

MINUTES

North Dakota High School Activities Association March 31, 2020, Valley City, ND

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota High School Activities Association held their meeting on March 31, 2020 in Valley City. President Privratsky called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Members present: Rerick, Brandt, Privratsky, Carlson, Jordan, Strand, Sorlie, Schoch, Jundt, Baesler, Baxley

Motion by Jordan to approve the agenda. Second by Strand. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Sorlie to approve the consent agenda. Second by Schoch. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. January 16, 2020
 - b. March 11, 2020
 - c. March 20, 2020
2. Financial Report
 - a. Balance sheet
 - i. December 2019
 - ii. January 2020
 - iii. February 2020
 - b. Budget
 - i. December 2019
 - ii. January 2020
 - iii. February 2020
 - c. Savings/Investments
 - i. December 2019
 - ii. January 2020
 - iii. February 2020
3. Coop Dissolutions
 - a. Garrison and Max in football, 7-12, 2020-21
 - b. Minot and Our Redeemers in wrestling, 7-12, 2020-21
 - c. Minot and Our Redeemers in softball, 7-12, 2020-21
 - d. St. Thomas and Drayton-Valley-Edinburg in baseball, 7-12, 2020-21
4. Coop Applications
 - a. Turtle Lake-Mercer, Underwood, and McClusky in boys basketball, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - b. Turtle Lake-Mercer, Underwood, and McClusky in girls basketball, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - c. Turtle Lake-Mercer, Underwood, and McClusky in volleyball, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - d. West Fargo Sheyenne and West Fargo Horace in girls golf, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - e. West Fargo Sheyenne and West Fargo Horace in boys soccer, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - f. West Fargo Sheyenne and West Fargo Horace in boys cross country, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - g. West Fargo Sheyenne and West Fargo Horace in girls cross country, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - h. West Fargo Sheyenne and West Fargo Horace in boys tennis, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - i. West Fargo Sheyenne and West Fargo Horace in girls swimming & diving, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - j. West Fargo Sheyenne and West Fargo Horace in wrestling, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - k. West Fargo Sheyenne and West Fargo Horace in boys hockey, 9-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - l. West Fargo Sheyenne and West Fargo Horace in girls hockey, 9-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - m. West Fargo Sheyenne and West Fargo Horace in boys swimming & diving, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - n. Bishop Ryan and Our Redeemers in wrestling, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - o. Bishop Ryan and Our Redeemers in softball, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
 - p. Midkota and Kensal in volleyball, 7-12, 2020-21, late fee (waived by Board)

- q. Midkota and Kensal in boys basketball, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
- r. Midkota and Kensal in girls basketball, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee
- s. Griggs County Central, Midkota, and Kensal in football, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee

Scott Privratsky, Executive Board Committee chair, provided the following committee report:

1. Self report from Lakota High School regarding undue influence. Actions taken by member school were appropriate. No other penalty needed.
2. Fargo North High School requested a by-law interpretation for definition of an event for a wrestler who exceeded the maximum limit of matches in the East Region Tournament. The NDHSAA Executive Committee directed the head coach to sit out the first round of the state tournament and was allowed to participate in the remaining rounds. The NDHSAA Executive Committee requests the Constitution & By-Laws Committee review this policy for all sports.
3. A late coop fee waiver request was received from Midkota-Kensal in volleyball for 2020-21. Committee recommended no late fees for coops resulting from high schools re-opening. Indicated the drop-dead deadlines of June 1 for fall sports, September 1 for winter sports, January 1 for spring sports still apply. Committee unanimously recommended waiving the late fee for the Midkota and Kensal volleyball co-op application.
4. Reviewed an emergency coop request for Griggs County Central-Midkota-Kensal in football for 2020-21. Kensal is a new high school in 2020-21. The enrollment numbers for Kensal male students were previously accounted for in Midkota numbers on the adjusted enrollment numbers spreadsheet. The committee discussed whether emergency coop regulations/fees applied to this situation. The committee unanimously consented to forward Griggs County Central, Midkota and Kensal football coop to the full Board for approval with no fees applied.

Motion by Brandt to approve the Executive Board report including approval of the football coop for Griggs County, Midkota, and Kensal with no late fees applied for either volleyball or football coop. Second by Carlson. Motion carried unanimously.

Travis Jordan, Tournament Committee chair, provided the Board with a committee report.

Recommended 2020-21 regional sites for winter sports

BASKETBALL - Girls - Class B

B Regions

Region 1	February 22-23-25, 2021	Wahpeton-NDSCS
Region 2	February 22-23-25, 2021	Grand Forks-Betty
Region 3	February 22-23-25, 2021	Jamestown
Region 4	February 22-23-25, 2021	Devils Lake
Region 5	February 22-23-25, 2021	Mandan
Region 6	February 22-23-25, 2021	Minot Audi
Region 7	February 22-23-25, 2021	Dickinson Trinity
Region 8	February 22-23-25, 2021	New Town

BASKETBALL-Boys & Girls Combined - Class A

A Regions

East	March 2-4-5-6, 2021	Fargo - SHAC
West	March 4-5-6, 2021	Bismarck Event Center

BASKETBALL - Boys - Class B

B Regions

Region 1	March 8-9-11, 2021	Fargo - SHAC
Region 2	March 8-11-12, 2021	Grand Forks - Betty
Region 3	March 8-9-11, 2021	Jamestown
Region 4	March 8-9-11, 2021	Devils Lake
Region 5	TBA	
Region 6	March 8-9-11, 2021	Minot-MSU Dome
Region 7	March 8-9-11, 2021	Dickinson Trinity

Region 8 March 8-9-11, 2021 Williston State

**HOCKEY - Boys
Regions**

East February, 16-19-20, 2021 Grand Forks
West February 18-19-20, 2021 Minot

WRESTLING

A Regions

East February 13, 2021 Devils Lake
West February 13, 2021 Jamestown

B Regions

Region 1 February 13, 2021 Napoleon
Region 2 February 13, 2021 North Border (Walhalla)
Region 3 February 13, 2021 Stanley
Region 4 February 13, 2021 New Town

State Debate

Fri-Sat. Feb. 5-6, 2021 Fargo Public
Fri-Sat. Feb. 4-5, 2022 Fargo Public
Fri-Sat. Feb. 3-4, 2023 Fargo Public
Fri-Sat. Feb. 2-3, 2024 Fargo Public

2023-24 Fine Arts Sites

State B Plays Nov. 20-21, 2023 TBD
State Debate Feb. 2-3, 2024 Fargo Public
State A Plays Apr. 8-9, 2024 TBD
State A Speech Apr. 20, 2024 TBD
State A Music Apr. 26, 2024 VCSU
State B Speech Apr. 27, 2024 TBD
State B Music May 4, 2024 BSC

Recommendation move 2019/20 SW Region Track from Beach to Dickinson.

Motion by Baxley to approve the Tournament Committee report. Second by Rerick. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Rerick, Football Committee chair, provided a football committee report. Recommendation to approve the NDHSAA Football Classification Guidelines as presented.

NDHSAA Football Classification Guidelines

The following guidelines are being considered by the NDHSAA Football Committee for the administration of football and management of football divisions.

1. There will be 4 divisions of football. Those divisions are named 11AA, 11A, 11B, and 9B.
2. 11AA and 11A Divisions will consist of Class A schools and any co-op that contains 160 or more male students in grades 7-10 for two or more consecutive years.
3. 11B and 9B Divisions will consist of Class B schools and co-ops which do not exceed 160 male students.
4. Enrollments for division placement will be determined by the following steps:
 - a. Step 1: Obtain total male enrollments for grades 7 – 10 as provided by the Department of Public Instruction.
 - b. Step 2: Multiply the enrollment created in Step 2 by the percentage of the student body that qualified for free and reduced meals during the previous school year according to Department of Public Instruction data. That number will be multiplied by 50%.

- c. Step 3: The number derived in Step 3 is subtracted from the grades 7 – 10 enrollment created in Step 2. The remainder number will represent the Football Enrollment for classification purposes during the next season.
5. The dividing line between 11AA and 11A will be determined by finding the median of Class A Football Enrollments. If there is an odd number of Class A teams, the median is the football enrollment of the center school; the median team and all larger teams will be placed in the 11AA Division. If there is an even number of Class A teams, the median is the average of the football enrollments of the two center schools divided by two; all teams larger than the median number will be placed in the 11AA Division.
6. The dividing line between the 11B and 9B divisions will be determined by finding the median of Class B Football Enrollments. If there are an odd number of Class B teams, the median is the football enrollment of the center school; the median team and all larger teams will be placed in the 11B Division. If there are an even number of Class B teams, the median is the average of the football enrollments of the two center schools divided by two; all teams larger than the median number will be placed in the 11B Division.
7. Any school may request to move up to any division for the following season. Such requests to opt up shall be made annually by September 18th.
8. Teams may request to opt down to the next lower division if they meet both items a. and b. Below:
 - a. The team's Football Enrollment must be within 25% of the median between divisions.
 - b. The team may not have qualified for the playoffs more than once at the higher division in the previous four seasons.
 - i. Qualifying for the playoffs in the current season may affect a team's ability to opt-down in the next season.
 - c. No team may opt down into the 11B division.
 - d. Such requests to opt down shall be made annually by Sept. 18th.
 - i. Schools who request to opt down by Sept. 18 but later lose their ability to opt-down after qualifying for the current playoffs will be immediately notified by the NDHSAA office.
9. Success Factor
 - a. Teams shall earn the following point values for the final level of the playoffs they achieve as follows:
 - i. Eliminated in quarterfinal – One (1) point
 - ii. Eliminated in semifinals – Two (2) points
 - iii. State Runner-Up – Three (3) points
 - iv. State Championship – Four (4) points
 - b. Division 11A and 9B teams achieving twelve (12) points or greater due to playoff success during a four-year period shall move up to the next largest division for the next two seasons.
 - c. Teams that have achieved eight (8) points or greater due to playoff success during four consecutive years as an opt down team shall move up to the next largest division for the next two seasons.
 - d. After participation in a larger division for two years, a team achieving a two-year total playoff success point value of two points or below shall be eligible to move down.
 - e. After participation in a larger division for two years, a team achieving a playoff success point value of three or more points shall remain in the same division for the next two seasons.
10. In the 11AA and 11A divisions, each team's regular season schedule shall include at least 7 intraconference (EDC and WDA) games unless other opponents are mutually agreed upon by representatives of both conferences.

11. Schools may request to field an independent or 6-man team by officially notifying the NDHSAA Office annually by September 15 of the previous year.
12. Any school planning to opt up, opt down, or declare an independent status shall confirm their intentions with both divisions in order to better plan future game schedules.
13. Any varsity team that chooses to play a team that declares independent status after the September 15th deadline will be ineligible for the playoffs. Any teams that declare independent status after the September 15th deadline shall be responsible for paying game fees to all contracted officials and \$1000 to any contracted opponent that loses a varsity game.
14. BY – LAW REMINDER: Football coops must be submitted by September 15th of the previous year.
15. A North Dakota school may apply for an emergency coop if the following criteria are met:
 - a. An approved coop for the following year must be in place prior to being eligible for an emergency coop
 - b. Emergency coop applications will only be considered if the requesting school has provided proof that student-athletes have no opportunity to compete at the varsity level for the upcoming football season
 - c. If the emergency coop is approved:
 - i. The host school shall be that school with the largest enrollment. The NDHSAA Realignment Committee shall determine the new co-op's Division and Regional alignment.
 - ii. Only seniors from the applying school would be eligible for varsity competition for a \$1000 non-compliance fee per player.
 - iii. Sub-varsity players from the applying school could compete for a \$200 non-compliance fee per player.
16. Following the implementation of these guidelines for the fall of 2021, NDHSAA staff members will be responsible for researching, receiving opt up and down requests, and placing teams into their applicable Divisions. The NDHSAA Realignment Committee will be responsible for creating any necessary adjustments to regional assignments within those divisions.
17. The NDHSAA Board of Directors shall have final say in the administration of these guidelines.

NDHSAA Football Plan Annual Deadlines

June 1	All requests for football coop dissolutions due
September 15	Deadline for new football cooperative agreements
September 15	Deadline for requests to field an independent or 6-man team
September 18	Deadline for requests to move up a division
September 18	Deadline for requests to opt down a division
	September Board Meeting: Board addresses coop applications, opt up/down requests, success factor point totals, and creates preliminary division assignments and regional placements for following season
	December Board Meeting: Board finalizes division assignments and regional placements based on the most recent season's success factor point totals.

Motion by Strand to approve the Football Guidelines and Football Committee report. Second by Sorlie. Roll call vote: Baesler-Yes, Baxley-Yes, Brandt-Yes, Carlson-Yes, Jordan-Yes, Privratsky-Yes, Rerick-Yes, Schoch-Yes, Sorlie-Yes, Strand-Yes, Jundt-Abstain. Motion carried. 10-0-1

The Football Committee also recommended Standing Rock High School be allowed to play in South Dakota league as per letter. Motion by Carlson to approve a request from Standing Rock High School to play in the South Dakota All Nations League for the 2020-21 season with Board review after one year. Second by Sorlie. Motion carried unanimously.

Warren Strand, Realignment Committee chair, provided a committee report with the following recommended placements:

Max - Volleyball, District 10, Region 5 for 2020-21

Dakota Prairie - boys and girls golf, Region 3 for 2019-20

Motion by Rerick to approve the Realignment Committee report. Second by Jordan. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeremy Brandt, Finance/Personnel Committee chair, provided a committee report. The committee reviewed 2019-20 finances and discussed the reserve fund and how much the committee is willing to spend down the reserve fund at the end of fiscal year. The Committee will meet as needed for the remainder of fiscal year to review finances.

The committee recommended no refunds for fine arts or spring sports if seasons are canceled. Participation fees at \$35 per sport/activity are very low in comparison to surrounding states.

The committee recommends opening a primary checking account at Bank Forward due to the closure of the Wells Fargo branch in Valley City. Motion by Strand to approve opening a primary checking account at Bank Forward. Second by Rerick. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jordan to approve the Finance/Personnel Committee report. Second by Jundt. Motion carried unanimously.

The NDHSAA proposed seven-year calendar dates were reviewed through 2026-27.

Changes to previous years include:

- A Speech Region to April 20, 2021
- Debate Start Date November 14, 2025

Motion by Jordan to approve the seven-year calendar dates through 2026-27. Second by Schoch. Motion carried unanimously.

NDHSAA Member Schools for 2020-21 were discussed.

New memberships include:

- West Fargo Horace High School
- Kensal High School

Graded elementary member to 7-12 grade member

- Missouri Ridge High School – no action at this time as more information is needed.

Discontinuation of Membership

- Goodrich High School

Motion by Carlson to approve changes in member schools for 2020-21 including immediate eligibility at Kensal High School for students living within the Kensal School district and immediate eligibility for Goodrich High School students in the school of their choice on the opening day of the 2020-21 school year. Second by Sorlie. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Rerick provided a report on the 2019-20 esports club season. Fetsch indicated he was in conversation with the CEO of the NFHS Network indicating the company dropped the game FortNite from the offerings of scholastic organizations and are in the process of putting together a committee to oversee game choice in the future. Games offered by PlayVs to member schools will go through the committee and need approval from all states participating in esports through PlayVS before being offered. Rerick reported 14 schools participated in esports in the fall with 41 teams. The spring season added five more schools for a total of 19 schools participating. Rerick received

correspondence from 6 schools indicating they would participate in esports if it is sponsored by NDHSAA. The Board questioned whether NDHSAA would be sponsoring both a fall and a spring season. Fetsch indicated PlayVS creates the season dates. Fall season starts in late October with playoffs in January. Rerick indicated NDIAAA members were more interested in the fall season, Motion by Sorlie to create an ad-hoc committee consisting of Rerick (chair), Brandt, Jordan and Fetsch to create regulations for esports. Second by Jundt. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board received a letter from Hettinger High School Superintendent Ryan Moser requesting the consideration of the addition of girls wrestling as a separate classification in accordance with existing Board regulation. Morast indicated 16 schools plan to sponsor girls wrestling in 2020-21. In the 2019-20 school year there were 70 girls participating in wrestling through NDHSAA. Motion by Rerick to acknowledge girls wrestling teams for 2020-21 and review sanctioning at the end of the 2020-21 season. Second by Jundt. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the ramifications of Governor Burgum's Executive Order 2020-10 requiring the closure of all public and non-public K-12 school facilities due to COVID-19 until further notice. Baesler indicated the governor is considering continuing social distancing until April 30th. Board discussed current NDHSAA suspensions at length, understanding many decisions may be completely out of the Board's hands.

Motion by Jordan to continue with current suspension of all sports and activities until further notice. Second by Schoch. Roll Call Vote: Baesler-Yes, Baxley-No, Brandt-Yes, Carlson-Yes, Jordan-Yes, Privratsky-No, Rerick-No, Schoch-No, Sorlie-No, Strand-Yes, Jundt-No. Motion failed: 5-6

Motion by Rerick to continue the suspension of spring sports. Second by Jundt. Roll call vote: Baesler-Yes, Baxley-Yes, Brandt-Yes, Carlson-Yes, Jordan-Yes, Privratsky-Yes, Rerick-Yes, Schoch-Yes, Sorlie-Yes, Strand-Yes, Jundt-Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Carlson to extend suspension of the winter tournaments until further information is gathered. Second by Strand. Roll Call Vote: Baesler-Yes, Baxley-Yes, Brandt-Yes, Carlson-Yes, Jordan-Yes, Privratsky-No, Rerick-Yes, Schoch--Yes, Sorlie-Yes, Strand-Yes, Jundt-No. Motion carried: (9-2).

Motion by Carlson to form an ad-hoc committee to address issues that may arise with winter and spring sport suspensions and report back to the board at a later date. Second by Schoch. Carlson withdrew motion, Schoch withdrew second.

Motion by Strand to have the Tournament Committee address issues that may arise with holding the suspended winter tournaments and fine arts contests in the future and report back by April 14th. Second by Rerick. Roll call vote: Baesler-Yes, Baxley-Yes, Brandt-Yes, Carlson-Yes, Jordan-Yes, Privratsky-Yes, Rerick-Yes, Schoch-Yes, Sorlie-Yes, Strand-Yes, Jundt-Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Warren Strand will be resigning his position at Fessenden Public School at the end of June. Strand has one year remaining on his NDHSAA Board term. Privratsky commended Strand on his commitment to the Board and to education. The Board recommends appointment of previous Board member, Dr. Todd Bertsch, Fargo South, to a one-year term for the 2020-21 school year. Motion by Sorlie to appoint Dr. Todd Bertsch to fill the remaining term of Warren Strand. Second by Jundt. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

- Hardship/Extra Semester Waiver Report
 - Two hardship investigations were completed, both approved. One investigation has been rescheduled and five partial applications have been received.
- NFHS Summer Meeting

- NFHS indicated they hoped to have a decision by the end of this week on the status of the NFHS Summer Conference, however a decision will now be made in several weeks. The conference may be a modified conference.

The Tournament Committee will meet on Friday, April 3rd at 10:00 am.

Sorlie announced that Paul Jundt was named the Athletic Director of the year by NDIAAA. Congratulations to Paul!

Next Board meeting will be on April 14th at 10:00 via conference call.

The June Board meeting is scheduled for June 8-9, 2020 at the Woodland Resort in Devils Lake.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schell
Assistant Director

Signed: _____ Approved Date: ____/____/____