

MINUTES**North Dakota High School Activities Association
October 13, 2023 – Conference Call**

Members present: Aanenson, Bakke, Baxley, Derr, Fridley, Hanson, Johnson, Lunde, Tescher

Members absent: Diegel, Jordan

President Johnson called the meeting to order on October 12, 2023, at 10:31 am CDT.

Johnson called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by Bakke to approve the agenda, seconded by Tescher. Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee recommends the addition of language clarifying football teams who successfully petition down will be for a maximum of two years. Teams would be eligible to petition the Classification Committee again in two years. The Committee recommends the following addition to Football Guideline #9:

9. Schools will be allowed to appeal their placement to the classification committee using any/all of the factors listed in Section 8 a-g above. A successful appeal requires a favorable vote of 2/3 or more of classification committee members voting and will be in effect for the next two NDHSAA football seasons.

The Committee recommends changing the deadline for schools to move up a division from October 15th annually to November 15th annually. The Committee recommends the following amendment to Football Guideline #7:

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 ~~October~~ November 15th.

The Board of Directors recommends changing November 15th to “the Friday after Dakota Bowl.

The Committee recommends the addition of clarifying language to the replacement of Classification Committee members who are unable to complete their 3-year term, as well as clarification on future terms. The Committee recommends the following addition to Football Guideline #10:

10. All decisions of the classification committee are final. The classification committee will be comprised of 9 members with a 3-year term/rotation appointed by the NDHSAA Board of Directors. An effort will be made to diversify the Classification Committee so it is representative of the membership. If a Committee member's school is no longer classified in the football division they represent, the Board of Directors may switch Committee members from other sports before appointing a replacement. Committee members who complete a 3-year term are not eligible to be re-appointed to a Classification Committee until three years have elapsed.

The Committee recommends the Board of Directors adopt the attached Conflict of Interest Statement for Classification Committee members.

The Committee discussed Football Guideline #8. The Committee recommends an editorial change clarifying the deadline to opt down as October 15th, which will match other references within the Guidelines. The Committee recommends the following addition to Football Guideline #8:

8. Each school may submit a request to NDHSAA indicating the division in which the team wishes to compete by ~~the established deadline~~ October 15th. A school failing to meet the designated deadline will not be permitted to request a division other than the one assigned by the NDHSAA. The classification committee will consider the following factors:

The Committee discussed Football Guideline #11, which states:

11. Teams may opt down to the next lower division if they meet both items a. and b. below:
 1. The team's Football Enrollment must be within 25% of the median between divisions.
 2. The team may not have qualified for the playoffs more than once at the higher division in the previous four seasons.
 3. Such requests to opt down shall be made annually by Oct. 15th.
 - a. Qualifying for the playoffs in the current season may affect a team's ability to opt-down in the next season.
 - b. Schools who request to opt down by Oct. 15 but later lose their ability to opt- down after qualifying for the current playoffs will be immediately notified by the NDHSAA office.

The Committee is interested in potentially eliminating this Guideline for the 2025 season and having all opt down work through the Classification Committee. The Committee will solicit feedback from member schools and possibly have a recommendation for the full Board of Directors at a future meeting.

The Committee discussed the original intent of Classification Committees when the Board of Directors first discussed the concept last winter. The Classification Committee chairs will remind their committees their goal is to determine which division applicants "belong" to compete, not where they can better compete for state championships.

The Committee discussed the possibility of returning to a two-year football plan in the future. The Committee will solicit feedback from member schools and report back to the Board of Directors in the future.

Motion by Bakke to approve the Realignment Committee report. Seconded by Lunde. Motion carried unanimously.

Johnson presented the Eligibility Committee. The Committee denied one eligibility appeal.

Motion by Fridley to approve the Eligibility Committee report. Seconded by Bakke. Motion carried unanimously.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 10:00 am CDT in Valley City at the NDHSAA office.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am CDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Nickolas Walton
Assistant Director

Signed: _____ Approved Date: _____