

MINUTES**North Dakota High School Activities Association
October 15, 2020, Valley City, ND**

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota High School Activities Association began their meeting on October 15, 2020 via conference call. President Jordan called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Members present: Jordan, Diegel, Bertsch, Rerick, Brandt, Johnson, Schoch, Jundt, Fridley, Baesler

Members absent: Baxley

Others present: Keith Jacobson, Washburn; Patti Aanenson, Larimore

Motion by Fridley to approve the agenda. Second by Schoch. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Bertsch to approve the consent agenda. Second by Rerick. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Approval of Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes - September 24, 2020
 - b. Financial Reports
 - (1) Balance Sheet - September 2020
 - (2) Budget - September 2020
 - (3) Savings/Investments - September 2020
 - c. Coop Applications
 - (1) Park River Area, Fordville-Lankin, and Valley-Edinburg in baseball, 7-12, 2020-21, late fee
 - d. Coop Dissolutions
 - (1) St. Thomas and Valley-Edinburg in baseball, 7-12, 2020-21

The Executive Board reviewed the following items:

1. School violations:
 - Thompson Public School self-reported junior high football participants exceeded the daily quarter limit. Prescribed penalty: coach sat out for one contest.

Motion by Johnson to approve the Executive Board report. Second by Fridley. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeremy Brandt, Finance Committee Chair provided a report on the following:

1. September 2020 financial update.
 1. Online t-shirt preorders have resulted in an increase in Fall tournament t-shirt income for the 2020 tournaments completed to date.
 2. Financial reports for completed fall tournaments have not been finalized.
2. Executive Board requested the Finance Committee review staff salaries. Finance Committee recommends revisiting staff salaries later in the year when a more complete view of finances is available.

Motion by Rerick to approve the Finance Committee report. Second by Bertsch. Motion carried unanimously.

Bubach provided a Fine Arts Committee report.

1. Debate Contingency Planning
 - a. Committee reviewed plans for this year's debate season. Pending potential site availability, the required minimum number of rounds competed may need to be adjusted. Plan should be ready for approval at next board meeting.
2. Music Contingency Planning
 - a. Committee began discussion of sponsored music activities this year.
 - b. Preference to see a region/state contest format, even if limited in size.
 - c. Discussion held regarding potential for regional contest registration limitations.
 - d. Staff authorized to continue draft planning with NDMEA for future review. No immediate action required; decision likely needed at December 3, 2020 or January 1, 2021 Board meeting.
3. Larimore HS Letter
 - a. Committee reviewed a letter from Patti Aanenson, Larimore HS, regarding virtual participation at in-person fine arts events. Committed consensus and recommendation is for virtual entries to not be allowed at in-person contests due to management and copyright concerns.

Motion by Brandt to approve the Fine Arts Committee report. Second by Diegel. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul Jundt, Combined Tournament Committee Chair, provided a report.

1. Report on completed tournaments
 - a. Tournament managers reported on completed tournaments. State Class A Girls Golf, State Boys Tennis and State Boys Soccer ran smoothly with the previously set restrictions. Some changes to wristbands if used in future tournaments were suggested, however overall, the process worked well. Recommendation to handle T-shirt sales differently allowing parents and fans to order and pay for shirts with all orders grouped by school and shipped directly to schools. Awards presentations will need to be adjusted. Mix will provide updates to award scripts to tournament managers for future tournaments.
2. Previously approved tournament alterations

3. Region volleyball alterations were discussed. Region tournaments will be held at the home of the higher seed with the final day of the West Region Volleyball Tournament to be held in Bismarck. Class A East Region tournament will be held at the home of the higher seed. Class B region tournaments will be held at the home of the higher seed. Region 3 to be held at a neutral site to be determined if like seeds meet in the championship matches. Region 6 is planning on the Minot Auditorium rent free if like seeds meet in the championship match. Region 8 will play at a member school if like seeds meet in the championship match.
4. Upcoming state tournaments

Fetsch presented a draft of NDHSAA football and volleyball postseason attendance protocol for events held at member schools. Fetsch indicated the draft was sent to Governor Burgum's office for feedback on recommendations. Fetsch recommends holding off on final determinations on state tournaments in football, volleyball and swimming and diving until we have more concrete information on restrictions. With current restrictions, swimming and diving will not be able to have fans in attendance. The Board discussed requiring masks. Motion by Schoch move to accept football and volleyball postseason attendance protocol as presented. Second by Brandt. Motion fails (5-5).

Further discussion included the need for clarification on coops that cover multiple counties. Baesler indicated NDHSAA decides on how schools and students will participate. Discussion of NDHSAA events outside and how spectators and student athletes will be allowed. Rerick indicated he is struggling with all schools in a county having the same distinction regardless of the number of cases in their school. Jordan stated guidance concerning activities was included in each school's return to education plan.

Jordan directed the Combined Tournament Committee to meet at 8:00 am on October 16, 2020 to review the football and volleyball postseason attendance protocol and report back to the Board. The NDHSAA Board will meet at 9:00 am on October 16, 2020.

Media credentials were discussed at the Combined Tournament Committee. Media credentialing will continue to be discussed at the Combined Tournament Committee meeting on October 16, 2020. Motion by Fridley to approve Combined Tournament Committee report. Second by Schoch. Motion carried unanimously.

Fetsch recommended the Board consider utilizing two sites for the State Cross Country Meet on October 24, 2020. The Class B Boys and Girls Cross Country meets will be held in Cooperstown and the Class A Boys and Girls Cross Country meets will be held in Jamestown with modifications as follows:

Class A Cross Country Meets in Jamestown requirements include:

1. Require masks for attendees.
2. Jim Roaldson will serve as tournament site manager.
3. Pickle Events will be used for timing.
4. Fan Attendance will be limited to:
 - a. Two wristbands per runner
 - b. Two wristbands for one alternate runner from each team
 - c. Two wristbands per coach
 - d. Wristbands to be mailed to member schools by October 16, 2020.
5. Change meet start time to 3:00 pm.

Class B Cross Country Meets in Cooperstown requirements include:

1. Rick Anderson will serve as tournament site manager.
2. Hero's Timing will be used for timing.
3. Fan Attendance will be limited to:
 - a. Four wristbands per runner
 - b. Four wristbands for one alternate runner from each team
 - c. Four wristbands per coach
 - d. Wristbands to be mailed to member schools by October 16, 2020.
4. Change meet start time to 3:00 pm.

Motion by Rerick to place the 2020-21 Class A Cross Country meets in Jamestown and the 2020-21 Class B meets in Cooperstown. Second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul Jundt, Officials Committee Chair, provided a report. Winter activity recommendations will be sent to the Board for review. Recommendation to waive the NDHSAA volleyball regulation stating what regions state officials are chosen from for the state tournament for 2020-21 and 2021-22. Officials from the East portion of the state will be used in 2020-21 and from the West portion of the state for 2021-22. Motion by Rerick to approve Officials Committee report. Second by Diegel. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Rerick provided a Football Committee report. Class 11A and 11AA football schools were surveyed for their preference for how teams qualify for playoffs. Recommendation to use a weighted qualifying system using QRF to seed the playoffs. Motion by Jundt to approve the Football Committee report. Second by Brandt. Motion carried unanimously.

The dates for Class B girls golf dates through 2026-27 were reviewed. Motion by Schoch to approve Class B girls golf dates through 2026-27 as presented. Second by Fridley. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Correspondence

1. Kristin Sharbono email
2. Lisa Blanchard letter
3. National Guard letter

Executive Director Report

- a. Working with the Healthy Return to Learn committee to modify guidance allowing consistent handling of close contacts of COVID-19.

Next Board meeting will be held Friday, October 16 at 9:00 am CDT via conference call. Meeting adjourned October 15, 2020 at 2:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schell
Assistant Director

Signed: _____ Approved Date: ____/____/____