

**North Dakota High School Activities Association
Board of Directors-Special Meeting
December 17, 2008**

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota High School Activities Association held a special meeting on December 17, 2008. President Lyson called the meeting to order with all members present except Schatz.

Also present were Williston High School Athletic Administrator, Cory Hanson and Williston High School Coach, Mikaela Rehak to answer questions regarding their letter of request to allow a member of their girls' hockey team to participate as an unattached individual at an invitational tournament for the purpose of possible recruitment by college coaches. This tournament is being held during the Christmas break which is during the high school season.

The Executive Secretary reviewed with the Board page 18, Section III of the Constitution & By-Laws which addresses participation as a member of any other than a high school team during that sport season.

Jacobson asked if other activities such as cross country have done the same. The Executive Secretary clarified this type of participation is done outside of the high school season and these people compete as unattached individuals. If this is done during the high school season, it must have Olympic or International ramifications or, as in the fall season of Girls' Class A Golf, a continuance of the Junior Golf Association qualifying series.

Knodle asked how this student was chosen to participate in the invitational tournament. Coach Rehak indicated she was chosen from a tournament in which she participated in September.

Maus asked if this was different from students participating in AAU basketball during the high school season which is contrary to regulations.

Athletic Administrator Hanson shared this would be an opportunity to play at a higher level as individuals have to be invited to play. Hanson also pointed out girls' hockey has come a long way but not to the point where recruiters will come to western North Dakota to watch. Does the Board have the authority to waive this by-law.

Maus shared the regulation is meant to be protective of the players. The Executive Secretary also stated coaches need not deal with this type of situation during the season by having it enforced on the state level.

Eastgate asked if there has been any type of precedent setting decision that would be similar to this request.

In response to Sanstead's statement of this being a chance of a lifetime, Maus reminded the Board the purpose of the NDHSAA is to promote high school activities rather than promoting college scholarships.

Lyson asked if this tournament is similar to the Chicago Showcase. It was clarified the Chicago Showcase is held in April and in the past, there has been a girls' division but has been discontinued. Previously, the Williston student has had the opportunity to participate in this event.

Motion by Sanstead to approve the request from Williston High School to allow a girls' hockey player to participate in the Connecticut Polar Bears Christmas Tournament. Second by Ranum. In discussion, Maus stated the by-law is in place and the Board does not have the authority to change without going through the process. If the by-law is wrong, there is a process to change it. A roll call vote was taken with the following result: Knodle, no; Moe, no; Looyesen, no; Sanstead, yes; Swiontek, yes; Maus, no; Eastgate, no; Jacobson, no; Ranum, yes; Lyson, no. Motion failed, 2-8.

The Executive Secretary reminded the Board of the upcoming Re-alignment Committee meeting January 8, 2009 in Valley City. The Committee consists of Schatz, Maus, Swiontek and Jacobson.

With no further business, President Lyson declared the meeting adjourned.

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