

NOTES

**North Dakota High School Activities Association
Class A Review
May 18, 2016, Valley City, ND**

Class A Review met via conference call on May 18, 2016.

Attendees: Mitch Lunde, Minot Public Schools, Mark Rerick, Grand Forks Public Schools, Travis Christensen, Fargo North High School, Jim Roaldson, Jamestown Public Schools

Two topics were brought forth for discussion.

1. Aluminum bats in Class A baseball
2. Face protection in fast-pitch softball

Rerick and Christensen surveyed the east region ADs and 9 of 11 schools in the east region would like to change to aluminum bats.

Lunde indicated this is not a cost issue for the schools it is mostly a cost for families. Schools provide bats for their teams, however many players purchase their own bats. No other high school or college league in the area uses wood bats. Players in American Legion and NDHSAA baseball are buying wood and aluminum bats. Safety was a concern when aluminum bats were first introduced. BBCOR standards have changed and safety is now similar with aluminum and wood bats.

Roaldson and Christensen said there was no mention of wood or aluminum bats at coaches' advisory meetings. Roaldson indicated Jamestown would like to stay with wood bats. Jim Roaldson, Jamestown AD, and Lenny Ohlhauser, Fargo Davies AD will be managing conference tournaments and will survey the coaches for feedback as to their preference of wood or aluminum. Opinions of all coaches should be taken into consideration.

Consensus from this group is to bring the use of aluminum bats forward to the Board of Directors.

Staff member Fletschock discussed the NFHS stance on face protection in fast-pitch softball. NOCSAE has not yet approved a face mask and until they do, the NFHS will not make it a requirement. It is allowed, but not required. Without the NOCSAE stamp of approval, NDHSAA would be open to possible litigation. Rerick surveyed the east region ADs and they were in support of allowing face masks but against requiring.

Lunde stated the information on why face masks are not required should be shared with coaches to make coaches and parents aware of the risks and reasons of wearing face masks.

Lunde asked the group what can be done with dishonest golfers. Golf is a game of integrity which follows USGA rules and it is up to each golfing group to report if they are not reporting accurate scores. Each member of the golfing group is required to sign the score card indicating it is accurate.

One action item will be brought to the NDHSAA Board of Directors.

The next Class A Review will be sent to members upon review of the NDHSAA calendar.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Schell
Assistant Director