

**North Dakota High School Activities Association
Combined Tournament Committee
September 9, 2020 - 10:00 AM CDT**

The NDHSAA Combined Tournament Committee met September 9, 2020 via conference call with Paul Jundt, Chairperson.

Members present: Dave Zittleman, Bismarck; Mark Wiest, Mandan; Mark Rerick, Grand Forks; Mitch Lunde, Minot; Todd Olson, Fargo; Guy Fridley, Dickinson; Paul Jundt, Bismarck Legacy; Jim Roaldson, Jamestown; Jay DeCann, West Fargo; Jeremy Brandt, Central Valley

Others present: Matt Fetsch, Justin Fletschock, Kevin Morast, Tom Mix, Brian Bubach and Brenda Schell

Fetsch provided an overall view of NDHSAA finances including the 2020-21 annual operating budget, which includes a 10% overall reduction in expenses. Reductions were realized by restructured staff contracts, changing awards, lowering travel expenses through virtual meetings, cutting non-essential travel, changing how catastrophic insurance premiums are paid and reducing technology, legal, and equipment expenses. Fetsch indicated tournament expenses may look different this fall. A percentage of gate may be considered for expenses at member school tournament sites instead of itemized line items as used in past years.

The tournament committee walked through the guiding principles for 2020 fall tournaments. Committee members were surveyed for district/local health policies on the following:

1. Overnight trip philosophy/school policies
 - a. All indicated their districts are limiting travel with few overnight trips allowed.
 - b. All indicated their districts would allow travel for state tournaments.
2. Fan limitations and public health recommendations along with ND State Smart Restart limits and recommendations were discussed by host city.
 - a. Minot has a limit of 500 people for indoor and outdoor events. The local health department allows entities to petition to raise that level. The WDA is discussing separating days for region tennis and having home team matches for some or all rounds of the region tennis team tournament. Allowing only parents at region and state golf tournaments should adequately fit within current fan limitations.
 - b. Grand Forks has a limit of 500 people for indoor and outdoor events. Rerick plans to utilize the same wristband process as they are using for regular season. He is in communication with the manager of the tennis facility to work out details for state tennis.
 - c. Fargo has been in communication with the Fargo Parks District concerning fan limitations at region tennis. Fans gather in the middle of the tennis facility and Fargo Parks is not interested in having fans in their facility. They will continue to discuss options. Olson indicated there are soccer fields available in West Fargo and Fargo North for the state soccer tournament. The state volleyball and football tournaments will be held at the FargoDome, which currently has a fan limit of 10,000 people for NDSU's football game.
 - d. West Fargo is scheduled to host the state swim and dive competition at Hulbert Aquatic Center which is currently allowing 50% capacity which would be 281 total people including workers and swimmers. Under current limits fans would not be allowed.
 - e. Jamestown has a current limit of 500 people for indoor and outdoor events. Cross country would be limited to 500. Roaldson questioned if A & B divisions could be run on separate days. One late Friday afternoon and another division on Saturday. Fetsch indicated due to ND Century Code, no contests can take place on that Friday. Fetsch also indicated the elimination of award ceremonies after each division will expediate the process of moving individuals in and out of the area.
 - f. Bismarck currently has a limit of 500 people at outdoor activities. The indoor limit is less than 500 and has not been an issue.
 - g. Dickinson is no longer hosting any tournaments this fall. The WDA moved west region volleyball to Watford City.

3. Television contract commitments were discussed.
 - a. State Football will have four championship games on ABC.
 - b. State Volleyball will have Class A and B semifinals, third place and championship matches on BEK.

The committee reviewed NDHSAA 2020 fall tournaments and possible changes were discussed.

1. Region Class A Girls Golf - September 28 - Grand Forks and Minot
 - a. Start time of 11:00 am or noon with a shotgun start to allow all teams to drive in.
2. State Class A Girls Golf - October 5-6 - Minot
 - a. Shotgun start each day.
3. Boys Region Tennis – October 1-3 – Fargo and Minot
 - a. Region format changes discussed:
 - i. Eliminate all consolation matches at region
 - ii. Qualify 4 teams in team, singles and doubles
 - iii. Home sites for all region team matches
 1. Play-in matches on Monday
 2. Quarterfinal matches on Tuesday
 3. Championship and third place matches on Thursday.
4. State Boys Tennis – October 8-10 – Grand Forks
 - a. State format changes
 - i. Eliminate all consolation matches at state
 - ii. Qualify 4 teams in team, singles and doubles
 - iii. First round on Tuesday home of higher seeds.
 - iv. Team semi-finals and finals on Friday.
 - v. Entire singles and doubles tournaments on Saturday.
5. State Boys Soccer – October 8-10 – Fargo
 - a. Olson would like to see no consolation in any sport.
 - b. Soccer specifically: 4 matches Thursday – 2 matches Friday – 2 matches Saturday.
 - i. Possibly home sites for quarterfinals, 2 matches on Friday (1 & 3pm) and 2 matches on Saturday.
6. State Cross Country – October 24 – Jamestown
 - a. Multiple days, possibly Saturday and Monday. Friday and Saturday would not work due to ND state law limiting contests on the Friday of that weekend. Limit number of qualifiers. Space out start to two waves of runners. Have the top 5 runners from each team start then next 5 in a staggered start would help alleviate congestion at the start line. Class B races are more of a challenge due to numbers.
 - b. East region has been running 7 runners from each school in races and running multiple races for the regular season.
 - c. West region is looking at running a JV division at their conference meet to have smaller races with 4 divisions.
7. Region Class B Volleyball – November 9, 10, and 12 – various sites
 - a. Many region managers are not willing to bring multiple towns into their schools. Discussing home sites for first round.
 - b. Media committee will review the region rate cards prior to region tournaments. Fetsch noted 69 of 170 schools are signed up as NFHS Pixelot schools so video streaming may be a viable option.
8. Region Class A Volleyball – November 10, 12, 13, and 14 – Dickinson and Grand Forks
 - a. Wiest indicated the WDA conference discussed the higher seed host through all three rounds of volleyball to decrease travel and crowds.
 - b. Rerick indicated the EDC conference also discussed having the higher seed host through all three rounds of region volleyball to decrease travel and crowds.
 - c. Lunde questioned what other regions were doing for seeding. Olson indicated EDC will use NDHSAA Class B State seeding procedure to poll coaches if normal seeding cannot be utilized.
9. State Volleyball – November 19-21 – Fargo
 - a. Currently the fan restrictions at the FargoDome will not inhibit the state volleyball tournament.
10. State Football – November 13 – Fargo

- a. Currently the fan restrictions at the FargoDome will not inhibit the Dakota Bowl.
- 11. State Girls Swim & Dive – November 13-14 – West Fargo
 - a. Options:
 - i. Have diving one day (Friday). Limit to top 8 from East and West and eliminate qualifying times.
 - ii. Have diving at a separate sight.
 - iii. Have no qualifying rounds, place finishers by best time only.
 - iv. One day event would be possible with finals only.
 - v. Fetsch will be meeting with the NFHS Network September 9th to discuss what tournaments they will stream.
- 12. Possible Tournament Changes - COVID-related
 - a. T-Shirt Sales
 - i. Fetsch met with Coaches Choice. Suggestion to have pre-orders and there is a possibility of post tournament online orders. Managers would not need to provide a group to sell T-shirts.
 - b. Awards Ceremonies
 - i. Included in Return to Competition all regular season and post season awards ceremonies are cancelled.
 - c. Ticket Prices
 - i. Finance Committee will discuss ticket prices over the next few weeks.
 - d. Manager Fees
 - i. Finance Committee will discuss manager fees, officials and awards
 - e. Expenses
 - i. Expenses were discussed at the beginning of the meeting.
 - f. Programs
 - i. Discussed the possibility of moving to online programs. Olson indicated it is a great time to try this and indicated their printer is set up to do this. Link on NDHSAA website.
- 13. Other
 - a. Staff will meet with fall sport advisory concerning proposed changes to fall tournaments.
 - b. Fetsch indicated surveying schools for overnight travel was not needed after the feedback received from this committee.

Jundt questioned the elimination of consolation rounds. NDHSAA's purpose is to provide kids with opportunities to participate and questioned if elimination of consolation rounds was in line with that purpose. In his observation, kids in activities appear to be far more careful than the general public. Limiting fans and providing webstreams of contests would allow revenue through subscriptions without the crowds.

Fetsch will present options to the Board to discern their philosophical view of tournaments. Each tournament may have to be reviewed independently as limitations may vary between venues.

Lunde would like to possibly meet in mid-October to address winter activities. Wrestling will need to be reviewed to see what could be done using current guidelines.

Fetsch will create a collaborative document for feedback from the Combined Tournament Committee. Fetsch will also notify this committee when Board decisions are made.

Next Combined Tournament Committee meeting date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 – 2:00 pm CDT – via conference call.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Schell
Assistant Director