

MINUTES

**North Dakota High School Activities Association
September 23, 2021, Valley City, ND**

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

Members absent: Baesler

Audience: Seth Wisthoff, Anita Jorgenson, Bob Poitra

Dr. Mark Rerick called this meeting to order at 10:18am on Thursday, September 23, 2021 in Valley City, ND.

Motion by Fridley to approve the agenda, second by Baxley. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. June 7-8, 2021
 - b. July 28, 2021
2. Financial Reports
 - a. Balance Sheet
 - i. June 2021
 - ii. July 2021
 - iii. August 2021
 - b. Budget
 - i. June 2021
 - ii. July 2021
 - iii. August 2021
 - c. Savings/Investments
 - i. June 2021
 - ii. July 2021
 - iii. August 2021
 - d. Spring Sports Financial
3. Coop Dissolutions
 - a. Shanley and Oak Grove in debate, 7-12, 2021-22
 - b. Shanley and Oak Grove in speech, 7-12, 2021-22
 - c. Westhope and Newburg in softball, 7-12, 2021-22
 - d. Parshall and White Shield in football, 7-12, 2022-23
4. Coop Applications
 - a. Minot and Kenmare in gymnastics, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - b. Dickinson and Richardton-Taylor in girls hockey, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - c. Dickinson and South Heart in girls soccer, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - d. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in boys basketball, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - e. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in girls basketball, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - f. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in gymnastics, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - g. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in girls hockey, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - h. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in boys swimming and diving 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - i. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in wrestling, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - j. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in baseball, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - k. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in boys golf, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - l. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in girls soccer, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - m. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in softball, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - n. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in girls tennis, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - o. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in boys track and field, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - p. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in girls track and field, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
 - q. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in boys cross country, 7-12, 2022-23, no fee
 - r. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in girls cross country, 7-12, 2022-23, no fee
 - s. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in football, 2022-23, 7-12, no fee

- t. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in girls golf, 2022-23, 7-12, no fee
- u. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in boys soccer, 2022-23, 7-12, no fee
- v. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in girls swimming and diving, 2022-23, 7-12, no fee
- w. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in boys tennis, 2022-23, 7-12, no fee
- x. Jamestown and St. John's Academy in volleyball, 2022-23, 7-12, no fee
- y. Grenora and Plentywood (MT) in boys wrestling, 2021-22, 7-12, no fee
- z. Grenora and Plentywood (MT) in girls wrestling, 2021-22, 7-12, no fee
- aa. Surrey and Sawyer in boys basketball, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
- bb. Surrey and Sawyer in girls basketball, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
- cc. Surrey and Sawyer in football, 7-12, 2022-23, no fee
- dd. Grand Forks Central and Manvel in student congress, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
- ee. Grand Forks Central and Manvel in debate, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee
- ff. Grand Forks Central and Manvel in speech, 7-12, 2021-22, no fee

Motion by Brandt to approve the consent agenda, second by Schoch. Motion carried unanimously.

Harold Rotunda provided the Board with an audit report for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

Motion by Jundt to approve the audit report as presented, second by Fridley. Motion carried unanimously.

Rerick provided the Executive Board report. The Executive Board approved 3 late coop applications; Rolla and North Star in boys wrestling (7-12, 2021-22), Harvey and Wells County in girls wrestling (7-12, 2021-22), and Devils Lake and Grafton in girls hockey (7-12, 2021-22). Winter and spring coop application deadlines were changed from September 1st and January 1st to September 15th and January 15th respectively. Approved the following additions to girls wrestling regulations:

1. Unlimited entries into regional (if necessary) and/or state tournament for each team during the 2-year implementation period.
2. After the 2-year implementation period, region and/or state tournament entries will follow the Class A model. One entry per weight class plus three alternates.
3. Once eight (8) girls wrestling teams are able to fill at least ten (10) weight classes each, a state girls wrestling dual tournament will be added.

The Executive Board ruled on five school violations. Turtle mountain received the prescribed penalty for use of an academically ineligible sub-varsity volleyball player. Fargo South received the prescribed penalty for use of ineligible varsity boys soccer players. West Fargo Sheyenne received the prescribed penalty for use of an ineligible player in boys soccer. Grand Forks Valley Middle School received the prescribed penalty and a letter of reprimand for use of a 6th grader in a junior high cross country meet. Williston received the prescribed penalty for use of 6th graders in a junior high cross country meet.

West Fargo Sheyenne boys soccer was placed on probation through the 2022-23 season due to a violation of the NDHSAA sportsmanship by-law. Additional misconduct during the probationary period will result in further board action.

The Executive Board ruled on two member school regulation waiver requests. Shiloh Christian requested a waiver on the out-of-season coaching request. Powers Lake requested a waiver for a foreign exchange student that had graduated in his home country. Both requests were denied. Powers Lake requested an appeal of this decision.

Motion by Brandt to approve the Executive Board report as presented, second by Jordan. Motion carried unanimously.

Schoch provided the Realignment Committee report. The committee reviewed all class A and B region assignments, making the following changes; Class B boys wrestling will move to 2 regions, east and west in the 2023-24 season. Class B volleyball and basketball regions were reviewed. Class B golf regions were discussed with concerns due to travel distances, but no action was taken. Also the 2022 preliminary football divisions and region assignments were presented. The committee preliminarily placed 3 new Class B softball teams into regions, Bottineau and New Town in Region 3, and Carrington in Region 2.

Motion by Jordan to approve the Realignment Committee report as presented, second by Diegel. Motion carried unanimously.

Fridley provided the tournament committee report. Two Class B region sites needed to be relocated:

Region 1 will be moved to due to unavailability of the Fargo Civic Center. Committee recommends moving tournament to Central Cass after analyzing bids from NDSCS, Valley City High School, and Central Cass High School. Motion by Schoch to place Region 1 volleyball tournament in Central Cass, second by Brandt. Motion carried unanimously.

New Town requested the Region 8 tournament be moved from their school. The tournament will be moved to Parshall High School Motion by Jundt to move Region 8 volleyball tournament from New Town to Parshall, second by Baxley. Motion carried unanimously.

Fridley continued the Tournament Committee report. State tournament awards scripts to announce Senior Athlete of the Year and Coach of the Year immediately after the last game they participate in at the state event. All state tournament programs will be available online only. Fall tournament ticket prices needed to be corrected. Ticket prices from June mistakenly included facilities fees. The corrected prices can be found on the table below:

<u>BASKETBALL - B Boys & Girls</u>		<u>Adult</u>	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>STATE</u>			<u>Reserved</u>	<u>Unreserved</u>
Single Session (2 games)			15.00 14.00	5.00
<u>BASKETBALL - A Boys & Girls</u>		<u>Adult</u>		<u>Student</u>
<u>STATE</u>		<u>Unreserved</u>		<u>Unreserved</u>
Tournament Ticket		40.00 37.00		15.00
Daily		15.00 14.00		5.00
<u>HOCKEY</u>		<u>Adult</u>		<u>Student</u>
<u>STATE</u>		<u>Unreserved</u>		<u>Unreserved</u>
Tournament Ticket		40.00 37.00		15.00
Daily		15.00 14.00		5.00
<u>VOLLEYBALL</u>		<u>Adult</u>		<u>Student</u>
<u>STATE</u>		<u>Unreserved</u>		<u>Unreserved</u>
Tournament Ticket		40.00 37.00		15.00
Daily		15.00 14.00		5.00

<u>WRESTLING</u>		<u>Adult</u>	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>STATE</u>		<u>Unreserved</u>	<u>Reserved</u>	<u>Unreserved</u>
Tournament Ticket – Individual Tournament		40.00 38.00	40.00 38.00	10.00
Tournament Ticket – Dual Tournament		20.00 19.00	20.00 19.00	5.00
Daily		20.00 19.00	20.00 19.00	5.00

Motion by Clouten to approve the Tournament Committee report as presented, second by Jundt. Motion carried unanimously.

Rerick provided the Constitution & By-laws Committee report. The committee provided potential interpretations to Article VIII – Amateurism relative to Name, Image, and Likeness. This topic is to be further researched and presented at a later date.

The committee recommends the following changes to the Pre-Season Practice Sessions regulations:

1. Pre-season practice sessions in all sports shall be held in the immediate environment of the city or school district in which the school is located. (Sept. 2007). Executive Secretary has authority to waive this regulation when appealed by a member school. (June 2014)
2. Required preseason practices, which are not attended by an athlete because that athlete is actively involved in practice for or participation in NDHSAA post season athletic competition held concurrently with such preseason practices shall be waived.
3. ~~Two-Three~~ days of the nine-day practice rule may be waived due to Basic Military Training/AIT attendance, provided there is a conflict with the first contest.
4. Three days of non-pad football practice may be waived if practice is missed due to attending basic military training. Six days of pad practice is required.
5. ~~Practices held the same day as a game/meet shall not count towards the required minimum practice rule.~~ An individual may not have their ninth practice and participate in a contest on the same day.
6. Pre-season practice requirements shall apply to both teams and individuals. Though the requirement may have been met to number of team practices, individual students would not be eligible for the first contest scheduled if they had not personally met this requirement.

Motion by Baxley to approve changes to Pre-Season Practice Sessions as presented, second by Diegel. Motion carried unanimously.

Rerick discussed adding language to Article XIV regarding eligibility of entirely online students attending Virtual Learning Academies and which school they are eligible to compete for. Rerick continued discussion in December. No action was taken.

Also in Article XIV, the committee recommends adding the following Q&A to Section XIII to clarify junior high transfers:

Section XIII: Residence:

A student is eligible in the school of the district where his/her parents are bona-fide residents. A student who transfers from one junior high school to another must meet the same rules pertaining to residence and migration as set forth for senior high school competition.

1. First-time seventh graders are varsity eligible at the school they represent. For any student transfer during junior high, refer to Part II, Article XIV, Section IX.

NOTE: In districts which have more than one junior high school, the home school of the pupil shall be the same school as is determined by the Board of Education for all students living in a designated area.

Motion by Fridley to approve the addition of the Q&A to Section XIII as presented, second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Finally, the committee recommends the addition of the following Q&A to Part IV – Article III – Section III:

1. Eligible 5th and 6th grade pupils are only allowed to compete in junior high events. 5th and/or 6th grade participation in junior varsity or varsity contests is prohibited.

Motion by Schoch to approve the addition of the Q&A to Part IV – Article III – Section III as presented, second by Clouten. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jundt to approve the Constitution & By-laws Committee report as presented, second by Fridley. Motion carried unanimously.

Brandt provided the Finance, Personnel & Policy report. He reviewed the status of the association's investments and savings accounts. The committee has also received estimates from Icon Architecture for roofing repairs on the association office. Patty Bass will be retiring after September 30th. At this time the committee recommends not filling Bass's position and dividing duties between JeriAnn Everson and Sharon Prosby and raising their respective wages. Motion by Jordan to approve absorbing Bass's position, dividing duties to Everson and Prosby and increasing wages, second by Diegel. Motion carried unanimously.

Brandt continued the committee report by recommending extending the contract with RWP for printing of the annual association calendar. Motion by Fridley to extend the calendar contract for 3 years as presented, second by Schoch. Motion carried unanimously.

Brand concluded the Finance, Personnel & Policy report with the recommendation to extend the contract for Valley Office Works to continue printing the annual member school directory. Motion by Johnson to approve a 3-year contract extension to Valley Office Works, second by Jundt. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Clooten to approve the Finance, Personnel & Policy Committee report as presented, second by Fridley. Motion carried unanimously.

Diegel provided the Media Committee report. The committee discussed instituting a commercial photographer fee but determined it would potentially be too much for tournament managers to monitor. Motion by Brandt to approve the Media Committee report as presented, second by Baxley. Motion carried unanimously.

Rerick provided the esports ad hoc committee report. Rerick described trying to find common ground with Fenworks and association by-laws. Currently association by-laws do not work with Fenwork's structure. Fenworks needs to develop a method to fit the association's current by-laws or potentially seek out a different organization. Rerick also mentioned concerns with pricing changes at Fenworks to member schools. The committee has no recommendation for action regarding esports at this time. Motion by Jundt to approve the esports ad hoc committee report as presented, second by Schoch. Motion carried unanimously.

Tom Mix presented the Awards & Canvassing Committee report. Currently North Dakota has Jeff Risk in the Officials category and Dave Carlsrud in the Administration category. The committee recommends re-nominating Darin Erstad for the Athlete category, nominating Dan Carr for the Coaches category, as well as moving Dave Carlsrud from Administration to the Other category, vacating the Administrators category. Motion by Diegel to approve the Awards and Canvassing report as presented, second by Jordan. Motion carried unanimously.

Jundt provided the Officials Committee report. The committee held audience with Perry Smith, who is concerned about several officiating issues in the state. The committee will continue to research these concerns and report back to the board at a later date. Motion by Brandt to approve the Officials Committee report as presented, second by Baxley. Motion carried unanimously.

Fletschock presented a report from the North Dakota Officials Association meeting that took place on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. Last year's raise was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NDOA will be recommending a 6% raise in December for the 2022-23 school year with no increase in 2023-24. Motion by Schoch to approve the NDOA report as presented, second by Clooten. Motion carried unanimously.

Powers Lake requested an audience to appeal ruling made by the Executive Board regarding a foreign exchange student that has graduated from school in his home country. According to NDHSAA by-laws, graduated students are ineligible for participation. Principal Seth Wisthoff of Powers Lake High School and Anita Jorgenson stated while the student has graduated, he is only 17 years old. The student was unable to attend Powers Lake last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, though there is no documentation to confirm this. Johnson stated approving this would set a precedent and potentially create issues in the future for the association.

Motion by Brandt to deny Powers Lake High School's waiver request, second by Johnson. Motion carried 10-0 roll call vote.

Athletic Review

Boys Golf	Vote
1. Change Regulation 7 to read: Players may use cell phones for scoring or yardage apps or to contact their coach for rules questions only. All players in the group have access to the device. No devices are allowed on greens, should not slow down play, and improper use shall result in a two-stroke penalty.	Yes 10-0
2. Move the Class B Boys Golf season one week later to match the Class A Boys calendar.	Yes 10-0
Girls Soccer	
1. Honor 25-year anniversary teams at state tournament.	Yes 10-0
Track & Field Class A and B	
1. The region manager may adjust the registration deadline if the date of a region meet is changed due to an Act of God.	Yes 10-0
2. State event entries shall be entered by coaches into athletic.net by 11:59 pm CDT on the Monday prior to the state meet. Scratches after 11:59 pm CDT on the Monday prior to the state meet count as one of the individual's four events.	Yes 10-0

Larimore High School requested to reclassify a COVID forfeit as an Act of God. Reclassifying would allow Larimore the ability to participate in post season competition. Motion by Johnson to approve Larimore High School's request to reclassify a COVID forfeit as an Act of God, second by Clooten. Motion carried by roll call vote 7-3; Baxley yes, Brandt yes, Clooten yes, Diegel no, Fridley yes, Johnson yes, Jordan yes, Jundt no, Rerick no, Schoch yes.

Manning Elementary School in Bismarck filed to become a member school. Motion by Baxley to approve Manning Elementary School as a member school, second by Fridley. Motion carried unanimously.

Members of the board reviewed emails sent by Bob Poitra and Dr. Grant Syverson.

Rerick opened the floor to board members to give any reports that they felt important, to which there were none.

Fetsch presented several informational items to the board including the annual apparel report and the upcoming general assembly agenda.

Fetsch presented his Executive Director report to the board. He reported 19 new administrators attended the New Administrators Orientation in August. NFHS Network has become profitable, which should substantially increase variable profit share payments to each member state. To date, Fetsch has ruled on seven hardship applications, and none have been appealed to the Eligibility Committee. A number of investigations are scheduled for next week.

The next meeting date and time has been set to Thursday, December 2, at 10:00 am CDT in Valley City at the NDHSAA office.

Meeting adjourned at 1:04pm CDT on September 23, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
 Nickolas Walton
 Assistant Director

Signed: _____ Approved Date: _____