 through 2019-20 as is.
4) Move boys' and girls' swimming & diving to Bismarck for the next 3 years (2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17). Leave 2017-18 through 2019-20 as is.

   Staff member Fletschock brought forth information on the swimming & diving state tournament location. Coaches are overwhelmingly in favor of Bismarck as the permanent site for the boys' and girls' swimming and diving state tournaments. Agreement was UND is best pool for swimmers and Bismarck is best pool for fans. Rerick indicated if swimming and diving was moved to Bismarck on a permanent basis, Grand Forks would like to host all girls' and boys' state tennis tournaments as the Grand Forks site is the best site in the state for players and fans. Williston is interested in hosting swimming upon completion of a new facility. Mandan does not want to host if the fans don't want the tournament in Mandan, however, if we take into account coaches opinions in one sport, we should also survey coaches for site preferences in all sports. The committee agreed location should be a consideration as well as finances. There was discussion about standards for tournament locations to assist communities in planning and improving facilities.
5) Move football to Fargo for 2016-17 and 2018-19.

   In discussing the state football tournament, it was noted Fargo does not have any conflicts with NDSU football as long as the tournament remains on Friday. Past records indicate the state football finals have better attendance and financial receipts when the tournament is held in Fargo.

Swimming & diving state tournament managers indicated a need for reserved seats. Fees will be addressed at the April tournament committee meeting with an informal recommendation at this meeting to raise the fee and sell reserved tickets for state swimming & diving.

State hockey tournaments were discussed. A decline in the number of girls' hockey teams in the state, indicates there may be a request from coaches to hold a 4-team tournament in the future. Fewer than 12 teams are competing in girls' hockey. The group discussed dividing the boys' and girls' tournaments

and holding each tournament in a different city. This would not be the best solution for teams having both a boys' team and girls' team in the tournament. Grand Forks is the best site to hold boys' hockey, but many years there is a chance of a venue conflict with UND hockey. At present time, Grand Forks and Fargo are the only cities in the state with facilities to handle the hockey tournament.

Cross country coaches would like to have a permanent site so there can be course records. The possibility of a rotation for the cross country state meet was discussed. No action taken.

It was noted the more preferred sites we designate, the higher the risk of costs rising as there is no competition. There is a value in having some rotation to keep venue rent in check. Also noted was the fact workers get worn out when they have too many tournaments to cover. Committee members commented on how efficiency could be gained by using the same printer, etc.

Sites for 2020-21 were discussed. Proposed site recommendations will be presented to the board at their January Board meeting.

East/West region basketball issues were discussed and resolved. Due to the switch of the boys' and girls' basketball seasons beginning in 2014-15, the Class B Region 5 boys' basketball tournament will again have an issue with location. The Region 5 boys' basketball tournament final day will conflict with the State A Combined basketball tournament.

Discussed combined softball and baseball tournaments by creating a Class A combined softball & baseball tournament and a Class B combined softball & baseball tournament. This change would allow schools with teams in both softball and baseball state tournaments easier access to both tournaments.

The NDHSAA calendar was reviewed for 2014-15 through 2017-18.

The referendum for an after Labor Day start was discussed. The referendum does not address the start of activities.

Sylling provided an NFHS Network update. North Dakota joined the NFHS Network beginning with the 2013-14 school year. Some member schools have become part of the NFHS network for their regular season game broadcast platform. NDHSAA office staff have received calls indicating BEK is informing users they are no longer allowed to broadcast games. That is true of any tournaments that are streamed through the NFHS network. The NFHS Network owns the rights to all post season competition. In a review of tournaments broadcast so far this year, it was noted there were issues at state volleyball. The NFHS Network crew was not at the facility early enough to set up and check connectivity. Bubach indicated the issues have been reported to the NFHS Network. It was also noted the NFHS Network will no longer broadcast state tennis and golf tournaments. Sylling indicated in past years BEK Communications was able to purchase broadcast rights to post season tournaments, however, due to the NDHSAA current television contract and NFHS Network that is no longer an option. If any entities would like to purchase linear feeds for tournaments under the control of the NFHS Network, they may contact the NFHS Network.

In discussing web-based media issues, Bubach brought forth a request from internet based web media be allowed credentials to NDHSAA tournaments. They currently do not fit into our media criteria. Discussion by the committee included available room for media at our tournaments and if allowed, other media passes may need to be decreased. Limits upon web-based business such as floor pass and

field pass were discussed. If all web-based requests were allowed, a parent that has a website could request a press pass. There is no existing credential for web-based businesses. Requirement of membership in the Sportswriters and Sportscasters organization was suggested, however that would eliminate a number of small town newspapers that are not members. The NDHSAA media committee will continue discussion on this issue.

Staff member Bubach notified the committee the North Dakota Department of Transportation is interested in sponsoring nametags for all NDHSAA state tournaments. The committee was in agreement to explore this option. Bubach will contact the offices of state tournament managers for the number of nametags from previous tournaments.

At the request of the district chairs committee, the tournament committee discussed shoot-arounds and hit-arounds prior to tournament. The recommendation came from this committee originally. Staff member Fletschock indicated volleyball advisory intend on bringing this item to the board through the athletic review process. The committee reiterated a recommendation was made to the Board last year due to a request from a member school. This is an issue of cost to our member schools and a loss of school time. Neither issues have changed. The tournament committee remains in support of no shoot-arounds and hit-arounds prior to state volleyball and basketball tournaments.

Feedback was requested from region and state golf and tennis tournament managers on charging admission to these tournaments. There are adjustments for managers and fans but overall it seemed to go over alright.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2014. The Chieftain is not available for the April meeting. The decision was made to combine this meeting with the NDIAAA Spring Conference at the Fargo Doublewood Inn on Monday, April 7th at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Schell
Assistant to the Executive Secretary