

NDOA Fall Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2026
3:30 pm CT Video Conference

1. Call to order

- a. Board Members Present: Whitney Aberle, Perry Olson, Naomi Erdahl, Chad Palmer, Courtney Klein, Connor Dunn, Wade Zahn. Absent- Todd Fischer
- b. NDHSAA- Kayl Hamre, Justin Flitschock, Nathan Berseth
2. **Approve agenda** – Motion: Naomi, 2nd: Courtney (unanimous)
3. **Approval of 2026 Winter Meeting minutes** – Motion: Wade, 2nd: Perry (unanimous)
4. **Election of President/VP** – Motion by Naomi, 2nd by Perry to elect Chad Palmer as President. Motion by Courtney, 2nd by Naomi to elect Perry Olson as Vice President.
5. **Board Term update**
 - a. Perry Olson, Todd Fisher & Courtney Klien up for re-election in Fall of '27

Name	Term 1	Term 2	Geography
Aberle, Whitney	23 - 26	27-30	Northwest
Olson, Perry	24 - 27		Northwest
Erdahl, Naomi	25 - 28		Southwest
Fisher, Todd	20 - 23	24 -27	Southwest
Palmer, Chad	23 - 26	27-30	Northeast
Klein, Courtney	24 - 27		Northeast
Dunn, Connor	27-30		Southeast
Zahn, Wade	21 - 24	25 - 28	Southeast

6. Board Members Agenda Items

- a. Courtney:
 - i. Recruitment of Officials- Volleyball numbers lacking in Northeast
 - ii. Concerns about lack of officials, and who the responsibility falls on. Could we register more high school students for JH events?
 1. Perry talks with coaches/ADs in his area about getting him names of students who could become officials.
 - iii. Sit Out Rule Discussion- has been approached by officials about the sit out rules. The board discussed the stats of new officials working in tournaments the past few years, the need for intentional blending of newer/veteran officials, amount of officials needed and quality of officials at tournaments.

7. Review NDHSAA Action Items from 2025-2026 year

- a. Board approved, if needed, adding 3 mats and up to 6 new officials to state tournament for 2027
 - i. Concerns of 12 mats being too much for fans, seating, and media television

8. Possible NDHSAA Action Items for 2026-2027

- a. Officials Pay Schedule
 - i. Never done inflation percentage. Perry reported that he was asked about a \$25, and \$25 jump. NDOA feels that would be too steep for schools, especially with many schools already crunched for budgets.
 - ii. 6% increase for next two years- Motion by Perry, 2nd- Wade. (Unanimous)- will be brought to the NDHSAA Board of Directors for next step
- b. Officials Registration Fees- the board felt it is best to leave as is, but table it to the winter meeting for a revisit.

9. State Wrestling pay- Need to see how tournament looks, talked about in agenda item #7

- a. Potentially adding 3 mats, and up to 6 new officials to state for 2027 Tournament. Number could be up to 30 total officials. 2 Officials working each mat.
- b. This is idea of adding 3 mats is still being discussed logistics wise.
- c. No Action taken

10. Select State Active Official Awards:

- a. Baseball: Brian Borr
- b. Boys Basketball: Brent Weber
- c. Girls Basketball: Jared Lehman
- d. Football: Jim Breen
- e. Gymnastics:
- f. Hockey: Scott Krabbenhoft
- g. Soccer: Kemal Sabanovic
- h. Softball: Mike Lien
- i. Swimming: Kim Kuntz
- j. Volleyball: Jeff Delzer
- k. Wrestling: Scott Carblom
- l. Discussion by Board: How to recognize these officials? Social Media Post? Work with Tom and area schools.

11. 2026 Hall of Fame Nominations

- a. Carl Buechler- 2nd year- No Motion
- b. Todd Christiansen- Final Year- No Motion
- c. Kevin Dawley- Final Year- No Motion
- d. Marchel Krieger- 1st Year- No Motion
- e. Luther Sannes- Final Year- Motion Perry, 2nd- Whitney (Unanimous)
- f. Perry Smith- 2nd year- No motion
- g. Tim Steinwand- 2nd year- No motion

12. Secretary's Report- Kayl Hamre

a. NDOA Constitution Review

- i. Article IV- Section II.- 1: Date change from July 1st to August 1st
 - 1. Motion- Chad, 2nd – Naomi (Unanimous)
- ii. Article IV- Section II.- 2: Quadrant numbers in constitution don't add up to current representation. Update constitution to reflect all quadrants with 2 representatives.
 - 1. Motion- Chad, 2nd- Courtney (unanimous)
- iii. By-Laws- Article I- Dues: update to current registration Fees.
 - 1. Motion- Chad, 2nd- Courtney (Unanimous)

b. Selection Process for Region/State Tournaments- discussion held about process, with each sport having different regulations and ways of selection. Hamre updated on area states and their processes.

c. RefReps Curriculum- to be used in Schools/University Courses

d. Ineligible Officials- options to become eligible again. Hamre brought up possibility of paying a fine, taking a RefReps course, double the registration fees. The board felt to leave the current eligibility forms the way it is.

e. Spectator Ejection Data for 2025-2026

- i. 29 Ejections (25 adults, 4 students) down from 33 previous year
 - 1. 58% Basketball, 16% Hockey, 11% Football, 6% Volleyball, 3% Wrestling, 2% Soccer/Baseball/Softball

f. Officials Registration Recap 25-26 year

g. State Tournament Patches

h. Official Basketball Ref Shirt- as was decided in the April 2026 NDOA Board meeting, the official basketball referee shirt for the NDHSAA will be the "NCAA Mens Shirt" (black and white stripes with black shoulders). For the 26-27 & 27-28 Basketball seasons, either the previous High School Shirt or the NCAA Men's Shirt will be allowed, however all crews must match. By the 28-29 season, the NCAA Men's shirt will be exclusively worn. **ALL NDHSAA postseason tournament (region and state) officials will be required to be wearing the NCAA Men's shirt starting with the current 26-27 Basketball season.**

i. Pregame Basketball Jackets- the board will continue the stance that all crews must match if wearing a jacket. Hamre will research new jackets/sublimated logos.

j. Ref Training/Ref Masters- NDHSAA office is looking to take a more active training approach with video trainings. An officials app, RefMasters, will be coming. Hamre will send information out when the app is up and running.

13. Date and Time for Next Meeting – March 31st @ 3:30 pm – Online Meeting (next NDHSAA Board meeting is April 6th)

a. Motion to adjourn- Courtney, 2nd - Perry