

**NORTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES  
DECEMBER 4, 2025 – VALLEY CITY - NDHSAA OFFICE**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Aanenson call the meeting to order at 10:03 am CST

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 Simpfenderfer to approve the agenda.

Seconded by Hanson.

Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

*APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

1. September 25, 2025
2. October 7, 2025

*FINANCIAL REPORTS*

1. Balance Sheets
  - a. September 2025
  - b. October 2025
2. Budget
  - a. September 2025
  - b. October 2025
3. Savings/Investments
  - a. September 2025
  - b. October 2025

*COOP DISSOLUTIONS*

1. Solen and Standing Rock in boys track and field, 7-12, 2025-26
2. Solen and Standing Rock in girls track and field, 7-12, 2025-26
3. Solen and Standing Rock in boys cross country, 7-12, 2026-27
4. Solen and Standing Rock in girls cross country, 7-12, 2026-27
5. West Fargo Sheyenne and West Fargo Horace in boys soccer, 7-12, 2026-27
6. West Fargo Sheyenne and West Fargo Horace in boys tennis, 7-12, 2026-27
7. Dickinson and New England in softball, 9-12, 2025-26

*COOP APPLICATIONS*

1. Shanley and Capstone Classical Academy in football, 7-12, 2027-28, no fee

2. Williston and Grenora in baseball, 7-12, 2025-26, no fee
3. Williston and Grenora in softball, 7-12, 2025-26, no fee

Motion by Derr to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Seconded by Tescher.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

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

NDHSAA received notification that School of the Holy Family will be closing at the end of the 2025-26 school year. All coop agreements will automatically dissolve on July 1, 2026. All students will be immediately eligible at whichever school they first attend in 2026-27.

Health insurance rates increased beginning December 1. The policy provider indicated another increase will happen next year.

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

Anenson presented the Executive Board report.

The Executive Board met on Monday, October 27, to rule on a self-reported school violation. Surrey Volleyball participated with an ineligible player. Surrey Volleyball forfeited all contests the player participated in and was issued a letter of reprimand. The player was deemed ineligible for the remainder of the 2025 season.

On Thursday, December 4, the Executive Board met to review an Emergency Football coop application between Shanley and Capstone Classical Academy. The Executive Board recommended approval of the application.

Motion by Berger to approve the emergency football coop application between Shanley and Capstone Classical Academy.

Seconded by Martin.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Board also recommended appointing a Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. Committee members would include:

- Dawn Mattern (Chair) – Family Medicine & Sports Medicine – Minot
- Erin Haugen – Sports Psychologist – Grand Forks
- Tabitha Muncy – Athletic Trainer – Valley City
- Ben Noonan – Orthopedic Surgeon – Fargo

Motion by Hanson to approve the appointment of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee as presented.

Seconded by Simpfenderfer.

Motion carried unanimously.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

*CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS*

Christensen presented the Constitution and By-laws Committee report.

The Committee continued the conversation on a potential by-law amendment proposal to reinstitute the “Retransfer Rule.” The Committee recommended the Board of Directors consider a first reading to share with NDHSAA member schools for feedback. A potential second reading would take place at the January 2026 Board of Directors meeting. As a reminder, a by-law amendment requires a vote of the membership at the NDHSAA General Assembly on March 30, 2026, for implementation and an electronic voting option must be sent to all member schools by February 27, 2026.

Motion by Martin to approve the first reading of the “Retransfer Rule” draft.

Seconded by Jung.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee continued discussion on the format of the current NDHSAA “Coop Guidelines.” The Committee recommended the Board of Directors consider a first reading. The only potential policy change is included under the “Schools with New Programs” section of the attachment, as it would allow member schools who did not sponsor a team or have any participants the previous year to apply for co-ops until the start of the season with no late fees. Currently, the co-op deadline of the start of the season with no late fee only applies to fine arts programs. A potential second reading could take place at any time from January 2026 on for implementation.

Motion by Martin to approve the first reading of the “Coop Guidelines” and “Schools with New Programs”.

Seconded by Lunde.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee discussed the current “Out of Season Coaching Rules” and drafted changes. The major changes in the draft are:

- a. Out of season coaching rule would apply to 9-12 grade students only, not 7-8 grade students
- b. Ability for 9-12 grade coaches to coach their players in a setting other than a team camp or contest during June and July.
- c. Addition of a Dead Period (one week that includes July 4th) where out of season coaching is prohibited.
- d. Elimination of the prohibition on individual camps for fall sports in August prior to the start of the season.

Motion by Berseth to approve updates to the “Out of Season Coaching Rules” as a first reading.

Seconded by Martin.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the “Enrollment and Classification” portion of the Co-op Guidelines and current enrollments of programs for sports that are exempt from the requirement of competing as Class A schools, as well as the enrollment cut-off between Class A and Class B. The Committee is aware a by-law amendment would be

necessary to change these numbers. They have no recommendation at this time but will continue discussion at a future meeting.

Motion by Bakke to approve the Constitution & By-Laws Committee report as presented.

Seconded by Derr.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### *COMBINED TOURNAMENT*

Berger presented the Combined Tournament Committee report.

The committee reviewed state tournament sites through 2032-33 and recommends the following changes:

2027-28

State A Baseball/Softball – Mandan to Dickinson

2028-29

State A Baseball/Softball – Dickinson to Jamestown

2030-31

State A Baseball/Softball – Bismarck to Minot

Stacey Anderson from WDAY provided an update after their first year of televising all state championships in 2024-25. He asked that the Combined Tournament Committee consider internet and power when considering future hosts. Anderson also discussed the availability of live stats for all tournaments and will explore platforms to use in the future.

The Committee discussed all future state golf tournament sites, particularly those scheduled for private country clubs. Currently only host cities are assigned by the committee, with local coaches helping coordinate the host course. NDHSAA Staff will gather data from other states and the Committee will further discuss the topic at their spring meeting when future sites are reviewed.

NDHSAA Assistant Director reviewed state swimming and diving attendance numbers from last month's state girls meet. Based on actual attendance, 900 seats are needed to accommodate the event.

The Combined Tournament format for state baseball and softball tournaments was discussed. There was no interest expressed in changing the format in the future. Allowing metal cleats at state baseball tournaments was also discussed. The topic will be discussed further at the spring meeting.

The Combined Tournament Committee will meet again on March 30, 2026, in Fargo.

Motion by Derr to approve the Combined Tournament Committee report as presented.

Seconded by Christensen.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### *TOURNAMENT*

Berger presented the Tournament Committee report.

The Committee reviewed proposed Fall 2026 region tournament sites. All districts and regions agreed on sites except for Region 1B volleyball. District 1 recommended Lisbon High School (5-4 vote) and District 2 recommended the University of Jamestown (9-0 vote). The Committee recommended the University of Jamestown based on the overall 13-5 vote of the 18 volleyball teams in the region.

Also, the Committee recommended the following sites for the 2026 volleyball state qualifier matches, with the thought that sites in Region 1 (East) and Region 4 (West) would host state qualifiers in 2027:

Division A & B East Qualifiers – Mayville State University

Division A & B West Qualifiers – Minot Auditorium

Motion by Martin to approve the Tournament Committee report sites as presented.

Seconded by Jung.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### *PERSONNEL & POLICY*

Bakke presented the Personnel & Policy Committee report.

The NDHSAA Personnel & Policy Committee reviewed previous and current drafts of a potential job description and hiring timeline for a new Assistant Director position beginning in the 2026-27 fiscal year.

The Committee recommended the Board of Directors approve the creation of the Assistant Director position for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Motion by Berseth to approve the creation of the new Assistant Director position for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Seconded by Martin.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### *FINANCE*

Tescher presented the Finance Committee report.

The committee reviewed tournament financial reports. The committee recommended increasing the maximum amounts for tournament workers.

Motion by Lunde to approve the tournament financial report.

Seconded by Simpfenderfer.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee discussed the 2026-27 preliminary budget and the reserve fund.

The Committee discussed potential building renovations to accommodate the addition of a new staff member.

The Committee reviewed a proposal from Dacotah Bank. No action was taken.

Motion by Hanson to approve the Finance Committee report as presented.

Seconded by Berseth.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### *FINE ARTS*

Hanson presented the Fine Arts & Academics Committee report.

The Committee recommended approval of the proposed resolution selection process for State Student Congress. The proposed process reduces the amount of prep work required of coaches and competitors and removes potential competitive inequities.

Motion by Tescher to approve the proposed resolution process for State Student Congress.

Seconded by Martin.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee discussed one-act plays music copyright and sent a revised form requirement to NDHSAA legal counsel for review. The Committee will meet following legal opinion.

Motion by Jung to approve the Fine Arts & Academics Committee report.

Seconded by Christensen.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### *REALIGNMENT*

Lunde presented the Realignment Committee report.

The Committee reviewed preliminary adjusted male enrollments for grades 7-10 based on 2025 fall enrollments and the most recent free and reduced lunch data. This data is used for 2027 & 2028 football classifications.

Motion by Christensen to approve the male adjusted enrollment numbers for 2027 & 2028 football classifications.

Seconded by Derr.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the football classification guidelines and recommended adding language to clarify when enrollment numbers and free and reduced lunch data are pulled, as well as amending the deadline to move up a division from the Friday after Dakota Bowl to October 15th to align with other declaration deadlines. The recommended language is available below:

Step 1: Obtain total male enrollment numbers for grades 7-10 as provided by the Department of Public Instruction. Enrollments are pulled from Fall reports in September 2025.

Step 2: Multiply the enrollment created in Step 1 by the percentage of the student body that qualified for free and reduced meals during the previous school year (2024-25) according to

Department of Public Instruction data. That number will be multiplied by 50%. ~~\*November 20, 2026~~ October 15, 2026 – Deadline for requests to move up a division.

Motion by Christensen to approve changes to the football classification guidelines as presented.

Seconded by Simpfenderfer.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee reviewed Fall 2025 9-12 grade enrollments used for basketball and volleyball classifications. 2026-27 classifications for boys and girls basketball, including 2025 fall enrollments, are attached. Volleyball classifications were previously approved for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school years when a third division was added and will not change until 2027-28.

Motion by Simpfenderfer to approve the 2025 9-12 grade enrollment numbers for boys and girls basketball.

Seconded by Martin.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee reviewed teams who are eligible to change divisions in 2026-27 according to their enrollments and recommended the following region or district placements for 2026-27:

- Four Winds girls and boys basketball – Division B, Region 2, District 4
- Minnewauken volleyball – Division B, Region 2, District 4
- Nedrose girls and boys basketball – Division B, Region 3, District 6

Motion by Martin to approve the recommended region and district placements for 2026-27 as presented.

Seconded by Jung.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee reviewed teams who will be starting a program this school year and recommended the following 2025-26 region placements:

- Richland boys wrestling – Class B, East Region
- Richland girls wrestling – Class B, East Region
- New England softball – Class B Region 4
- Solen boys and girls track and field – Class B South Central Region

Motion by Tescher to approve the recommended team placements for 2025-26 as presented.

Seconded by Simpfenderfer.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### *MEDIA*

Derr presented the Media Committee report.

The Committee reviewed the exclusive coverage process that was utilized for the first time during Fall 2025 postseason events.

The Committee reviewed topics brought up by current media partners, including but not limited to:

- a. Exclusivity process
- b. Declaration timelines for postseason events
- c. Contingency bids as part of the bidding process
- d. Order of declaration for events with NFHS Network cameras

The Committee discussed the current signage policy for media partners at region and state events. The Committee agreed that any television or video streaming partner be authorized to display company signage on site at events.

The Committee authorized NDHSAA Staff to work with NFHS Network management regarding declaration priority.

The Committee recommended an exclusive coverage bidding window for 2026 winter sports tournaments. The Committee plans to review the exclusive coverage process for the 2026-27 school year at a future meeting.

Motion by Tescher to approve the exclusive coverage bidding window for 2026 winter sports tournaments.

Seconded by Berger.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### *HARDSHIP APPEALS*

Fetsch presented the Hardship Appeals Committee report.

The Committee denied one appeal since the last meeting.

Motion by Hanson to approve the Hardship Appeals Committee report.

Seconded by Bakke.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

The NDCCA submitted a Presenting Partnership application.

Aanenson will appoint a committee to review this letter and all future letters for Presenting Partnerships, as well as to determine how these agreements should be structured prior to the January Board meeting.

#### NEXT MEETINGS – LOCATION, DATE & TIME

1. Thursday, January 22, 2026 – 10:00 am CST – Valley City – NDHSAA Office

#### ADJOURN

Motion by Simpfenderfer to adjourn.

Seconded by Berger.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm CDT/CST.

SIGNATURE

Respectfully submitted,  
Nickolas Walton  
Assistant Director

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