

NOTES

**North Dakota High School Activities Association
Class A Review
January 13, 2016, Valley City, ND**

Class A Review met via conference call on January 13, 2016.

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

Three topics were brought forth for discussion.

1. Wood vs. BBCOR bats
2. Increasing the Volleyball Match Limits
3. Elimination of 7th Place Game at State Baseball and Softball Tournaments

Mitch Lunde began the discussion on wood vs. BBCOR bats. Class A is the only group in ND using only wood bats. Class B, Legion, NCAA and NAIA all allow BBCOR bats. Class A coaches were surveyed 2 years ago and only two coaches were in favor of allowing BBCOR bats. Recently Class A athletic directors were surveyed with results showing a majority are in favor of allowing BBCOR bats. Aluminum bat technology has changed over the last 5 years. BBCOR bats now hit more similar to wood bats than 5 or 6 years ago. Lunde indicated he understands the change was made was for safety. If the safety issue has been resolved with the change in BBCOR bats, Lunde questioned if it was time to make the switch to BBCOR bats. Fletschock indicate when colleges look at stats, the stats that use wood bats are not used as they do not create an accurate comparison to stats using BBCOR bats. Roaldson indicated he visited with Lorell Jungling, 2015 State Class A Baseball tournament manager, who shared information from the west coaches meeting last year. Jungling stated there was a consensus the use of wood bats was a non-issue. Without the coaches input and support, Roaldson would not consider recommending a switch at this time. More information will be gathered from coaches in the spring and reviewed by Class A Review again before making any recommendations for change.

The second agenda item was to increase the Class A volleyball regular season match limit to 18 matches and 3 tournaments or 16 matches and 4 tournaments and dropping the 14 matches and 4 tournaments option.

Roaldson indicated the West region would like to increase the match limit. This issue came through advisory and Athletic Review voted this issue down this morning on a 5-5 vote. It will still go to the entire Board at their January meeting. The East and West regions are not in agreement with the match limit recommendation. The West region would like to make this change. The East region does not want to make this change. The West region would propose a 20 regular season match and 2 tournament limit. That option was not discussed at the East region meeting. A contributing factor for this recommendation was in anticipation of Watford City becoming a Class A school. There was no consensus between committee members and the discussion will continue.

Fetsch indicated an item coming out of the Combined Tournament Committee was to eliminate the 7th place game in the state Class A baseball and softball tournaments. The tournament committee recommends with the tournaments moving to the same town to have one ticket for both tournaments and eliminate the 7th place games in both baseball and softball. Class A Review members have received no feedback on this issue from member schools. Fletschock indicated the A baseball coaches recommended getting rid of the 7th place game at their advisory meeting in the spring and softball coaches have not formally discussed this issue.

No action items will be brought to the NDHSAA Board of Directors.

Class A Review is scheduled to meet May 18, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Schell
Assistant Director