

**MINUTES****North Dakota High School Activities Association  
September 24, 2020, Valley City, ND**

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota High School Activities Association began their meeting on September 24, 2020 via conference call. President Jordan called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

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

Members absent: Baesler

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

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

- 1) Approval of Consent Agenda
  - a) Approval of Minutes
    - i) September 10, 2020
  - b) Financial Reports
    - i) Balance Sheet
      - (1) August 2020
    - ii) Budget
      - (1) August 2020
    - iii) Savings/Investments
      - (1) August 2020
  - c) Coop Applications
    - i) Ellendale, Edgeley, Kulm, and Montpelier in football, 7-12, 2020-21, no fee

Harold Rotunda, NDHSAA auditor, provided the Board with a 2019-20 fiscal year audit report. Rotunda indicated unique things happened this past year with the cancellation of tournaments and the effects of COVID-19 on the overall budget. Reinforced this year was that the financial structure of the Association is nimble, able to adjust and able to limit risk. The audit indicated NDHSAA is in very good shape and survived a vulnerable year. The Association participated in the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP). Under PPP, the Association received \$199,100 as a loan to cover payroll. The loan may be forgiven when the prescribed criteria has been met. The Association received a loan from the Bank of North Dakota to cover costs associated with the shutdown. The loan for \$924,000 is due in 10 years with an annual percentage rate of 1%. Motion by Baxley to accept the auditor's report. Second by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Board reviewed the following items:

1. Jamestown High School reported a junior high volleyball participant played in a competition prior to having completed nine practices. A letter of reprimand will be sent.
2. Addressed the policy of providing state tournament tickets for former board members. Recommend suspending this policy indefinitely due to limited capacity at post season events.
3. Recommend suspension of coach surveys for post season officials indefinitely for all sports.
4. Recommend referring staff salaries to the Finance Committee.
  - a. Staff pay was frozen this year and the Executive Board would like the Finance Committee to review the freeze and see if there is a possibility to provide staff with retroactive raises or a one-time stipend.

Motion by Brandt to approve the Executive Board recommendation. Second by Jundt. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Reserve fund is projected to decrease over the fiscal year. There is a possibility to break even at fall post-season events. NDHSAA currently has a PPE loan, which may be forgiven when loan criteria are met. NDHSAA currently has a loan with a 10-year term through the Bank of North Dakota at an interest rate of 1%. There may be an opportunity for another loan CPR (Pace Recovery loan through CARES Act) through the Bank of North Dakota at 1% to cover losses this year. Fetsch will pursue the options of this loan.
- Fall and winter tournament income and expenses were discussed. Many post-season tournament limitations are unknown at this time.
- Post season host site expenses were discussed. Currently there is a maximum expense limit for post-season host sites. Recommend a maximum of 20% of gate for each event go to the host site as their tournament expenses. NDHSAA would pay officials and awards. This was also discussed at the Combined Tournament Committee.

- Ticket prices were discussed. The committee recommends if fan attendance is restricted at post-season events, the charge for all tickets would be the amount of an adult admission.

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

Dave Schoch provided a Media Committee report. Fetsch provided background on the current policy for the NDHSAA media rate card.

The Media Committee recommendations for adjustments to the television/streaming rate card for the fall of 2020.

- Contracted broadcast partners have exclusive rights to declared events.
- NFHS Network School Broadcast Program schools may produce declined events played at their school.
- Non-NFHS Network School Broadcast Program schools or non-contracted producers of declined events may purchase non-exclusive rights at the following rates:
  - Football - \$500/game (\$250 delayed)
  - Region volleyball - \$200/match (\$100 delayed)
- Recommend no changes to state tournament rates for declined events.

Motion by Diegel to approve the Media Committee report. Second by Jundt. Motion carried unanimously.

Paul Jundt provided a Combined Tournament Committee Report.

2020 NDHSAA fall universal tournament alterations were discussed.

1. Tournament apparel will be done by presale only. Managers will not need a group to sell apparel.
2. There will be no awards ceremonies at tournaments.
  - a. Scripts will include the information on Senior Athlete of the Year (SAOTY) and Coach of the Year (COTY).
3. SAOTY/COTY awards were discussed.
  - a. NDHSCA will send out certificates and announcements through press releases after each tournament.
4. Digital Programs were discussed. Managers/printers will send a pdf to Brenda at NDHSAA. Brenda will post the program before the tournament and send a QR code to tournament managers.
5. Coaches Meetings were discussed. There is no need to have coaches' meetings at tournaments this fall. If advisory committees would like to have a coaches' meeting with all coaches they can do so virtually. Advisory meetings will be set up with NDHSAA staff liaison after tournaments.
6. There will be no hospitality rooms.
7. There will be no recognition of reunion teams.
8. Fetsch will be in touch with tournament managers concerning the number of wristbands needed.

Fetsch will be in touch with region managers concerning wristbands for post season. Wristbands will be ordered by NDHSAA and mailed to region managers.

Fetsch indicated NDHSAA staff will work through media credential policies. Policies will be communicated directly with tournament managers.

NDHSAA staff provided coach advisory reports. The reports are reflected in the fall post season recommendations.

#### Region Class A Girls Golf

- Will have a shotgun start each day.

#### Tennis

- No officials will be provided for region and state tournaments.

#### Boys Region Tennis

- East
  - Higher seeds will host on Tuesday and Thursday for team tournament.
  - Team finals, singles and doubles on Friday and Saturday.
  - Pro sets for all singles and doubles consolation matches in the individuals tournaments.
  - Each participant receives 2 passes allowing the purchase of tickets, unless local health or venue determines otherwise.
  - Singles to be played outside. Doubles to be played at Courts Plus in Fargo.

- Todd Olson, tournament manager, would like permission to alter bracket if weather is bad allowing re-seeding of the championship side of the bracket to determine qualifiers and elimination of the consolation bracket.
- Region seeding meeting will be Wednesday night via conference call.
- West
  - Regular tournament on Thursday through Saturday
  - Pro sets for all singles and doubles consolation matches in the individuals tournaments.
  - Each participant will receive 2 passes to purchase tickets unless local health or venue determines otherwise.

#### State Boys Tennis

- Thursday, Friday, Saturday tournament with almost the normal format.
- Only fans watching active play will be allowed on viewing mezzanine. Two chairs per participant per match will be allowed and distributed through wristbands to teams.
- Use of 8 game pro-sets on consolation side of the singles and doubles brackets with the exception of the 5<sup>th</sup> place match which will be 2 out of 3 sets since that is an all-state qualifying match.

#### Boys State Soccer

- Propose Tuesday contests at higher seed home sites. Completion of the tournament at Fargo South on Friday afternoon for semi-finals and Saturday afternoon for third place and championship. Note: Fargo South has a home football game on Friday night.
- The NFHS Network intends to broadcast Friday and Saturday matches. Four quarterfinal hosts will utilize admission process used for regular season.
- Regular admission prices with no tournament passes.
- No anticipation of issues with crowd limits on Friday or Saturday.

#### State Cross Country

- Reduce number of runners per team to 7 with staggered race starts.
- Class A ability to purchase up to four passes per participant.
- Class B ability to purchase up to two passes per participant.
- Presale at schools and coaches will turn in check and extra wristbands to state tournament manager.

#### Region Class B Volleyball

- Higher seeds host throughout region tournament.
- Criteria needs to be set for when like seeds play.
- BEK Sports intends to broadcast the Region 3 Tournament, if possible.
- Pixellot schools that host will broadcast tournament games in their facility.

#### Region Class A Volleyball

- All Regions: Tuesday – Thursday – Saturday
  - East Region: Higher seeds host throughout region tournament.
  - West Region: Higher seeds host Tuesday & Thursday; Saturday in one location in Bismarck.

#### To be discussed in October:

- State Football
- State Girls Swim & Dive
- State Volleyball

Motion by Schoch to approve the Tournament Committee report. Second by Rerick. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Rerick provided a Football Committee report. Provided preliminary divisional assignments with possible exceptions of two Class B schools who have requested to opt down to 9-Man. These schools may not move down until the 2020 post-season is complete and it is known how they finish the 2020 season.

Season dates for each division for the 2021 football season were set as follows:

#### **Division 9B**

Thursday, August 5	First Allowable Practice
Friday, August 20	First Allowable Game
Saturday, October 9	End of Regular Season
Saturday, October 16	First Round
Saturday, October 23	Second Round
Saturday, October 30	Quarterfinals
Saturday, November 6	Semifinals

Friday, November 12      Dakota Bowl

\*8 Weeks for Regular Season

Regions 1 & 2

- Week 1 - Play who you want
- Weeks 2-3 - Scheduling partners
- Weeks 4-8 - Region Games

Regions 3-8

- Week 1 - Play who you want
- Weeks 2-4 - Scheduling Partners
- Weeks 5-8 - Region Games

### **Division 11B**

Thursday, August 5	First Allowable Practice
Friday, August 20	First Allowable Game
Saturday, October 16	End of Regular Season
Saturday, October 23	First Round
Saturday, October 30	Quarterfinals
Saturday, November 6	Semifinals
Friday, November 12	Dakota Bowl

### **Division 11AA and 11A**

Monday, August 9	First Allowable Practice
Monday, August 23	First Allowable Game
Saturday, October 23	End of Regular Season
Friday, October 29	Quarterfinals
Friday, November 5	Semifinals
Friday, November 12	Dakota Bowl

Preliminary regions were presented. Board members were in favor of waiting to make final regions allowing them to discuss the regions with member schools. The Board discussed using QRF rankings to determine play-off seeding and requested clarification on how the QRF is determined. Fetsch and Fletschock explained QRF rankings. Fetsch indicated regions will be finalized at the December Board meeting as per the football guideline.

Bertsch indicated he would entertain a change in the date schools need to make the decision on move up or down a division each season. The NDHSAA By-Laws indicates coop deadline shall be September 15<sup>th</sup>. In other sports the deadline for cooperative sponsorships is the end of the season. Bertsch indicated he may be interested in exploring a change to the By-Law.

Fetsch indicated the QRF for the 2020 year will not work if all games are not played. Fetsch would entertain the Board allow NDHSAA staff to survey coaches as in other sports such as volleyball and basketball to determine 2020 Class B football playoff teams. Motion by Bertsch to approve the Football Committee report. Second by Baxley. Motion carried unanimously.

Mark Rerick provided an Eligibility Committee report. The committee had an audience with Oak Grove. Oak Grove did not file a hardship, they requested the Board waive the NDHSAA regulation concerning foreign exchange students. Student chose to stay in the United States on an F-1 visa. The committee recommended denying the request. Motion by Brandt to approve the Eligibility Committee report. Second by Diegel. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed a proposed change to boys and girls hockey regulations. Fetsch indicated the NFHS allows for video review with state adoption. The NFHS now allows video review of student athletes for game disqualification during a game.

### **NDHSAA Hockey Video Replay Rule 9-13**

**“To allow the on-ice officials to review infractions that may affect the ejection of a student-athlete.”** Game officials may use replay during the game to review major penalties that would result in the removal of a student-athlete to ensure proper enforcement.

## Reminders/Protocol

- MUST be when a MAJOR PENALTY is being considered.
- On-ice officials will notify coaches prior to review.
- Instruct Public Address Announcer to make an announcement so fans and media are aware.
- Officials have the following three options for their final determination in situations where the game has been stopped for a penalty:
  - Minor or Major Penalty Only;
  - Major and Game Misconduct;
  - Major and Game Disqualification.
- Where there is a possible infraction that was not observed and a major penalty may be considered, officials may use video to review the incident. Should the officials ascertain the infraction would be a minor penalty only, they may not assess this penalty by video review. However, should the officials ascertain that a major penalty, major and game misconduct or disqualification is warranted they may enforce such under this rule.

Motion by Johnson to accept a first reading of the proposed hockey regulation change. Second by Fridley. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed an NDOA Board of Directors recommendation for a pay freeze to the current maximum fees schedule for officials through the 2021-22 academic year. Motion by Schoch to approve the NDOA recommendation to freeze the current maximum fees schedule for officials through the 2021-22 academic year. Second by Jundt. Motion carried unanimously.

Fletschock provided an NDOA update.

- 2020 Hall of Fame Inductees:
  - Gary Cederstrom
  - Larry Grondahl
  - Jim Harty Jr
  - Donna Johnson-Hutchison
  - Mickey Jordan
  - Dave Maier
- NDOA was appreciative of the extension of the registration window to the end of the regular season.

The NDHSAA Board discussed a date and time to hold the 2020 NDHSAA General Assembly. Motion by Fridley to hold the 2020 NDHSAA General Assembly on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 3:30 pm via video. Second by Schoch. Motion carried unanimously.

Fetsch provided an apparel report for the 2019-20.

## Executive Director Report

### 1. Meeting Reports

- a. Fall region administrator meetings were well received with 3 schools not attending one of the available sessions.
- b. Fetsch also **reported** on the NFHS Section V meeting held at the end of August.
2. Hardship waiver report included six hardship investigation rulings. None have been appealed at this time.
3. Class B Girls golf calendar for 2021 and forward will be on a future agenda.
4. State Health Department guidance on COVID-19 close contacts.
  - a. Currently local health departments are recommending both teams quarantine when a COVID-19 case is identified on either team.

## Representative Reports

- b. Jordan indicated the ND administrators are advocating the removal of the state recommendation to quarantine COVID-19 close contact students. Kids are missing out on opportunities they will not be able to get back. Mental health is a huge issue. For many kids the only place they feel safe is school.

- c. Johnson has pushed to keep close contact elementary kids in school, based on national research indicating the group is not a high-risk group. He has not been successful with the State Health Department or the Governor's office. He voiced his frustration with the current inconsistencies of local health departments in the implementation of recommendations.
- d. Brandt indicated their volleyball team is quarantined at this time. The team practiced social distancing at all practices and their local health department made a blanket decision which quarantined all of their players.
- e. Baxley reached out to the ND Health Department to ask whether the guidelines are required or recommended and was told it was a local decision.
- f. Fetsch indicated there seems to be a disconnect between the ND State Health Department and the local health units.
- g. Fridley indicated their counselors have seen a rise in mental health issues in their schools this year compared to past years.
- h. Jundt stated he has engrained in coaches to keep track of social distancing at all practices. However, the local health department has made decisions without taking the teams social distancing practices into consideration. He also stated local health officials are overwhelmed and contact tracers are new and also overwhelmed.
- i. Schoch indicated their volleyball players on the bench are wearing masks, however that is not consistent from team to team.

Next Board meeting will be held Thursday, October 15 at 1:00 pm CDT via conference call. Meeting adjourned September 24, 2020 at 12:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Schell  
Assistant Director

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_