

MINUTES**North Dakota High School Activities Association****August 7, 2020, Valley City, ND**

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota High School Activities Association began their meeting on August 7, 2020 via conference call. President Jordan called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

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

Members absent: Baxley, Diegel, Fridley

Others present: Patti Aanenson - Larimore, Gloria Odden - Strasburg

Motion by Bertsch to approve the agenda. Second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Schoch to approve the consent agenda. Second by Baesler. Motion carried unanimously.

- 1) Consent Agenda
 - a) Approval of Minutes
 - i) July 31, 2020
 - b) Coop Dissolutions
 - i) Hettinger and Mott-Regent in baseball, 7-12, 2020-21

Schell presented NDHSCA tennis advisory recommended procedures for Fall 2020 tennis matches. The Board approved additional NDHSAA tennis match play COVID-19 guidelines procedures for Fall 2020 tennis matches. Motion by Johnson to approve tennis match play guidelines. Second by Brandt. Motion carried unanimously.

Bubach presented an update from C STAND regarding possible format changes to fall fine arts contest formats if needed due to COVID-19 health requirements. Plans and declaration dates to be approved at a future meeting.

Mark Rerick, Football Committee Chair, provided a committee report with two items.

1. Reviewed a request from Strasburg-Zeeland to move down to 6-man football in 2020-21 due to low numbers. Committee recommendation to respond with the following statement: "Since regulations for declaring a 6-man or independent schedule after September 15 of the previous year do not go into effect until 2021, there would be no prescribed penalty for a decision to move from 9-man to 6-man football in 2020. NDHSAA Return to Competition guidelines do not penalize member schools in the Fall of 2020 for canceling non-region games due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, penalties (paying officials, other items outlined in event contracts) may apply for canceling and breaking contracts for region games. Because this decision is occurring so close to the start of the season, for the benefit of the other member schools in your football region, we encourage you to continue discussions about whether or not to play a 9-man schedule this year." Bertsch questioned whether the other region schools have been contacted. Gloria Odden, from Strasburg indicated she has not had any contact with the other schools in their region. She did not know whether the Strasburg coach or Athletic Director had contacted other schools in their region.

Motion by Brandt to approve response to Strasburg with the proposed response statement. Second by Bertsch. Motion carried unanimously.

2. The football committee discussed procedures for determining playoff qualifiers in 2020. The committee recommended allowing each region to create a procedure to determine four playoff qualifying teams in the event not every region contest is played. Regions will submit their procedure to NDHSAA prior to the first allowable date for football contests.

Motion by Johnson to approve allowing each region to choose the process as to what teams will be filling the playoff brackets prior to the first allowable day of competition. Second by Bertsch. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Report

1. Out-of-state coops were discussed. Minnesota voted this week to move their football and volleyball seasons to the winter/spring season, March 15 – May 15, 2021. Matt received confirmation from the Minnesota High School League that they have no problem with the three Minnesota schools involved in North Dakota football or volleyball coops remaining eligible to play football within the established North Dakota season.
2. Hardship Report: Two hardships have been approved since Fetsch's last report with four more to investigate and schedule.

3. NDHSAA Staff have fielded questions on practices. Specifically: Whether quarantined students unable to practice with their team could practice remotely/virtually and have the practice count toward the 9 required practices. Past practice has not allowed this. Practices only count if students are physically at practice.
4. Region administrator meetings scheduled for September were discussed. Two of the sites currently scheduled to use for meetings are still closed. A third site is the NDIAAAA conference. NDIAAAA is meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020 to decide if they will be holding their conference.
5. Virtual road races during the cross-country season were discussed. The Board directed staff to remind coaches that non-school sponsored road races of any kind are not allowed during the NDHSAA cross country season.

Representative Reports

Rerick expressed interest in exploring a couple dates for holding virtual admin meetings. The Board asked the NDHSAA staff to explore possible virtual region administrator meeting dates in the event they are needed. More information will be provided on fall region administrator meetings at a later date.

Waiving of FB mouthguard. NFHS discussed this, but at this time there is no plan to disregard mouthguards. NFHS regulations are allowing mouthguards this year.

Next meeting will be held Friday, August 14, 2020 at 9:00 am CDT via conference call.
Meeting was adjourned August 7, 2020 at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schell
Assistant Director

Signed: _____ Approved Date: ____/____/____