

# Synopsis of ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting February 24-25, 2008

Note: This synopsis is available on the ASAA web site at [www.asaa.org](http://www.asaa.org). More information on agenda items may be obtained from an ASAA Board member (listed on web site) or from the ASAA office (907) 563-3723.

**Action Items** The Board of Directors (BOD) took the following action:

**State Tournament Bids:** The board received no bids for the 2008 **1A-3A State Wrestling Tournament.**

**2006-07 Audits:** The board received the FY2007 audits for ASAA and AASG. Both associations were given clean audits. Copies of the audits will be sent to district superintendents. A discussion was held on the pending new auditing requirements and how the changes will affect the associations.

**Classification:** The board approved a request from Heritage Christian High School to opt up to 3A for 2008-09 and 2009-10 and remain in the same conferences in basketball and volleyball. The school was on Step Two to go to 2A. (Carried – Unanimous Consent). The board did express concern over the equality of activities available to boys and girls at the school and will ask the school to respond to this.

The board placed the following schools on Step One in 2007-08:

1A – Akiachak – 59 (+)	3A - Craig – 99 (-)
New Stuyahok – 57 (+)	Mt. Edgecumbe – 405 (+)
2A - Chevak – 108 (+)	Unalaska – 92 (-)
Hoonah – 49 (-)	
Klawock – 48 (-)	
Northway – 18 (-)	
Pilot Station – 44 (-)	

The board placed the following schools on Step Two for 2007-08. They will move to the next higher classification in 2008-09 unless they request forgiveness for enrolled ineligible 5<sup>th</sup> year seniors.

	<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
1A - Buckland	59 (+)	66 (+)
Emmonak	81 (+)	67 (+)
Mt. Village	63 (+)	76 (+)
Nelson Island	59 (+)	58 (+)
Noatak	57 (+)	57 (+)

	Shishmaref	62 (+)	58 (+)
	St. Mary's	60 (+)	64 (+)
	Togiak	68 (+)	62 (+)
2A -	Galena	148* (+)	153* (+)

\*combined boarding school and city school enrollments

The board placed the following schools on Step Two for 2007-08. They will move to the next lower classification in 2008-09 unless they “opt up” by April 1.

		<u>2006-07</u>	<u>2007-08</u>
2A -	Anderson	18 (-)	19 (-)
	Angoon	40 (-)	38 (-)
	Gustavus	13 (-)	16 (-)
	Hydaburg	26 (-)	23 (-)
	Kake	47 (-)	40 (-)
	Skagway	35 (-)	39 (-)
	Thorne Bay	35 (-)	18 (-)
4A -	Sitka	398.85 (-)	390 (-)

Step Two schools have until March 15 to request forgiveness for ineligible 5<sup>th</sup> year students.  
(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

Minutes: Approved minutes of the November 30–December 1, 2007 regular meeting.  
(Consensus)

Check Signer: Appointed Teresa Johnson of Anchorage, former board member, as an additional signer on ASAA accounts. Account policy requires two signatures on checks of \$1000 or more and only one board member resides in Anchorage. - (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Controlled Substance, Alcohol and Tobacco (TAD) Policy: Approved the policy’s implementation plan. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

The board approved a proposal from Creative Street Media Group to continue development of Phase One of the educational components and agreed to use some reserve money until it can be replaced by other revenue. Development of later phases was approved pending adequate funding. Funding has been requested from unaffiliated entities as well as from the Legislature. (Carried – Unanimous Consent). Note: Prior to this year, the last time the Association received any money from the Legislature was in 1988 when a \$35,000 grant was awarded.

The board also revised the wording of the policy to permit students in violation of the policy, to return to practice, but not competition, upon completion of an educational component prior to the end of the suspension. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Yukon-Koyukuk School District Request: After substantial discussion on the District's "Voluntary School Choice Program," the board granted eligibility to two students affected by the program for this year only. (Carried – Unanimous Consent) The district will continue to work with the Association on this project and the board members will hold discussions on the project during regional meetings.

**Reports** The BOD heard the following reports:

- Board Members
- State Tournament
- Finance Committee
- Student Government
- Officials/Coaches
- Marketing
- Executive Director

### **Workshop Items**

Policy Development: The Board conducted a work session on the educational component of the pending Controlled Substance, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy with project coordinator, Teresa Johnson and staff. Lauren Kelsey, MPH, School Tobacco Grants Manager for the State of Alaska also participated in the workshop. The board also reviewed a proposal from Creative Street Media Group to help develop the program.

The updated policy which goes into effect in 2008-09, was sent out to districts in early February.

In executive session, the Board conducted an evaluation of the Executive Director and discussed a proposed salary schedule for staff members.

**Discussion Items** The BOD discussed the following items:

Review of 2008-09 Draft Budget: Reviewed and discussed the first draft of the Association budget for 2008-09. The budget was referred to the Finance Committee for continued development.

State Tournament Bid Processes: The current five year bid for the state basketball tournaments goes through 2009. Discussed the process of soliciting future bids for the state basketball tournaments, beginning in 2010. Staff will develop bid criteria for the April meeting.

Discussed the process of soliciting bids for the state drama, debate and forensics tournament in the future and whether the format of the tournament needs to be revised. The 2009 event will be held at Sitka High School. There will be further discussion during the April meeting.

State Tournament Code of Conduct: Discussed the period of applicability of the state tournament "Code of Conduct" as beginning with the coaches meeting and extending through the completion

of the awards ceremony. The board reemphasized that it is the responsibility of each participating school's head coach to read and explain the "Code of Conduct" to his/her players prior to signing off on the form and submitting it to ASAA.

The board also discussed situations when violations are discovered "after the fact." Reemphasize that schools must report violations of the state tournament "Code of Conduct" to the Association when they have been discovered "after the fact."

Proposed Policy Revision:

**Schools which report violations of the "Code of Conduct" which are discovered "after the fact," will be shown leniency, including forgiveness of the Forfeiture Rule (Article 3, Section 3, B). Such schools should hold their students to the same behavior standards during the state tournament series as they do at school.**

Football

Unlike other state tournaments, the football championships extend over two weekends and have no coaches meeting prior to the games. Staff proposed the following policy clarification:

Students participating in the state football playoffs are subject to the "Code of Conduct"

1. during each day in which a school's team competes in the playoffs, through the conclusion of the game if the team is eliminated, or
2. during each full day in which their school's team competes and advances in the playoffs, and
3. during each day in which their school's team competes in the championship game, through the completion of the game and awards ceremony.

This will be taken to the regions for discussion with possible action during the April meeting.

Bylaw/Policy Clarification/Revision: Reviewed revised wording of the 18 school week period of ineligibility following a student's transfer without a Bona Fide Change of Residence of the student's family. Confusion over how school weeks are counted has prompted this clarification. If this revision is adopted for 2008-09, this period will be counted as 90 school days, including state approved in-services. A bylaw revision proposal will be sent to schools prior to any board action.

Reviewed revisions to the Amateurism Rule, Article 8, to provide clarity following problems which occurred earlier in the year. A bylaw revision proposal will be sent to schools prior to any board action.

Reviewed a proposal from AASG to revise the eligibility rules for students participating at state

student government conferences. Specifically, the proposal will eliminate the transfer rule for those students. This proposal will have further discussion during the April meeting.

New Juneau High School Status Report: Heard an update on the proposed plans for the opening of Thunder Mountain High School as a non-member magnate school in the fall of 2008-09. The school would fall under the alternative school provision in the Bylaws.

ImPACT Concussion Testing Program: Heard a presentation from Dr. Heather McOmber and Kelley Baker of Providence Behavioral Health on the ImPACT program that has been implemented in all states prior to its arrival in Alaska. It involves testing an athlete prior to competition to establish a baseline through a computerized neurocognitive assessment tool. This test provides an objective measure of memory, reaction time, attention span, and other factors to help a clinician diagnose a future concussion and decide when the patient has recovered sufficiently to return to competition. The board asked the doctor to prepare a proposal on how she sees this program being implemented in high schools in Alaska.

Sports Officials – Independent Contractors or Employees: Continued to monitor the situation concerning a state Department of Labor determination that hockey officials working for the Anchorage Hockey Officials Association are employees of the association, not independent contractors. This decision has been appealed without a clear resolution at this time. An adverse decision could be detrimental to other officials associations and school districts throughout the state.

Recruitment or Coincidence? Discussed a situation in which a student athlete at one school joins a travel team, usually from another school, which is coached by another school's coach. This is most prevalent in the summer time. With increasing frequency, students who do this then transfer to the new coach's high school and seek eligibility in that sport. Three very visible recent examples were described. The executive director spoke strongly against this practice because of the possibility of "undue influence" coming into play. Staff proposed to expand the Recruiting/Undue Influence Rule, Article 12, Section 5, to clarify that such students will not be eligible in that sport for a specified time period at the new school. The board will continue discussion of this issue during its April meeting.

Alaska High School Hall of Fame: Heard a report on the selection process and upcoming induction on April 20, of the Class of 2008. Inductees by category and school of nomination will be:

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Athletes: | Ann Berdahl, Nikiski High School, Class of 1997<br>Jeannie Hebert-Truax, Monroe Catholic High School, Class of 1988<br>Gary Steeby, Chugiak High School, Class of 1974  |
| Coaches:  | Bob Boudreaux, Soldotna High School, Football<br>Dwayne Davies, Kake High School, Basketball<br>Riley Richey, Juneau-Douglas High School, Football<br>John Tobin, North Pole High School, Wrestling<br>Alice Witte, Homer High School, Volleyball |

Contributor: James “Whizzy” Whisenant, Lathrop High School, Nordic Skiing

4A State Basketball Tournament “At-Large” Berth Proposal: Reviewed a second request from Melissa Johnson, coach, Ketchikan High School, asking that at-large berths be included in the tournament selection process, based on the WPI.

Hockey Supplementary Rules: Discussed a proposal to revise two provisions within the existing supplementary rules dealing with dual participation. The board asked that these be discussed at regional meetings prior to further discussion at the April board meeting.

Wrestling Coaches Proposals: Decided to take no action on the following proposals by the 4A state wrestling coaches association:

1. Due to the overlap between football and wrestling, there is not enough time for football-playing wrestlers to get to their minimum wrestling weight under the current rules which prohibit weighing in more than one weight class above minimum weight without recertifying at a higher weight. This request will provide a 35 day grace period from the beginning of the season before that part of the weigh-in rule goes into effect.
2. Give the state tournament seeding committee the option of seeding the top seven or eight wrestlers, instead of six, because the top six finishers earn team points and there are frequently ties in the seeding for sixth place.

Following additional input from 1A-3A wrestling coaches, the board determined that there is too much opposition to the changes. No further discussion is planned.

Rifle Issues: Heard a report on a January 23 teleconference of the Rifle Steering Committee. There will be discussion on proposed policy revisions during the April meeting.

Football: Revisited a proposal to restructure the small school football playoffs to mirror the large school playoffs.

Also discussed a proposal to cross-bracket the quarter final large school games in the future.

Both items may be action items during the April meeting.

Track and Field State Tournament Format: Beginning this year, there will be two state track and field meets held concurrently at Lathrop High School in Fairbanks. Discussed the proposed event schedule and addressed a request from meet administrators, Running Club North, to expand the meet to three days. The board confirmed its earlier intention to host the meet over two days and asked staff to work with the organizers to accomplish this.

Eligibility for Graduated Seniors: Heard a report that the ED has been receiving requests for clarification of eligibility for seniors who graduate from school prior to the end of an athletic season, particularly those students graduating early in mid-year. The board will discuss this

further during its April meeting after regional input.

AASB Resolution: Discussed the ED's response to a resolution from AASB encouraging school districts and ASAA to schedule major school-sanctioned activities on days that do not conflict with major religious holidays. In particular this resolution mentions Jewish, Muslim and other community faith organizations.

Gold Lifetime Passes: Reviewed the process for the selection of ASAA Gold Lifetime Pass recipients. Each region may nominate one recipient per school year, to be approved by the board during the April meeting.

Contest Forfeiture: Discussed an alternative to forfeiture when it has been discovered that an ineligible student has played in a game for only a short time near the end, after the outcome of the game has been determined. The board decided to take no action on this.

Spring Meeting Plans: Discussed plans for the upcoming meeting in Petersburg on April 27-28. Region 5 will also schedule its meeting in Petersburg to coordinate with the board meeting.

State Tournament Officials Selection Policy: Heard a staff proposal to revise the current policy to more closely align with the current practice in place. The policy has not been updated for a number of years during which time, many of the conditions have changed. Staff also proposed to begin a rating system for officials based on experience and history. This will receive additional discussion during the April board meeting.

Yukon-Koyukuk School District Program: Heard information on the Voluntary Public School Choice Grant Boarding Program from Kerry Boyd, district federal programs director. This program, funded through a United States Department of Education grant, provides increased learning opportunities for students in the district's small rural communities by offering the opportunity for boarding homes in other communities. The program helps the district achieve its goals under No Child Left Behind mandates. The district may seek future waivers of the transfer rule on behalf of affected students. ASAA will continue to work with the district in the future as this program advances.

One-Time Summer Transfer Rule: Heard a concern expressed by Kenai-Central High School that the current system of transfer rules is not working and that ASAA should reinstate the One-Time Summer Transfer Rule. There was little board response to this request.

NFHS Student Leadership Conference: Heard a report on the NFHS Student Leadership Conference which will be held in Indianapolis in mid-July. ASAA may send up to 3 boys and 3 girls to represent Alaska at no charge except for the expenses for a male and female supervisor. It was asked that each region nominate 1 boy and 1 girl and that a selection committee be appointed if there are excess applicants. The committee will consist of Sandi Wagner, Deb Mullin, Gary Jacobsen, Carol Waters, Annie Bartholomew and Russ Schreckenghost.

Region 1 Request for Additional Berths in Cross-Country Running: Decided to take no action on a Region 1 request for additional berths to the state meet for both boys and girls from the Region's North and South conferences.

## **STUDENT HEARING**

An eligibility hearing for a student from Dillingham was conducted by teleconference.

## **Items for April Meeting:**

### **Workshop**

Continue development of the Controlled Substance, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy and Implementation and Training Program

### **Action**

1. 1A, 2A, 3A State Wrestling Tournament Bid
2. 2008-08 Budget Adoption
3. E.D.'s Contract
4. Gold Lifetime Pass Selections
5. Bylaw Adoptions
6. Football "Code of Conduct" Policies
7. Football Playoff Structure
8. 2008-09 Board Goals
9. Millennium Hotel Contract Proposal
10. 2008-09 Meeting Schedule and Locations

### **Discussion**

1. 1A, 2A, 3A Volleyball Conferences – 2009-10
2. State Basketball Tournament Bid Format and Plan – 2010-14
3. Student Government Conference Transfer Rule
4. Recruiting/Undue Influence Proposal
5. Classification Proposal – 1A, 2A
6. Hockey Supplementary Rules Revisions
7. Rifle Policy
8. Eligibility of Graduated Seniors
9. ImPACT Program

## **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

TBD – Fall 2008 – Anchorage