

**MINUTES****North Dakota High School Activities Association  
November 30, 2023 – Valley City – NDHSAA Office**

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

President Johnson called the meeting to order on November 30, 2023, at 10:0 am CST.

Johnson called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by Baxley to approve the agenda. Seconded by Aanenson. Motion carried unanimously.

Johnson presented the consent agenda.

1. Approval of Minutes
  - a. September 28, 2023
  - b. October 13, 2023
2. Financial Reports
  - a. Balance Sheet
    - (1) September 2023
    - (2) October 2023
  - b. Budget
    - (1) September 2023
    - (2) October 2023
  - c. Savings/Investments
    - (1) September 2023
    - (2) October 2023
3. Coop Dissolutions
  - a. Belfield and South Heart in girls volleyball, 7-12, 2024-25
4. Coop Applications
  - a. Carrington and New Rockford-Sheyenne in softball, 7-12, 2023-24, no fee
  - b. South Heart, Belfield, and Billings County in boys cross country, 7-12, 2024-25, no fee
  - c. South Heart, Belfield, and Billings County in girls cross country, 7-12, 2024-25, no fee
  - d. Jamestown and Barnes County North in boys soccer, 7-12, 2024-25, no fee
  - e. Jamestown and Barnes County North in girls soccer, 7-12, 2024-25, no fee

Motion by Derr to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Fridley. Motion carried unanimously.

Johnson presented the Executive Board report.

Executive Board recommends moving 2024-25 General Assembly to April in conjunction with the spring NDIAAA convention. This would affect board membership nominations and voting. If approved, a membership meeting would be called for this spring in conjunction with the NDIAAA convention to vote on changes to Article V, Section II, Paragraph I regarding delivery of election ballots by January 1.

Motion by Bakke to move the 2024-25 General Assembly to April in conjunction with NDIAAA, seconded by Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Board recommends forgiving 2023 fall sports fines related to testing due to changes in testing platforms.

Motion by Aanenson to forgive 2023 fall sports fines related to testing due to changes in testing platforms. Seconded by Lunde. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Board recommends making changes to the NDHSAA Minimal Behavior Expectations for Regular and Postseason Competitions:

## NDHSAA MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR REGULAR AND POSTSEASON COMPETITIONS:

- ☐ Respect the American flag and the National Anthem.
- ☐ Contesting schools shall each have an authorized faculty representative present who shall be responsible for his/her school's participants, students, and fans throughout the contest.
- ☐ Spectators must wear appropriate clothing ~~that covers the entire torso~~. Those who do not comply or who wear clothing that is vulgar, obscene or that in some other way inappropriate, as determined by school/tournament personnel, will be removed from the facility if they do not cooperate with this behavior expectation.
- ☐ The use of appropriate language is expected at all times. Profanity, negative chants, trash talk, name-calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable and must be immediately addressed by school/tournament administrators. Any discriminatory slur will result in immediate removal from the facility.
- ☐ Any attendee ejected from a NDHSAA tournament venue will be banned from the venue(s) for the remainder of the event.
- ☐ Respect the game/contest. Under no condition shall anyone other than the members of the official squad enter the playing surface. No one may interfere with the contest in any way.
- ☐ Handheld signs and flags, which do not obstruct the view of others, are permitted provided they are in good taste. Signs or other similar items contest/tournament officials deem to be in poor taste will be removed. Message or "white" boards are prohibited. The carrying of flags around the playing surface is NOT allowed.
- ☐ Artificial noisemakers of any kind (i.e. megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks, and other similar items) are not allowed at any indoor events, including outdoor sports played at indoor venues. Exception – Megaphones appropriately used by cheerleaders are permitted if allowed by contest officials.
- ☐ Laser lights or any other lights deemed distracting to participants are strictly prohibited.
- ☐ ~~Confetti is banned at all NDHSAA tournament venues. Tournament staff is instructed to confiscate such articles at the door.~~
- ☐ ~~Objects shall not be thrown into the stands at any NDHSAA tournament venue.~~
- ☐ The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), also known as drones, is prohibited ~~for any persons at NDHSAA tournament venues~~ at all contests.

Revised: ~~2/8/23~~ 11/30/2023

Motion by Fridley to approve changes to the NDHSAA Behavior Expectations. Seconded by Aanenson. Motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Board reviewed a draft of an ejection review protocol. The topic will be discussed further at the spring NDOA meeting.

The Executive Board approved a daily adult cash ticket price of \$15.00 and an adult two-day cash price of \$30.00 for the 2023-24 State Gymnastics and Boys Swimming and Diving meets. Digital ticketing is available for the events at a daily price of \$11.50 (including fees) and a two-day price of \$23.00 (including fees) for adults. The daily digital ticketing and cash price for students remains \$5.00 and the two-day ticket (both digital and cash) for students remains \$10.00.

Motion by Derr to approve ticket prices for State Gymnastics and Boys Swimming & Diving meets. Seconded by Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Board will conduct an Executive Director evaluation.

Motion by Aanenson to approve the Executive Board report. Seconded by Bakke. Motion carried unanimously.

Lunde presented the Football Classification Committee report.

The Committee heard 11 appeals from member schools petitioning to move down a division for the 2024 football season. The Committee acted to the requests as follows (a 2/3 majority (6 votes) is required for approval):

Fargo North (AAA to AA) – Denied 0-9

Oak Grove (Independent to 9-man) – Denied 0-9

Northern Cass (A to 9-man) – Denied 0-9

Wahpeton (AA to A) – Denied 0-9

Cavalier (A to 9-man) – Approved 7-2

Surrey (A to 9-man) – Denied 0-9

Turtle Mountain (AA to A) – Approved 9-0

Williston (AAA to AA) – Denied 4-5

Watford City (AA to A) – Denied 4-5

Heart River (A to 9-man) – Denied 0-9

Standing Rock (Independent to 9-man) – Approved 9-0

Fridley presented the Realignment Committee report.

The Committee approved final region recommendations for the 2024 9-man and Division A football seasons following the football classification committee's action on November 14, 2023.

The Committee approved an east/west region format for AAA and AA football divisions, qualifying the top four teams from each region for playoffs. The Committee recommends approval.

The Committee reviewed the preliminary 2025 football enrollment numbers with Fall 2023 male enrollment numbers and 2022-23 free and reduced percentages applied.

The Committee will meet in person in January at a to be determined date prior to the January 18, 2024, Board of Directors meeting to review the current football classification guidelines.

Motion by Aanenson to approve the Realignment Committee report. Seconded by Derr. Motion carried unanimously.

Baxley presented the Sportsmanship & Citizenship Committee report.

The Committee reviewed the by-law amendment approved by NDHSAA member schools on October 26, 2023, which will add a Native American at-large member to the NDHSAA Board of Directors beginning July 1, 2024.

The Committee reviewed their three sub-committees (Policy & By-Law Review, Initiative, and 5-Year Plan). Sub-committee chairs will schedule meetings based on member availability.

A Sportsmanship Public Service Announcement (PSA) from California was shared with the Committee prior to the meeting. WDAY will be producing a similar PSA for North Dakota that will be shared with the Initiative sub-committee to proof by December 1, 2023.

The Committee reviewed a Sportsmanship Grant Program, where member schools who conduct a local sportsmanship workshop may apply for a \$200 grant from the state association. The Committee understands this requires NDHSAA Board of Directors approval and recommends it is considered. The \$200 amount is equivalent to the registration fee for the NDIAAA Spring Conference. Up to 34,200 is to be earmarked for 2023-24 for all 171 member high schools.

Motion by Jordan to approve the Sportsmanship & Citizenship Committee report. Seconded by Hanson. Motion carried unanimously.

Baxley presented the Fine Arts & Academics Committee report.

The committee reviewed in-person and online tournaments and recommends all prequalifying speech tournaments be in-person only. Page 18 of Speech Regulations to change as follows:

- a. SPEECH TOURNAMENT QUALIFYING CRITERIA Class A and B speech participants may qualify for their respective state tournament at an in-person invitational speech tournament if the following criteria are met. All qualifying tournaments must be scheduled through the NDHSAA and run in ND.

The committee further recommends schools be allowed to compete in online tournaments during the regular season and that participating in these tournaments counts towards the season's maximum allowable contests. Page 4 of Speech Regulations change as follows:

- a. SANCTIONING OF INVITATIONAL CONTESTS

**Within season,** schools may participate in **in-person and online** invitational tournaments a maximum of 12 allowable contests excluding regional and state. (6/2021) The speech season begins the first weekend in January and ends with the state tournaments in April. (2017)

The committee reviewed Generative Artificial Intelligence concerns and recommends the following regulation be placed in Debate, Play, Speech, and Student Congress Regulations:

- a. **The direct quotation or paraphrased evidence of material created by Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is considered plagiarism or in violation of evidence rules (Debate) and subject to the same prescribed penalty in Debate, Plays, Speech, or Student Congress.**

The committee further recommends the following guidance language be posted on respective website pages and sent to schools:

**NDHSAA Artificial Intelligence Sanctioned Competition Guidance:**

- a. Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) engines including but not limited to ChatGPT may be used as tools for practice prior to contests in sanctioned Debate, Speech, and Student Congress activities.
  - i. AI is not a database and may not be cited; however, it may be used to locate and vet potential articles or other sources relevant to each competitive activity.

- ii. AI is a tool that may help competitors/coaches develop talking points or main questions; however, competitors must develop the language surrounding these points on their own with help and feedback from their coach.
- iii. As AI continually evolves, competitors must remember it is a tool and liken it to a powerful thesaurus as they may, at times, be called upon to prove their work and/or citations. Coaches must facilitate student use of this tool and its opportunities while teaching skills mastery so students may successfully compete in circumstances where internet or AI engines are unavailable.

The committee reviewed the current Fine Arts Review process and proposes the following change to procedure:

#### Current Fine Arts Review Process

- ☐ March 31: Deadline for Music and Speech Advisory Voting Items
- ☐ Monday following State B Music: Online Speech Advisory Meeting 3:30 p.m. CST
- ☐ Monday one-week following: Online Music Advisory Meeting 3:30 p.m. CST
- ☐ Wednesday Preceding State Track: Online Fine Arts Review Meeting, 3:30 p.m. CST

#### Proposed Fine Arts Review Process

- ☐ March 31: Deadline for Music and Speech Advisory Voting Items
- ☐ Monday following State B Music: Online Speech Advisory Meeting 3:30 p.m. CST
- ☐ Monday one-week following: Online Music Advisory Meeting 3:30 p.m. CST
- ☐ Wednesday Preceding State Track: Deadline for C STAND & NDMEA presidents or their designees to submit responses to their respective advisory proposals.
  - Organization responses to be in bullet point format to address:
    - Organizational Approval/Disapproval.
    - How does proposal alter competition or contest format?
    - Does the proposal favor larger or smaller teams and schools?
    - How does proposal impact/change loss of school time?
    - Does proposal potentially alter tournament budget and if so, how?
- ☐ Board Fine Arts Committee reviews advisory voting and organizational support information during committee meeting before June Board meeting
- ☐ Pending proposals, Fine Arts Committee could ask Board for item by item vote, or, simply request Board approval of their report.

The committee reviewed the Lincoln-Douglas debate topic release scheduled December 1 and recommends if the military presence in West Africa topic is chosen, schools will instead use the September/October Topic, Resolved: The United States ought to guarantee the right to housing.

The committee discussed unaffiliated in-person and online speech and debate tournaments and potential awards at some of these tournaments. No recommendation unless/until the number of tournaments providing large awards increases.

The committee discussed sanctioned regional fine arts sponsorship requirements.

The committee reviewed the State B Music Festival and the number of keyboards needed for the event. No action required unless minimum number of keyboards cannot be secured by the November 30 Board meeting.

Motion by Bakke to approve the Fine Arts & Academics Committee report. Seconded by Fridley. Motion carried unanimously.

Fridley presented the Media Committee report.

The Committee reviewed Tier I and Tier II television contract requests for proposal (RFP) drafts that the Board updated in June 2023. Current television contracts with Forum Communications (Tier I) and BEK Sports (Tier II) run through the 2023-24 school year.

The Committee will meet prior to the January 2024 NDHSAA Board of Directors meeting to recommend a final draft of RFPs for 2024-29 television contracts.

Motion by Hanson to approve the Media Committee report. Seconded by Diegel. Motion carried unanimously.

Diegel presented the Combined Tournament Committee report.

The Committee reviewed state tournament sites through 2029-30 and added recommendations for 2030-31 sites.

The Committee recommends adding language to media credential applications clarifying any radio station signage hung at state tournament sites must be prearranged through TPG.

Dakota Bowl start times were discussed. Start times will be discussed with the NDHSAA's television partner prior to Dakota Bowl XXXII.

Hospitality room expectations at state tournaments were discussed. The topic will be added to the April 8, 2024, Committee agenda.

Tournament manager fees were discussed. The topic will be added to the April 8, 2024, agenda.

Paying workers vs. volunteers at larger state tournaments was discussed. The topic will be added to the April 8, 2024, Committee agenda.

The Combined Tournament Committee will meet again on April 8, 2024, in Fargo.

Motion by Fridley to approve the Combined Tournament Committee report. Seconded by Jordan. Motion carried unanimously.

Diegel presented the Tournament Committee report.

The Committee reviewed Fall 2024 region tournament sites and recommends approving as follows:

<b>GOLF - Girls</b>		
Region 1 Girls	Deadline: September 23, 2024	Napoleon
Region 2 Girls	Deadline: September 23, 2024	Fargo Country Club
Region 3 Girls	Deadline: September 23, 2024	Devils Lake
Region 4 Girls	Deadline: September 23, 2024	Bottineau
Region 5 Girls	Deadline: September 23, 2024	Bowman
Region 6 Girls	Deadline: September 23, 2024	Ray
East Region	Deadline: September 23, 2024	Grand Forks Country Club
West Region	Deadline: September 23, 2024	Mandan
<b>TENNIS - Boys</b>		
East Region	October 3-4-5, 2024	Fargo

West Region	October 3-4-5, 2024	Minot
<b>VOLLEYBALL</b>		
East Region	November 12-14-16, 2024	West Fargo Sheyenne
West Region	November 14-15-16, 2024	Minot
Region 1	November 11-12-14, 2024	Kindred
Region 2	November 11-12-14, 2024	Grafton
Region 3	November 11-12-14, 2024	Hazelton
Region 4	November 11-12-14, 2024	Devils Lake
Region 5	November 11-12-14, 2024	New Salem
Region 6	November 11-12-14, 2024	Minot Auditorium
Region 7	November 11-12-14, 2024	Dickinson Trinity
Region 8	November 11-12-14, 2024	Williston State

Motion by Derr to approve the Tournament Committee report. Seconded by Aanenson. Motion carried unanimously.

Diegel presented the Constitution & By-Laws Committee report.

The Committee discussed Art. XIV-Sect III Q & A #1 following Executive Board action of a tennis player who violated the rule in October. Previously the rule had only been violated in team sports, not individual sports. The proposed edits add clarification for violations in individual sports, as well as clarify the rule applies to all grades 7-12.

#### INTERPRETATIONS – SECTION III OF ARTICLE XIV – Rules of Eligibility

##### Art. XIV-Sect III:

1. Q. What is the penalty to a student who plays on another team other than a school team in a particular sport?

A. If a 7-12 grade student ~~he/she~~ does so during their ~~high~~ school season for that sport, he/she loses his/her eligibility for six school games/events or the remainder of the season if less than six school games/events remain. However, if he/she does so prior to the start of the ~~high~~ school season for that sport or after the close of the ~~high~~ school season, there is no penalty.

The Committee discussed Article XIV-Sect IV Q & A #11, which is available below:

##### Art. XIV-Sect. IV: 11.

Q. What if a student maintains a full class load entirely online?

A. Member schools determine instructional delivery. Students who are enrolled, attend per school policy, and are eligible in all regards may participate in sponsored athletics and activities provided at least half of the student's class load is delivered and administered by that member school's faculty and administration.

Currently the Board interpretation is applied as follows for situations:

1. A student who takes a majority of their class load online through a member school's Virtual Learning Academy is eligible at that member school, as the class load is delivered and administered by the member school's faculty and administration.
2. A student who is not in a member school's building and takes their entire class load through the Center for Distance Education is not eligible to compete for a NDHSAA member school, as the student's class load is not delivered and administered by that member school's faculty and administration.
3. A student who takes a majority of their class load through the Center for Distance Education, within their school building, and supervised by school faculty, is eligible at that member school, as a majority of the student's class load is delivered and administered by that member school's faculty and administration.

The Committee discussed the probability of additional interpretations likely to be needed in the future as more situations arise.

Motion by Bakke to approve the Constitution & By-Laws Committee report. Seconded by Aanenson. Motion carried unanimously.

Fletschock presented recommendations made by the NDOA board.

NDOA recommended changes to the Officials Maximum Fee Schedule for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years:

<b>NDHSAA OFFICIALS' MAXIMUM FEE SCHEDULE - 2024-25 &amp; 2025-26</b>			
<b><u>BASEBALL</u></b>		<b><u>HOCKEY</u></b>	
Varsity (7 innings)	\$100.00	Varsity	\$110.00
Sub Varsity (7 innings)	\$80.00	Linesman	\$77.00
Varsity (5 innings)	\$75.00	JV Games (15-minute periods)	\$70.00
Sub Varsity (5 innings)	\$60.00	JV Games (17-minute periods)	\$72.00
<b><u>BASKETBALL</u></b>		<b><u>SOCCER</u></b>	
Varsity	\$100.00	Varsity Referee	\$100.00
Varsity - 18 minute halves	\$105.00	Varsity Asst. Referee	\$85.00
<b>ALL SUBVARSITY</b>		JV Referee	\$75.00
More than 6 min. qtrs.	\$60.00	JV Asst. Referee	\$65.00
6 min. quarters	\$50.00	Jr. High Referee	\$50.00
More than 16 min. halves	\$65.00	Jr. High Asst. Referee	\$40.00
		<b><u>SOFTBALL</u></b>	
		Varsity (7 innings)	\$90.00
<b>7TH &amp; 8TH GRADE</b>		Sub Varsity (7 innings)	\$75.00
6 min. quarters	\$50.00	Varsity (5 innings)	\$68.00
<b>DISTRICT</b>	\$105.00	Sub Varsity (5 innings)	\$60.00
<b><u>FOOTBALL</u></b>		<b><u>VOLLEYBALL</u></b>	
Varsity	\$89.50	Varsity	\$85.00
Sub Varsity	\$59.00	All Sub Varsity	\$60.00



7th & 8th Grade	\$35.00	Jr. High	\$40.00
		<b>DISTRICT</b>	\$90.00
		<b><u>WRESTLING</u></b>	
		Varsity	\$82.50
		Prelims (per match)	\$7.00
		<b>NOTE: Pay for tournaments to be set by schools and officials</b>	
<b><u>GYMNASTICS</u></b>			
Each judge, 1 to 32 judgments	\$85.00	Each judge, 49-64 judgments	\$110.00
Each judge, 33 to 48 judgments	\$95.00	Each judge, more than 64 judgments	\$130.00
NOTE: \$20.00 extra when judge also acts as meet referee			
<b><u>SWIMMING</u></b>	<b>Dual Meet</b>	<b>Tri &amp; Dbl Dual</b>	<b>Inv - 4 hear avg/5-up</b>
Swim/Dive Meet Referee	\$75.00	\$82.00	\$95/\$121
Starter	\$70.00	\$77.00	\$85/\$111
Stroke & Turn	\$55.00	\$62.00	\$80/\$100
Diving Judge (same site)	\$40 up to 220 judgments		
	\$62 over 220 judgments		
Diving Judge only (separate site)	\$85 up to 220 judgments		
	\$110 over 220 judgments		
A \$5.00 fee will be added to each additional duty placed on the meet referee.			
<b><u>MILEAGE (state rate as of 1/1/23)</u></b>			
65.5 cents per mile (car and driver)			
5 cents rider's fee for each rider when traveling more than 100 miles round trip. Example - 120 miles, rider fee is \$6 per rider			
NDHSAA Board Approval		Mileage state rate updated 1/1/23	

The NDOA board recommended allowing officials unlimited opportunities to pass annual NFHS rules tests during the testing window.

Motion by Hanson to approve the NDOA recommendations as presented. Seconded by Derr. Motion carried 10-1.

Sweet Briar School has submitted a request for the Board of Directors to review coops regarding K-8 member schools.

Motion by Hanson to deny the request from Sweet Briar School. Seconded by Diegel. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Fetsch presented his report to the Board of Directors.

Executive Director Fetsch filed three hardship determinations since the last Board of Directors meeting with four more scheduled in December. Summer meeting schedule will be sent to Board members in December. NDHSAA

staff will put together information for the Board regarding 3-Division Volleyball prior to the January 18, 2024, Board of Directors meeting.

The Basketball Classification Committee will meet on January 16, 2024, at the NDHSAA Office in Valley City. Athletic Review will be meeting on January 17, 2024, at 2:00 pm CST. The next scheduled Board of Directors meeting is on January 18, 2024, at the NDHSAA Office in Valley City.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm CST.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nickolas Walton  
Assistant Director

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Date: \_\_\_\_\_