

**MINUTES
North Dakota High School Activities Association
December 9, 2020, Valley City, ND**

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota High School Activities Association began their meeting on December 9, 2020 via conference call. President Jordan called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Members present: Jordan, Diegel, Schoch, Bertsch, Johnson, Brandt, Rerick, Fridley, Baxley, Jundt, Baesler

Others present: Jason Simpfenderfer, Beulah High School Principal and Belinda Suter, Beulah High School Business Manager.

Motion by Rerick to approve the agenda. Second by Schoch. Motion carried unanimously.
Motion by Johnson to approve the consent agenda. Second by Brandt. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

- 1. Coop Applications: Beulah and Glen Ullin in football, 7-12, 2022-23, no fee

The Board reviewed a request from Jill Louters, New Rockford-Sheyenne High School Superintendent requesting the Board to review current attendance guidelines for NDHSAA regular season events. Fetsch indicated he visited with Governor Burgum’s office concerning fan restrictions at regular season contests. Stated they would be supportive of fan restrictions as indicated in the ND Smart Restart Guidelines. Local school districts may be more restrictive in their fan limitations.

Rerick suggested NDHSAA follow the Governor’s restrictions and use language for fan restrictions which encourages districts to work with their local public health departments in creating guidelines.

Schoch indicated he had visited with his local health department and they were not interested in having input into fan restrictions at a local level.

Motion by Rerick to update NDHSAA guidelines to reflect the current large gathering guidelines as outlined in the ND Smart Restart document. Second by Jundt. Rerick indicated Grand Forks will be more restrictive than the proposed guidelines. The EDC schools have used different fan limitations this past fall and have made it work for all schools in their region. As presented these guidelines do not restrict schools, and they allow schools to be more restrictive. Fridley interjected the WDA would like to increase the fan attendance limitations. WDA schools have been consistent in their fan limitations this past fall and will work toward the same with winter sports and activities. Jundt indicated smaller schools are requesting more guidance from the NDHSAA Board and it is the Board’s responsibility to provide guidance. In this situation, it is not the Board’s place to restrict fans, schools need to have local control.

Baesler requested if the proposed guidelines are approved, the Board send a strong consistent message concerning expanded fan attendance limitations and if there is a spike, the NDHSAA Board will review and possibly add restrictions. Several Board members agreed a consistent message is important. Bertsch stated accountability and flexibility are the two guiding factors in the guidelines. Accountability to schools, city, county or state agencies with flexibility because all parts of the state are not at the same level of risk. Bertsch also questioned if these guidelines cover only orange designations and if there is a need to expand to other colors. Fetsch indicated the Governor’s office will develop guidelines for other color designations as they are needed. Those guidelines will be included in the ND Smart Restart documentation. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a request from Rick Smith, Athletic Director for Four Winds High School to waive Part IV, Article III, Section III of the NDHSAA Constitution to allow 5th and 6th graders to participate on junior high teams regardless of enrollment size for the 2020-21 school year. Motion by Brandt to deny the request from Four Winds High School to waive Part IV, Article III, Section III of the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws. Second by Rerick. Motion carried unanimously.

Fetsch indicated staff will put together a one-page document for schools and will send out quickly. There will be an NDHSAA member school update at 11:00 am on December 9, 2020.

Next Board meeting will be held January 21, 2021 in Valley City. Meeting adjourned December 9, 2020 at 9:48 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schell
Assistant Director

Signed: _____ Approved Date: _____