

**Combined Tournament Committee  
December 7, 2011  
Carrington, North Dakota**

The Tournament Committee met on December 7, 2011 in Carrington. Athletic administrators present were Pat McNally, Minot; Ed Lockwood, Fargo; Curt Jones, West Fargo; Jim Roaldson, Jamestown; Todd Olson, Grand Forks; Lorell Jungling, Mandan; Jim Haussler, Bismarck. Member of the NDHSAA Board of Directors was Scott Ulland, May-Port CG, chair of the committee. NDHSAA staff in attendance included Sheryl Solberg, Matthew Fetsch and Brenda Schell. Other guests were Rob Sobolik, manager of the FargoDome, Charlie Jeske, manager of the Bismarck Civic Center and Jennifer Guidinger, Minot Convention & Visitors Bureau.

As the committee reviewed previously approved tournament sites, Haussler shared with the change of demographics, there are difficulties in the planning and hosting events. With that in mind, how do we take care of the communities that will be doing the bulk of the travel. This is an issue that will need to be addressed often in the upcoming pans. Lockwood expressed gratitude to those that helped et through the fall with the changing of venues and the cooperation of managers to help with the short amount of time to plan tournaments when sites were changed. McNally thanked the tournament managers and communities that took up the tournaments of which Minot was unable to host.

The committee was asked to review the placement of the 2012 Boys' State Swimming and Diving meet. It was stated the facility in Jamestown was unable to accommodate the number of fans according to the attendance numbers from the previous state meets. Maximum seating at the Jamestown facility is 525. At the 2011 Boys' State Meet, paid attendance was 748 not counting spectators that would be representatives of the school. Roaldson agreed we need to provide a facility that can do justice for the athletes for the state meet which would include accommodating parents and fans seating. Haussler stated this is a losing situation for Roaldson which is beyond his control. The numbers have shown the Jamestown facility cannot accommodate the numbers. Although the site needs to be moved, it is a difficult situation in which the Jamestown administration has no control. The committee felt this must be clear to the community of Jamestown. Lockwood added when Jamestown was selected as a site five years ago, attendance did not indicate the numbers to which this event has grown. Setting criteria for sites for events was discussed. Haussler stated the tournament committee and the NDHSAA Board of Directors should be the group that sets criteria. Also, if the site is changed, room availability may also be an issue.

Lockwood recommended the committee go on record endorsing the moving of the 2012 State Boys' Swimming and Diving Meet to an alternate venue with Option #1 Mandan leaving the future rotations as is and Option #2 the Bismarck Aquatic Center moving the site rotations up one year. Motion carried with Roaldson indicating a dissenting vote.

Because of damage of the golf courses in Minot, the State A Boys' Golf Tournament site must be moved. Jungling is unable to secure Prairie West as there is not availability. Roaldson has checked into this and the Country Club is unable to host as they still have

flooding issues. The Hillcrest course is available. Also, there is a possibility of Hawk Tree. Motion by Jones the 2012 A Boys' State Golf Tournament be moved to Jamestown Hillcrest Golf Course. Haussler second. It was agreed, if the course availability is an issue, the date could be adjusted. Motion carried.

The committee discussed concerns which have been shared about the hosting of the 2012 State Cross Country meet in Dickinson. The rooming issue was discussed. Few teams would be staying the night before the meet as the start is late in the day and teams traveling gain an hour. Rooms have been blocked by the Dickinson management for this event. No action was taken.

McNally stated Minot at this point will be able to host all but the State Girls' Tennis Tournament although the courts are in need of repair. This is depending on how the park district schedules the repairs of all their facilities. Jennifer Guidinger of the Minot Convention & Visitors Bureau addressed concerns which are not only team rates for rooms but or parent/fan as well. Guidinger indicated she is willing to go back to Minot and attempt to secure hotel blocks for parents and fans. Charlie Jeske of the Bismarck Civic Center indicated when there is a big event in a community; it does possibly raise the room rates. Jones shared the key to securing rooms is not to go to extremes.

As the discussion concerning the Girls' State Tennis site, Roaldson shared Jamestown is looking at building a fitness center which could possibly house indoor tennis courts.

Chairman Ulland asked to hear from the venue managers and city representatives present. Jeske of the Bismarck Civic Center indicated they welcome events to Bismarck and feels Bismarck is a good fit for the Class A Boys' and Girls' State Basketball Tournament. The setup is spectator and team friendly. Wrestling has a better fit at the FargoDome with better room for wrestlers. He indicated he would be happy go visit about this. In order to properly plan securing facilities for events, he would like to see the sites planned out 7 or 8 years to avoid conflicts with trade shows, etc. that are looking that far out to secure facilities. Sobolic stated venues are about the student athletes. There are some events that need to be held in venues that are not controlled by schools. Sobolic indicated appreciation the NDHSAA has reached out to the venue managers asking them to participate in the committee discussions and to be used as a resource by the tournament committee and the NDHSAA. He expressed a wish to take steps to insure the overall experience of the student athlete is important.

The committee needs to listen to coaches and athletes and be sensitive to their concerns and needs. With some venues a better fit, maybe we need to continue talk about permanent venues. Which facilities accommodate certain tournaments the best? Encourage the Board to look at some more permanent sites. Other states are not using any rotation based plan for setting sites and are mostly using permanent sites.

Chairman Ulland asked the committee if they would like to be involved in the recommendations for permanent sites.

Lockwood stated conversation on the possibility of permanent sites has been sidelined several times with various issues. Some of the permanent sites could be Bismarck for Track & Field for instance.

Haussler shared there is political pressure from each manager's community. If there are to be permanent sites, that should be the job of the Board.

Sobolik stated it is not only good to know what event is awarded by need to know the actual date for which a facility is to be reserved. The committee was informed the Board has set dates out five years. Jeske suggested if a venue is contracted for a 3-year contract, that could help to solidify expenses, etc.

Following extensive discussion, the committee agreed there needs to be suggested sites out to and including the 2018-19 school year. Some sites are suggested to be permanent and/or semi-permanent. The sites recommended are:

The committee meetings for the 2012-13 year are scheduled for December 5, 2012 and April 10, 2013.

The next meeting will be April 11, 2012.

Chairman Ulland declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheryl Solberg, Recorder  
Asst. to the Exec. Sec.