

# **North Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors Minutes September 25, 2025 – Valley City – NDHSAA Office**

## **Call Meeting to Order**

Aanenson called the meeting to order at 10:03 am CDT on August 2, 2025.

Members present: Aanenson, Lunde, Bakke, Berger, Berseth, Christensen, Derr, Hanson, Jung, Martin, Simpfenderfer, Tescher.

Aanenson called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by Bakke to approve the agenda as presented.

Seconded by Hanson.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Approval of Consent Agenda**

### **Approval of Minutes**

1. June 11, 2025
2. August 28, 2025

### **Financial Reports**

1. Balance Sheets
  - a. June 2025
  - b. July 2025
  - c. August 2025
2. Budget
  - a. June 2025
  - b. July 2025
  - c. August 2025
3. Savings/Investments
  - a. June 2025
  - b. July 2025
  - c. August 2025
4. 2024-25 Fine Arts
5. 2025 Spring Sports

### **Coop Dissolutions**

1. Harvey and Maddock in girls golf, 7-12, 2026-27
2. Leeds and Rugby in girls golf, 7-12, 2026-27

### **Coop Applications**

1. Minot Public Schools and Des Lacs-Burlington in boys hockey, 9-12, 2025-26, no fee
2. Minot Public Schools and Surrey in girls wrestling 7-12, 2025-26, no fee

3. West Fargo Sheyenne and Richland in boys swimming & diving, 7-12, 2025-26, no fee
4. Leeds and Maddock in girls golf, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
5. Wahpeton and Wheaton (MN) in gymnastics, 7-12, 2025-26, no fee

Motion by Derr to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Seconded by Simpfinderfer.

Motion carried unanimously.

## Executive Director Report

Fetsch presented his Executive Director report.

Fetsch recapped the Sections 4 & 5 meeting. Topics covered at the meeting included transfer rules, virtual students, classification committees and athletic director mentoring programs.

Fetsch highlighted preliminary information about the 2026 Summer Meeting.

Fetsch highlighted NDHSAA staff, officials, and coaches that currently on various NFHS Committees.

Fetsch notified the Board of Directors that the State Volleyball schedule had been finalized with Bismarck and WDAY.

Fetsch shared informational other informational items with the Board.

## Executive Board Report

Aanenson presented the Executive Board report.

The Executive Board discussed NDHSAA staffing for the 2026-27 school year. The Executive Board recommended continuing discussion on hiring an additional assistant director for NDHSAA staff at the December 2025 meeting.

## Audience

Mark Anderson, CEO of Farmers Union Insurance, spoke to the Board of Directors, presenting a brief update about the current state of Farmers Union Insurance, NDHSAA Premier Partner. Executive Director Fetsch thanked Anderson and Farmers Union Insurance for their continued support for NDHSAA.

## Committee Reports

### Realignment

The Realignment Committee discussed tournament/playoff performance point thresholds following the Board of Directors action in June 2025 approving a change from a 3-year (basketball and volleyball) and 4-year (football) accumulation period to 6-year accumulations for all three sports. The Committee recommends changing the point threshold to 19 points. The Committee also recommends clarifying the first year of accumulation for basketball and volleyball will be the first year the sports utilized three divisions. Football has utilized four divisions since 1997, and the previous six years will be used to tabulate point accumulations.

Motion by Christensen to approve changing the tournament/playoff performance point thresholds to 19 points and clarifying the first year of accumulation for basketball and volleyball will be the first year the sports utilized three divisions.

Seconded by Berger.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee also discussed the potential of replacing current classification committees with the NDHSAA realignment committee, which was discussed in length at the Board Retreat last month. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee recommends the current Realignment Committee replace all sports specific classification committees effective immediately.

Motion by Tescher to approve replacing all the current classification committees with the Realignment Committee, effective immediately.

Seconded by Martin.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee discussed Football guidelines 11d. regarding playoff performance points for “opt down” teams and recommend eliminating this language from the guidelines, as well as regulation 13 regarding communication for future game schedules.

Motion by Bakke to eliminate 11d and regulation 13 from the Football guidelines.

Seconded by Simpfenderfer.

Motion carried unanimously.

### Constitution & By-Laws

The Committee reviewed Part II, Article XIV, Section IX of the NDHSAA Constitution, also known as “The Transfer Rule.” The Committee recommends pursuing a new format of the same information. This would all be Board policy, so could be adjusted in the future by the Board of Directors without any member school vote. The Committee also discussed the current transfer rule, its application to virtual/online students, and any other relevant items.

The Committee began conversation on a potential member school vote in the future on the “re-transfer rule,” which existed in the NDHSAA Constitution until 2009. The addition of a similar rule would require vote of the membership at the General Assembly in March 2026 for implementation. The Committee would like to discuss this topic as a full Board of Directors before any further work on the topic.

The Committee reviewed the current NDHSAA “Coop Guidelines.” The Committee discussed a cleaner version of these guidelines. Again, there are no changes to the information, just a new format.

The Committee also discussed potential changes to the current cooperative guidelines discussed at the Board of Directors retreat last month, including the potential of schools who did not sponsor a team or individual sport the previous year being able to submit coop applications after the current deadline. The Committee would like to discuss the topic as a full Board of Directors before any further work on the topic.

The Committee discussed the current “Out of Season Coaching Rules.” The Committee briefly discussed the current rules, potentially adjusting the current application to 9-12 grade students only, as well as the potential of removing the policy altogether. The Committee had no recommendation and would like to discuss the topic as a full Board in December.

The Committee discussed the “Coop By-Law,” approved through a by-law vote of the membership last April. Discussion was specific to the portion which lists the sports that are exempt from the by-law, as well as the enrollment cut off between Class A and Class B. The Committee had no recommendation and will review current coop enrollments at a future meeting.

Motion by Tescher to approve the Constitution & By-Laws Committee report.

Seconded by Berger.

Motion carried unanimously.

### Fine Arts & Academics

Hanson presented the Fine Arts & Academics Committee report.

The Committee recommended increasing the State Debate qualifiers to 12 team brackets in Divisions I & II Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum.

Motion by Christensen to increase State Debate qualifiers to 12 team brackets in Divisions I & II Lincoln-Douglas and Public forum.

Seconded by Berger.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee recommended establishing that Debate Qualifier tournament not to count in regular season tournament max and to increase qualifier school registration limit to 4 entries per division.

Motion by Christensen to approve establishing that Debate Qualifier tournament not to count in regular season tournament max and to increase qualifier school registration limit to 4 entries per division.

Seconded by Derr.

Motion carried unanimously.

The committee reviewed Fine Arts copyright. The committee will need to continue reviewing this and there is no action necessary at this time.

### Media

Derr presented the Media Committee report.

The Committee reviewed the exclusive coverage process for football playoff declined events. The Committee recommended approving a bidding process with minimum bid set at the currently established double the exclusive rights to a declined event.

Motion by Simfenderfer to approve the football playoff exclusive rights for declined events bidding process as presented.

Seconded by Hanson.

Motion carried unanimously.

### Tournament

Berger presented the Tournament Committee report.

Newman Arena in Jamestown has a scheduling conflict when they would be hosting the 2026 Girls Basketball East State Qualifier games. The Committee recommended moving the games to Mayville State.

Motion by Tescher to move the 2026 Girls Basketball East State Qualifier games from Newman Arena to Mayville State.

Seconded by Jung.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Hardship Appeals**

Two hardship appeals were heard by the Committee. One out of the two was approved.

Motion by Simpfenderfer to approve the Hardship Appeals Committee report.

Seconded by Christensen.

Motion carried unanimously.

**North Dakota Officials Association**

Fletschock presented the report from the North Dakota Officials Association September 17, 2025, meeting.

NDOA requested elimination of the sit rule in all sports immediately.

Motion by Berseth to eliminate the sit rule in all sports effective immediately.

Seconded by Simpfenderfer.

Motion carried unanimously.

NDOA requested that line judges receive per diem in addition to their pay at State Volleyball.

Motion by Lunde to pay line judges per diem and mileage for state volleyball.

Seconded by Bakke.

Motion carried eleven to one. Tescher voted no.

**Athletic Review**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| <b>Boys Golf</b>   |      |
| <b>Class A &amp; B</b>   |      |
| 1. Add the following tiebreakers at region meets to determine state qualifiers: 1) Scores on last nine holes of the round; 2) If still tied, compare scores on the last six holes of the round; 3) If still tied, compare scores on last three holes of the round; 4) If still tied; the score on the 18th hole determines the winner. | 11-0 |
| <b>Track &amp; Field</b>   |      |
| <b>Class A &amp; B</b>   |      |
| 1. Require all state qualifying meets to be FAT timed. If FAT timing fails, handheld times for those events will be allowed using the following formula (round the nearest 1/10th and add .24 seconds). The track meet shall not be delayed while fixing the FAT timing malfunction.   | 11-0 |
| 2. Region meets must weigh in all field implements.  | 11-0 |
| 3. Change flights for field events at state track as follows: 1. For competitions with participants of 12 or less, one flight. 2. For competitions of 13 to 24, two flights. 3. For competitions of more than 25, three flights.   | 11-0 |
| 4. Change the 14 regular season events limitation from "team and individual" limit to "individual" limit only.   | 12-0 |
| <b>Class A</b>   |      |

|   |      |
|---|------|
| 1. Adjust qualifying standards as follows: Girls 100 - 12.95 from 13.04; Girls 200 - 26.85 from 26.94; Girls 400 - 61.7 from 61.74; Girls 800 - 2:25.0 from 2:25.24; Girls 1600 - 5:30.0 from 5:30.24; Girls 3200 - 12:05 from 12:05.24; Girls 100H - 16.95 from 16.84; Girls 300H - 49.0 from 48.84; Boys 100 - 11.2 from 11.34; Boys 200 - 23.0 from 23.24; Boys 400 - 52.2 from 52.24; Boys 800 - 2:01.00 from 2:01.74; Boys 1600 - 4:35.00 from 4:35.24; Boys 3200 - 10:05 from 10:05.24; Boys 110 Hurdles - 16.1 from 16.14; Boys 300 Hurdles - 42.4 from 42.44; Boys Long Jump - 21' from 20'9"; Boys Javelin - 155' from 160'; Boys 4x100 - 45.4 from 45.44; Boys 4x200 - 1:34.00 from 1:34.24; Boys 4x400 - 3:34.0 from 3:34.24; Boys 4x800 - 8:24.0 from 8:24.24 | 12-0 |
| 2. Adjust provisional standards as follows: Girls 100 - 13.05 from 13.14; Girls 200 - 27.05 from 27.14; Girls 100H - 17.25 from 17.14; Girls 300H - 50.0 from 49.84; Boys 100 - 11.4 from 11.54; Boys 200 - 23.2 from 23.44; Boys 400 - 52.8 from 52.84; Boys 110 Hurdles - 16.5 from 16.64; Boys 300 Hurdles - 43.6 from 43.64; Boys Shot Put - 46' from 45'6"; Boys Long Jump - 20'3" from 20'  | 12-0 |
| <b>Class B</b>  |      |
| 1. Adjust qualifying standards as follows: Girls 100 - 12.95 from 13.04; Girls 200 - 26.75 from 26.94; Girls discus - 112' from 110'; Girls Javelin - 112' from 115'; Girls 4x100 - 52.15 from 52.84; Girls 4x200 - 1:50.55 from 1:51.54; Girls 4x400 - 4:16.25 from 4:18.24; Boys 110 Hurdles - 16.55 from 16.44; Boys 300 Hurdles - 42.65 from 42.44; Boys 4x100 - 45.75 from 45.94   | 12-0 |
| <b>Softball</b>   |      |
| <b>Class A &amp; B</b>  |      |
| 1. Add a 20-run rule after 3 innings.   | 12-0 |

## Presenting Partnership Request

Fenworks submitted a formal request to become a Presenting Partner of NDHSAA per the Presenting Partner Agreement policy for an esports state championship.

Motion by Berseth to approve a pilot year with Fenworks for the 2025-26 school year.

Seconded by Simpenderfer.

Motion carried unanimously.

## Swimming & Diving Rule

Beginning in the 27-28 school year, the NDHSAA will allow the use of the backstroke ledge in pools with a minimum of six feet (1.84 meters) water depth measured from the start end through sixteen feet five inches (5 meters) from the end wall. This does include regular and postseason events.

Motion by Derr

Seconded by Tescher

Motion carried unanimously.

## Member School Requests

Century High School requested NDHSAA grant one of their cross-country athletes permission to compete in the World Mountain and Trail Running Championships. The athlete would be representing the United States, and the event would potentially have Olympic qualification implications.

Motion by Berseth to approve Century High School's request as presented.

Seconded by Martin.

Motion carried unanimously.

Trenton High School requested that the NDHSAA Board of Directors grant an allowance for 6-Man schools play 10 games in a season, if the only schools doing so are the teams competing in the championship game. While this request specifically addresses this year's season, it is also being requested that this exception be extended to subsequent seasons.

Motion by Lunde to approve Trenton High School's request as presented for the 2025-26 school year.

Seconded by Berseth.

Motion carried unanimously.

Bismarck Public Schools proposed new language for Article XIV, Section III, Interpretation 18.

Motion by Berseth to completely strike Article XIV Section III Interpretation 18 from the Constitution & By-Laws.

Seconded by Christensen.

Motion carried unanimously.

### Next Meetings – Location, Date & Time

1. Thursday, December 4 - 10:00 am CDT - Valley City - NDHSAA Office

### Adjourn

Aanenson adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nick Walton  
Assistant Director

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